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Bpost

"Hamro Patrika"

Norge-Nepal foreningen
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Program for møtet 16. september 1998:

- Lysbildeforedrag " «Tordendragens rike»
- ett besøk til Bhutan" v/Cathrine E. Reid.

* Bhutanesisk musikk v/Jigme Drukpa.

* Te/kaffe og utlodning.

*Velkommen
i Norge-Nepal foreningen!*



हाम्रो पत्रिका

HAMRO PATRIKA & VARAVIS
ORGAN FOR NORGE-NEPAL-FORENINGEN

Nr. 3, august 1998

**Velkommen til møte
i Norge-Nepal foreningen
16. september 1998 kl. 19⁰⁰
i Bygdelagssamskipnadens hus,
Nordahl Brunsgate 22, Oslo**

**Lysbildeforedrag v/Cathrine E. Reid
«Tordendragens rike» ett besøk til Bhutan**

Musikk v/Jigme Drukpa

**Neste møte blir 29. oktober 1998
i Bygdelagssamskipnadens hus, Nordahl Brunsgate 22, Oslo**

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Hamro Patrika er Norge-Nepal foreningens medlemsavis som utkommer fire-fem ganger i året. Forespørsler angående avisen og foreningen kan rettes til styremedlemmene.

Redaktører for denne HP er: Ingela Flatin, Anuradha Gurung og Cathrine E.Reid.

Styret informerer følgende: Medlemmer som ønsker å ta opp emner på årsmøtet må levere det senest 4 uker før årsmøtet til Kirsten I.Greiner.

Referat fra Norge-Nepal foreningens møte 23. april

Ola Brekkes foredrag

Ola Brekke fra Statkraft fortalte og viste lysbilder fra utbyggingen av Khimti anlegget - Nepals største vannkraftverk i Khimtidalen. Kraftpotensialet i Nepal er nesten like stort som i Norge, og helt siden 50 tallet med Odd Hoftun i spissen, har Norge vært aktiv med i utbyggingen av Nepals vannkraftutbygging. I 1963 ble en kraftlinje konstruert gjennom Khimti dalen. Men selve Khimti prosjektet begynte først i 1993. Etter å ha tilbrakt mer eller mindre fem år i Nepal, hadde Brekke mange flotte lysbilder og mye å fortelle, både om fremdriften av anleggsarbeidet, om kultur og natur.

I motsetning til anleggslivet i Norge, der de i stor grad er enslige arbeidere som reiser hjem i helgene, er det i Nepal et liv med hele familien på anlegget. Derfor er det også nødvendig med skole på anlegget, som ligner mer en landsby enn et anlegg. Det som ikke kunne bæres eller transporteres via taubanen (en arv fra Voss), ble fraktet via helikopter. Ellers ble det brukt esler og selvsagt bærere. Noen av bærerne kunne bære 120 kg på ryggen. I forbindelse med bruken av bærere, hadde Dagens Næringsliv en artikkel der Statkraft ble beskyldt for å bruke barn i dette arbeidet. Dette var, i følge Brekke, en kritikk tatt helt ut av sin kontekst. Statkraft hadde lagt ned forbud mot å ha barn i arbeid, men det at barn hjelper foreldrene sine er det vanskelig for Statkraft å forhindre. Ellers hadde arbeidet med tunnelen vært svært vanskelig og tidkrevende. I Nepal hadde de klart å grave 1.5 til 2 m i uka, mens man i Norge klarer 100 m på samme tid.

Sigrun E. Ødegård



KC'S VIEW

— By Rajesh K C



He's very loyal, honest and devoted to NC. So was he to Panchayat, RPP, UML, NSP, SJM, NMKP... during his forty years of political career.

Politiske tumulter vinteren og våren 1998

(Oslo, juni 1998. Basert på informasjon fra Ganesh Gurung.)

Vinteren og våren 1998 var preget av intrigespill og instabilitet på Nepals politiske arena. Statsminister Surya Bahadur Thapa's regjering overlevde et mistillitsvotum, og Thapa (RPP) beholdt sin stilling. I kampens hete syntes det som om NC, med partipresident Girija Prasad Koirala i spissen, forsøkte å skaffe seg majoritet i Representantenes Hus (HoR), men antakelig var målet å skape støtte for en egen mindretallsregjering. Thapa, RPP og NSP ga imidlertid ikke sin tilsutning og bevarte dermed den sittende koalisjonen (bestående av NC+Thapa's RPP-fraksjon+NSP).

Internt maktspill og politisk uenighet resulterte i at UML ble splittet i to partier vinteren 1998. Konflikten sto mellom Bam Dev Gautam på den ene siden og UML-leder Man Mohan Adhikari og generalsekretær Madhav Kumar Nepal på den andre. Gautam fikk med seg over førti UML-representanter og dannet Communist Party of Nepal Marxist-Leninist, på folkemunne Marxist-Leninist Party (MALE). Gautam er generalsekretær i det nye partiet, og en kvinne (Pradhan Sahana) ble utnevnt som Chair Person. Resten av det tidligere UML består som eget parti. Adhikari og Nepal er fremdeles frontfigurene her.

UML-splittelsen ga NC og Koirala mulighet til å velge en annen hovedsamarbeidspartner enn Thapa's RPP - Koirala ble tungen på vektskålen i den politiske maktkabalen. Thapa sa seg dermed villig til å overlate statsministerposten til NC etter nye 6 måneder.

I løpet av våren foretok man flere endringer internt i regjeringen. For første gang var en kvinne plassert svært sentralt i ledelsen: Sailaja Acharya (NC) ble både visestatsminister og minister for vann-ressurser.

Om Thapa faktisk gir fra seg statsministerstolen etter 6 måneder er uvisst. Uansett kan det snarlig være duket for ny usikkerhet i parlamentet. Ifølge lovverket kan de som har majoritet i HoR danne regjering. Ved fravær av majoritet, gis styringsinitiativet til det største partiet, hvilket er NC etter splittelsen av UML. I vinterens tumulter evnet ikke NC å slå bena under majoriteten til sin egen koalisjonsregjering, men politikernes lojalitet og preferanser m.h.t. samarbeidspartnere endres raskt i Nepal.

Kirsten I. Greiner

Missing aircraft still not traced Families furious

By Chandra Shekhar Karki

SEARCH IS ON: Three days have passed since Lumbini Airways plane on Jomsom-Pokhara flight went missing last Friday. The search for the plane continued Sunday.

LETE, Aug 23 - The Pokhara bound Lumbini Airways Twin Otter aircraft which is missing since Friday couldn't be traced even today. Despite mobilising four helicopters, the rescuers failed to trace the wreckage or any signs of the aircraft. Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Anand Prasad Dhungana, who was here upon Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's directive, left for the capital from the airport itself.

Families and relatives of the missing passengers are furious over the delay. They blame the government for not taking the rescue operation seriously. "Whatever little chance they had of surviving is gone now," says Padmaja Gurung, sister of the stewardess who was on the ill-fated aircraft. "Why did they send helicopters for search operation when the weather is so bad? They should have sent trekkers and rock climbers. Even if they had taken 7-8 hours to climb they would have found the aircraft and helped them." Gurung says even if the government does the same now it's no use as it's already too late.

The agitated relatives of the missing passengers are complaining against the government's complacency. "They would have intensified their operation had there been a foreigner on board. Since there is none they are carrying the operation at their own pace," says Gurung. "Besides, there is no one specially allocated to provide information about the latest developments to the relatives of the passengers on board."

Himalayan Rescue Association, Trekking Agency's Association Nepal, Nepal Mountaineering Association and Lumbini Airways are sending 12 experienced rock climbers on a rescue search tomorrow. According to Dorji Sherpa of Lumbini Airways they didn't launch this operation earlier because the government had already mobilised helicopters. Two army helicopters -the Puma and the Super Puma, one Karnali Airways helicopter and one Gorkha Airlines helicopter which went on the search operation since early morning failed to get a clue of the aircraft's whereabouts. The DeHavilland DHC-6 Twin Otter aircraft with the registration markings 9N-ACC lost radio contact with the tower when it was high above Mustang.

The four helicopters which flew to the height of 11,500 feet concentrated their search above Rele river, Mirist river, Galeti river and the surrounding areas where the weather was clear. Army pilot Madan KC pointed out that the aircraft might be lying at the height of 11,000 feet. He, however, said that if the weather continues to be like this it will be difficult to carry on the rescue work.

According to Ratna Raj Pandey, Chief District Officer, Mustang, army, police personnel and a medical team led by Dr Krishna Khanal were mobilised in the possible sites from Mustang district today. Prem Prasad Tulachan, member of Mustang District Development Committee, says lack of roads and the fog that has covered the area is obstructing the rescue operation. Due to the bad weather the helicopters searched in the limited areas only. The rescue pilots say they'll find the aircraft only if the weather clears. There were 18 persons including three crew members on board.

The Kathmandu Post, 24.august 1998



**VÅKN OPP, VÅKN OPP!!
 NYE MØTE LOKALER:
 NORGE-NEPAL FORENINGEN SKAL
 HERETTER MØTE I ET FLOTT
 MØTELOKALE I NORDAHL BRUNSGATE 22
 SE KART HELT BAK.**

Green Beans With Brinjal Curry

KITCHEN CORNER

By Mrs. Bina Shrestha

Green beans is one of the favourite food of Nepalese. It is a good source of protein. Green Beans are usually used with potato, bean curry and fried beans are some of the popular items in which beans are widely used. Besides beans with Brinjal is another such item. We can use it as curry. It is a very delicious curry. Brinjal is also useful for our health. It helps to flush the stomach. Brinjal found in market are green, purple black etc. Among them purple is best.

Requirements:

Green, Beans	- 100 Grms.
Brinjal	- 100 Grms.
Capsicum	- 50 Grms.
Cumin seed	- 1 Tea spoon
Salt	- As per taste

Turmaric
 Green coriander

Onion
 Garlic
 Ginger
 Soya oil
 Red chilly

- As per taste
 - Some.
 - One cup
 - 1 Tablespoon
 - 1 Tablespoon
 - 6 Teaspoon
 - 1 Teaspoon or as
 per taste.

Methodology:

First of all clean brinjal beans, capsicum, then cut all these things separately, cut onion, paste cumin seed garlic ginger and red chilly. Heat oil in frying pan, then fry onion, and capsicum. After that put beans then put turmaric salt, garlic, ginger, red chilly and cumin seed. Cover it for ten minutes. After ten minutes put the brinjal in the pan and fry it. When it is getting dry put a cup of water. Simmer it until it is cooked then put some coriander. Now the dish is ready. It is a hot dish.

Kathmandu Post, 18. juli

UK hands over agro research centres

By a Post Reporter

KATHMANDU, July 17 - Peter Heigl, British Charge d'Affaires, handed over the agricultural research centres at Pakhribas and Lumle to S N Upadhyaya, secretary, Ministry of Agriculture at a ceremony held in the presence of Minister of Agriculture, C P Bastola, at the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday. This was stated in a joint communique issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and British Embassy here the other day.

According to the release, the two centres were established over 25 years ago and have been funded ever since by the British aid programme. They were originally designed as small units to help Gurkhas returning from the British army reintegrate into their hill farming communities. They grew into agricultural research centres of repute, recognised as centres of excellence. They helped establish

effective hill agriculture research systems and the livelihood of many thousands of hill farming families were enhanced on a sustainable basis as a result of the research work carried out at the centres, said the release. The release said many Nepalese scientists began their careers at Pakhribas and Lumle, received post-graduate training through the centres and subsequently moved on to senior positions in the field of agricultural research and other areas.

In 1995 Britain's Overseas development Administration, now renamed the Department for International Development (DFID), began a process of consultation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal and other stakeholders about the eventual integration of the two centres into the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) system. That process resulted in the five year, Rs 1.3 billion, Hill Agriculture Research Project

(HARP) which began in 1996, the release stated.

The release further stated HARP envisaged that two years into the project (July 1998), the two centres would be integrated into NARC. This has now happened. For the following three years the centres will continue to receive some funding towards their maintenance. Another key component of the HARP has been the establishment of a Hill Research Programme (HRP) which will provide funds to support specific research projects designed to be of significant benefit to farmers.

Both the governments expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the centres and expect that the services provided by the centres to the farmers shall continue. They also look forward to working together in the future in the agriculture sector for the benefit of farmers in Nepal, added the release.

New Destination Kathmandu



On September 23, 1998, Austrian Airtransport will inaugurate a direct weekly flight from Vienna to Kathmandu, the 1,000-year-old capital of Nepal. A second weekly flight will be added between October 2

and November 28, during the high season for mountain-climbing and trekking enthusiasts.

Qualifyer, Juli 1998, No. 4

Hetauda bans plastic bags from April 28

KP 23/4-98

By a Post Reporter

Kathmandu Post 23/4-98

HETAUDA, April 22 - Use of plastic bags (polythene bags) has been banned within Hetauda municipality area after the next week (April 28) with the joint initiatives of Hetauda municipality and Makwanpur Chamber of Commerce to materialise the slogan "Pollution-free city, the first longing of the residents of Hetauda municipality".

The chamber and the municipality have been telling the general people and the shopkeepers not to use the plastic

bags in view of the adverse effects that it may have in the field of environment if these things are used continuously. People are told that sustained use of plastic bags may decrease the fertility of the land and has the potential of causing cancer.

It has been decided that plastics and polythene bags also stand as one of the barriers in an attempt to keep the town neat and clean. Therefore, it had been deemed highly essential to ban the

use of polythene and plastics in the interest of residents of the town and the future generations, Mayor of Hetauda municipality Dor Mani Poudel said.

President of the Chamber Hitler Bishet expressed his view that if the ban on plastics and polythene were to be implemented fully, there will be decline in the quantity of garbage in the town on the one hand and residents of the municipality would also be health-conscious on the other. Import of plastics and polythene bags has been banned two weeks in advance of the total ban on the use of these items in the municipality area. Therefore many shopkeepers have almost depleted their stock of plastics bags while others have started using paper bags in place of plastic bags. Consumers have also started coming to the market with jute and cotton bags.

This is the first town trying to make it free from the menace of plastics and polythene. Residents of the town are also responding positively to the ban against the use of plastics and polythene.

programme.

According to division chief Prem Prasad Mainali, construction of one sub station each in Bishnupur of Siraha, Dharan of Sunsari, Inaruwa, Itahari, Dudhe Bulchok of Jhapa and Ilam has already been completed. These sub stations are expected to help make the project sustainable.

Likewise, electricity is being distributed by completing the extension of 56 Km of 33 KV transmission lines from Charali, Jhapa to Ilam.

In its second phase which is already under way, the electrification project is scheduled to provide electricity in areas which are yet deprived of this service and launch an additional electrification programme at Katari of Udayapur district.

RISEB NEPAL 25/4-98

Seventh electrification project near to completion

Itahari, Apr. 24 (RSS):

With the Seventh Electrification Project nearing completion, 30,000 families or 40 per cent of the households in Siraha, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa and Ilam now have electricity.

Asian Development Bank has provided soft loan for implementation of the project, a joint venture of His Majesty's Government and the Nepal Electricity Authority. As per the first phase agreement, 80 per cent of construction work at the implementation sites has already been completed.

The Seventh Electrification Project Itahari division has already started electricity supply by installing a total of 164 modern transformers-- 84 in Siraha, 15 in Sunsari, 10 in Morang, 28 in Jhapa and 26 in Ilam. These areas are covered by the rural electrification

Capital's children are worst hit by vehicle pollution

Kathmandu Post 1/3-98

By Deependra Joshi

KATHMANDU - Is your little son getting irritable, less and less attentive and increasingly clumsy in handling routine works? If it is so, don't blame him. Blame the city traffic, and the internal combustion engine.

Or more specifically, the lead in millions of gallons of petrol which Kathmandu's 1.2-odd-lakh vehicles burn up and poison the air each day.

Yet, the above is only the least of what the lead in auto emission can do to your child.

It can, for instance, cause severe behavioural changes,

affect the child's capacity of body movements and other less noticeable illness. In severe cases, the children could be afflicted by total brain disorder and even kidney failure - some of which could afflict the adults as well, caution health experts.

Still, lead is just one among an array of automotive poisons your child inhales each day.

According to studies, an average vehicle spews out at least 570 kilograms of pollutants for each tonne of petrol it consumes. These comprise several lethally harmful substances, including among others, nitrogen oxide, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide - and to some extent, sulphur

dioxide as well. The exhaust from diesel-run buses and trucks contain lethal carbonaceous particles which go on to attract and absorb various organic materials.

"If your child has to go to school on foot through rush hour traffic belching clouds of these poisons, the least you can do is to forbid him from walking too briskly or running, so that he will not pant", says paediatrician Dilip Dhungana. The reason? "Studies based on mathematical and computer models of the human respiratory systems have showed telling facts. It reveals that it makes no difference if your child breathes through the

other words, apart from the few spots where the government agencies routinely monitor pollution levels, the situation is no less serious in most other areas of the city as well.

"The capital already has a prevalence of respiratory diseases estimated to be at least 12 times more than the national average - almost every third of Kathmanduite already suffers from these", states BK Sharma, a microbiologist working in the capital's deteriorating air quality management.

The city's vehicles have remained the single largest culprits behind the whole issue emitting carbon monoxide,

nose or mouth, deep inhalation either way causes increased deposition of lethal diesel exhaust particles in the human lung", maintains Dhungana.

Infants and children are in fact much more vulnerable to deposition of these particles than adults, those under two years being prone to the largest amount of deposition. These deposits can clearly be retained over long periods in their lungs.

The air samples, carried out round the clock in about 20 selected spots of Kathmandu since mid-1997, show dangerous concentration of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, aldehydes and oxides in most. In

nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and suspended particulate matters.

Considering the present pollution level that has rocked the most pampered city's skyline, your little child is roughly "smoking one packet of cigarettes each day" particularly in the most polluted pockets. That apart, this pollutant can also affect the functioning of his nervous system, and overactivate his thyroid, says another paediatrician N Adhikari.

This in turn leads to a vicious circle - the medicines have to be gradually stepped up both in potency and strength to fight increasing body resistance.

Solar power can help boost rural electrification

By Surendra Phuyal

KATHMANDU, March 14 - Can you think of any other alternative power sources for the remaining 85 per cent of the Nepalese population whose homes are not yet electrified despite the nation's unlimited Hydro-power?

Experts say other alternative renewable energy sources like solar power can be "a good option" to promote the concept of rural electrification in different parts of our country where national electricity transmission line is yet not available. Solar power which is derived from the sun and can be used to operate virtually any device that functions on electricity is the best and only option, to deal with the energy crisis the world is facing today.

"Nepal is one of the best in the field of tele-communication in South-Asia because of our capability to harness energy from solar power", says Rajendra Bahadur Adhikari, president of the Center for Renewable Energy (CRE), a non-governmental organization which has so far equipped more than thousand homes in the remote districts like Khotang, Dhading, Tanahu and Mustang. "Our engineers can manufacture almost all the equipment necessary for a home system here in Nepal. This is the reason today we can handover the technology to foreign environmental engineers."

CRE and it's Bagbazaar based

Solar Electricity Company has handed over the technology to the representatives from environmental organizations of Bangladesh and Laos after three days training. "Nepali engineers have made a charge controller which is many times effective than a normal or relay-controller", CRE says.

Consumers have to take the controller to get it charged at the nearby solar station once the home system becomes numb.

"It costs rupees 30,000 to install a home system with solar power but the government has subsidised the expenses with 50 per cent therefore one doesn't have to spend more than 15000", says Dinesh Sharma, designer of the new charge controller and assistant secretary of CRE. "Moreover it is the most eco-friendly of all the other energy resources".

Renewal energy technologies are considered a viable technical option since the availability of natural resources like gas petroleum and coal is limited and will not last long. And of all the renewable energy technologies the solar energy has got the maximum attention because the sun is an endless source of energy.

"When the rest of the world is preparing for next millennium the vast majority of our population is living under darkness despite abundant water resources. Even if we can't facilitate them with hydro-electricity we can at least assist them with solar energy", says Adhikari.

Famine hits Humla hard

By a Post Reporter

HUMLA, April 8 - Humla district is gripped by famine this year because of drought last year.

A meeting held here recently under the chairmanship of Chief District Officer Jivan Prasad Oli has requested the government to transport rice by helicopter to the district headquarters and to the depots of Nepal Food Corporation here promptly to provide relief to the famine-stricken people of the district.

Chief of Nepal Food Corporation branch office Jaya Raj Ojha told the participants of the meeting that famine had assumed a serious proportions in the five VDCs of the southern belt of the district including Shrinagar, Madana, Maila, Jair and Kalika and normal life had been disrupted there.

Ojha said people were surviving on soup made of nettle and flour; schools have remained closed and students have gone to Saphe of Achham in search of food; and employees are reluctant to stay there. Ojha, who had visited these areas recently said that there was only 150 quintals of rice in the two godowns of the corporation in Simikot, the headquarters of Humla district.

CDO Oli said people are receiving only five kilos of rice per person once a month.

Necon Air has been transporting rice according to the terms and conditions as agreed upon, but it appears that more helicopters need to be mobilised for airlifting additional amount of rice to cope with the demand.



People's queue extends from the godown of Food Corporation to the airport via bazaar merely for five kilograms of rice which they get in one month.

Photo/Jaya B Rokaya

Five thousand quintals of rice had been allocated for the district, but additional two thousand quintals of rice has been requested to meet the acute shortage of food in the famine-stricken area.

CDO Oli complained that despite repeated requests through telegram and telephone for prompt delivery of additional amount of rice, all the authorities concerned had remained passive.

Basudhas hjemkomst

Jeg har gledet meg lenge til dette - to år er gått siden jeg så Basudha sist. Da var vi begge avsluttende studenter på Norges Landbrukshøyskole, hun hadde studert økonomi- og ressursforvaltning med hovedfagsoppgave basert i Nepal, nærmere bestemt Tamagi, like ved Pokhara. Det var der Basudha ble født for 29 år siden. Hun til Norge og Nesodden da hun var 14 år gammel, sammen med sin tvillingsøster, Anuradha. Hun startet på norsk skole og ble integrert i det norske samfunnet. Basudha stråler mot meg da jeg ser henne - det er ikke vanskelig å se at hun har hatt to gode år. Da hun dro tilbake til Katmandu var det med en usikkerhet om hva hun gikk til. "Jeg var, helt siden jeg kom til Norge første gang, fast bestemt på å dra tilbake til Nepal og jobbe for videre utvikling av landet på en eller annen måte - at jeg valgte å studere økonomi- og ressursforvaltning var kanskje noe tilfeldig, men jeg fant ut at det var et nyttig fag uansett, og jeg har ikke angret på det valget," sier Basudha. Basudha begynte jobbsøking så snart hun kom tilbake til Nepal, leverte sin CV ved flere utviklingsorganisasjoner. Hun fikk

nyss om en organisasjon som var i oppstartingsfasen og ble den første ansatte. Organisasjonen var Organisation Development Centre (ODC), en organisasjon som jobber med utviklingsutvikling ved konsulenttjenester, utdanning, kurs og forskning. Like etterpå fikk hun et midlertidig oppdrag for King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC) der hun ble med i et team som gjorde en "turisme analyse" i et område nær Manaslu i Nord Gorkha. Basudha er i dag fast ansatt og ansvarlig for kursprogrammene som ODC kjører. Basudha er fyr og flamme når hun snakker om ODC. "ODC har som filosofi å utvikle organisasjoner gjennom å konsentrere på menneskene som jobber der. Hvis du gir en person en mulighet til å utvikle seg i en bedrift er det uante krefter som blir frigjort. Et hvert menneske har iboende muligheter som ofte blir blokkert av fordommer, mangel på selvtillit eller andre ferdigheter. For å utvikle hvert enkelt menneskes egenskaper er det viktig for personer å se seg selv utenfra - se sin rolle i organisasjonen og hvordan organisasjonen fungerer i helhet. Det er uhyre vanskelig å få folk til å se seg selv utenfra - ofte vil folk rett og slett ikke; det kan nemlig være en smertefull prosess.

fra hverandre. "Savner du Norge, Basu?" Jeg er veldig nysgjerrig - vi har snakket om dette om og om igjen i den tiden vi har kjent hverandre - hvor skal man bo, Norge eller Nepal? - og der hun lyser mot meg, lurer jeg på hvor all energien og livslysten hennes kommer fra. Nepal har satt sine spor. Hun blir ettertenksom; "Nei, egentlig gjør jeg ikke det. Jeg har reflektert mye rundt begrepet utvikling mens jeg har vært i Nepal. Det er klart man savner visse aspekter som Norge har - god infrastruktur, sikkerhet, god planlegging på de fleste fronter - men på den sosiale fronten er det Norge som er et u-land. For meg så er gode, nære menneskelige forhold viktig, og da er Nepal det rette stedet å bo. Og så er det så mye å ta fatt i og jobbe med i Nepal! Så spennende!" Jeg må le litt, Basudha er så lik sin far, Hem Gurung. Hem jobber for tiden som "liason officer" for NORAD i Katmandu, men har vært hjemme på Nesodden de siste to somrene. Iveren hans er smittende, og ærligheten hans er varmende. I fjor sommer husker jeg han sa: 'Ingela - det er så mye som kan gjøres i Nepal; det er som å stå med en plog foran en upløyd mark. Her i Norge er det mer justeringer av marginer som er igjen - derfor

vil jeg heller være i Nepal, det er der jeg trengs nå.' Jeg er tilbake i Nesoddmarka nå - Basudha har fått øye på piggsopp og jeg hører et lite klynk innefra noen trær: "Åh, masse, masse!" Vi sitter sammen rundt en krans av piggsopp og plukker: "Åh, jo dette er også noe jeg savner - å kunne gå tur i skogen og plukke sopp og bær. Dersom jeg forteller vennene mine at jeg skal ut og gå tur i Katmandu rister de bare på hodet og ler - de skjønner ikke konseptet 'gå på tur'. Det er ganske annerledes."



Basudha plukker blåbær i Nesoddmarka

Det er viktig med små grupper (8-12 stk) slik at folk føler seg vel og er åpne for å snakke om personlige ting. Vi konsentrerer på personens egen adferd og handlinger i organisasjonen, og vi begynner med å diskutere en del begrep som 'organisasjon', 'rolle', 'adferd', 'persepsjon' ('perception'), 'motivasjon', 'mellommenneskelige forhold' etc. Noe av det viktigste aspektet ved kursene er å diskutere forbedring av de mellommenneskelige forholdene i et framtidsperspektiv - da er forbedret kommunikasjon sentralt. For å få til dette må man gi mennesker, i tillegg til selvinnsikt, innsikt i organisasjonen de jobber i: organisasjonens struktur, mål og visjoner. 'Management' er et forholdsvis nytt begrep i Nepal. Nepalesere tenker ikke langsiktig: 'hva betyr det å planlegge?', 'hva kan vi utrette?', 'hvilke begrensninger har vi?' - det er noe av det vi hjelper kursdeltakerne med å klargjøre for seg selv. For å være effektive i vår opplæring må vi skreddersy kurs for ulike nivåer i en bedrift - alt fra assistent nivå til toppledelse. Vi har kunder fra mange store organisasjoner som United Mission Nepal, Redd Barna, GTZ, SDC og Helvetas, for å nevne noen. Vi følger opp kundene våre etter at de har vært på kurs og får

som regel god respons," sier Basudha fornøyd. Ordene har flommet ut av henne, og endelig tar hun seg en pause og betrakter bollene som jeg har bakt og som ligger nybakte og fristende i en pose på bordet der vi sitter. Vi sitter hjemme hos Cathrine Reid - Norge-Nepalforeningens sekretær- og skal se lysbilder fra Basudhas oppdragsreise for KMTNC. Anuradha er i ferd med å lage daal bhat og sier at Basudha må nok vente med bollene til etter middag. "Bare en halv en?" Basudha ser med bedende øyne på oss, og bønnen blir innvilget. Hun skjærer bollen pent i to, gir en halv en til Cathrine og biter godt i sin egen halve: "Dette er noe jeg savner i Nepal, mmmm - kjempegode boller!"

En dag tar jeg Basudha med meg i skogen på Nesodden for å plukke blåbær og sopp. Praten går ustanselig mellom oss om Nepal, alle våre felles venner der og om forskjellen mellom Norge og Nepal. Jeg vil høre alle historiene om våre venner, og hun vil høre alle mine historier som hun kan ta med seg hjem til venner i kofferten til Nepal. Det er vanskelig å prate og samtidig lete etter sopp og blåbær så vi finner oss en tue med mange, store bær sånn at vi ikke må røre oss for langt

Vi har snart fylt en halv bøtte med bær og en halv pose med sopp. Da vi går videre på stien ser vi en stor elgokse i et hogstfelt like ved. Vi stopper og holder pusten, Basudha griper etter kameraet, men det er for sent - elgen lunter videre etter å ha fått øye på oss. Den skulle bare visst at han hadde fått besøk av noe så sjeldent som en nepaleser i de Nesoddske skoger. Spesielt dersom den visste at det var ikke hvem som helst, men Basudha Gurung: ei jente med visjoner, drømmer og pågangskraft og som helt sikkert vil sette sin spor i Nepal; da hadde den kanskje stanset.

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Ingela Flatin, juli 1998

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odecentre

Need for ISBN system membership stressed

By a Post Reporter

KP 9/4-98

KATHMANDU, April 8- Despite having come out with a number of standard publications in recent times, books and other scholarly writings in Nepal lack accessibility in the international academia, thanks mainly to the country's failure to adhere to international indexing rules.

Nepal's membership of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system is necessary to make publications from here accessible to international readers and to make publishing a profitable venture, publishers and librarians based here said.

In the absence of internationally accepted indexing system, publications from here are not internationally listed, nor can they be traced or managed in large libraries out of the country. Listing a publication with the ISBN system can make it internationally traceable.

Publishers and writers at an interaction programme here today felt that a joint endeavour was necessary on behalf of all publishers and libraries in the country to obtain membership of the indexing system as early as possible.

The ISBN system was developed in the UK in 1967. A year later, it was adopted by the USA and was soon followed by European countries.

Deputy librarian at the Norwegian Parliament Library, Meritt Clepa, apprised the participants of the procedures and regulations involved in the process of getting listed with the ISBN system. The interaction programme was organised by Nepal Publishers Society.

They went to the land of dreams to seek fortune but found only ...

By Bishnu Nepal/RSS

KATHMANDU, Aug 23. -

What can be more unfortunate for the country than Nepalese going to foreign countries in hopes of earning money and ensuring themselves a bright future and then returning home after contracting some fatal disease.

Two girls who reached Saudi Arabia with the dream of a prosperous future were compelled to return home suffering from HIV Aids instead of bringing big amount of money after being expelled from there.

They say, they had gone with the hope of earning money but have invited death instead and it has become difficulty for them how to pass the rest of their life and with whom. "We used to work as waiters there from 5 AM till late in the night. The time for work was not specified. We were beaten severely if there was any shortcoming in welcoming the guests. Eight months passed in this way."

On condition of anonymity, they told their tale of woes. "One day the proprietor of the hotel had sexual relations with us by force. then, we contacted the Royal Nepalese Embassy for help but there was no response. The next day, the owner, along with other eight to ten men kept us in a closed room and continuously exploited us to fulfil their lust.

"In the Arabian countries, the affluent people give double the tip than the pay for good work. However, special care has to be taken of the big boss. There is a shower of dollars from the roof of the house. This is what we were told by one of the companies exporting manpower to the Gulf countries."

The two girls, aged 24 and 25, from one of the hilly districts of Nepal were allured in this way by a manpower company sending them abroad for employment. "We were forced to surrender to them to save our lives. Two months passed in

this way. One day, the wife of the proprietor took our blood sample. The very next day, we were ordered to pack up and leave the hotel." They narrate their agony.

"We briefed our appalling condition to the Royal Nepalese Embassy and with the help of a local man, we got back our passports kept by the owners and also Rs 95,000/- as remuneration of eight months. Then we returned to our native country" said they.

The Labour Ministry in Nepal has not given permission to send women abroad for employment, but how do the women labourers reach Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and other countries for jobs? It is not easy to find answers to this question.

They say that they paid Rs 60,000/- to a manpower company at Kathmandu for employment at Saudi Arabia. The proprietor of the manpower company named Dinesh took them to Bombay in June 1997, gave Rs 20,000/- to the agent there and returned back. Then they boarded a ship for Saudi Arabia.

"Nepali agents collude with the Indian agents to send Nepalese women for work in the Arabian countries but the Labour Ministry does not know about this" says chief of one registered manpower company.

According to an institution concerned with HIV Aids, women going to Saudi Arabia for employment are employed at hotels and sexually exploited and they are sent back to Nepal when they contract HIV Aids. Five to 15 is added to this category every year.

On the other hand, it is seen from a survey concerning HIV Aids in Nepal conducted by the World Health Organisation that the main reason for the increasing number of HIV Aids patients in Nepal is men and women going abroad to work as labourers.

Forty percent of the HIV cases in Nepal is from labourers going to India for employment while another 40 percent is from those going to countries other than India for the same purpose.

It may be recalled here that a 25 year old woman and a one year old child died because of the ignorance of a youth who had gone to Arab countries for work. Similarly, one Nepalese woman died while she was being sexually exploited in the same region and her body was sent home.

When spokesman of the Labour Ministry Narayan Bahadur Rawat was contacted in this connection, he said that the government has not given permission to send women to work as labourers abroad but some women manage to go in disguise through India because of the open border. The affected women suggest that the government should completely prohibit foreign employment and open avenues for the same within the country.

The agents sending Nepalese women to Gulf countries for employment are active at three places. First, the agents in Nepal take a hefty sum of money to take them to Bombay.

The agents at Bombay send them to the Gulf countries. The agents at the customs there take them to the prospective employers who employ them as domestic helpers, at hospitals or hotels where they suffer all sorts of exploitation.

The two women told that some of the money they have brought will be spent for the rehabilitation of the HIV Aids patients.

Spokesman Rawat says that the customs offices have been alerted and asked to take action against women going abroad for employment and also against the agents sending them. As the two victims are making preparation to sue the agents sending them abroad for jobs, they did not want to divulge their names or the company sending them.

The Kathmandu Post, 24.august 1998

-17-

Hei Dag,

28/8-98
 Large siden sist. Jeg er for tiden i Nepal og jobber
 hos ODC, i Ktm. Jeg trives nå med a jobbe i ODC.
 Som kus leder. (blant annet). Jeg er nå i Norge for en
 kort tur men vil vel på søndag.
 Vi traffes kanskje bare noen år. Ha det bra og
 ønsker deg fortsettelse i god sommer/høst. Mange hilsener
 Bishnu

- 16 -

Med sherpa på Piggen

Hei!

De av oss som er så gamle at de husker førstebestigningen av klodens høyeste fjell Mount Everest (8.884 meter) i 1953, minnes med ærefrykt en liten kar, sherpaen Tenzing, som fulgte newzealenderen Edmund Hillary til topps.

Derfor ble jeg lytt av noe av den samme ærefrykt da jeg i helgen møtt en vaske-ekte sherpa på Juvasshytta. Han het Ang Dorje, var 27 år og har vokst opp og bor 4.020 meter over havet i Nepal. Hjemmet hans er en sherpa-dagsmarsj fra Everest's base-camp, og han har vært fem ganger på toppen. Ikke rart at det vakte jubel blant 200 startklare Piggen-vandrere da fører Jørgen Vole presenterte Ang som en av førerne under lørdagens tur nummer en.

Men Ang sto i oppvasken på landets høyestliggende turisthytte da jeg traff ham. Kjøkkenet har vært hans primære arbeidsplass under hans tre sommerjobb-uker på landets høyestliggende turisthytte (1.841 meter over havet). Veruennen, Ragnhild Vole, begrunnet hvorfor hun ikke kunne bruke ham bare som fører:

- Da ville jeg skjovet til side førere som har vært her i mange år, og det kunne jeg ikke gjøre.

Ang hadde imidlertid ført på Piggen to ganger før lørdagens tur. En av de mest erfarne Piggen-førerne registrerte under en av turene hvor lekende lett sherpaen kom opp på Nord-Europas høyeste fjell (2.469 meter). Og han registrerte Angs første kommentar:

- It was a little bit hot!

På grunn av at de befinner seg så høyt over havet, stiller sherpaene med et stort forsprang overfor lavlandsboere når det gjelder oksygenopptak i blodet. Og jobben som bærer på Himalaya-toppene går ofte i arv fra far til sønn. Angs far har også vært på Everest. Men det er en annen Ang omtaler med større respekt og som later til å være en helt i miljøet: Ang Shita, som har vært 10 ganger på toppen uten oksygen. Selv har han «bare» vært på 8.600 meter uten tilførsel av surstoff. En vanlig, norsk fjellklatrer vil ikke komme høyere enn til mellom 6.000 og 7.000 meter uten surstoff, konstaterer Ang. Han var med under den tragiske ulykken i 1996, da fire klatrere døde på Everest.

- Også jeg kunne komme helt opp uten oksygen, men da ville jeg risikere livet. Og det vil jeg ikke, sier sherpaen. Han driver et lite hotell for 25 gjester og akter å trappe ned førervirksomheten etter hvert, til fordel for hotellet.

Det er takket være en god venn og klatrer i Norge, Magne Berger-Nilsen, Ang tilbringer tre uker her i landet. Berger-Nilsen traff Ang i Nepal, men Ang presiserer at han har betalt tlybiljetten selv.

Svaret hans er et klart nei når jeg spør om det ikke er litt kjedelig å være i Jotunheimen:

- Det er interessant, fordi det er så annerledes. Den største forskjellen er at breene går så langt ned - i Nepal må vi over 5.000 meter for å komme på bre, forteller han. En annen,



Ang Dorje klar for Piggen - vanligvis er han klar for Mount Everest!

spesiell opplevelse, har vært møtet med elg og reinsdyr. I Nepal kan de ikke skille med annet enn ville geiter! Ang synes nordmenn er meget hyggelige folk, men beklager at han ikke kan språket.

Ragnhild Vole berømmer ham sterkt for stor arbeidsinnsats, og Ang konstaterer at arbeidsdagene er lengre enn i Nepal - Hjemme jobber jeg fra 10

til halv fem. Her jobber jeg fra åtte til halv ti om kvelden. Men jeg jobber mye hardere de færre timene i Nepal. Fortjenesten er omtrent den samme, opplyser Ang.

Ås-forskere beskyldes for tigerdød

En kjent tigmor, Khaura Pothi, har forsvunnet i Nepal, og to unger er funnet døde. Skylden legges på norske forskere.

IPS

SUMAN PRADHAN OG MARIT HEIENE

Koordinatorer for det NORAD-støttede forskerteamet professor i økologi Per Wegge ved Landbrukshøyskolen på Ås - avviser anklagene.

— På meg virker kritikken uforståelig. Men det tristeste er at den negative omtalen kan skremme NORAD fra å støtte naturforvaltning i bistands-sammenheng i framtiden, sier Wegge.

20. mars i år ble hunntigeren Khaura Pothi skutt med bedøvelsespiler av Wegges forskerteam, som deretter festet et halsbånd med en radiosender til dyret. På den måten kunne forskerne følge tigers bevelger ved hjelp av radio-signaler.

— Tigeren oppførte seg helt normalt etterpå, så alt lot til å være i orden, sier Wegge. Han legger til at tigmor ble observert sammen med to unger fem dager senere.

Tre uker etter mistet imidlertid forskerne radio-signalerne fra tigmor og har ikke hørt noe siden.

Senere, i løpet av mai, ble to tigmorer funnet døde.

Trolig har de sultet i hjel.

Ifølge Development Today (DT), et uavhengig nyhetsbrev om nordisk bistand, handel og miljøspørsmål, kommer de sterkeste anklagene mot de norske forskerne fra tigmorforsker Chuck McDougal. Han mener de døde tigmorer tilhørte Khaura Pothi. Den sterkeste kritikken går ut på at det norske forskerteamet bedøvet en mor med unger. Små tigmorer trenger en mor i topp form til å skaffe mat for seg, og McDougal legger skylden på de norske forskerne for de døde ungtigmorer.

«Uvesen»

I juni sendte McDougal et brev til generaldirektøren i Direktoratet for nasjonalparker og naturvern (DNPWC) i Kathmandu. I brevet klaget McDougal over forskningen til Wegge og

hans team. Ifølge Development Today skriver han om «talløse forsøk på å skyte piler på tigre», og mener at «tigmorer gjennomlevde mye stress i løpet av denne prosessen».

Mange regner McDougal som en av Nepals fremste tigmorforskere. Han har også bakgrunn fra et omdiskutert turistprosjekt, Tiger Tops, som etter hvert ble stoppet. Der ble bøffelkalver brukt som åte for tigre for at turister skulle få en dramatisk naturopplevelse.

«Underlig kritikk»

— På meg virker hele kritikken fra McDougal ganske underlig, sier Wegge til IPS.

— Bedøving med piler har vært brukt i tigmorforskningen i Nepal siden slutten av 1970-tallet, og med stort hell. McDougal kjenner svært godt til dette. Hvis McDougal mener slik bedøvelse er en stor belastning for dyrene, er det rart han ikke har sagt noe før.

— Det er klart man ikke skal bedøve mødre med små unger, sier Wegge. — Da ligger ungene hjemme mens mor jakter, og en bedøvelse vil holde mor borte fra ungene lenger enn normalt. Da kan de risikere å bli drept av en hanntiger som ikke er faren deres.

Wegge understreker imidlertid at ungene til Khaura Pothi var 8-9 måneder gamle og omtrent to tredeler av voksen størrelse.

— Mødrene til så gamle unger har blitt bedøvd flere ganger før uten problemer. Også halv voksne unger er blitt bedøvd uten vanskeligheter.

Han påpeker dessuten at hvis noe hadde skjedd som følge av bedøvelsen, ville det ha skjedd med én gang, og ikke ukesvis etterpå.

— Vi vet heller ikke sikkert verken at tigmoren er død eller at de døde ungene var hennes, men dette er klart det mest sannsynlige, sier Wegge.

Bedre levekår

Wegge mener McDougal kan ha andre motiver enn de faglige for sin kritikk, blant annet at han ønsker monopol på tigmorforskningen i Nepal.

— Det virker på meg som det er en kampanje på gang for å lage problemer for dette prosjektet. Det er ekstra skuffende fordi jeg har oppfattet McDougal som en ryddig og svært dyktig tigmorforsker, sier han.

Landbrukshøyskolen på Ås har i flere år vært involvert i arbeid i Nepal, og NORAD har støttet flere av prosjektene. Et formål er bedre levekår for lokalbefolkningen rundt nasjonalparken der prosjektet foregår, et annet er å skape høyere bevissthet om miljøspørsmål.

Professor Wegge har arbeidet i området i over ti år, men tigmorprosjektet begynte først i november i fjor. Prosjektet er del av et femårsprogram som har som hensikt å styrke Direktoratet for nasjonalparker og naturvern i Nepal.

Målet er å ruste opp Direktoratet til å forske omkring og lage retningslinjer for bevaring av genetisk mangfold. En viktig del av mangfoldet er Nepals stamme på knapt 200 Kongelige bengaltigre. ■

Tiger deaths in Bardia park kicks up heated controversy

By Surendra Phuyal

KATHMANDU, July 16 - The disappearance of a tigress in the Royal Bardia National Park and the deaths of at least two young tiger cubs in recent months have kicked up a ferocious controversy in conservation circles here over a Norwegian funded tiger research project.

Nepal conservation experts and environmentalists attribute the deaths and disappearance to "sloppy research work" by the research team, a charge supported by an internationally renowned tiger expert.

But in development publications published abroad, Norwegian researchers have denied the charge. They also say the issue is being sensationalized in the local press in Nepal and could lead to closure of the tiger project in the Royal Bardia National Park.

The controversy stems from an incident which occurred in the Royal Bardia National Park. On March 20, a Norwegian research team led by Professor Per Wegge of the Agriculture University of Norway, darted a tigress named "Khaura Pothi" with tranquilizers. The purpose was to attach a radio collar to her neck so as to study her movements as part of a larger project funded by the Norwegian development agency NORAD.

But instead of falling unconscious, the tigress leapt and vanished into the dense forests. She was found after a three and half hour search. Researchers then administered a second dose of powerful drugs, tagged her with a radio collar, and released her into the wild.

But a few days after the darting, the research team lost radio contact with the tigress. Two months later in May, two young tiger cubs also died in the

The Kathmandu Post
17 August 1978

same area due to starvation and their carcasses were found by forest guards.

The inference drawn by Nepali conservationists and one foreign tiger expert is that, K Pothl may have died due to the double "mismanaged darting". And since the tigress was known to have at least two cubs, some even say three, the cubs that were found dead later could have been her cubs. They may have died due to starvation.

Whatever the truth, the fact is that "Khaura Pothl" has not been found since her fateful darting on March 20. And researchers have not established contact with her radio collar again.

In a June 11 letter to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), renowned tiger expert Chuck McDougal, who has extensively studied tigers in Nepal, alleged the research team

The DNPWC also stands firmly behind Wegge. "The darting operations have nothing to do with the tigers that have died in the recent months", claims DNPWC director general Dr Uday Raj Sharma. "It's true that the female tiger has disappeared but it doesn't mean that it died due to Norwegians' negligence. May be the tigress' radio-collar is not working".

But Nepali conservationists just don't buy the argument. Says Prahlad Yonzon, a wildlife biologist working with Resources Nepal, a research outfit, "in my five years experience in tiger research, I have never come across one single instance of radio collar malfunction".

"The major point is that you just don't dart a tigress with young cubs. They need their mothers to feed them", Yonzon says. "This shows that they (Wegge's team) are

with "abusing" the female tiger in the "name of scientific research". He also said that it is likely that Khaura Pothl had three cubs and all of them are dead.

"...The darting of the female resulted in the loss of one reproductive female and three cubs. I sincerely hope that abuses of this kind, in the name of scientific research, can be prevented in the future", he wrote.

The charge is denied by the research team leader Prof Wegge. Norwegian researchers and officials of NORAD could not be reached in Nepal (NORAD has its nearest office in New Delhi). However, Wegge's denial appeared in a development publication in Norway.

A story in the July 6 issue of *Development Today*, a Norwegian publication, had Wegge hinting at other motives behind the

attacks on him. "By using the fact that two cubs have been found dead in the area", the Norwegian publication quoted him as saying, "It is easy to create negative publicity for the project and maybe get NORAD or the authorities to stop the project".

In the same story, however, Wegge admits that it is likely that Khaura Pothl is dead but hypothesizes that she may have been killed by another tiger in a fight. He also says that the dead cubs could have originated from another tigress.

The Norwegian team's local counterpart, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), supports Wegge's version. They also speculate that the tigress is not dead but lost and out of contact for the last three months. "We are still trying to find her", KMTNC official Arup Rajouria told *The Kathmandu Post*.

incomplete researchers. You cannot kill tigers for research. The question is, whom should we protect the tigers from now on? From the poachers or researchers", he further asks with sarcasm.

The tigers' deaths are all the more serious for conservationists for it follows the death of two additional adult tigers by poachers in the same national park. If all the accounts are true, then six tigers - three adults and three cubs - have died in one year in Royal Bardia National Park.

Conservationists say, that is a sorry statement on tiger conservation in Nepal. At last count, according to Yonzon, the tiger population in Nepal was less than 200. "In the seventies, we had 200 tigers. Now two decades later, we still have less than 200 tigers. What sort of conservation success story is this", he asks.

Negotiations on to destroy pesticides

By a Post Reporter

BIRGUNJ, March 19 - Fifty metric tons of pesticides have been stocked in Amlekhgunj in Nepal's 40-year history of modern agricultural technology and the entry of pesticides in the country.

The pesticides which needed to be destroyed were stocked after they became date expired. They are being stocked in Amlekhgunj along with the public display of a signboard "danger" in Amlekhgunj, the main highway between Hetauda and Birgunj over the last 10 years.

Local villagers are claiming that 27 people have died so far because of the adverse effects of the lethal pesticides. However, the Agriculture Ministry refutes the claim saying that the pesticides are not lethal though may ordinarily affect people's health.

The attention of the Agriculture Ministry has been drawn to this problem after the communications media raised the issue. Spokesman of the Ministry Padam B. Singh told the

the pesticides in our place? Cattle and swine have died in the village. The whole village may be annihilated one day."

The chief of the crop protection division and joint secretary in Agriculture Ministry Bharat Prasad Upadhyaya urged the local people to be patient and informed them that the government wanted to destroy the pesticides without delay.

Journalists were informed that there was 10 metric tons of mercury which is harmful and which has now been banned for use. Since it can be destroyed in Finland, it would be sent there. The pesticides of the second and third generations can be destroyed in isolated places, away from human settlements around Chure Danda, west of Udayapur and under the high voltage electric cables. Similarly, some pesticides can be destroyed in the furnace of cement factory where the temperature ranges between 1200 degree centigrade to 2000 degree centigrade.

The most reliable place for destruction of the pesticides is the

German company's plant in Mumbai and negotiations are going on to destroy the pesticides there.

The pesticides to be destroyed amounted to 180 metric tons. However, 130 metric tons of pesticides are missing. When journalists asked whether it was true, the spokesman said it was true but he did not know where the pesticides had gone.

The Ministry has promised to destroy the remaining pesticides within two years. However, the villagers have submitted a three-point demand to the Agriculture Minister urging him to make provision for medical examination and treatment, by the Agricultural Inputs Corporation, of all the people who have been suffering from various diseases as a result of the stockpiling of the pesticides, compensation to all those who died of Kala-azar and stomach diseases and removal of the pesticides from Amlekhgunj without delay. They have also given a 35-day ultimatum to the government to fulfil their demands.

Resam Piri Ri

Enhver der har været på trekkingtur i Nepal har været med til at synge Resam Piri Ri – måske endda indtil flere gange, hvorfor vi her bringer et par af de mest berømte vers med engelsk oversættelse.

Resam Piri Ri. Resam Piri Ri Udera jaunkee danda ma bhanjyang Resam Piri Ri
"My heart is fluttering like silk in the wind I cannot decide whether to fly or sit on the hilltop"

Ek nale banduk, dui nale banduk, mriga lai take ko Mriga lay maile takey ko hoina.
maya lai dankey ko
"One-barrelled gun, two-barrelled gun ? Targeted at a deer ? It's not the deer that I am aiming at, but my beloved"

OMKVÆD:
Resam Piri Ri. Resam Piri Ri Udera jaunkee danda ma bhanjyang Resam Piri Ri

Kukur lai kutti kutti, biralo lai suri Timro hamro maya priti dobato ma kuri
"To the dog it's puppy, puppy, to the cat its meow, meow Our love is waiting at the crossroads"

OMKVÆD

Saano ma sano gaiko bachho bhirai ma, Ram Ram Chodreh jana sakena mailey, baru
maya sanghei jaun
"The tiny baby calf is in danger at the precipice I couldn't leave it there, let's go together my love"

OMKVÆD

Kodo charyo. makai charyo, dhan chareko chhaina Pachi, pachi na au kanchi, man-
pareko chaina
"Millet is planted, corn is planted, but not the rice. Don't follow me little girl, because I don't like you"

OMKVÆD

NEPAL VISION, 6. årgang nr. 1, juni 1998

-24-

Restoring Nepali heritage

By Sagun S. Lawoti



Chovar Ganesh: Seen right after the Great 1934 Earthquake.

"What would you want to leave behind for your grandchildren? Erich Theophile who's been working as Nepal Program Director with Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) and has been involved with conservation of age-old monuments in Nepal, for the last decade or so, questions. That talks of his concern for the need to preserve the old and remarkably beautiful monuments with best of wood carvings in the world. And that, he's been able to do through KVPT. KVPT, established 1990, so far has worked in ten of the classic architectural pieces within the valley—which has seven of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in its relatively small domain. According to KVPT, their projects have taken maximum of two years. In that sense, they have been restoring temples every year and handing them over to guthis in collaboration with community groups and Department of Archaeology.

Their latest Chovar Ganesh Temple project has been undertaken by Princess Helen and Princess Jayanti Shah with the technical assistance of the trust. The 13th century Sulima Ratnesvara Temple was their earlier one. With Sulima, which is next to Ashok Cinema Hall, Patan, KVPT along with carrying out its conservation duties also established it as the oldest surviving pagoda style architectural piece.

Similarly, Patuko Agam, Uma Maheswor Temple, Radha Krishna Temple, Kulima Narayan Temple, Mani Gufa Temple, Gokarna Swar, Kwalkhu Pati and Lakhe Shrestha Agache are other projects where the "private and non-profit organisation" has worked on. So far, they have retouched structures dating from 13th century (Sulima Temple) to the 19th century. "We also concentrate on the small structures around Durbar Squares rather than only work on the important and prominent ones," says Theophile who's doing his PhD on the 19th century Shah and Rana period architecture.

Why that but? A simple logic: a Durbar square won't be a Durbar square, or in other words, it would not hold the same charm if it weren't for the atmosphere the small structures create. But again, their work isn't all that easy—as things might appear to some. The result they produce is the combination of various aspects. First of all, it's the research. Knowledge of the history and architecture is definitely a must. Then comes the fund-raising part—KVPT has been doing pretty well with this, successfully mixing UNESCO, American, British, Canadian, German and the local donors. In that sense, the privately run organisation has become sort of a model with its approach of mixing international donors. But this doesn't finish all. Then comes the (probably the most important) implementation part. According to Theophile, this is a "very delicate" procedure where "attention to details" is a must. And that includes everyday and attentive presence at the site.

"You are restoring a 13th or maybe a 14th century monument for another hundred years. So if quality work can't be done, it's better to leave things as they are," opines Theophile who first landed up in Nepal as a travelling Harvard student and stuck on "completely inspired" by the architecture here—which he considers, "Nepal's gift to the world". Of course, motive alone won't serve no end. How much ever honest be the motive or sufficient the funds, ignorance or lack of proper expertise can always further add on to the deterioration of the state of historical sites. And this is where the trust claims they're good and competent. Lest, why would Gautam SJB Rana, Director, KVPT, take pride: "We are one organisation which has received both international and local acknowledgment."

The Independent 12.08.98

-25-

COMMUNITY RADIO STATION FOR NEPAL

By a TWN Team

Tiny landlocked Nepal, the Himalayan country that is home to some of the world's highest peaks, is showing the way to South Asia by going right ahead and setting up its first community radio station. Official restrictions have not wet-blanketed the arrival of "Radio Sagarmatha", the first non-official, community-run FM station in the country. It was set up some months back. Each morning at seven, this station already fills the airwaves of capital Kathmandu with the sound of long forgotten Nepali folk music mixed with "development messages". Sagarmatha -- literally meaning the forehead of the ocean -- is the Nepali name for Mount Everest, the mightiest peak in the world standing 8,848 meters tall.

The Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ), the lead organisation implementing this project, has a plan to develop the Kathmandu station of Radio Sagarmatha as a prototype and a training and resources centre. "Our long term objective is to encourage dozens or more of small stations throughout the Himalayan country," NEFEJ executive director Om Khadka said.

But Radio Sagarmatha launched its own test transmissions early June only after a herculean effort to get the green signal and a license from the government. Over a dozen other applications are believed to be pending with the ministry of communication and information, in this Himalayan kingdom which geographically forms a sort of wedge between India and China. But, analysts in Kathmandu feel, it is unlikely that there will be more private radio stations going on the air shortly.

For the present though, Nepal has only, two FM stations both operating from Kathmandu. Radio Sagarmatha's 500 watts transmitter has just joined the government-run FM Kathmandu. It covers the Kathmandu valley, an area of around four hundred sq. km. Radio Sagarmatha is an unusual experiment in other ways too. Some of the country's best-known media organisations -- including the Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists or NEFEJ, the Nepal Press Institute, publishers of an upcoming South Asian magazine, Himal Association and Worldview Nepal have taken a lead in getting this project going.

Radio Sagarmatha began its test runs in June. It is expected to tainment" and "edu-tainment". This mix of information, entertainment and education is needed to draw audiences and yet keep within its mandate. Only one-quarter or so of the programmes are slated to be of an entertainment nature.

UNESCO, the United Nation's Cultural, Educational and Scientific Organisation donated US\$60,000 worth of equipment for setting up a recording-cure-air studio in Kathmandu, for transmitters and some studio equipments.

Like its South Asian neighbours, Nepal has been slow in loosening bureaucratic control over the airwaves. "Nepal's government has shown reluctance even in reviewing the applications, let alone the granting of licenses," says NEFEJ's Khadka. "Those in governance in Nepal were, and are, so reluctant in adopting any new approach that they hesitate in going forward. This was the main cause for Radio Sagarmatha taking five years in taking off," said Khadka. He added: "Though we have democratic rule in Nepal, governments of either rightists or leftists have been reluctant to free the communication medium in the country." In 1990, following pro- democracy demonstrations, Nepal's King Birendra proclaimed a constitution which relinquished his absolute powers, and brought in a multi-party system.

Under the terms of its own license, Radio Sagarmatha is restricted to only two hours of airing programmes daily. In addition, the radio is required to hook-up for news from the national radio broadcast of Radio Nepal. Entertainment programmes are restricted to one-quarter of total air time. Each week's programme menu needs to be submitted to the government for review.

"The license contains a number of things that are even against the norm of existing laws, and most of these are impractical," say those manning the new station. There are hints that the promoters of this venture might opt for a legal battle to get more breathing space for their operations.

Still, this station's promoters want its approach to be different. Its promoters say priority will be given to health education, family planning, Nepal's indigenous cultures and environmental awareness.

Environmental problems have been a concern in Nepal for quite some time. Some two-thirds of the country's rural population live in mountains and plateaus with only 30% of Nepal's arable land. This demographic weight has caused erosion and deforestation to reach alarming proportions. Low productivity, unemployment and poverty are some of the concerns staring the country in the face. UN development statistics say 75% of Nepalis live below the poverty line. Average life expectancy is 55 years. One in every 10 infants dies before the age of five, and 40% of Nepali children are undernourished. Its backers hope that the Radio Sagarmatha experiment

will boost pluralism in the broadcast media in the South Asian region, where the scene has largely been dominated by large, sometimes-monolith official organisations.

"Radio has always been a potent medium of mass communication for Nepal as two-thirds of the country is mountainous, making accessibility difficult, and 70 percent of the population is illiterate," comments Nepali journalist Deepak Gajurel. South Asia as a whole has considerable growth potential for radio, particularly since newspapers and television still play only a weak role here. Barely 25 newspapers are read by every one thousand persons in South Asia, who also have to share 50 televisions among them.

Station director Murari Shivakoti has been quoted saying: "Radio Sagarmatha's network of stations is aimed to inform, educate, and entertain the target communities with programmes that help them understand issues better and help them make informal choices in their everyday lives."

Government-owned Nepal Television's board directors chairman Hem Bahadur Bista himself told local journalists: "Mass media has so far not been used in Nepal for the development purpose. Now the day has come to use it as a tool for development." Community radio, point out its promoters, offers great potential for two-way communication. This could help reduce the gap between decision-makers and the grassroots, it is argued. Consequently, the people would have a greater say in decisions on community development schemes. -- Third World Network Features

Book on Tamang Shamanism out

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Kathmandu, Apr. 22:

Senior litterateur and parliamentarian Jagadish Rana released a book entitled Tamang Shamans written by renowned poet and scholar Larry Petersin at a programme jointly organised by Nirala Publications and White Lotus Book Shop, Kuponole. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Peters discussed role of a Shaman in a Tamang Society.

Editor of the Nirala series, Yuijutm R.D. Sharma said that the book was a unique contribution to the psychology and anthropology of Shamanism.

Several scholars and poets like Dr. Murari P. Regmi, Manjul, Shanta Mishra, Tulasi Diwas and Shailendra Sakar participated in the discussion on the significance of Tamang Shamans in the preservation of the ancient wisdom of the Nepalese culture.

-28-



GANDHARVAS - Singers by birth, render heart rending songs. Photo - TRN

Gandharvas face problem

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Dang, Apr. 26:

The Gandharvas (Gahines) living in Dang and Salyan Districts of Mid-Western Region are facing a serious problem.

The main profession of Gahines, the natives of Dang and Salyan, is to sing songs.

In spite of their poverty and misery, the Gahines go from door to door and entertain people by singing songs of joys and sorrows on the theme of bravery, love and education. The scant amount of money and grains they get in return is only the means of their livelihood.

Until the modern means of entertainment came to fashion, Gahines were considered to be the only agent of entertainment. But these days people even "hate us going to

their houses", said Daljit Gahine, a resident of Hapur, Gahinedanda.

"Due to the coming of radio, television and film, people no more care about the tune of Sarangi and Gahine's songs. Previously, people used to listen to our songs and give enough grains but nowadays, except the acquainted villagers, they don't offer us even a handful of rice," said Bir Bahadur Gahine.

"The skill of playing Sarangi and singing is the main source of our income but it has become very difficult to sustain oneself by singing, let alone providing for the family," said Daljit.

With the change of time the tune, style and theme of Gahine's songs have also changed.

In the past, they used to sing about Saruma, Rani, Nalapani Battle, Anglo-Nepal Battle, Prithwi Narayan Shah's unification attempts, Ramayan based songs and songs popular in the villages. But nowadays most of the people listen to Hindi songs. Except the old generation, they ask for love songs. "Due to the change in taste, we have also started singing 'Rato Tika Nidharma'. What else can we do? We have to satisfy the hearers," said Daljit.

Gahines, who have carried the valuable tradition of folk culture to the present, are spread in different villages of Dang and Salyan districts.

They call their god Bijulinge, whom they worship on the day of Bhadra Purnima in their own way.

RISEING NEPAL, 27-4-78

Father of Nepali anthropology still missing

By a Post Reporter



Pro Dor Bahadur Bista, the father of Nepali anthropology is still missing .

KATHMANDU, August 7. -

Three years have passed and there's still no news about his whereabouts. A figure more used to creating ripples, Dor Bahadur Bista, a much acclaimed anthropologist, suddenly vanished into thin air almost three years ago without leaving behind a trace whatsoever.

Last heard, Bista, who had made Jumla a second home where he tried his experiment, had left the place and landed in Nepalgunj in January 1995 from where he was to board a flight to Kathmandu. However, according to Bista's family, he had a last minute change of heart and decided to go to Dhangadi instead, a nearby district to continue his research on Rana Tharus. Nothing was wrong in that. The only hitch was he didn't reach there. And ever since no one knows where he is.

The information about Bista's disappearance was provided today at a press conference jointly organised by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (DOSA) and Society of Sociology and Anthropology. Though rumours about Bista's disappearance was rife, no one from the family had formally declared it. No one had registered his disappearance at the Valley Police Office. However, Bista's son Dr Hikmat Bahadur Bista, an anthropologist, declared that his father was indeed missing for three years now.

"We weren't alarmed in the beginning because this was nothing new. He used to go into hibernation earlier too whenever he was involved in some project," says junior Bista. "We were worried when he didn't turn up even after our mother's demise four months back."

According to Dr Bista, the family tried to look for him but all their efforts went down the drain. The exasperated Bista family is now being assisted by DOSA in their search. As a first step towards this, acting chief of DOSA, Dr Om Gurung, informed that the department submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala today urging the government to find Bista.

"The prime minister has promised to help us find him. He has forwarded a photograph of Bista to the Home Ministry with the instruction to search him," said Dr Gurung.

Bista's family overrules the possibility of him having left for a foreign land. According to them, the family has Bista's travel documents including the passport.

Professor Gopal Singh Nepali, DOSA Tribhuvan University, said that Bista should be looked for urgently. "It is the nation's responsibility to look for Bista as he is a national intellectual property," he said. Bista, 72, has contributed a lot in uplifting the situation of Nepali anthropology.

Author of several books, Bista created waves when his book *Fatalism and Development* was out in the market. Bista had to face a lot of flak from his detractors. They criticised him heavily for his "anti-bahun" stance in the book.

Bista had blamed a select group of people for hogging all the benefits the country had to offer. And as the bahun or the brahmins were the only caste to have had access to education earlier, they are the ones who are enjoying high positions and the facility that comes along with it.

This generated a big controversy. His views on brahminism created furore in the intellectual circle. And his theory of brahminism was attacked by many. But, despite the controversy that surrounds it, *Fatalism and Development* along with *People of Nepal* is still recognised as his best work.

The Kathmandu Post, 9. August 1998

Cow killer gets 12 years term

By a Post Reporter

KATHMANDU, March 17 - An appellate court here today has backed an earlier district court ruling which had imposed a 12-year jail sentence to a man accused of cow-slaughter, while reducing an associate's punity by half.

The appellate court in Patan on Tuesday endorsed an earlier ruling by Sindhupalchowk District Court, which sought to put Somlal Tamang, accused of killing a cow, 12 years behind the bar.

A resident of Hagam VDC, Sindhupalchowk, Somlal had testified to have perpetrated the offense in his neighbourhood two years back. The appellate court, however, ruled to reduce the jail-term for another man who had assisted him in the offense.

Gyan Bahadur Tamang from the same village got his jail sentence reduced from 12 to 6 years only. One more convict in the case - Koile Tamang - is still absconding.

Tuesday's rulings were made by the joint bench of justices Hari Ram Koirala and Khemraj Sharma.

The *Civil Code* provides for a 12-year jail term to those guilty of wilfully slaughtering cow/ox. One supporting the offense is liable to six years' term of imprisonment.

Cows are traditionally regarded holy by the Hindus and many Buddhist communities, and wilful killing of such revered animals are, therefore, prohibited in the country.

Annapurna area:

A centre of tourist attraction

POKHARA, Aug 3 (RSS)-

Sixty-five percent of trekkers visiting Nepal during the Visit Nepal Year 1998 period trekked to the Annapurna conservation area. More than 50 thousand foreign tourists last year visited the Annapurna conservation area which covers 55 VDCs of Manang and Mustang districts and other VDCs in the northern regions of Kaski, Lamjung and Myagdi districts.

The Annapurna conservation area, spread over 6,629 square kilometre area is being managed by the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), Annapurna conservation area project for the last 12 years.

The Annapurna conservation area is one of the major tourist attraction centres in Nepal. The Tilicho lake, the highest lake in the world and the Kaligandaki valley which is the deepest gorges in the world, are both located within the conservation area.

Moreover, the Annapurna mountain, world's 8th highest peak, and the famous Machhapuchhre Himal (fish-tail peak) which lies in the Annapurna range along with the famous pilgrimage site of Mukti Chhetra are other scenic spots of the Annapurna conservation area attracting a large number of tourists there.

The Annapurna conservation area is also known for the exotic flora and fauna of the Himalayan and mountain varieties, rare species of butterflies, exquisite rhododendrons and 'Lalupate' flowers, as well as birds of various protected species, insects and plants.

The area is considered a haven for both domestic and foreign tourists as well as for researchers because of the rich and fascinating cultural heritage of the indigenous peoples of some strikingly typical villages like Ghandruk, Lwang, Landruk, Ghorepani, the Annapurna base camp, Sikles, Bhujung and the high himalayan settlements of Manang and Mustang.

In order to encourage tourists and raise public awareness on the need to provide quality services to them, the month of August is being observed as the "Visit Annapurna Month". A formal inaugural function took place last Saturday at Birethanti of Kaski district, a scenic spot near the confluence of the Madi and Baramdi rivers, marking the beginning of the Visit Annapurna month.

The function was organised on the joint initiatives of the Visit Nepal Year Central Secretariat, the Annapurna Conservation Area Project under KMTNC and the local people. Birethanti got its name from a pilgrim's shelter known as 'Thanti' believed to have been constructed by a person named "Bire Mhingi Kone" who lived in the nearby village of Dangsingh some 280 years ago.

Since then, the historical place of Birethanti is renowned as a centre of tourist attraction in Kaski district. Meanwhile, the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, the Visit Nepal Year National Secretariat, and Pokhara sub-metropolis have agreed to contribute a sum of Rs 25,000 each for the development of Chhaharekuna, another tourist spot near Birethanti.

Likewise, the Visit Nepal Year Secretariat will be constructing the Nayapul trekking route in Salyan VDC area to facilitate trekking to Birethanti and adjoining areas. The function of the Visit Annapurna Area Month was inaugurated by tourism and civil aviation secretary Deependra Purush Dhakal amid the melodious tunes from a 200-year-old "Karnal" (a traditional Nepali musical instrument like the clarinet) played by Dil Bahadur Darji, a resident of Mohariya in Dansingh VDC, Kaski.

The Karnal is believed to belong to Darji's great great grandfather. On the occasion, convenor of the Visit Nepal Year national secretariat, Karna Shakya, member secretary of KMTNC Jaya Pratap Rana, chairman of Birethanti lodge management committee Krishna Gauchan, Birethanti mother's group president Preeta Gauchan, Ghandruk conservation and development committee president Min Bahadur Gurung, Pokhara sub-municipal corporation mayor Krishna Thapa, director of the Annapurna conservation area project Siddhartha Bajracharya and others shed light on the significance of the Annapurna trekking area in promoting Nepal's tourism sector.

The programme was presided over by Dangsing area conservation and development committee chairman Til Bahadur Gurung.

Among the foreign tourists visiting the Annapurna area, tourists from SAARC member countries are required to pay a royalty of 100 rupees per person while tourists from the rest of the world have to pay Rs 1,000 per person in royalty.



Phulchoki; an enchanting destination for nature lovers

For the nature lovers who are looking for a real taste of scenic beauty Phulchoki hill just half an hour drive from the capital city of Kathmandu may be a wonderful destination. Situated at the Mahabharat hill range just 15 km south-east from Kathmandu Phulchoki is the rendezvous for a number of resident and migrating birds. One can hardly imagine that the small area of Phulchoki spreading about 13,000 hectares of land can house 265 species of birds, nearly one third of the total bird species recorded in Nepal.

In the forest of Phulchoki visitors may lost in the nature's paradise listening to the melodious sound of the marvelous gifts of nature. Here one can relax in a heavenly atmosphere inhaling cool fresh air unpolluted from the vehicular emission. Situated at the foot of the hill is Godavari Botanical Garden famous for colourful flowers.

As you climb the hill you may notice the rustling of leaves as a flock of Kaleej Pheasants scamper off in the dense forest. Magnificently beautiful birds like Great Barbet, shy birds like Nepal Parrotbill and rare unique species of Nepal Spiny Babbler are some of the wonderful sightings in the Phulchoki jungle. Other birds you may encounter in the area are rare Racket-tailed Drongo and Green Billed Malkoha.

The wet vegetation of the hill with an average rainfall of 76" makes the hill rich in birds, butterflies and avifauna. A walk in the spring time along the trails of the Phulchoki hill is really a fascinating experience. Orchids, Rhododendron and other colourful flowers greet you as you move upwards.

The peak of Phulchoki with an elevation of 2,700 metre is the tallest hill around the Kathmandu valley from where you can view magnificent Himalayas: Mt. Numbur in the northeast to the Annapurna range in the North-west.

Phulchoki is also the habitat of many wild animals such as Black Buck, Thar, Wild Boar, Scaley Ant-eater, Indian Hare and Indian Civet Cat. On rare occasions Leopards are said to visit the area and prey on local goats and stray dogs. You might notice flying Squirrel gliding skillfully from one tree to another. Barking deer and Kallee are said to be the target to some poachers despite local community guarding the area.

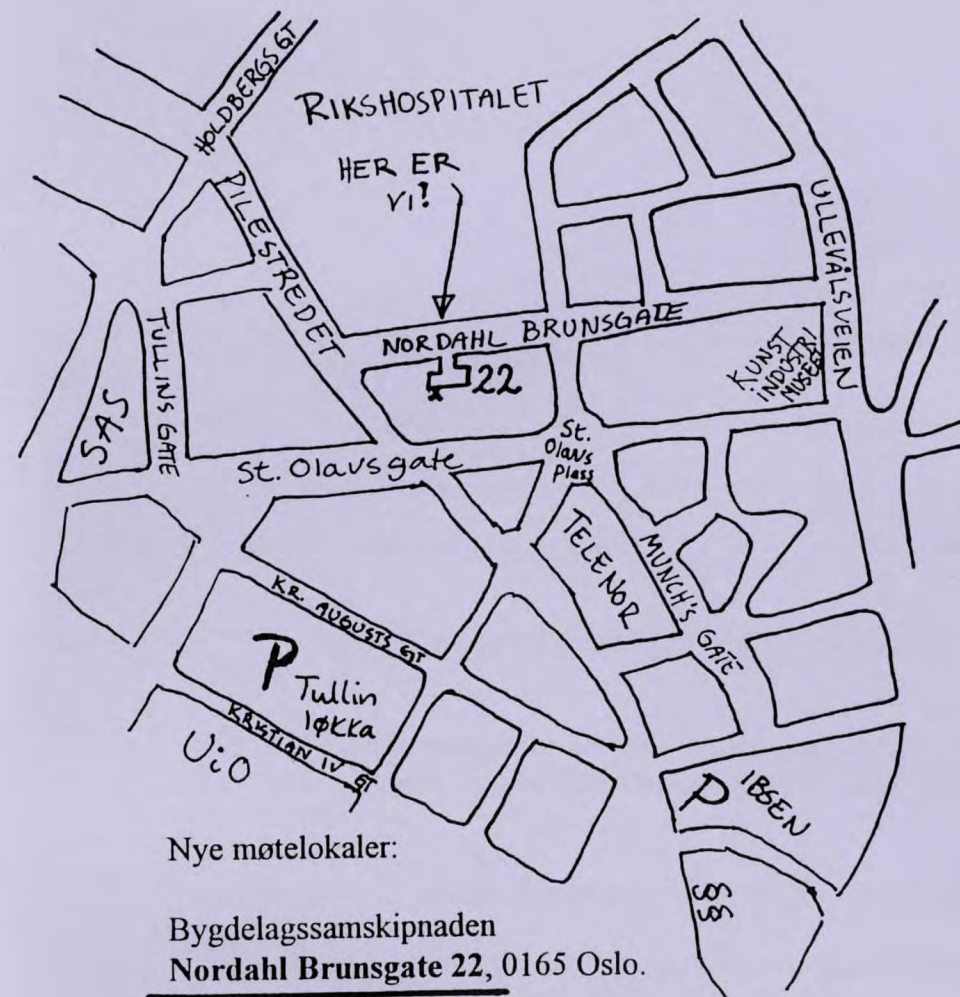
Rare Golden Emperor, Kaiser-i-hind and Blue Peacock are some of the 300 species of butterflies recorded in the area. Some of these beautiful butterflies serve as food for the birds.

Phulchoki was nearly deserted a few years back when the local residents and the occasional visitors especially those involved in marble quarry were destroying the beauty of the forest. The reckless felling of trees for firewood, blasting at marble quarry, shooting of innocent wildlife, burning trees for charcoal and littering the trails by picnickers had almost converted the area into a desert of bushes and weeds.

But in 1995 came environmentalists to rescue the area with the slogan "Save Godavari". The local villagers also responded positively to the call of the environmentalists. Now the villagers and the environmental activists work together to protect the area.

Source : Bird Conservation Nepal

Nye møtelokaler



Nye møtelokaler:

Bygdelagssamskipnaden
Nordahl Brunsgate 22, 0165 Oslo.

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