



Brief News Yet Another Conspiracy Of Madhav Nepal

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 24, 2010: the Madhav government has made the mockery of the large umbrella organizations such as Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and Federation of Nepal Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI) of business and industrial community giving the rights to issue the certificate of origin of Nepalese products to the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) and Nepal Chambers of Commerce (NCC).

FNCCI and FNCSI have asked the government

Constituent Assembly Gets A New Life

Siddhi B. Ranjitkar

On the midnight of Friday, May 28, 2010, assembly members have amended the Interim Constitution of Nepal of 2007 and extended the life of the Constituent Assembly (CA) for a year. The CA has got two years for promulgating a new constitution and institutionalizing the republic brought by the sacrifices of so many proud sons and daughters of Nepal. However, Prime Minister Madhav Nepal did not do anything to promulgate a new constitution rather try to pull the country back to the previous status awarding the people that had been against building a new Nepal the martyrs have foreseen. So, Madhav Nepal has been a black hole in the current history of Nepal. He has been not only for not following the rule of law but also for not following the gentlemanly agreements in other words the rule of the game. So, he has been shamelessly staying on in the position of Prime Minister. How long he will continue to stay on in the position of the Prime Minister unethically remains to be seen as his team and he have been winning the game of politics playing fouls.

Country Nepal has been sitting on the volcano of politics since the morally bankrupt Nepali Congress (NC) and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist and Leninist (CPN-UML) leaders made Madhav Nepal a Prime Minister in May 2009. Since then Madhav Nepal has been honoring and even awarding the corrupt and unscrupulous personnel of the previous regime in one way or another causing dismay to the people that have sacrificed their lives and luxury for the love of republic.

The two-third majority votes have extended the term of the CA for a year on the midnight of Friday, May 28, 2010 following the marathon meetings and hard talks among the leaders of three major political parties such as UCPN-Maoist, NC, and CPN-UML throughout the day and the evening. Out of the 599 legislators present at the CA, 580 legislators have voted for the amendment bill; only five voted against it. Five legislators belonging to the pro-monarchist Rastriya

Talk of the Nation Is Constitutional Crisis Looming?

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 25, 2010: Madhav Nepal has been the main obstacle to extending the term of the Constituent Assembly (CA) for the UCPN-Maoist leaders that have been blaming him for doing nothing for completing the peace process and for writing a new constitution. His stand on not for the CA writing a new constitution has been another bullet for the UCPN-Maoist to fire at him.

For the NC and CPN-UML leaders, Madhav Nepal has been the symbol of the unity for challenging the upsurge of the UCPN-Maoist leaders that have been arrogant for their victory in the elections and for their deeds of bringing Nepal to the current status of republic, federalism and so on. So, NC and CPN-UML leaders are not for removing him from the Prime Ministerial

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for the rights to certify the origin of products for their respective products as they are the organizations compromising all the business and industrial companies since long time ago but the government has ignored their appeal according to the leaders of the business and industrial community.

Officials of FNCCI and FNCSI are in a fighting mood. Officials of FNCCI has submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Madhav Nepal asking to annul the decision made by the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MoCS) on May 21, 2010 on giving an authority to the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) and Nepal Chambers of Commerce (NCC) to issue the Certificate of Origin (CO).

FNCCI officials have charged the Madhav government with conspiring to divide the business and industrial community, and have warned of launching a nationwide protest against the government's decision on authorizing CNI and NCC to issue the certificate of origin.

Prajatantra Party-Nepal (RPP-N) opposed the bill, and voted against it following the whip Chandra Bahadur Gurung has issued to the legislators of his party to vote against it. Chairman of CA Subhas Nembang declared that the amendment bill has been passed as more than the required two-third majority of the lawmakers have voted for it.

Before holding the vote for the amendment bill, UCPN-Maoist leader Dev Gurung and Nepal Sadbhavana Party leader Sarita Giri have taken back the objection to the amendment bill registered at the secretariat of the CA citing the three major parties such as UCPN-Maoist, NC and CPN-UML have agreed on the consensus politics. They have registered the objection to the amendment bill, thinking it has undermined the opposition parties.

Law and Justice Minister Prem Bahadur Singh have presented the amendment bill to the legislature seeking an eighth amendment to the Interim Constitution of Nepal of 2007. Presenting the amendment bill, Minister Singh has said that the Interim Constitution of Nepal of 2007 needs to function until the promulgation of a new constitution and only the CA could promulgate a new constitution, so the need for extending the term of the CA amending the Interim Constitution of Nepal of 2007 arose.

Before voting on the amendment bill, leaders of the three major parties have reached a deal on breaking the political deadlock by working on the consensus politics. They have signed off a three-point deal including the immediate resignation of the prime minister. Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda, parliamentary party leader of NC Ram Chandra Poudel and chairman of the CPN-UML Jhala Nath Khanal have signed off the document.

A Deal Paper (translated by the author of this paper): Following the people's mandate given by the historical people's movement, the Interim Constitution of Nepal of 2007, sustainable peace and the comprehensive peace agreement, we have reached the following deal:

We are firmly committed to work on the consensus politics to fulfill the historical responsibility for making a new constitution and doing the remaining work without delay in completing the peace process.

We agreed on extending the term of the Constituent Assembly for a year, as the work on building a new constitution has not been accomplished even though significant amount of work has been already done.

We are ready to move forward to form a national consensus government following the agreement on completing the work and fulfilling the responsibilities mentioned above as soon as possible. We make it clear that to this end, the current Prime Minister will be ready to quit the position.

position even at the cost of the political crisis to the nation. Most probably, they believe that they could crush the Maoists if the need for it arises.

The UCPN-Maoist leaders have seen that they could launch a peaceful movement if the need for such thing arises for grabbing the power. So, they have been firmly standing on their demand for removing Prime Minister Madhav Nepal that has shamelessly stated that he is not for the CA writing a new constitution.

Both the parties say that they want the consensus politics but both of them don't work for it. If it goes on, then certainly, the term of CA would expire on May 28, 2010.

What next? Most probably, the President and the Prime Minister would continue to work without the CA as if nothing has happened, and they would postpone the promulgation of a new constitution indefinitely making an indirect presidential rule.

The Maoists would perhaps launch a peaceful movement for the promulgation of a new constitution. Then, you know the peace and political stability would be upset. The Maoists as the leftists would fight against the NC and CPN-UML rightists. People would see who would win

Current Government Becomes Defunct If Term of CA Not Extended

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 26, 2010: speaking at the interaction held by the Federation of Indigenous and Ethnic Communities of Nepal in Kathmandu, Chairman of Constituent Assembly Subhas Nemwang has said that following the expiry of the Constituent Assembly on May 28, 2010, the Constituent Assembly, the Legislature Parliament, and the current government would automatically become defunct; and a caretaker government would need to run the state administration. In this case, the caretaker government would not be able to restore the Constituent Assembly and the legislature; so, there is no alternative to amend the Interim Constitution of Nepal of 2007 and extend the term of the CA for the continuity of those three state institutions.

Nepal Sets UP International Peace Award

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 26, 2010: under-secretary to Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA) Rishikesh Niroula has

Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda, parliamentary party leader of NC Ram Chandra Poudel and chairman of CPN-UML Jhalanath Khanal have signed off on this deal paper.

Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda has said that the extension of the term of the CA for a year is the victory over the people conspiring to dissolve the CA.

However, the leaders of NC and CPN-UML have continued to play foul not setting the deadline for the Prime Minister to resign. These guys have many matters to deal. They might spent on discussing various matters and disagreeing on those matters another year, as Prime Minister Madhav Nepal acting as a traitor remains in power standing on the shoulders of so many unethical members of the CA.

On Friday, May 28, 2010, youths across the country have expressed their anger on the members of the CA for their failure in accomplishing the historical work on promulgating a new constitution. In Kathmandu, thousands of youths have assembly at the entrance to the CA building asking the political leaders for reaching consensus on extending the term of the CA. In Lalitpur, members of the Nepal Students Union marched around the town carrying the effigies of 601-CA members and then burnt them in effigies. Netra Pande in Kaski performed mock Vedic rituals to the CA members for their failure in writing the constitution in time. Youths have held various functions for putting pressure on the CA members to extend the term of the CA across the country.

Many people have charged the legislators with receiving the payments for doing nothing substantial for writing a new constitution and completing the peace process during their two-year term of CA members, wanted them to extend the term of the CA with their commitment to get a new constitution promulgated on time.

Nepal has been passing through a stormy transition from the feudal Hindu monarchy to a secular federal democratic republic after the end of a 10-year people's liberation war. The Maoists have been fighting for a drastic change in the political setup for removing all the remnants of the feudal system while the leaders of NC and CPN-UML have been fighting for sparing the remnants of the feudal system to meet their interest.

US, Japan, EU have welcomed the extension of the term of the CA and hoped that Nepal would be able to complete the promulgation of a new constitution and complete the peace process during the extended term of the CA. They have also congratulated Nepalis on the occasion of celebration of the second republic day on Saturday, May 29, 2010.

Similarly, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and the European Union Norway and Switzerland have welcomed the extension of the term of the CA and have hoped that leaders of the political

and who would lose. This time, perhaps some would even lose their heads for not working on the consensus politics. This is a worst political scenario we can see given the current trend of working of the political leaders of the both sides: right and left.

European Union Parliamentary Delegation In Nepal

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 25, 2010: The European Union parliamentary delegation has been in Nepal for a five-day visit starting on May 25 and ending on May 29 for participating in an inter-parliamentary meeting. British Member of European Parliament Jean Lambert is leading the six-member delegation.

The EU parliamentary delegation will meet with the president, prime minister and foreign minister, and various other political figures to discuss the peace process and the writing of a new constitution, the current political deadlock and the possibility of breaking it through the consensus politics.

In addition, the delegation will discuss other subjects such as climate change and assistance to Nepal in completing the peace

Exchange Rates

May 31, 2010

Currency	Unit	Buying Rs.	Selling Rs.
Indian Rupee	100	160	160.15
U.S. Dollar	1	73.85	74.45
Euro	1	91.21	91.95
Pound Sterling	1	107.59	108.47
Swiss Franc	1	63.97	64.49
Australian Dollar	1	62.89	63.40
Canadian Dollar	1	70.38	70.96
Singapore Dollar	1	52.69	53.12
Japanese Yen	1	8.08	8.15
China Yuan	1	10.81	10.90
Saudi Arabian riyal	1	19.69	19.85
Qatari riyal	1	20.28	20.45
Thai baht	1	2.27	2.29
UAE Dirham	1	20.10	20.27
Malaysian ringgit	1	22.45	22.63
South Korean Won	100	6.18	6.23
Swedish Kroner	1	9.42	
Danish Kroner	1	12.26	
Hong Kong Dollar	1	9.48	

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

International Market

May 31, 2010

Bullion	\$/troy oz.
Hallmark Gold	\$ 1215.10
Platinum	\$ 1570.50
Silver	\$ 18.41

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Sudoku

Fill in the 9x9 grid so that every row, every column, and 6 - 3x3 boxes contain only numbers 1 through 9 without duplication.

9	5	3		4	5		7	9
		7					8	6
3				7		9		5
	9			6		5		8
		1					3	6
5				3	7		4	
1		2			6		3	2

Answer to the last week’s Sudoku.

7	3	6		2	4		9	1
4	2	8		3	1		5	7
5	9	1		7	8		6	3
2	8	7		4	3		1	9
9	1	5		8	6		7	2
6	4	3		9	5		2	8
3	6	9		1	7		4	5
1	5	2		6	3		8	4
8	7	4		5	2		9	6

said that the Government of Nepal is all set to install a peace award called 'Gautam Buddha International Peace Award' (GBIPA) with the award money of US\$ 50,000 on the occasion of the 2,554th Buddha Jayanti celebration on May 27, 2010 according to the news in 'The Himalayan Times'.

Under-secretary to the MoFA Rishikesh Niroula has said that the decision on setting up the award would be announced on the day of Buddha Jayanti in Lumbini on May 27, 2010, and the first recipient would be declared on Buddha Jayanti in 2011 and the award would be given on the very day. The government has decided to set up the GBIPA in 2002 but the unfavorable political situation has caused delay in declaring it. Former Assistant UN General Secretary Kul Chandra Gautam is the head of the 'Peace Award Management and Coordination Committee' according to the news

Infrastructure Development Bonds

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 27, 2010: the central bank of Nepal called Nepal Rastra Bank is issuing Rs 7 billion worth of infrastructure development bonds to the Nepalis working in

parties would work with renewed strength to promulgate a new constitution on time.

On May 29, 2010, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the extension of the term of the Constituent Assembly that has been possible to get elected by the sacrifices of some 13,000 lives. In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban said that he "commends all parties concerned, their leaders and the Prime Minister, for the compromise that preserved the country's peace process, and for their commitment to national unity." He has also called "on all the parties to solve other pending issues in the spirit of consensus and cooperation, to carry the peace process forward."

For her part, the Secretary-General's Representative Karin Landgren has said that the extension of the Assembly "secures the continuation of the peace process and was made possible through intensive dialogue and readiness to compromise." She has urged the parties to "continue in the spirit of compromise and with renewed dedication to the drafting of Nepal's new constitution and finding solutions to peace process commitments including a dignified and well-planned resolution of the future of the Maoist army personnel."

The UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) set up in 2007 has been assisting the country with the peace process. Its mandate runs until September 15, 2010 and includes monitoring the management of arms and armed personnel of both the Maoists and the Nepal Army, and assisting in monitoring ceasefire arrangements.

On Saturday, May 29, 2010, one of the Vice-chairmen of UCPN-Maoist Dr Baburam Bhattarai unveiled the draft constitution titled "Constitution of People's Federal Republic of Nepal of 2010" at Tundikhel in Kathmandu. The draft constitution makes the provision for the President as the chief executive of the government and the state, and people could call the president back before expiring the term of office if people wish so. It indicates that the politicians are still at odds and the Maoists have not reconciled with other political parties.

The Maoist have held a mass rally at Tundikhel in Kathmandu to mark the second anniversary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on Saturday, May 29, 2010, and have made public the draft constitution on this occasion. Addressing the mass rally, Dr. Bhattarai has said that his party has made the preliminary draft of a new constitution public for the public debate on it.

The draft constitution has made the provision for laying a foundation of socialism following the democratic norms and values, multi party polity, periodic elections, an inclusive and participatory governance system, economic, civil and human

process and promulgating a new constitution.

Row Over Rights To Issue CO

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 26, 2010: under the pressure of the business and industrial community, the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MoCS) is reviewing its decisions made on May 21, 2010 on awarding the rights to issue the certificates of origin (CO) of Nepalese products for export, to the Confederation of Nepalese Industry (CNI) and Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC).

Speaking at the meeting with the representatives of various business and industrial organizations held at the ministry to review the decision on the rights to issuing CO, Secretary to MoCS Purushottam Ojha has said that the ministry has realized the need for reviewing its decision made on May 21 on issuing CO and resolving the problem created by the decision.

On May 21, 2010, the ministry had decided to give the rights to issuing the CO of Nepalese products for export to Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Confederation of Nepalese Industry (CNI) and Nepal Chamber of Commerce following the

foreign countries according to the Myrepublica.com. The bonds possibly will carry 9% to 10% interest per annum. The government has made the provision for such bonds in the budget speech of the fiscal year 2009 (2066) with the objective of mobilizing the remittances that has been going to the consumption. These bonds are specially target to Nepalis working in foreign countries.

UK Minister Alan Duncan in Nepal

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 27, 2010: Openly-gay UK Minister Alan Duncan has arrived in Nepal for a two-day visit. While in Nepal he will familiarize with the development programs launched through the Department for International Development (DFID), and offer support for completing the peace process.

He will meet with Prime Minister, ministers and political leaders to understand the real political situation in Nepal and offer the support for breaking the current political deadlock and then for writing a new constitution.

Minister Duncan has chosen Nepal for his first overseas visit as a

rights, press freedom, efficient, free and people-oriented judiciary and rule of law.

The draft constitution has also made the provision for fundamental rights such as rights to honorable life, property, expression, privacy, information, primary education in the mother tongues and free secondary level education, equal lineage rights to woman, and rights to free basic health facilities, and unemployment allowances.

Fresh signs have been appearing that the political leaders would continue to squabble over the power and delay in promulgating a new constitution as Prime Minister Madhav Nepal has shown no sign of quitting the job despite the deal the three leaders of UCPN-Maoist, NC and CPN-UML have reached on Friday, May 28, 2010 includes the firing of the Prime Minister.

The Madhav government has chosen to honor former army chief Rukmangad Katuwal allegedly involved in suppressing the People's Movement in 2006 and Dhurja Prasad Rai indicted by a state-formed commission for ordering to use excessive force against the People's Movement in 2006 provoking strong protests from the human rights organizations against awarding such decorations to the allegedly criminals on the occasion of the second anniversary of the republic day on Saturday, May 29, 2010.

In a statement released in Kathmandu on Sunday, May 30, 2010, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has said that its serious attention has been drawn to the government's decision on honoring individuals held responsible for trying to quell the 2006 people's movement by the Rayamajhi Commission and few other controversial figures on the occasion of the second Republic Day on Saturday, May 29, 2010.

NHRC has said, "When individuals found guilty of human rights violations are honored instead of being held responsible for their actions, then it gives an impression that the government itself is keen toward promoting impunity."

On the occasion of the second Republic Day on Saturday, May 29, 2010, President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav has awarded recognitions to various personalities for their contribution to different sectors of society.

The highest civilian award called 'Nepal Ratna Man Padavi' posthumously went to Supreme Commander of the people's movement of 1990 Ganesh Man Singh for the extraordinary contribution made to the democracy in Nepal.

Similarly, the second highest award called 'Rastra Gaurav Man Padavi' is posthumously given to former Prime Ministers such as Girija Prasad Koirala and Manamohan Adhikari. However, they have hardly done anything to make Nepal proud of them.

multi-door system. Previously, FNCCI used to enjoy the monopoly on rights to issuing CO.

President of FNCCI Kush Kumar Joshi has said that the government's decision on following a multi-door system of issuing CO is against the interest of the Nepalese trade. He has also said that the Certificate of Origin is the certificate of verification of the national products to sell at the international market; the multi-door system would confuse the market.

President of CNI Binod Chaudhari has said that the rights to issuing the CO should be given to more than one institution based on the capacity and knowledge of the concerned institutions in the current world of global competition.

Minister for Commerce and Supplies Rajendra Mahato has urged the representatives of the business and industrial community to come up with their consensus on this issue to review the previous decision.

Memorial Day events honor, celebrate those who served

Burlington County Times Since last Memorial Day, Burlington County communities have continued to grapple with belt-tightening in their municipal governments

minister thus giving Nepal the priority.

SSB shots A Nepali In Nepalese Borer Area

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 28, 2010: Indian Sima Suraksha Bal (SSB) Inspector Hitendra Singh has entered Nepal illegally and has fired at 55-year old Basu Dev Shah killing instantly terrifying the locals in Biratnagar on May 25, 2010 according to 'The Rising Nepal' of May 26, 2010. In retaliation, Nepal Police have also fired two shots in air causing the Indian security forces to run away leaving a motorcycle, and one set of 9mm pistol behind. Ministry of Home has written a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take strong actions against the culprit and seek compensation to the family of the victim for the loss of loved one through a diplomatic channel.

Account Of Members of European Parliamentarians (MEPs)

By KTM Metro Reporter

May 28, 2010: MEPs have visited Nepal from May 23 to May 29, 2010. During the May 23-29

'Ujjwal Kritiman Rastradip-Second' is awarded to Madhav Ghimire, Daman Nath Dhungana, Padma Ratna Tuladhar, Satya Mohan Joshi, Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma, Dr. Sanduk Ruit and Mahabir Pun for their contribution to their respective sectors.

The irony is that the Madhav government has awarded Former Army Chief Rukmangad Katuwal with the 'Sikirtimaya Rastradeep-Third' for keeping peace and security with honesty and dedication, the most controversial figure that has been responsible for creating the current political deadlock, and has awarded Armed Police Force (APF) SSP Dhurja Kumar Rai with 'Suprabal Jana-shevashree-Third' for his contribution to the APF training, the man indicted for killing many protestors in the people's movement in 2006.

Apparently, the political crisis has been resolved by the extension of the term of the CA for a year but the crisis continues. Victims of the brutality of the Nepal Army and the Police have already felt the pains caused by the Madhav government honoring culprits with awards on the republic day. Most of the Nepalis hope that the CA members would promulgate a new constitution in this period. However, if you judge the Madhav government by its current activities it seems that the leaders of NC and CPN-UML are for provoking Nepalis to a third people's movement to institutionalize republic, democracy and the rule of law that have been the dreams of the thousands of martyrs that have sacrificed their beautiful lives for ending the despotic monarchy and for setting up a democratic republic of Nepal.

May 30, 2010.

Battle of the Memorial Day Birthplaces

Chris Epting
Contributor

(May 30) -- It's become so synonymous with barbecues, picnics, a three-day weekend and the unofficial kickoff of summer that many people seem to have forgotten what Memorial Day means: the remembrance of those who died in war.

Now that that's cleared up, there's another battle to consider: Where and how exactly did Memorial Day begin?

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website, it was originally called Decoration Day, and the story goes like this:

"Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans -- the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) -- established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead

and school districts - in some cases canceling popular community events - but many towns refuse to break with tradition when it comes to celebrating and honoring the nation's veterans and servicemen and women. Following is a list of parades and services that will be held this holiday weekend:

Today

Burlington Township: The Burlington County Board of Freeholders will sponsor a service at noon, rain or shine, at Veterans Memorial Park, adjacent to the municipal complex, off Old York Road. Col. Patrick Slowey, installation commander of Fort Dix at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, will give the keynote address.

Delanco: The annual parade along Burlington Avenue will begin at 1 p.m. at Larchmont Drive. Lineup starts at 12:30. All street vendors must obtain a permit from the township police before the parade date.

Medford: Come Alive! Church on Old Marlton Pike will host a free concert and picnic at 10:30 a.m., with a special invitation to active-duty military personnel, veterans and their families. For information and tickets, call 609-654-8466.

Medford Lakes: Cathedral in the Woods on Stokes

visit, MEPs have held talks with members of the Constituent Assembly and its Chairman Subash Nemwang in Kathmandu according to the news posted on the website: Europarl.europa.eu. They have also met with the members of the environmental and development NGOs in Nepal.

MEPs have discussed refugee issues with Nepalese officials. They have assessed the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees in the third countries as smooth, visited a Tibetan refugee-transit center and have had the opportunity of verifying whether Nepal has honored the "gentlemen's agreement" it concluded on the refugee question with the UNHCR.

MEPs have seen the retreat of the glaciers when they visited the 19,000 feet Imja glacier by helicopter. The leader of the delegation, British Green Jean Lambert has said the "retreat of some glaciers and the growing glacial lake show some of the ecological pressures, which will increase economic pressures". She added, "we need to take rapid action on climate change to support not only Nepal but other countries in the region dependent on water fed from the Himalayas".

with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared Decoration Day should be observed on May 30, and It's believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

Waterloo National Memorial Day Museum

Some 25 cities and towns across the U.S. have claimed to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. But in 1966, Congress and the president declared Waterloo, N.Y. -- home of the Waterloo National Memorial Day Museum -- as the first to celebrate the holiday.

"The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C."

Then VA acknowledges that a smattering of communities had also already begun holding their own tributes for the fallen. The first place cited is Columbus, Miss., where, on April 25, 1866, some women decorated the graves of Confederate soldiers who had been killed at Shiloh.

The VA website notes that the cities of Macon and Columbus, Ga., also claim to be the birthplaces of Memorial Day.

As do Richmond, Va., and the village of Boalsburg, Pa., which claims its first Memorial Day took place in 1864, two years before anyplace else. In Carbondale, Ill., the Department of Veterans Affairs writes of a cemetery stone that includes a chiseled proclamation that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866.

In fact, some 25 locations lay claim as the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Though it would appear that many thoughtful ceremonies independent of one another probably occurred in many small towns and cities, when it comes to sheer Memorial Day mojo, it's hard to top Waterloo.

Located in upstate New York about an hour east of Rochester, Waterloo was declared the official Memorial Day birthplace by Congress and President Lyndon Johnson in 1966. It was based on a ceremony that occurred on May 5, 1866, where local Civil War vets who had died in the war (57 in all) were honored with a somber day reflection, closed businesses and flags flown at half-staff.

Courtesy of Chris Epting

This official marker in Waterloo, N.Y., details the town's Memorial Day history.

Folks in Waterloo always support their town's claim by suggesting how earlier observances in other places were either one time, informal or not community-wide.

Road is hosting a special service at 10:30 a.m. at the memorial circle in front of the church. Visitors are invited to bring flags that covered the caskets of family military members or fill out remembrance cards to be read during the service. Senior minister Rev. Steve Winkler will lead the procession to the circle, followed by the raising of a new flag that recently flew over the U.S. Capitol. Taps will be played by Tim Estacio, 11, of Medford Lakes Boy Scout Troop 48, with numerous veterans taking part in the service.

Shamong: A service will be held at 10 a.m. at the United Methodist Church on Indian Mills Road, followed by a service at the war memorial down the street that will involve Boy Scouts as well as VFW and emergency services members.

Willingboro: A wreath-laying ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. at the veterans memorial at Mill Creek Park off Beverly-Rancocas Road. Mayor Eddie Campbell Jr. and members of the Township Council will participate.

Monday

Beverly/Edgewater Park: The parade will begin at 1 p.m. on Green Street in Edgewater Park and proceed along Cooper Street into Beverly, Dunks Ferry, Broad Street, Bridgeboro Road

Timber corp defies govt ban

On May 21, the Department of Forests imposed the ban on tree felling and timber trade in the wake of rampant deforestation and corruption and directed all District Forest Offices to implement the ban. The TCN move to invite the tender has Banke-based timber entrepreneurs confused.

Pradip Shah, chairman, Nepal Forest Production Industry and Entrepreneurs' Union Banke, termed the TCN move to invite bids despite the DoF ban 'meaningless'. He said the union had moved the Banke District Administration Office demanding withdrawal of the TCN move.

Asked about the DoF ban, the TCN Banke official said his office had invited the tender as per the central office's directives. Pradip Shah, chairman of Nepal Forest Production Industry and Entrepreneurs' Union Banke said they were confused by the recent move of the TCN.

"TCN's move to open the tender bidding process despite DoF's ban on sale of timber is meaningless," he said. He said the union had filed a case with the Banke District Administration Office to scrap the TCN's decision.

(Incidentally, after World War I, the idea of Memorial Day was expanded to honor those who perished in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress.)

Gary Westfall, the Waterloo village administrator, has spent all of his 64 years there, and he says that no matter what any other place claims, his hometown is the one and only rightful owner of the Memorial Day birthplace title.

"We have a Memorial Day Museum," he says. "Plus we're the only place to have recognized Memorial Day continuously every year since 1866. It defines our community. But most importantly, we recognize it on May 30 every year, no matter what day it falls on. We don't care so much about a relaxing three-day weekend as we do about the somber nature of the day -- the true meaning of Memorial Day."

And it's hard to challenge that.

Some trivia: Why is the poppy the symbol of Memorial Day? It started with a poem penned by a Canadian army colonel during World War I. Col. John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" was published in December 1915. The ode reflected McCrae's grief over the huge loss of life on the Flanders battlefields, situated between western Belgium and northern France. One part described the poppies growing among the graves:

"We cherish too, the poppy red

"That grows on fields where valor led,

"It seems to signal to the skies

"That blood of heroes never dies."

Two women -- Anna E. Guerin in France and Moina Michael in Georgia -- were so inspired, they thought the flowers should be used as a remembrance symbol of the war. They sold artificial poppies to aid orphaned war children (and other war victims).

In 1922, Michael thought the flowers would make an effective universal symbol for the holiday. With assistance from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, her idea became reality. Filed under: Nation, Weird News

and conclude at the flagpole at Beverly National Cemetery. Wreath ceremonies will be held along the route at Memorial Park, the Beverly Free Library, Dunks Ferry and the cemetery. The parade's grand marshal is Sgt. Maj. Michael V. Rigby of the NJ Army National Guard.

Bordentown Township: Veteran Richard Pinter, the "Lone Bugler," of Bordentown Township, will perform at 9 a.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery on Crosswicks Road, following the mass at Cemetery Chapel; at 6 p.m. at the Bordentown Cemetery, also on Crosswicks Road; and at 7 at the veterans memorial monument on Municipal Drive. Light refreshments will follow at the Senior Community Center.

Burlington City: The annual parade will begin at 9 a.m. with lineup at 8 in front of City Hall. The route will proceed along several streets and conclude with a ceremony in front of VFW Post 1817 on Riverbank. Participants will include area American Legion posts, Scouts, local athletic teams, military vehicles, the ROTC, the Burlington City High School marching band and decorated bicycles.

Book Review**Mahabharat: A Story about Love and Revenge**

Author: Siddhi B. Ranjitkar
 Publisher: Srilaxmi Ranjitkar
 Date of Publication: Jan. 2002
 Pages 575
 Price: Rs 300 in Nepal and India
 \$15 in US, and \$20 elsewhere



Contact
Siddhi@SiddhiRanjitkar.com
 for ordering this book.

Mahabharat is the story about the good and bad governance, corruption and misdeeds of royalties of that time. It is also the story about the sufferings of five brothers called Pandavas, about the dedication and bravery of some characters and about the love affairs outside the marriage. It has some lessons for politicians or monarchs, for those people who want to take revenge, for those people who are proud of their strength in other words for the egoists, and for the women in general and royal women in particular. It also tells us that a war is a losing game for all parties involved. No one can win a war but everyone loses many things in a war.

Content of Back Page of Mahabharat Gist of Gita

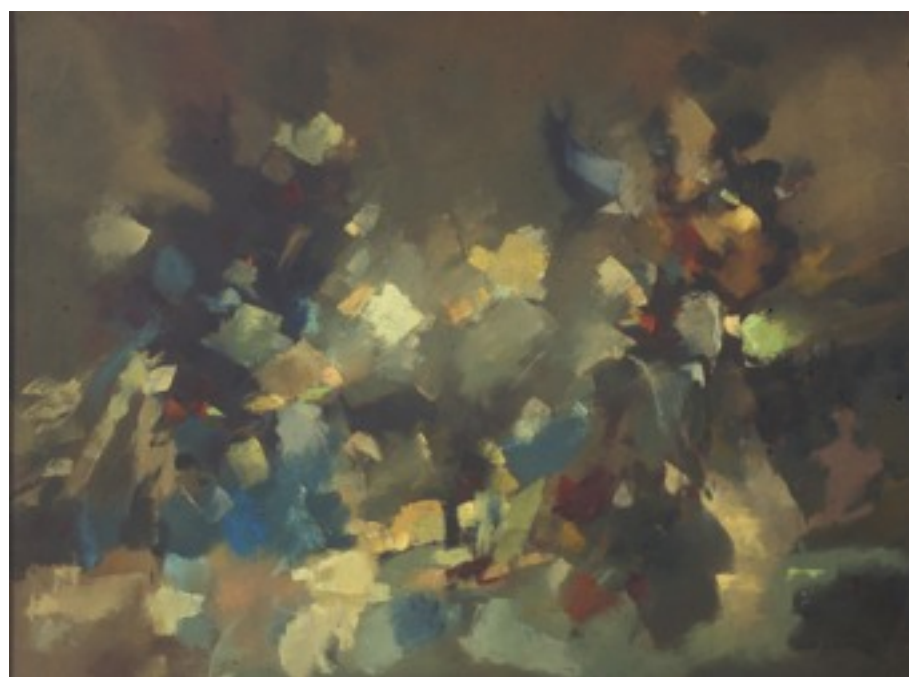
Whatever happened
 Had happened rightly.
 Whatever is happening
 Is happening rightly too.
 Whatever happens
 Will happen rightly too.
 What have you lost
 That has made you unhappy?
 Did you come with anything to this world
 That you get so worried to lose it?
 Whatever you have amassed
 You did it in this world.
 Whatever you hold today
 It was of someone yesterday
 It will be of someone else tomorrow.
 Nothing is permanent in this world.
 Be Human and perform your duty.

- Bhagwat Gita

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An abstract Art by Sharad Ranjit, one of the top artists in Nepal.



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