

MIXED FARE

# On their way to becoming self-reliant once again

Jessica Rai  
Kathmandu

The old bamboo-mud shelter in Kirtipur was abuzz with female voices. The sight was vibrant too. With knitting needles in each hand, these Haku women were knitting socks from colourful yarns. Some had knit a few inches, while some were learning to cast on and a few's work had taken shape. Two women of Kolpa Traders — that promotes and produces Nepali handmade crafts — teach the art of knitting and 26 women are embracing this new skill. Interlocking loops of wool one after another, women who hail from Haku in Rasuwa and living in Kathmandu for the last six months are learning to knit, making themselves self-sufficient through their new skill of knitting and of weaving *bakhu*, *patuki*, *pangden*, and *angden*,



Photos: THT

among others. Initiated by Trekking Experts' Dinesh Tamang (who is also from Haku), and Isering Gyaljen Sherpa, who have been with the Haku people since their rescue days in project Healing Haku, the one-week training is to make the men and women of Haku self-reliant through the skills learnt here. The training, that started from November 19 will go on till 26, is focused on what skill a woman has. It will be followed by another round of training in Dhunche. When each woman from each household is being taught knitting and weaving skills, training on weaving bamboo has been designed for men.

When the earthquake struck on April 25, 751 families in nine



wards of Haku with a population of 3,200, Haku people became homeless. It saw 58 deaths. With 90 per cent of the houses destroyed, flood risks and blocked roads in the monsoon, people relocated to other places. With a large part of Haku unsuitable to live in and some living in overpopulated Dhunche, camps were set up in Nuwakot, Shantibazaar and Kathmandu. And 45 big families came to Kathmandu.

## Teaching Fishing

Following the old adage — give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; show him how to catch fish, and you feed him for a lifetime, they have initiated the training in an anticipation that these people become economically independent through the training they receive.

"Haku doesn't fall in the tourism radar and there is no alternative source of income for its peo-

ple. Out of the total population, 95 per cent of people are uneducated. They were dependent on farming and now that land is barren. They have no means of income. Giving donations like rice to them is not enough. So, we are teaching them how to fish instead of giving fish which is not possible always," Dinesh, CEO of Trekking Experts, pointed out about their project. "This programme will identify their skill and enhance those skills for income generation. We will be providing them with raw materials initially and buy their products which will be sold to individuals (clients and partners) and the local market."

Hoping to motivate these people of Haku, social business is what they are looking forward to in the future.

With skills in hand, women and men of Haku would have something productive to do instead of wasting their time in drinking and gambling. This is how the income generating

she learnt when she was young out of interest. And the programme aims to enhance that.

Another skill that most of these women now have — is to make their traditional costumes like *bakhu* and other parts of their attire like *patuki*, *topi* and *pangden*. Che-wang Tamang, Dawa Bhuti Tamang and Pasang Tamang in their 40s are some of them, while there were others wearing their products like *angden* and woollen *patuki*.

"In our villages, our older generations like our mothers used to make these things. We learnt from them. And we used to make our own *bakhus* and others used to wear them but our children don't wear them as they say they are itchy. So, I left making them," shares Dawa who is living in Kirtipur after the quake.

Enjoying the new skill of knitting with other women, she adds, "I am enjoying it. I can knit anywhere I go unlike making *bakhu* which requires loom and a lot of hard work with the thread."

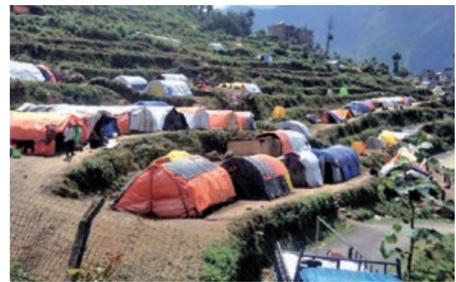
For her knowing a skill means, "you don't have to carry loads (labour work) and it could be a source of income".

## Redirecting their craft

The Haku women have the skills. All they need is a way and guidance and this is being provided by Kolpa Traders.

"We are into making marketable products by using Nepali authentic raw materials and resources. And these women have the ability to work on the loom to come up with authentic costumes that have cultural values and likes of *patuki* and *jhola*," Rabi Malla, Proprietor of Kolpa Traders said about the skill of Haku women.

As per him, they will help enhance their skills and products to another level. They will teach them colour combination, design, sizes which are in demand to



Courtesy: Dinesh Tamang

concept started.

Dinesh informed, "In the monsoon, people had nothing to do and they started drinking and gambling in the camps. Women trafficking was also prevailing. As idle brain is the devil's workshop, we looked out for ways to keep them busy."

## Haku Women's skills

Norche Tamang, 32, had come for the training from Matathirtha "hoping to learn the skill that would help to earn money in the future". From ward 3 of Haku, she with her family of seven have been living in Kathmandu since May. With her was a colourful *jhola* (bag). That bag is her skill that

come up with marketable products.

"We could also incorporate their skills to make new products like laptop cases or guitar straps and use their skilful hands to craft blankets, coats from loom," he adds.

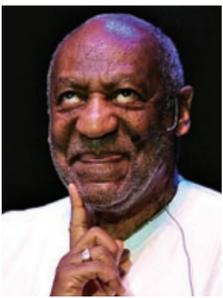
Along with enhancing their skills, the women are also adding some new skills. And skill developing training will help guide women in knitting and crocheting and to make anything using knitting needles and crochet hooks to which Malla says, "These women seem to know crochet also. But only some of them know how to use knitting needles. As knitted woollen products are marketable in Kathmandu's setting, we are training them to work with knitting needles."

## California Univ system takes back Cosby's honorary degree

POMONA: The California State University system has become the latest to take back an honorary degree from Bill Cosby.

The Board of Trustees voted on November 20 to revoke an honorary doctorate given to Cosby by Cal Poly Pomona in 1992.

The Cal State board said in a statement that it was revoking an honorary degree for



trashtalk.com



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** This year holds unusual potential for you if you can focus on your image and career. Come fall, you'll want to concentrate on a long-term goal. Be willing to do whatever is necessary to make it happen. Networking becomes part of your daily life. If you are single, your sociable nature is likely to be how you meet someone significant to your life's history. Fall 2016 could be unusually loving. If you are attached, you become more visible as a couple. Perhaps you'll even take on a political or community commitment together. ARIES is a live wire with whom you have a lot of fun!

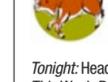
A baby born today has a Sun in Scorpio if born before 10:25 am (EDT). Afterward, the Sun will be in Sagittarius. The Moon is in Aries all day.



**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Whatever your plans are, you'll enjoy a friend or loved one to no end. Others will want to hang out with you because of your spontaneity and wild ideas. What starts out as a normal Sunday could evolve to a full-on celebration full of fun and laughter.

**Tonight:** Stay present in the moment.

**This Week:** Finances play a big role in your plans. ★★★★★



**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You'll find spending quality time with a loved one to be most relaxing. Though a lot is going on, you will find the appropriate time to hang out with each other by yourselves. Consider taking off to a place where no one knows either of you. Be anonymous.

**Tonight:** Head home only when you want to.

**This Week:** Don't hesitate to go for what you want. ★★★★★



**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your friends surround you, but they all seem to have very different ideas. A partner will want to claim the moment. You would be wise to adjust your plans to make time for this person. A new friend could capture your attention as well.

**Tonight:** Use your home as a place of fun and indulgence.

**This Week:** Consider doing some holiday shopping early. ★★★★★



**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Though you'll want to have control of plans, you won't care as much if events take place close to home. Your home is your castle. You like being able to indulge friends and family. An older friend or loved one is likely to surprise you.

**Tonight:** Avoid a difficult person by flashing a smile.

**This Week:** Zero in on priorities before mid-Wednesday. ★★★★★



**LEO (July 23-Aug 22):** Reach out to a loved one at a distance. Rearrange your plans in order to visit this person in the near future. You will find a way to do what you want. Be gracious and caring with those who are instrumental to your daily life. A surprise heads your way.

**Tonight:** Put yourself on a budget.

**This Week:** Extravagance happens naturally with you. ★★★★★



**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22):** No matter what is going on, you'll find a reason to enjoy the moment. You tend to be self-indulgent, but you also enjoy indulging and doting on others. Someone could shock you with his or her words or actions, as he or she might feel shortchanged in some way.

**Tonight:** Your hands are full.

**This Week:** Refuse to act until you are sure you see the big picture. ★★★★★



**LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22):** You sense a change in your energy as well as others'. Communication suddenly seems to flow, and others are likely to become more easygoing as a result. While you might have heard from only one person, you could be flooded by news.

**Tonight:** Defer to someone else's ideas.

**This Week:** Relate on a one-on-one level as much as possible. ★★★★★



**SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21):** Pace yourself, and recognise that you have only so many hours in the day and only so much energy. You might want to squeeze more plans into your schedule than you probably should. If you shuffle things around, you could trigger an unanticipated emotional earthquake.

**Tonight:** Wind down.

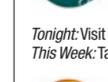
**This Week:** Give up the word 'no', and you just might like what happens. ★★★★★



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21):** You could make the next 24 hours close to perfect. You need to be willing to allow your inner child to come out and play. If you have children, they could delight in this aspect of your personality. A loved one will respond accordingly. Laughter surrounds you.

**Tonight:** Do what you want.

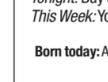
**This Week:** Handle your work immediately. ★★★★★



**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19):** Your family expects certain behaviour from you. If you nix plans with them, you could be on the receiving end of some uproar. An investment here is an investment in peace. If you look at the situation this way, it will become your pleasure to go along with others' desires.

**Tonight:** Off to the movies.

**This Week:** Your creativity continues to soar. ★★★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18):** Remain open to others' suggestions and thoughts. You might be invited to join a friend or loved one, though travel could be necessary. Don't create obstacles where there are none. You will find others to be unusually witty and creative right now.

**Tonight:** Visit with a friend at a distance.

**This Week:** Take off for an early Thanksgiving getaway. ★★★★★



**PISCES (Feb 19-March 20):** You have a tendency to indulge a loved one or new friend a little too much. This person's reaction could surprise you. A partner seems to understand much more than you do about what is taking place here. Listen to his or her suggestion.

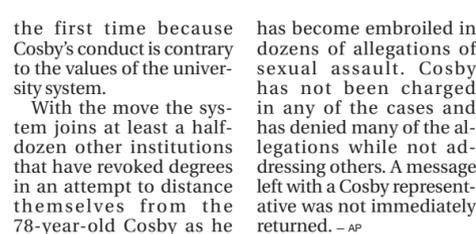
**Tonight:** Buy or make a favourite dessert.

**This Week:** You could be overwhelmed by incoming calls. ★★★★★

**Born today:** Actress Scarlett Johansson (1984), actress Jamie Lee Curtis (1958), actor Mark Ruffalo (1967) **By Jacqueline Bigr**

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**Note:** Bigr's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.



## SUDOKU 2188

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

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

**HOW TO SOLVE:** Every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the 9 vertical columns, in each of the 9 horizontal rows and in each of the 9 boxes



# Callertunes

	NCELL	UTL	SMARTCELL
Matargashti	60317024	72311002	3031699
Heer Toh Badi Sad Hai	60317029	72311007	3031704
Tum Saath Ho	60317030	72311008	3031705
Wat Wat Wat	60317034	72311012	3031709
Chali Kahani	60317037	72311015	3031712
Safarnama Sawaalon Ka Safarnama	60317039	72311017	3031714
Safarnama Khayalon Ka Safarnama	60317040	72311018	3031715
Parade De La Bastille	60317041	72311019	3031716
Wat Wat Vengeance Mix	60317042	72311020	3031717
Agar Tum Saath Ho	60317063	72311136	3031830
Sun Re Belya Matargashti 2	60317071	72311145	3031840

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**UTL USERS**  
New Users: SMS SUB to 1242; To download: SMS<DNSEtcode> to 1242

**SMART CELL USERS**  
New Users: SMS SUB to 4260; To download: SMS SET<space>code to 4260

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