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New procurement will equip Nepal Police with non-lethal riot control gear

Home Minister Gurung says a lack of funds had delayed equipment purchases. With the new budget, procurement process is underway.

GAURAV POKHAREL
KATHMANDU, AUG 8

The government has prioritised the procurement of non-lethal crowd control equipment following widespread criticism over the deaths of four people in recent security firings during communal tensions in the Tarai-Madhesh region.

Alongside equipment purchase, the Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated preparations to amend relevant security legislation and introduce advanced technologies, including drones capable of firing tear gas and broadcasting public announcements.

Speaking to Kantipur, Home Minister Sudan Gurung said a lack of funds had delayed non-lethal equipment purchases.

However, with the new budget cycle now active, formal procurement procedures are underway.

“Operating under the old budget limited our ability to make new purchases,” said Gurung.

“Now, as the procurement process starts, we aim for all types of non-lethal weapons necessary for effective crowd management.”

Gurung explained that the new strategy centres on using drones for surveillance, public announcements, and tear gas deployment. “Drones will enhance crowd management through real-time monitoring from a central command and by strengthening physical barricades,” said Gurung. “Our primary focus is on protecting vital infrastructure without causing human casualties.”

The push for crowd control infrastructure upgrades hinges on past security failures. During the Gen Z demonstrations on September 8 last

year, protesters easily breached police barricades outside the parliament building in New Baneshwar. The lapse led security personnel to open fire indiscriminately.

Security officials cited the Essential Goods Protection Act, which authorises the Special Task Force to use lethal force if crucial infrastructure faces imminent threat.

To prevent similar escalations, the home ministry is preparing comprehensive amendments to both the Essential Goods Protection Act 1955 and the Local Administration Act 1971.

“We are drafting amendments after extensive consultations,” said Gurung. “Rather than making piecemeal changes repeatedly, we intend to introduce clear, durable legal revisions after thorough discussion.”

The minister noted that many security personnel still operate under an outdated mindset that defaults to live ammunition when tension escalates. “We want to transform that mindset and establish an administrative system that prioritises non-lethal alternatives,” he said.

The need for legal and logistical reform was previously highlighted by the judicial commission led by former judge Gauri Bahadur Karki, which investigated the violence during the Gen Z protests last year. The Karki Commission recommended amending the Local Administration Act 1971 to clearly define parameters governing when security forces may open fire during curfews. The commission's report also underscored a chronic shortage of basic non-lethal protective equipment, including body armour, shields, and tear gas.

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Degrading government systems shake Digital Nepal's core

Outdated technology, shortsighted procurement, vendor dependency and a chronic shortage of technical personnel are routinely bringing state systems down, leaving citizens without access to basic public services.

SAJANA BARAL
KATHMANDU, AUG 8

Nepal's ambitious push to build a paperless, digitally empowered state is running into a basic problem: the systems meant to deliver public services are increasingly unable to keep up with demand.

From government offices inside Singha Durbar to ward offices in the high mountains, digital platforms are being hit by server crashes, operational bottlenecks and prolonged service outages. What were intended to make public services faster and more accessible have, in many cases, become new points of delay and disruption.

The failures are no longer isolated incidents. They have become a recurring feature of public administration.

Critical systems, including the central National Identity Card (NID) verification network, land revenue and property registration databases, transport management portals, immigration systems at international gateways and national tax platforms, have all experienced serious disruptions.

Officials and technology experts point to a combination of obsolete hardware, shortsighted technological planning, flawed public procurement, heavy dependence on foreign vendors and a shortage of specialised technical personnel in the civil service.

Over the past decade, government agencies have digitised large parts of their operations, introducing dozens of software applications and online



POST PHOTO: DIPESH DARSHANDHARI

The Department of Transport Management in Bhaktapur crowded with service seekers as its servers were down in this recent photo.

portals. These include the Line Ministry Budget Information System (LMBIS), managed by the Ministry of Finance; the Subnational Treasury Regulatory Application (Sutra), used by local governments for budget planning and financial reporting; the Integrated Tax Management System (ITMS), deployed across the Inland Revenue Department and regional tax

offices; and citizen-facing systems such as the Nagarik App and the National ID Information System. But the proliferation of digital platforms has not been matched by the infrastructure, interoperability and technical capacity needed to sustain them. In several documented cases, system failures have shut down entire public departments for weeks or even months,

disrupting commerce, legal transactions and routine civic activities.

NID becomes a national bottleneck
At the centre of the latest disruption is a growing crisis in the central National Identity Card database operated by the Department of National ID and Civil Registration.

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Iran's leaders think they have US President Trump cornered, but their strategy carries great risks

JOSEPH KRAUSS & AMIR-HUSSEIN RADJY/AP
AUG 8

The Strait of Hormuz is, by some accounts, named for a Zoroastrian deity destined to emerge victorious after a 9,000-year standoff with an adversary.

Iran's leaders feel their own victory is at hand and won't require the same epic patience.

They are betting that military pressure will ultimately force the United States to accept their control over the crucial waterway for global energy—and that time is on their side.

They know about the diminishing stockpiles of key US weapons such as advanced missile interceptors. They know the war is deeply unpopular with Americans. They know that as long as the strait is largely closed, the price of gas and other goods will stay high ahead of US congressional elections in November. They know that trying to open it by force would be

costly and may require American ground troops. They know their Houthis allies in Yemen could widen the war and disrupt another major trade route. By that logic, US President Donald Trump has no choice but to capitulate.

But Iran's strategy carries risks. Trump points to strikes that have decimated Iran's top leadership, navy and air force. He alternates between threatening escalation and saying talks are going well. Iran's own economy has been battered, in part because of a US blockade. Iranians rose up in mass protests just months ago and could do so again.

And Iran's leaders need only look to how Trump's “short-term excursion” to the Middle East has bogged down to be reminded that wars rarely turn out as expected.

An evolving deal could give Iran a major win
Iran says it is close to reaching a deal with Oman to manage the strait, which

runs between the two countries. But it would be conditioned on the US lifting its blockade, so even if there are no direct negotiations—as Iran says—Trump would have to approve.

Iran says it is close to reaching a deal with neighbour Oman to manage the strait.

It's unclear whether the deal would allow Iran to charge fees. But it would formalize its control over what had been an open international waterway before the war, one that carried a fifth of the world's traded oil and gas.

Abdolreza Davari, an analyst who once advised former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said Iran's effective control of the strait has given it leverage with the US and regional

countries that can help guarantee its security.

“More than revenue from the strait, Iran wants to confirm its management and sovereignty over the strait,” he said by phone from Tehran.

Formal control over even part of the strait would be a clear win for Iran and a loss for the US, which has yet to accomplish some of its various and shifting goals in the war.

It would also deal a blow to global norms on freedom of navigation and set a precedent that much of the world would find disturbing—that nations can shut down trade choke points at will. China, which buys oil from Iran and has influence over it, said as recently as May that “normal and safe passage” through the strait should be restored.

Iran feels time is on its side
To borrow a phrase from Trump's own theory of geopolitics, Iran believes it holds the cards.

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POST FILE PHOTO: PARTBAT PORTEL

Armed Police Force conducts a patrol in Kaptanganj, Sunsari following communal tension.

As Nepali women's choices expand, marriage becomes an option

As marriage loses its place as the only marker of adulthood and respectability, more women are deciding whether marriage fits the lives they want.

RISHIKA DHAKAL
KATHMANDU, AUG 8

At 29, Reema Bhusal (name changed) finds herself answering a question she never imagined would become hers: What if she never married?

Marriage is considered a key milestone for women, something that makes or breaks a woman's life. In Nepal, strong social value is attached to ramro keta sanga bihe (marriage to a good man). Without it, society often questions a woman's status, her worth. Marriage is treated as the ultimate marker of stability, respectability and adulthood.

Yet beneath this tradition, a quiet rethinking is taking place. More women are questioning whether marriage is a necessity or simply a social expectation.

While the number of women choosing to remain unmarried is still small, rising education, employment and financial independence are allowing some women to imagine lives outside traditional marital roles.

According to the 2021 National Population and Housing Census, the share of Nepali women who have never married beyond age 35 by choice has risen from virtually none in 1961 to 0.7 percent in 2021.

The number is small, but the trend signals a shift: For many women, marriage is no longer a compulsion but a choice.

A similar shift is taking place in South Korea, where a growing number of women describe themselves as bihon—a term that means “willfully unmarried” or “no mar-

riage”. The movement rejects the expectation that women should marry, have children and assume the load of unpaid domestic work.

For Bhusal, marriage was never presented as a choice growing up. Instead, she accepted it as something that happened to everyone.

“It felt as unquestionable as the sun rising in the east,” she says.

“It wasn't a question of whether I wanted it, but rather how I would go about it.”

She believed that if marriage was inevitable, she should at least find someone she could get along with.

Feminist writer Nirvana Bhandary says rejecting marriage is a conscious rejection of the institution.

A turning point came when a relationship she expected could end up in marriage failed. The breakup led her to question why she was pursuing an institution she had never fully believed in.

It also made her question the expectations placed on wives and daughters-in-law and come to see marriage as an unequal institution where women were often expected to sacrifice more than men.

Reports of violence against women and the inequalities embedded in everyday customs only deepened those doubts.



PHOTOS PROVIDED TO THE POST

Nirvana Bhandary (left) and Nirupa Prasun

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OPINION

Decolonising economics

It means challenging Eurocentric economic ideas, highlighting those from the Global South

JUNAID B JAHANGIR



Economics shapes many aspects of our daily lives, from the prices we pay to the policies governments adopt. Yet many of the ideas taught as universal principles of economics emerged from a narrow historical context and have rarely been examined through a decolonial lens.

A recently published book, *Decolonizing Economics*, argues that economics is long overdue for decolonisation. Its authors contend that the discipline has largely overlooked how colonialism, empire and unequal power shaped the development of modern economies and the economic theories used to explain them.

Decolonising economics means rethinking how we understand economic development and inequality. Rather than explaining prosperity through technology, markets and scientific progress, it examines how colonisation, resource extraction and exploited labour shaped today's

examination of mainstream economic assumptions is central to the project of decolonising economics.

Extractive economic systems

Decolonising economics also calls for examining how economic systems can reproduce inequality by marginalised communities in wealthy countries while relying on resource extraction and low-wage labour in the Global South.

Critics of the prison industrial complex, for example, argue that it generates profits while disproportionately affecting Indigenous and Black communities through higher rates of incarceration.

Hesquiaht author and business leader Carol Anne Hilton critiques the systemic economic exclusion and displacement of Indigenous people. She challenges the narrative that Indigenous people are a fiscal burden, arguing instead they are a source of economic strength. She also highlights how Canada's prosperity is contingent on the extraction of Indigenous resources.

Globally, the economy remains structured around unequal exchanges, with the Global South providing resources and debt payments that exceed foreign aid received. The Democratic Republic



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wealthy economies while contributing to underdevelopment elsewhere.

At its core, it's about shifting away from an economy that benefits the elite to one that builds people's capabilities.

As an economics professor, I've been restructuring my teaching based on my scholarship on critical microeconomics, critical macroeconomics and alternative ways to build the economy.

Questioning Eurocentric assumptions

Many foundational economic theories were developed by wealthy European men during periods of colonial expansion. Yet these ideas are often treated as universal principles rather than products of a particular historical context.

Eurocentric economic thought tends to position European economic development as the norm while presenting Indigenous and Global South economic systems as deviations. Decolonising economics challenges assumptions within mainstream theory about choice, rationality and economic value.

For example, the concept of scarcity emphasises that people must make choices because resources are limited. However, this can overlook how social and economic inequalities constrain choices. A bonded labourer may appear to have economic choices within a market framework, but coercion and exploitation mean those are not truly choices at all.

Decolonising economics also challenges the assumption that wages reflect an individual's contribution or value. How can this assumption account for the historically undervalued labour of essential workers, women and other marginalised groups?

Similarly, research on poverty and decision-making challenges the idea that people always act as fully informed and rational economic beings. Psychological stress associated with poverty can reduce people's ability to process information and make effective decisions. That stress can leave them more vulnerable to complex contracts, fine print and information overload.

Decolonising economics also calls for greater scrutiny of free trade theory, which has shaped global development policy. It was advanced by one of the wealthiest economists in history, David Ricardo. Yet many wealthy countries first industrialised through protectionist policies before promoting free trade abroad — a pattern one economist described as “kicking away the ladder.”

This kind of sustained critical

The case for Indigenous political thought

It has always existed and has profoundly shaped global trade, politics, economics and science for centuries.

DHIRENDRA NALBO



“A child of the Earth goes back to the Earth. A child of the Sun goes back to the Sun. A child of the Moon goes back to the Moon.”

This sacred passage from the *Mundhum* is recited in dialogic form by *Tutu-tumyahangs*—learned elders and keepers of Indigenous wisdom—during Limbu Indigenous death ceremonies. At first glance, these lines speak of human mortality. Read more closely, however, they express a profound Indigenous political thought: Human existence is inseparable from the Earth and the wider cosmos, and life is sustained through relationships of reciprocity rather than domination. Embedded within this brief passage is a political philosophy that understands nature not as property to be possessed or exploited, but as the source of life to which all beings ultimately return.

As Nepal marks its 31st Indigenous Peoples' Day, the government, policymakers and those engaged in the country's development would do well to pay closer attention to the dozens of Indigenous communities whose diverse political traditions and philosophies have long sustained their societies. These Indigenous political thoughts are living intellectual traditions that offer vital insights for reimagining Nepal's development, deepening its democracy, and building a more just peace as the country confronts profound political and environmental challenges.

It is useful to consider what political thought is, and how Indigenous political thought might help us reimagine our present and future by recognising the diversity of thinking and being.

In *The Rights of War and Peace*, historian Richard Tuck divides political thought into the ancient and the modern—the former being collectivistic and the latter individualistic. More broadly, he explains that such thought emerges and evolves in response to defining historical and contemporary political, economic and social crises. The emergence of the liberal order in the post-World War II period, its gradual demise, and the rise of China shaping the world order are examples of such dynamics. Another historian, Richard



AI GENERATED

Whatmore, conceives of political thought—whether Western or ‘Oriental’—as full of complexities and paradoxes: sacred, tragic, nationalistic and utopian, shaped by time and space. Today, we witness such complexities: People are wealthier than in the 1900s, yet inequality is stark; societies are more technologically sophisticated, yet these advances have deepened—or will deepen—divisions; and while some countries are better able to withstand escalating climate harms, others face existential threats. At this crossroads, Indigenous political thought offers a space to reimagine the future.

To be sure, Indigenous political thought has not only always existed, but has also profoundly shaped global trade, world politics, economics and science for centuries. The idea of egalitarianism, interdependence and autonomy—some key tenets of liberalism—is said to be drawn from North American Indigenous thought.

In Asia, as James Scott states, most Indigenous communities maintained political autonomy and self-governance guided by their own philosophical traditions, away from modern states, including by resisting colonial subjugation up until the late 19th century. This is certainly the case for various Indigenous communities in Nepal and many other South and Southeast Asian countries that lived under their own governance structures. Like (non-Indigenous) political thought, Indigenous political thought also evolved in response to colonial contexts. At its core, the thought is

not a set of abstract political theories centred on modern-state sovereignty and its sanctioned legal order; rather, it is grounded in the right to self-determination, governance based on reciprocity, legal pluralism, collectivity, forgiveness, reconciliation rooted in history, place (land), relationship and spirituality.

To understand Indigenous political thought, one need not be Indigenous. Nor is discussing it an attempt to dismiss or displace non-Indigenous political thought. Rather, it broadens the intellectual terrain of political inquiry and at times helps explore impossibilities. While the former has endured through centuries of colonial violence and continues to evolve, the latter has generated diverse, often competing traditions—some associated with empire, colonialism, fascism, Nazism, communism and capitalism; others with democracy, constitutionalism, human rights and emancipation. Political thought, be it Indigenous or non-Indigenous, has never been singular; it has always emerged from particular histories, places and struggles.

Unfortunately, academic discussion, including policymaking spaces, often approaches political thought through a reductive framework of right and wrong, celebrating some traditions while dismissing others. Such an approach forecloses dialogue and obscures the historical conditions from which political ideas and new policy interventions emerge. The task of engaging Indigenous political thought, therefore, is neither to talk

back to the canon nor merely to look back at history. Rather, it is to move the conversation forward while remaining attentive to the legacies of historical violence, dispossession and injustice, as well as to moments of political innovation and transformation.

Addressing climate crises and advancing justice, forgiveness and reconciliation—at least from legal and humanistic perspectives—are grounded in principles long articulated within Indigenous political thought. In 2021, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres urged humanity to end its “senseless and suicidal war with nature.” Building on this call, the 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) called humanity to live “in balance and in harmony with Mother Earth” while recognising the knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples as indispensable to restoring that relationship.

Meeting today's ecological, social, economic and political crises demands the courage to move beyond familiar theories, policies and practices—to embrace different ways of knowing, deliberate across worldviews, and take seriously the ideas that are too often dismissed. In that sense, Indigenous political thought has much to offer for confronting these crises and reorienting governance. Yet no enduring transformation in governance is possible without first transforming how we understand ourselves, our responsibilities to others, and our place within the living world.

Ultimately, our common future will not be secured by material accumulation, economic growth or technological innovation alone. Nor will our emotional well-being and harmonious relationships with one another and nature depend on wealth. What is needed is the courage to imagine political possibilities that today may seem improbable. That requires asking deeper questions—questions Indigenous political thought has long posed: What separates us more than unites us? How do we wish to be remembered? What principles guide our actions? Where do we position ourselves in relation to other beings? As the *Mundhum* reminds us in the three sacred lines above: Life comes from the earth, dwells upon it briefly and ultimately returns to where it began. How we choose to spend that brief time, however, is entirely up to us.

Nalbo is Co-Founder and Assistant Professor at The Open Institute for Social Science.

AI cannot replace business relationships

The cheaper the machines make everything else, the more the relationship becomes the thing a client actually pays for.

NITESH PANT



Last year I sat across from the managing partner of a small advisory firm while he named a fear most people in his seat keep to themselves. His partners are in their 70s and 80s. Almost all of the firm's revenue runs through two individuals' personal relationships. There is no real mechanism for anyone else to bring in work. He put it plainly: If one of them leaves, does the firm just crumble?

That question stayed with me for a year. Here is where it landed after around 125 conversations with owners and partners at small expert firms, and the advisors who work with them: In a world of AI, relationships matter more, not less. The cheaper the machines make everything else, the more the relationship becomes the thing a client is actually paying for.

Start with what AI is actually eating. The analyst layer. The research, the first-draft deck, the market map, the memo, the grind that junior people used to do and firms used to bill for. That work is getting cheap, fast. So what is a client still willing to pay a premium for?

Judgment, and the relationship that lets you apply it at the right moment. A senior partner at a large firm told me his firm has to move from 20 percent of its revenue coming from partner time to something closer to forty. And the forty, he said, is relationship management, influence, and turning insight into action. The part a machine will not do for you. The machine consumed the input. The human still owns the judgment and the timing.

We usually explain the rainmaker with the word charisma, as if it were a gift you are born with. I do not think that is right. The rainmaker's real edge is discipline, and it is a discipline almost nobody else can afford to run by hand. Hold a live list of the people who matter. Notice when something changes in their world. Always show up with something worth saying.

Sounds simple. It is brutally manual. Someone who does this at a world-

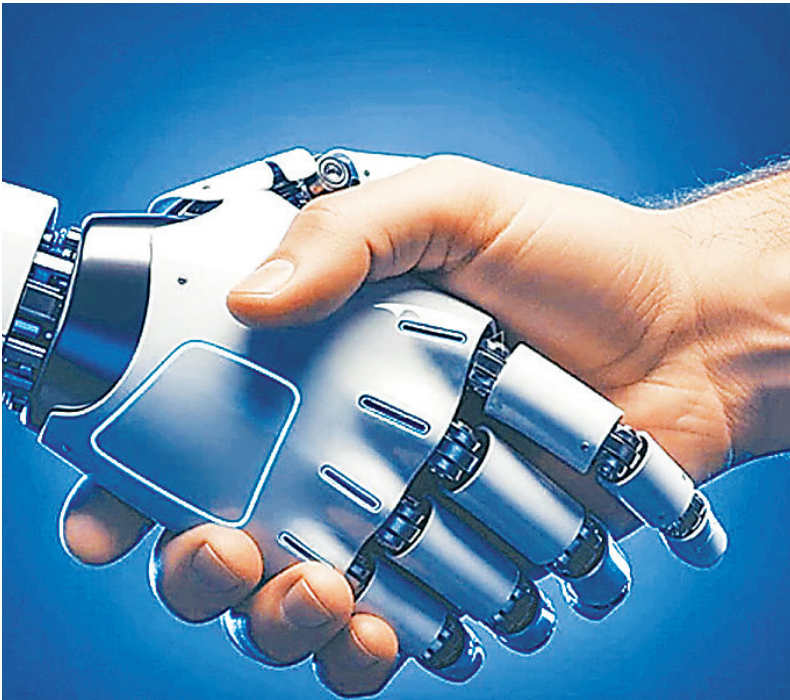
class level, professionally, told me each good touch costs him 15 to 20 minutes of research per person. His own word for it was annoying. And very manual. At another firm, the entire relationship history lives in about fifty spreadsheets, kept by hand, that break the moment a company belongs in two categories at once. The CRM they pay for is, in one partner's words, no brain, just storage.

Run by hand, this discipline caps at what one head can hold. So the rest of the firm's pipeline stays hostage to referral luck, and that is not a small thing. When I asked owners where their revenue actually comes from,

Most people read that and conclude the machines win, and the human touch fades into nostalgia. I think they have it backwards.

When analysis was scarce and expensive, having smart analysts was a genuine moat. The relationship was one edge among several. Now that analysis is cheap, and everyone holds the same tools, the relationship discipline is close to the only thing left that a competitor cannot download.

A principal at one boutique put the contrast plainly: broad, generic outreach produces very few serious conversations, while timely outreach to the right person about something



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almost none of them had to think about it. Somewhere between 70 and 90 percent came from referrals and warm relationships.

Going in, I assumed the complaint would get me more leads. It almost never did. Out of 40-odd firms, only a handful named leads as their first problem. What came up instead was quieter and scarier: The whole thing runs through one or two people, and no one has a plan for what happens when they stop.

Now put those two facts together. Analysis is getting cheap. The relationship discipline does not scale.

they actually care about performs materially better. Mass outreach is worth less precisely because it is cheap and easy to automate. Well-timed relevance is much harder to replicate.

There is a cruel twist inside this. The people who are best at the discipline are the ones with the least time to run it. A solo advisor said it better than any framework I have read: If you are working, you are not selling, and if you are selling, you are not working.

So here is the question I kept circling. If the rainmaker's edge is a

discipline and not a personality, can you turn it into a system that a whole firm runs?

I think you can. Not a personality you hire for, but an engine anyone in the firm can operate: Every key account gets watched, every key person inside it gets watched, and when something changes, whoever owns that relationship gets both the reason to reach out and the thing worth saying.

What that engine is really for became clear in one conversation. A principal wins the large majority of the engagements he actually gets in front of. His constraint is not closing. It is getting into more rooms, early enough to matter. The system is not there to replace him. It is there to get him more at-bats, earlier.

Zoom out, because the stakes are bigger than any one firm's pipeline. There are tens of thousands of small expert firms, and right now they are squeezed from two sides at once. AI is eating the analyst work they used to bill for. And their growth engine, the rainmaker, does not scale and does not last. Going back to the room I opened with. Partners in their 70s and 80s. Revenue through two people. No way for anyone else to originate. That is not a rare firm. That is the shape of the whole category.

These firms have two futures. They grow past their rainmakers and outlive them. Or they die with them, or get absorbed by someone larger, because they never built a way to grow that did not depend on one or two people. That is the real choice in front of the category, and very few firms are making it on purpose.

The firms that make it through the next few years will not be the ones with the best analysis. Everyone will have that. It is already close to free. They will be the ones that took what their best rainmaker keeps in his head, knowing who matters and showing up at the right moment, and made it a system instead of a person. When analysis becomes cheap, relationship intelligence becomes one of the few durable advantages left. The firms best positioned for the next decade will be those that turn what their best rainmakers know into institutional memory that can outlast any one person.

Pant leads product and growth at DevDash Labs.

Lise Klaveness, the Norwegian thorn in Infantino’s side



The President of the Norwegian Football Association's (NFF) Lise Klaveness addresses a press conference in Oslo on Friday, after the association's board meeting earlier this week.

PIERRE-HENRY DESHAYES/AFP
OSLO, AUG 8

A rare woman in the top echelons of football, the head of Norway’s federation Lise Klaveness has been a thorn in FIFA’s side for years.

Now, some would gladly see her take over the leadership of football’s international governing body from Gianni Infantino.

The 45-year-old lawyer and former footballer who played 73 matches for Norway has been highly vocal about international football’s woes under Infantino.

The Swiss-Italian has been mired in controversy since his plan to open FIFA competitions, including the World Cup, to private investors was swiftly rejected last week.

On Friday, she called for him to resign. When he was elected FIFA president in 2016, “he was a candidate who had been elected on a reform programme focused on good governance,” she told AFP.

“Then things quickly deteriorated: from keeping a distance, we moved to giving up, and even backtracking, all against a backdrop of a lack of independence from heads of state and other influential figures, particularly from World Cup host countries,” she said.

She fired her first salvo at Infantino in 2022, just after she was appointed head of the Norwegian federation, about the conditions under which the World Cup was awarded to Qatar.

From Doha, she publicly lamented that “human rights, equality, democracy, the core interests of football, were not in the starting 11”.

The following year, Norway refused to back Infantino in his re-election

with the mainstream. And at FIFA, the time is right for a woman to take the lead,” former FIFA head Sepp Blatter—himself disgraced after a corruption scandal—wrote on social network X.

Ballot box obstacles

Klaveness herself has insisted that the crisis in world football should not be reduced to a simple “Game of Thrones” power struggle and has instead called for a renewed focus on good governance.

“For us, it has never been a personal issue against Gianni Infantino,” she told AFP. “The problems go beyond the person of the president.”

And while she “has registered” that her name is being tossed around as a possible successor, she brushed aside questions about whether she was a candidate: “We’re not there yet.”

Many obstacles remain. “In addition to being seen as extremely radical in many places, especially outside Europe, she is a woman. That is also likely to count against her in many regions of the world,” Mina Finsted Berg said.

Even within Europe’s governing body UEFA, which one could presume would be most favourable to her, Klaveness failed to win election to the Executive Committee in 2023.

She only joined in 2025, when she was the sole candidate for the seat reserved for women.

“If she already has such a hard time getting elected in Europe, how could she convince Africans and South Americans?” asked Erik Thorstvedt, a former goalkeeper for the Norwegian national team turned commentator.

bid, signalling its dissatisfaction with his leadership.

Klaveness “was in a way the first standard-bearer for much of this criticism that many others now share when it comes to the way Infantino runs FIFA,” said Mina Finsted Berg, a sports commentator for Norwegian channel TV2.

She “is very committed to ensuring that rules and decisions are respected,” she added.

Trump, Balogun and investors

The reasons for her outrage against Infantino have piled up in recent months: FIFA’s decision to award a “Peace Prize” to US President Donald Trump, with whom Infantino has a conspicuously close relationship; the lifting of the suspension of US player Folarin Balogun at the 2026 World Cup following an intervention by Trump; and the aborted plan to open FIFA to private investors.

The Norwegian federation has decided to bring all three issues before the Ethics Committee of the world football governing body.

Klaveness’s voice carries all the more weight after Norway, long absent from major international tournaments, enjoyed a strong run in this year’s World Cup before being knocked out in the quarter-finals by England.

Internationally, commentators have praised her “strong moral compass” and consider her a serious candidate to replace Infantino if he were to step down.

He is standing for re-election for a fourth and final term next March and is currently the only declared candidate.

“She was the only one who always took a clear stand and did not go along

Hotel Crowne Imperial joins Kathmandu Gorkhas as hospitality partner

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, AUG 8

Kathmandu Gorkhas has signed Hotel Crowne Imperial, Soltimode (Ravibhawan), as its official hospitality partner for the upcoming season of the Nepal Premier League.

Under the agreement, Hotel Crowne Imperial will serve as the exclusive accommodation and wellness hub for the Kathmandu Gorkhas squad, foreign players and support staff.

Throughout the tournament, the team will have access to the hotel’s luxury suites, customised player-diet plans, and state-of-the-art wellness infrastructure.

Sharad Vesawkar, cricket director of Kathmandu Gorkhas, emphasised that off-field recovery and a peaceful environment play a vital role in a player’s performance during a competitive tournament like the NPL.

“We are confident that Hotel Crowne Imperial will provide us with top-tier facilities and genuine Nepali hospitality, helping our players stay healthy, focused, and in peak form throughout the tournament,” Vesawkar said.

Avik Jung Bahadur Singh, cluster general manager of Hotel Crowne



Sharad Vesawkar (left), cricket director of Kathmandu Gorkhas, and Avik Jung Bahadur Singh, cluster general manager of Hotel Crowne Imperial, signed the deal on Friday.

Imperial, expressed delight in welcoming the Kathmandu Gorkhas team.

“We are proud to welcome Kathmandu Gorkhas into the Crowne Imperial family,” Singh added.

“Cricket unites our nation, and our team is fully committed to providing world-class hospitality, athlete-friendly nutrition, and a comfortable stay so the squad can deliver its best performance on the field.”



Netherlands’ diver Ginni Van Katwijk competes in the women’s 20m high diving event during the LEN European Aquatics Championships, at the Seine River in Paris on Saturday.



HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Each interaction will have an immediate impact on your perspective, so be mindful of who you surround yourself with. Beware of hurt or confused people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Thoughtfulness goes a long way when it comes to matters of the heart, dearest Taurus. Unfortunately, you may feel as though your efforts aren’t fully appreciated

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

It’s important to establish your footing before taking a leap of faith, darling Gemini. Keep your mind occupied with healthy distractions to guard against dark thoughts.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Lean into the emotional reset, celebrating all the talents, flaws, and traits that make you perfectly imperfect. Prioritize building a healthier work/life balance to guard against future burnout.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

It will be difficult to focus while in the presence of emotionally intense people, dearest Leo. Just be mindful to maintain refinement by keeping sensitive information under wraps as Chiron grows restless.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

As intuition builds, you will notice nuanced communication and masked feelings more frequently. Though you will feel deep compassion for those who are struggling, it’s not your responsibility to fix the situation or provide healing.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

Logic and emotion don’t always play nice, and at times may work against each other. If you wish to soothe conflict, take accountability for your role in creating it.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

A surge of spiritually charged energy flows through you, dearest Scorpio. These vibes are perfect for asking the universe to assist with any goals you’ve been chasing recently, though surprises may cause you to rethink what comes next.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

A sweet stillness fills the air and allows you to see loved ones more clearly, Sagittarius. These deceptive vibes will make it easy to glamourise others and difficult to spot red flags.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Lowering your guard could lead to regrets if you trust the wrong people, dear Capricorn. Where developing relationships are concerned, it’s better to move slowly than be swept away in a disingenuous fantasy.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

Take care of your body in an effort to regulate emotions more efficiently, dear Aquarius. Instead of trying to find the source, focus on developing healthy coping mechanisms.

PISCES (February 19-March 20)

Seek joy, creative inspiration, and lively interactions. These feel-good vibes are all about opening the heart. Remember that it’s okay to develop relationships and showcase vulnerability.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Electrical conductor

5 Treaty

9 Dull

13 Toward shelter

14 Bitter drug

16 Broccoli —

17 Table extension

18 Calyx part

19 Eye part

20 Instant

22 Read hastily

24 — Force One

25 Take suddenly

26 Basic training venue (2 wds.)

31 Mammoth

34 Hospital area (Abbr.)

35 Actress — Blunt

37 Enjoy the taste of

39 Fishing tools

41 Greek epic poem

43 Shredded

44 Sees socially

46 Removes printed matter

48 Call — — night

49 Webster and Beery

51 In isolation

53 Slice

54 “— Town”

55 Pathfinder

DOWN

1 Tranquil

2 Butter rival

3 500 sheets

4 Trounce

5 Deli meat

6 Cakes and —

7 — and robbers

8 Wood for shipbuilding

9 Repetitive, rhythmic sound

10 Talk wildly

11 Under covers

12 Actress — Arthur

15 Hanging bandage

21 Pleasant

23 Fourth planet

26 Fasten

27 Sea

28 — — lunch

29 Gentle

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

A	B	B	A	S	H	I	P	S	D	A	D	S				
C	O	I	N	T	O	N	I	C	I	V	E	S				
M	O	L	T	E	R	A	T	O	V	O	L	T				
E	N	L	A	C	E	D	O	P	I	N	E					
	S	M	I	T	E	O	P	E	R	E	T	T	A			
	S	H	A	D	E	D	P	U	R	E	O	I	L			
	C	A	T			B	A	D			T	A	M			
	O	R	E		V	I	O	L		P	A	P	E	R	S	
	T	E	R	M	I	N	U	S		L	L	A	M	A		
				A	S	S	T		T	E	A	M				
	S	P	L	A	T			H	A	R	P	I	S	T		
	S	O	U	L		A	N	D	I	S	E		E	T	U	I
	T	I	M	E		N	O	I	S	E		R	A	R	E	
	S	L	A	T			T	W	E	E	D		S	L	E	D

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13					14				15		16			
17					18						19			
20					21			22			23			
26	27	28				29	30		31		32	33		
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	49				50		51			52				
				53					54					
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63						64			65		66			
67						68					69			
70							71				72			

SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

