



Nepal minister slapped official over car snub 尼泊爾部長不滿舊車接送 賞地方官員巴掌

A Nepalese government minister has admitted slapping a senior **civil servant** in the face because he sent an old car to pick her up during an official visit, reports said last week.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Karima Begam said she grabbed the local government worker by the **collar** and hit him repeatedly across the face after he failed to send the car she had requested.

"Yes, I beat up the CDO (chief district officer)," Begam told the *Republica* daily. "I slapped him five times."

Begam was on an official visit to the south of the country to attend a meeting of women lawmakers when the incident occurred.

She was apparently **driven round the bend** because the functionary, Parsa Durga Prasad Bhandari, had not sent his best car to pick her up, instead dispatching an older model.

"Why can't a minister use the (newer) vehicle? Who is senior, a minister or a CDO?" she is reported to have asked.

A spokesman for the prime minister told AFP that Begam's behavior was unacceptable, but declined to comment on whether she would be fired.

Many of Nepal's newspapers carried front-page pictures of a tearful-looking Bhandari, who said he had tried to reason with the minister but could not get her to listen.

"She even broke my **spectacles**," he told *Republica*.

(AFP)

—— 位尼泊爾政府部長承認打了一位高階地方官員巴掌，因為他派了一輛舊車接她進行地方視察。

農業部副部長柯芮瑪·貝甘說，因為該名地方政府官員沒派出她事前要求的車輛接送，於是她抓著他的衣領，連續賞了他好幾個巴掌。

貝甘對《共和報》指出：「沒錯，我痛打了這名地方首長。我賞了他五個巴掌。」

事發當時，貝甘人在南部進行正式訪問，出席一場女性國會議員會議。

地方政府官員帕沙·度爾加·帕拉沙德·班達里派了一輛舊車而不是最好的車來接她，她顯然為此感到火冒三丈。

報導指出，她問說：「為甚麼堂堂一位部長不能搭（較新的）車輛？誰的職位比較高？部長？還是地方首長？」

總理發言人對法新社表示，貝甘的行為令人無法接受，但他拒絕透露她是否會因此被革職。

尼泊爾許多報紙都在頭版刊登班達里淚眼汪汪的照片，他說他試圖和部長講理，但她完全不理。

他對《共和報》表示：「她甚至打破了我的眼鏡。」

(法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

Nepal's President Rambaran Yadav, right, gives a garland of flowers, a symbol of blessing from Goddess Durga, to Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, at the President's House in Kathmandu on the last day of the Hindu festival Dasain on Sept. 28, 2009.

PHOTO: REUTERS

九月二十八日印度教達善節最後一天，尼泊爾總統朗巴倫·雅達夫（右）在加德滿都的總統府，贈送代表來自杜爾加女神祝福的花圈給總理瑪德哈夫·庫瑪·尼帕爾。

照片：路透社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **civil servant** /'sɪvl 'sɜːvənt/ n.

公務員 (gong1 wu4 yuan2)

例：The role of civil servants has changed considerably in the last 20 years.

(公務員的角色在過去二十年已有大幅改變。)

2. **collar** /'kɒlə/ n.

衣領 (yi1 ling3)

例：The shirt would've been a good fit if the collar was a little wider.

(這件襯衫的衣領如果再寬一點就非常合身了。)

3. **spectacles** /'spektəklz/ n.

眼鏡 (yan3 jing4)

例：It might be cheaper to replace the lenses on your spectacles, rather than buy a new pair of frames.

(你的眼鏡只換鏡片可能比重買一副新的鏡框划算。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

drive somebody round the bend 讓某人極為光火

If someone **drives you round the bend**, they annoy you intensely. In the article, the minister was **driven round the bend** by the official's failure to bring the best car to collect her.

Example: "I hope they hurry up and finish construction on that new building — the noise is **driving me round the bend**."

若說某人「drive you round the bend」，就表示他們讓你極為生氣。上文中提到，這位部長因為地方官員沒派出最稱頭的車輛來接她，讓她極為光火。

例如：「我希望他們趕快完成這棟新建築的工程——我快要被施工的噪音煩死啦。」