

# ...PERHAPS INDIA DID NOT BUILD ROADS FOR CYLISTS

## FOREIGNERS LIKE BUDAUN: SONYA AND ALDRIK TOUR THE CITY ON BICYCLE.

Budaun: It seems that foreigners like our city of Budaun and that's why this couple, both cyclists, have come here on their world tour. After visiting the city and meeting people today, they expressed their views to JAGRAN. They mentioned quite painfully that there are no roads for bike riders in India.

Aaldrik from Holland and Sonya from Australia are husband and wife. They are web designers and while working in the same profession, they met each other. On 23 December, 1995 they married and now they are both working for a Dutch based company.

Last year in August, they planned a world tour program by bicycle and therefore left their home in The Netherlands. Since then, they have visited Europe, Turkey, Iran Uzbekistan and China. During this period, their bicycles have been transported either by ship or aeroplane on numerous occasions.

On 13 September, after crossing Wagha border in Pakistan and entering India, they continued on their journey and visited Amritsar, Dharamshala, Chandigarh, New Delhi and Jaipur.

Today, while cycling through our town they



saw a multitude of people and conversed with many who spoke and understood English. Later on after booking in at The Regency Hotel they met with the JAGRAN press. They spoke of India as a good country with friendly people. But they did not hesitate to mention the poor traffic system with heavy vehicles.

Aaldrik clearly said that there is a monopoly of trucks and buses on the

road and the drivers of these heavy vehicles think of cyclists as mere insects. He further said that you must be alert the whole time as you never know what will happen.

When asked about Indian political leaders, Aaldrik said that he knew of the Indian Congress Party and its president Sonia Gandhi. He also smiled and said his wife's name is also Sonya: that's why they took a special interest in Mrs Gandhi. He reiterated that Sonia Gandhi is a leader with strong will power. He also praised Mahatma Gandhi. He then said: we will enter Nepal in 3 days.