

Nepal Abroad

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Obama Calls G20 Agreement A Turning Point

By Paula Wolfson London April 02 2009 VOA

U.S. President Barack Obama says the G20 summit in London marks a turning point in efforts to heal the global economy. But, Mr. Obama cautions there are no guarantees and more action could be needed.

President Obama says he is pleased with the results of his first international summit.

He says it was productive, and predicts it will be seen as a turning point in the pursuit of a global economic recovery.

"By any measure, the London summit was historic," said President Obama. "It was historic because of the size and scope of the challenges that we face, and because of the timeliness and magnitude of our response."

Speaking to reporters just hours after the summit was adjourned, the president spoke of the consensus achieved by countries who came in

with different priorities and perspectives.

"It's hard for 20 heads of state to bridge their differences,"

said Mr. Obama. "We've all got our own national policies, we all have our own assumptions, and our own political cultures. But our citizens are all hurting. They all need us to come together."

The president did not get a concrete promise from others for substantial increases in government domestic spending - a tool he has used at home to boost the U.S. economy.



But there was agreement to provide funding for \$1 trillion in additional loans and credits for struggling countries through the International Monetary Fund and other institutions. And the summit started the process of clamping down on tax havens for the wealthy and loosely regulated investment funds for the rich.

Mr. Obama said the G20 meeting approved critical, bold steps. He said there is no guarantee they will all work, but he stressed the healing process has begun.

"I think we applied the right medicine," he said. "I think the patient is stabilized. There are still wounds that have to heal. There are still emergencies that could arise. But I think you have some pretty good care being applied."

The president also used the opportunity to reflect on the nu-

merous one-on-one meetings he held with world leaders from Russia, China, India, South Korea and summit host Great Britain.

"Of course we spoke about additional steps to promote economic recovery and growth," said Barack Obama. "But we also discussed coordinated actions on a range of issues: how we could reduce the nuclear threat, how we could forge a coordinated response to North Korea's planned missile launch, how we can turn back terrorism and stabilize Afghanistan, how we can protect our planet from the scourge of climate change."

From London, Mr. Obama travels to the French-German border where he will join other NATO leaders at a summit marking the 60th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Parties Differ on Political System

Kathmandu, April 3: Major political parties -- UCPN-Maoist, Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, MFJ and TMDP -- have proposed their concepts on major issues of the new constitution.

Ruling CPN-Maoist has proposed executive president through direct election, bi-cameral legislature at centre, unicameral legislature in the provinces and mixed electoral system. On the contrary, NC and CPN-UML have proposed prime minister with executive powers.

However, NC and UML are divided on electoral systems. While UML wants the Prime Minister to be elected through direct election, the NC prefers PM's election through legislature. As far as the power and role of the president is concerned both Congress and UML seem to agree.

Similarly, while MFJ has proposed for executive president through direct election, TMDP

wants executive prime minister elected through the parliament and a constitutional president.

Meanwhile, Tarai Madhes Democratic Party (TMDP) on Thursday presented its concept paper on the constitution to the Constitutional Committee (CC) of Constituent Assembly.

Presenting the concept paper at CC, Mahantha Thakur, president of TMDP, also proposed changes in the national flag. He said, "We respect the existing flag but we propose to change it in order to make it more inclusive," adding that the Madhesi people wanted their identity established in the constitution.

Similarly, TMDP demanded new national census before restructuring the nation. TMDP has proposed bi-cameral legislature at the centre and unicameral legislature in the provinces. Though the concept paper is silent on the number of prov-

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Grand Design To Do Away Democratic Order In Nepal: G P Koirala

-Niraj Aryal, Kathmandu

Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala has warned his party cadres against the design aimed at bringing an abrupt end to the prevailing democratic order in the name of preserving the democratic system itself.

Koirala said, "The new game that is being played now is to see an end to the democratic order, however, it is being played under the guise of preserving the democratic system itself".

Koirala further urging his party cadres said that the onus now lay with the Nepali Congress to preserve the system of parliamentary democracy in the country.

Koirala was addressing at the 4th General Convention of the Trade Union Congress-Independent in Birgunj, April 3, 2009.

"Democratic institutions are facing continuous wrath from the non-democratic quarters, the Nepali Congress needs to be fully prepared to preserve the sanctity of those institutions", Koirala added.

Mr. Salik Ram Jammakattel, a Maoists CA member and the president of the Maoists' affiliated trade union urged the Nepali Congress to become a part of the Maoists'-led government.

Your morning companion to developments in Nepal

Telegraph Nepal
www.telegraphnepal.com

Editorial:**Royalists, regaining?**

Whether the revolutionary government may like it or not, it appears that the Maoists and their supporters will have to develop more tolerance for the royalists' activities in the days ahead. The return of the ex-King Gyanendra Shah from his trip to India in the recent past, the sensational and the unexpected expressions of ex-Crown Prince Paras Shah in Singapore about the Royal Palace massacre 2001 and his future plans, coupled with the sensational, but unpleasing revelation to the republicans by Angella Cheng - a Singaporean woman has now opened a new chapter 'the Baby King' for discussion in Nepal.

Although it was stated to be a private visit, ex-King in India did use his stay there dwelling on Nepal's politics with Indian leaders, which is but natural. Besides being the former head of the State, he represents dynasty that ruled the country for over two centuries. While He was in India, the Maoists ministers and leaders were all accusing Him of conspiring (in cooperation with India) against the republican order to reinstate the monarchy, and anything under the sun. This showed their defeated mentality, the obsession that they're loosing popular support every day, and an easy way to distract people from their incompetence in providing security and stability. While they're in hiding in India, and causing massive deaths and destruction in Nepal, neither the democratic governments nor the Royal government expressed any irresponsible statements relating Maoists with any neighbors. Hence this also shows that the current government is also challenged with diplomatic disciplines, and public relations.

Ex-King is back in Nepal, and news reports have it that He's holding discussion with people, a thing that shouldn't surprise anybody. What brought surprise to many is the recent revelation made by ex-Crown Prince Paras Shah through a newspaper in Singapore.

After long silence, he finally expressed all he witnessed, and his analysis that triggered the massacre - a new turn to the Royal Palace massacre episode, indeed. He said what he had to say, however, not until a reinvestigation of the massacre is done, with disclosure from all involved, it may not be appropriate to conclude anything.

By talking about his intention to join politics, he's now breaking a long silence filled with negative stories by the media; he plans to spend his life serving Nepal and the Nepalese people. This expression from him sounds very mature, shows his awareness about the suffering of the Nepalese people at all levels; and it will certainly make people rethink about ex-Crown Prince. He may or may not regain what he lost, but he does attempts to give impression that he's now a changed man.

Another surprising revelation was from Angella Cheng, hitherto unknown to general public, who claims to have extraordinary influence to propose straight-forward, the idea of the 'Baby King' to the Maoists Prime Minister Pushpa K Dahal. She's also aware about the life at the grassroots in Nepal, and is confident to convince the stakeholders on major political parties, the government of China and those in Japan. How things would develop in the days ahead will have to be watched.

While becoming a republic, Nepal was also unanimously declared 'democratic' and by default, all citizens have the right to form a group of any kind, and hence, the group can work out to influence populations to its belief. Unlike the Maoists that resorted to violence in forcing people to accept them through intimidation, the Royalists have more easier way to win the (hidden) popular support.

Royalists and the semi-royalists all have a wonderful opportunity to win popular support considering the current political uncertainty. Should they exercise an effective public relations campaign, and not just the tantalizing

Switching To Bananas

JUGEDI, March 31: Pushkar Timilsina, a farmer in Jugedi village, southern Nepal, has decided to replace his traditional crops with something different and unusual - bananas.

"The weather is becoming very unpredictable. We have to start preparing for the worst," he told IRIN.

Timilsina is by no means the only one concerned. Climate change experts say many farmers in Nepal are feeling the impact of global warming in terms of reduced agricultural production.

Traditional crops like rice, wheat, maize and millet have had lower yields in recent years due to extreme weather (drought or floods), according to local NGOs involved in the agricultural sector.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2007 global report *Up in Smoke?* Asia and Pacific, expressed serious concern about food insecurity in Nepal due to changes in rainfall patterns. Livelihoods would be affected, it said, as over 75 percent of the

country's 28 million people depend on agriculture.

According to the World Bank, around 31 percent of the population survive on less than US\$1 per day.

"There is erratic rainfall and it's worsening, causing farmers to suffer the most," Dinanath Bhandari from Nepal-based international NGO Practical Action told IRIN.

A key activity of the NGO is climate adaptation activities, such as preparing farming families to cope with change, teaching them to grow new crops, and introducing drip irrigation and water storage schemes.

Timilsina is pleased with the changes he has made: "My family and local community were totally against the idea of replacing my traditional crops with bananas, which they considered merely fruit... But for me, it's my life saver and brings in a lot of money to buy food in the market."

In the two years since he started his banana farm, his family has more than doubled their income.

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Toilets Are Still A Luxury For Majhi Community

Sindhupalchowk, March 28: Only two of nearly 150 households in a Majhi settlement at Sangachowk VDC-8 and 9 in the district have toi-

assurances, they may be able to win the popular approval.

While the Maoists are engaged in ensuring total influence on all state's machinery, they're also loosing popular support in the process. The continued unruly / violent activities of their cadres - the PLA in disguise, have done more to damage the Maoists public expectations and trust. The fiery public speeches in public against everything and everybody, but the Maoists have convinced people that their words and actions contradict; and they have no respect for fundamental human rights of others. Hence, it would not be inappropriate to conclude that the Maoists are also primarily contributing for the growth of royalists' supporters.

lets in their homes. To add to it, the Majhi community was yet to realise the need for toilets.

The Majhis say they have been going to nearby rivers and streams to answer nature's call. However, they take their guests to one of the two toilets in their settlement.

Only Sushil Majhi of Ward No 9 and Bir Bahadur Majhi of Ward No 8 have constructed toilets in their

...Contd. on pg 6

Nepalese Calendar

Sun Apr 05 / Chaitra 23'65

KamadaEkadashin Bratam

Mon Apr 06 / Chaitra 24'65

Duwadashin

Tue Apr 07 / Chaitra 25'65

Pradoshbratam/MahabirJayanti

Wed Apr 08 / Chaitra 26'65

Chaturthee

Thu Apr 09 / Chaitra 27'65

Poornima/Hanuman Jayanti

Fri Apr 10 / Chaitra 28'65

Pratipada

Sat Apr 11 / Chaitra 29'65

Duwitiya

Reduce Dropout Rates In Primary Schools: EFA

Kathmandu, March 24: The Ministry of Education (MoE) will need to focus on reducing the dropout rates of the primary schools and producing more trained teachers to raise the standards of current education system, the joint evaluation of Nepal's Education for All (EFA) 2004-2009 sector programme recommended Tuesday.

According to EFA sector evaluation programme, the dropout rate in primary level currently stood at 22 per cent of the total primary level students. As per the recommendation of the EFA sector programme, it has also stressed on the need of producing more trained teachers.

National Centre for

Educational Development (NCED), Sanothimi, however, claimed that NCED had so far produced 89 per cent of trained teachers across the country.

The EFA evaluation programme was undertaken by a team of five independent consultants, two international and three national consultants over a period of approximately 10 weeks from November 2008.

The field research of the EFA evaluation sector programme was carried out in eight districts—Mugu, Surkhet, Rasuwa, Dhading, Dhanusha,

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Call To Make New Statute Child-friendly

Kathmandu, March 27: Children as Zones of Peace (CZOP) and Consortium of Organisation Working for Child Participation (COWCP) appealed to Constitutional Assembly (CA) members to draft a child-friendly new constitution.

At a function organised here today, Purna Kumari Subedi, CA vice chairperson, said the recommendations of CZOP and COWCP would serve as an important guide while drafting the new constitution. She added that the state, families and the society should be able to create an environment wherein children are provided

with equal opportunities.

Gillian Mellso, UNICEF representative, stated Nepal had a historic opportunity to draft a constitution that would serve common people's interests. She said almost 50 per cent of children in Nepal were suffering from malnutrition and more than 12,000 girls trafficked every year. Mellso asked for provisions guaranteeing children's right in the new constitution.

CA member Gagan Thapa said the recommendations should be submitted to the respective commit-

...Contd. on pg 6

PLA Fighters Appear

Jhapa, March 25: Rajan Karki, who was against the present education system during the Maoists' Peoples' War, is appearing in SLC exams this year.

He said, "I am not appearing in the exam to support the present education system, but I am just utilising the leisure time."

He added, "We didn't have time for studies during the war, now I am utilising my leisure time in the cantonment." Around 400 PLA personnel of the First Division in Chulachuli are appearing in the SLC exams this year.

Military secretary of the division Naresh said, "The PLA fighters have prepared a lot to for the exams," adding, "We had managed

classes for them inside the cantonment." Another PLA fighter Sapana, who is also appearing in the exams, said, "Education is important for the future. So I am appearing in the exams."

She claimed that she was not appearing in the exam to get a higher post in the Nepali Army after the integration of PLA and the NA.

Exam superintendent Khodnath Chapagain said, "We have managed a separate room for 78 PLA examinees." He added that the PLA fighters appeared in the exams today in a disciplined manner. According to Naresh, 400 PLA fighters from Tandhi, Yangshila of Morang and Danabari of Ilam were appearing in exams. (THT)

Calendar of Events

April 04: NASO Community, an organization to support the cause of backward Communities of Nepal has scheduled an interaction program on "Constitution Of New Nepal And Questions Of Social Inclusion" on Saturday April 4th 2009 at Arlington Contu Library 1015 North Quincy Street Arlington VA 22201 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm . Contact Dharma Bishwokarma 443 690 5677 .For details visit nepalhorizons.com

April 04: Nepalese Student Association at St Cloud State University at St Cloud Minnesota has scheduled to organize "Nepal Night 2009 : Yatra - A Journey towards New Nepal" on Saturday April 04 2009 AT Ritsche Auditorium . For details email nsa@stcloudstate.edu

April 05: An Interactive Discussion with Sanjana Shrestha -READ Nepal's Country Director has been scheduled on Sunday April 05 2009 from 1.00 pm at Pohick Regional Library 6450 Sydenstricker Road Burke VA 22015. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

April 11: The Association of Nepalese in Minnesota (ANMN) has scheduled to celebrate Nepalese New Year 2066 on Saturday April 11th 2009 at University of Minnesota (U of M) Student Center St Paul MN. For detail update contact info@anmn.org.

April 12: Nepalese Society Texas (NST) has scheduled to celebrate Nepalese new Year 2066 B.S. on Sunday April 12 2009 from 12.00pm to 7.00 pm at 1951 Bear Creek Parkway Euless, Texas 76039. For details contact Dinesh Sharma 214 566 9242 Mahesh Nepal 817 800 0356 Murali Adhikari 225 362 1916 Tika Paudel 214 277 1767 Puspallata Bhandari 682 597 2586 Kapil Adhikari 817 707 3480 Basu Dev Bhandari 682 472 2472 Lila Shrestha 972 900 2586 Prem Adhikari 940 594 8910 Chandar Prasai 817 308 2260 Chandan Acharya 817 896 3442 Prakash Gautam 972 533 4801 Basu Sharma 817 501 0878 Diwash Thapa 972 786 5536 Ram C Pokhrel 682 521 7475.

April 18: IHI Ceremony has been scheduled to organize on Saturday April 18 2009 at ISCKON (Hare Krishna) Temple 10310 Oaklyn Drive Potomac Maryland 20854 from 12.00pm to 10.00pm. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

April 18: The Nepali American Organization of Ohio (NAOO) has scheduled to organize Nepali New Year 2066 on Saturday April 18 2009 in Cleveland at Cuisine of India 6857 130th Street Parma Heights OH 44130. For more info Contact Anand Tiwari 614 946 1906 Surya Thapa 419 957 7723 Nikesh Prajapati 440 991 7755.

April 19: The Community Members Interested (COMMITTED) in collaboration with Women Make Movies (WMM) has scheduled to present "SARI SOLDIERS"- a film made by Julie Bridgham on Sunday April 19, 2009 at Richard J.Ernst Community Cultural Center Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale VA 22003 from 4.00pm. Contact Jayjeev Hada 703 945 7258 Jahana Shah 301 273 5679 Manju Sangraula 703 356 3874. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

April 19: The Tamang Society of Greater Washington has scheduled to present "Jhankri"- a reality based Nepali movie on Sunday April 19, 2009 at Cinema Arts Theatres 9650 Main Street Fairfax VA 22031 from 6.30pm. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

May 24: The Newah Organization of America (NOA) has announced its 8th Annual Convention and General Meeting on Sunday May 24 from 2.00 to 10.00pm. Venue yet to be decided. For details visit nepalhorizons.com.

June 19-21: The America Nepal Medical Foundation has scheduled its 13th Annual Conference in Columbus Ohio from June 19 to June 21 2009 with the theme "Oral Helath in Nepal" at Hampton Inn & Suites Easton 4150 Stelzer Rd Columbus OH 43230 from 5.00am to 12.00am. For details visit nepalhorizons.com Contact Rupa Hamal @ Conferenceanmf.net and Bhargab Dixit Chairanmf.net

Thursdays: The Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi Bhajan / Kirtan is conducted at Durga Temple 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station VA every Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm. Sai Satsang in Dallas, TX: Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Satsang is held every Sunday between 4pm and 6pm CST in remembrance of Sri Sai Baba and Sri Babuji at Center for Spiritual Living, 4801 Spring Valley Road, Suite 115, Dallas TX 75244.

Saturdays: The Durga Temple & Chinmaya Mission welcomes everyone to **Bhagavad Gita Satsangh** every Saturday at the Durga Temple 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station VA from 10:30am to noon. For further information contact coordinators at 703 793 8855 / 703 646 5924.

China Rises Again – Part I

Unlike the past three occasions, China faces new global challenges to its preeminence

Wang Gungwu YaleGlobal, 25 March 2009

SINGAPORE: China is getting ready for a fourth rise in its two millennia of history, but managing it may bring bigger challenges to its leaders than the past three delivered.

Overland relationships influenced the first three: The first followed imperial unification in the 3rd century BC, and the second saw a brief consolidation prompted by the threat of Turkic empires to vital trade routes in Central Asia during the 7th and 8th centuries; the third began defensively in the 14th century, but riding on the military might of the Manchu Qing dynasty, reached the peak of power in the 18th. Only with the latest, the fourth, are the economy-driven changes rapid and the challenges global. For the first time in its history, China is reaching across the waves and shooting for the stars. How will its leaders prepare the country for that exploratory ride?

Today, banks in the rich nations lose billions, and millions lose jobs everywhere else. No one can miss the effects of economic globalization. The new Chinese unemployed may hope that their condition is only temporary. But globalization is not temporary. China can now anticipate that its global future will be a series of pluses and minuses it must live with and plan for.

For at least the last three decades, the economic global was China's major concern. Opening up to foreign direct investment and the benefits of an export-oriented economy transformed China into a manufacturing hub. Trade has become essential. Entrepreneurs now form a respected class, holding a place in society once reserved for its literati mandarins.

China has experienced long-distance trade for at least 2,000 years, a limited globalization that never challenged the nature of its civilization or the empire-state it had established. Throughout those centuries, the merchant and technically skilled classes remained marginal to the goals of security, stability and social harmony. Today, these classes have won more respect for their activities, but will some of them take center-place in the Chinese state and society?

In the past, Chinese ruling elites recognized that they needed legitimacy, wisdom and a moral order to ensure loyalty from contented subjects. They defended the state against their enemies, not by military strength alone but by instituting a system of inter-state tributary relationships that provided safety and prestige. By such means, the rulers limited their outreach and did not push towards the globalization that enveloped Eurasia. Their vision of the political global remained focused on the primary needs of the Chinese state.

This vision was finally shattered during the second half of the 19th century when new kinds of national empires became global Great Powers. After several military defeats, China saw that it had to accept the international system of nation-states in order to protect its sovereignty. But nothing could save the Manchu conquerors from the nationalism that the West aroused among a new generation of Chinese intellectuals.

The republic of 1912 marked the rise of a new nation-state based on the borders of the Qing Empire and the ideal of the oneness of a China that consisted of many ethnicities. Such a state could be protected as long as China had the capacity to keep its borders intact. But new competitive empires aggressively challenged those borders for nearly 40 years until the end of the Second World War.

After 1945, the victorious Americans and their allies devised a new political framework to regulate global power that was institutionalized in the United Nations Organization. The privileged seat in the organization given to China was denied to the Communist party that seized power in 1949. For 22 years until its admission in 1971, this China was outside that international system.

Since 1978, the People's Republic has opened itself to the global economy and worked to become a status quo power in the UN system. As it becomes comfortable with that globalization, it now encounters a vital testing that confronts the international economy. How can China help repair the economic damage the world faces?

The Chinese have always prided themselves on being civilized as bearers of universal ideals. Since the early 20th century, they have struggled to learn and master the most progressive values they have found. They adopted the principles of science as the foundations of modernity. They accepted new standards of health, aesthetics, sport and lifestyle. But, in the realm of universal ideals, the revolutionaries who believed in "creative destruction" won the battle. In destroying much and failing to be creative, they thus lost the war. In an unprecedented reversal of policy, their leaders turned to what they saw as the universalist methods of modern industrial development.

Those hostile to what China might stand for are not satisfied. They insist on higher "universal norms" that China has yet to accept: ideals of individual freedom, democracy and human rights protected by the rule of law. Until the nation does so, critics see China's dramatic economic achievements as measures to strengthen an authoritarian state capitalism that keeps the regime indefinitely in power.

The West expects further progress in China to conform to what's considered appropriate for the global future. China's sense of itself questions the validity of these Western demands. The Chinese leaders want to find their own selection of what they need for their multinational state to be prosperous, safe and civilized. They would like to do it in their own way and at their own speed.

This is now more possible than before. The depth of the present financial crisis has undermined the recently unchallenged confidence in the capacity of the West to provide answers to economic development. The turmoil in the Middle East confirms that military solutions to regime changes have had their day. And the string of failures in Africa is forcing international agencies to wonder if political and ideological pressures to induce reforms there are proving to be counter-productive.

A rising China cannot stop its advances into this inevitable globalization and must study these changes with care. As its leaders look

for opportunities to move forward towards the next stage of growth, they see that the current global uncertainties have given them some time and space to re-examine their options. It is not surprising that the ongoing debates in policy and intellectual circles in China are sharply focused on how to shape the nation's future in the midst of so much questioning and anxiety.

Given China's history, both ancient and modern, the priorities are likely to be as follows:

The Chinese will continue to treat the economic global as means to a greater end and subordinate to what they consider their primary goal: a prosperous and powerful China that enjoyed respect and influence in the world.

They also see the need to re-define universalist values for China and accept whatever is necessary to sustain civilized living, and integrate modern ideas with the best of its own heritage.

However, for the long haul, Chinese leaders will concentrate on what they have always thought to be central to the idea of China: the security and stability of a unified state and a harmonious society, something that only good governance can ensure. To achieve that in the uncertain environment of potentially turbulent globalization where multiple interests and influences vie for preeminence is now their greatest challenge.

Wang Gungwu is one of the world's leading authorities on Chinese studies and professor at the National University of Singapore.

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Development Issues, Challenges, and Strategies for Nepal, Discussed

- Suresh Gautam, NM



Photo: nepalhorizons.com

The Nepalese Students' Association (NeSA) at New Mexico State University (NMSU) organized its first international symposium on "Development Issues, Challenges, and Strategies for Nepal." Keynote speaker, Dr. Alok Bohora, Professor of Economics at University of New Mexico, highlighted the "smart village" concept of economic e-development in Nepal while addressing the current political transitions in Nepal. Similarly, the invited speakers Rachel Stevens, Associate professor at NMSU recounted her 5-month long research on Nepalese Arts and Sculpture of Patan, Lalitpur and Dr. Rajat

Rajbhandari from Texas Transport Institute, El Paso, delivered a talk on growing traffic congestion in Kathmandu and possible solutions via information technology.

Other six speakers, from NMSU and University of Texas, El Paso, presented their talks on wide range of issues. Marohang Limbu advocated for the place of World Englishes, including Nepanglish in the US academic writing while appraising the current traditions of teaching English as Second Language (ESL) by the US academia.

Emphasizing on holistic education, Binod Gurung stated that education has changing roles in Nepal

that should empower children and youth to meet 21st century personal, ecological, and market goals.

The symposium coordinator Desh Raj Sonyok, revealing the possibility of the shortest Kathmandu-Hetauda Fast Track Highway which includes tunnels, mentioned that it can be as much as 75% shorter than the existing Prithvi highways and reduces 7-8 hours of travel time to 1-2 hours. Having involved in the Hydroelectricity sector in Nepal, Suresh Gautam, concluded that present day electricity crisis can only be resolved through strong commitment of implementing short

term and long term action plans in Nepal. In the end, Kiran Spakota and Saran Rai discussed the health scenarios in Nepal and South Asia in general.

The program was chaired by Dr. Ram N. Acharya, Asst. professor at NMSU and facilitated by NeSA President Hikmat Bahadur B.C. "The first conference has been acclaimed as a huge success in addressing development issues at the outset of reconstruction and political transition in Nepal," said the symposium coordinator.

The Nepalese families and students, and friends of Nepal were present on the occasion.

Immigration in American History

- Sirjana Sharma (Pokhrel) LL.M, Southern Methodist University Dallas, Texas Email: creative_law2005@yahoo.com

Historical Overview

Throughout its history, America has served as the destination point for a steady flow of immigrants. During the colonial era most migrants came from northern European countries. Their numbers declined with the onset of the Revolutionary War during the 1770s, but immigration later picked up strongly again during the 1840s and 1850s. New arrivals came from several European countries during this period, but most came from Ireland and Germany, where devastating crop failures forced many residents to leave their homelands. Many settled in New York City, where the population increased from 200,000 residents in 1830 to 515,000 in 1850. By 1860, New York was home to

over one million residents. More than half of the city's populations at that time were immigrants and their American-born children.

After the Civil War, America's growing industrial economy required the addition of many more workers, and this need was filled once again by immigrants arriving from Europe. Approximately 25 million arrived between 1866 and 1915. While earlier immigrants had come mainly from northern European countries such as England, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries, by the 1880s most new immigrants were arriving from southern and eastern European countries such as Italy, Poland and Russia. Like their Irish predecessors, most of these new ar-

rivals were poor and uneducated. Many were peasants from rural regions who were being pushed out by Europe's industrial revolution.

With the U.S. entry into World War I in 1919, immigration declined dramatically, and remained low through the Depression era of the 1930s and the World War II years of the early 1940s. The number of new arrivals began to increase again during the late 1940s, and has risen steadily since that time.

Recent Trends

Today's immigrants arrive from all parts of the world. The current phase of immigration history began in 1965, when strict quotas based on nationality were eliminated. In 1978, the

United States government set a single annual world quota of 290,000, and this ceiling was raised again in 1990 to 700,000. During the 1990s, immigrants have arrived at a pace that at times has exceeded one million new arrivals per year, and have settled in all parts of the country.

Immigration Policy and Laws

Immigration has played a significant role in American history, and the United States continues to have the most open immigration policy in the world. Before the era of speedy communications and transportation, America encouraged relatively open immigration to resolve its empty lands. After certain states passed immigration laws following the Civil War, the Supreme Court in 1875

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Reduce Dropout Rates In

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Mahotari, Siraha and Jhapa.

While the evaluation programme has praised the Ministry in achieving overall net enrollment rate (NER), the NER of primary schools currently stood at 92 per cent.

Similarly, it has notably suggested that the Ministry should adopt some specific strategies to bring for the eight per cent children who remained out of school system.

Briefing about the EFA evaluation at a programme organised at the Ministry, Anette Haug, Senior Advisor of Norad said that views on the EFA programme were elicited from more than 300 people, representing parents, teachers, students, local NGOs, Village Development Committees (VDCs) and personnel of District Education Offices (DEOs).

At the function Haug handed over the EFA evaluation report to the secretary at the Ministry of Education

Deependra Bikram Thapa.

On behalf of Nepal, acting secretary of MoE Dr. Ram Swaroop Sinha said, "Challenges are still there for the government as education that is imparted at Madrasas, Gumbas and Ashrams are yet to be adjusted into the mainstream of national education."

Sinha also informed that the government had already recognised and started imparting education based on Madrasa, Gumba and Ashram.

Haug said that the recommendation given for EFA evaluation programme is also intended for designing the School Sector Reform (SSR) concept. SSR programme is going to start from upcoming fiscal year, as EFA's duration is about to finish soon. EFA's programme is going to finish by September, Haug informed.

A total of US \$ 814.5 million was estimated to implement the five-year EFA programme. (TRN)

Call To Make New Statute...

cont'd from pg 3...

tees by April 23. He said securing good future for children would also secure a bright future of the nation.

Indu Tuladhar, advocacy manager of Save the Children, said approximately 44,000 children under five die in Nepal each year. She added

that 2.6 million children aged 5-14 are forced into child labour and around 5000 children live on the streets. She said 2,973 PLA fighters have been identified as minors who have been residing in various cantonments with no access to education since November 2006. (THT)

Parties Differ on..

cont'd from pg 1 ...

inces, it has demanded a separate Madhes province.

Similarly, Nepal Sadbhawana party also presented it

concept on the constitution, proposing the executive Prime Minister and ceremonial president. It has proposed three provinces -- Himal, Pahad and Tarai. (THT)

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Toilets Are Still A Luxury

cont'd from pg 2 ...

homes. The duo built the toilets only last year.

"Apart from these two, other Majhis don't have toilets in their homes," Bhola Niraula, a local teacher, said.

Khika Majhi, a local, said they had been going to nearby streams to answer nature's call. "Why would we need to build toilets when we are managing in traditional ways," she wondered. She, however, said they had not been able to build toilets because of the lack of funds.

The Majhis, who make their living by fishing in nearby rivers, say building toilets was a luxury for them, as they have been facing difficulties to earn their living.

"We have not been able to plant crops in our land because of the lack of irrigation," they said. Even their

traditional occupation of fishing is at risk nowadays.

"The Majhis can't afford to build toilets, as their main concern is on managing their square meals," Niraula said.

"Though we are managing without toilets, we have to face difficulties when we have visitors at our homes," another local, Dhanmaya Majhi, said.

Ganesh Majhi, a teacher from the local Majhi community, said he was thinking of constructing a toilet in his home.

Though a toilet was built at the local Indrawati Primary School last year, it remains mostly closed.

"As the Majhi students don't have the habit of using toilets, they don't use the toilet in the school," Niraula added. (THT)

Switching To Bananas...

cont'd from pg 2 ...

Erratic rainfall

My family and local community were totally against the idea of replacing my traditional crops with bananas, which they considered merely fruit... But for me, it's my life saver and brings in a lot of money to buy food in the market.

Local NGOs have noticed that the monsoon rains have become increasingly erratic, and are tending to start earlier. July, traditionally the main paddy planting month, is now becoming drier.

"This means we have to struggle with often failed paddy production, which is our main food grain," said Hari Lamichane, another local farmer.

In the past two decades, Lamichane has observed how the weather has changed and concedes he is now clueless as to when to expect rain.

"There was a time when we used to celebrate religious rituals during the traditional pre-monsoon period in May and June. We used to pray for

rain. That doesn't seem to make sense any more," the 65-year-old said.

Temperatures rising

On average, the global temperature is rising by 0.06 degrees Celsius a year but in the high mountains it is rising at 0.08 degrees Celsius a year, according to the IPCC.

Landlocked and extremely mountainous, Nepal has experienced glacial melting at an alarmingly fast rate, according to various scientific studies. Hydrological cycles and the depletion of water resources have been highlighted by an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report as one of the main environmental challenges facing Nepal.

"Climate change is a big threat to our country. We need to start building our coping capacity at the national level before we run out of time," Practical Action's Bhandari warned. (IRIN News)

Cities Prone To Disasters...

cont'd from pg 8...

tion (NLHDA).

He said that the three-day Expo, organised by the Nepal Land and Housing Developers Association (NLHDA) in association with Direction Nepal, would showcase different developments taking place in Nepal's real estate sector.

Pradip Kumar Shrestha, former president of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), urged the government to properly evaluate the contribution of entrepreneurs.

A total of 150 stalls of 76 different companies are put at the Expo. (TRN)

Housing Act in Offing, says Minister Gachhedar

Kathmandu, April 02: The Housing and Real Estate Transaction Act will soon be approved by the legislative parliament.

Speaking at the inauguration of 'Panchakanya Real Estate Expo 2009', Minister for Physical Planning and Construction Bijay Kumar Gachhedar said the Act will be passed very soon. "After the Act is passed, its regulation will also be immediately implemented," he said adding that the Act will help solve a number of problems faced by the housing and land developers.

"The regulation along with the policy will also help systematise and manage business," Gachhedar added. "The government is ready to discuss with the people in this sector the different points to be included in the regulations."

The housing and developers sector has emerged as one of the highest tax payers, forcing the government to properly manage the sector and grant security to businessmen and their customers. The history of real estate development and housing development is still very young in Nepal. In just less than a decade, the sector now pays around Rs 7 billion revenue to the government.

"This business is growing fast and provides new investment opportunities that are secure," said Ichha Raj Tamang, chairman of Nepal Land and Housing Developers' Association (NLHDA). "Real estate is a milestone in the development of the

economy and with the approval of the Housing Act, it will encourage us to move forward with more concrete plans," he said.

According to Panchkanya Group director Pradip Kumar Shrestha, contrary to the loss in the international real estate sector due to the global economic melt down the domestic housing sector has an investment of around Rs 70 billion. "In the coming five years, the requirement of housing will be double than the present demand," Shrestha added.

National Planning Commission member Dr Sunil Babu Shrestha said that the housing and urbanisation concept has now become a key agenda and Nepal is moving towards the 'One City, One Identity' concept.

The expo — expected to be visited by 30,000 people — has 76 companies participating with a total of 156 stalls. "The expo will feature exhibitors from land planners to skyscraper builders, manufacture, suppliers, vastu experts, interior designers, fabricators and evaluators to financiers showcasing development taking place in the real estate sector," said Min Man Shrestha of NLHDA, the organiser of the four-day expo. Panchakanya Group is the title sponsor.

Some 2,000 people visited the expo today. (HNS)

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Govt To Expand Cooperatives Nationwide

Kathmandu, April 02: The government is working to present a separate policy paper on cooperatives in the Nepal Development Forum meeting in May. "Cooperatives are the third economic force after public and private sectors," said National Planning Commission (NPC) member Dr Sunil Babu Shrestha.

"NPC's aim is to encourage cooperatives to work in new sectors like housing development, group framing, health, education and infrastructure development," he said adding that the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is planning to expand cooperatives throughout the country. The government has created a special cell for cooperatives in NPC to promote at least 1,000 village-based cooperatives in the next two years.

"The government is promoting cooperatives to eradicate poverty," said Shrestha, coordinator of the taskforce to mark 52nd National Cooperative Day. The aim is to enrol 3,00,000 active members. Fifty per cent of them will be women. Currently, 13,302 cooperatives, 147 district level associations and nine national associations are operational in Nepal. The

first cooperative was established in Bakhanpur of Chitwan on April 2, 1958. But even after six decades, around 1,000 VDCs lack cooperatives.

MoAC secretary Shankar Prasad Pandey hailed cooperatives as promoters of socio-economic inclusion. He also urged the cooperatives to invest in modernisation of agriculture, manufacturing and production sectors.

On the occasion, National Cooperatives Federation of Nepal (NCFN) advisor Keshav Badal, demanded a separate ministry for cooperatives. NCFN chairman Deepak Prakash Baskota said that cooperatives are based on the principles of democracy. (Himalayan News service)

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Euro 1	107.46	108.25
Pound Sterling 1	116.14	117.00
Australian \$1	55.78	56.19
Swiss Franc 1	70.77	71.30
Singapore Dollar	53.39	53.79
Japanese Yen 10	8.26	8.32
Chinese Yuan 1	11.87	11.96
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.82	---
Danish Kroner 1	14.43	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	10.47	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	21.64	21.80
Qatari Riyal 1	22.29	22.45
Thai Bhat 1	2.29	2.30
UAE Dirham 1	22.09	22.25
Malaysian Ringgit 1	22.23	22.40

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, for April 01 '09]

Golf Sensation Shiv Ram Shrestha Making Waves

- By Sushil Thapa Fairfax VA sushilthapa@verizon.net

Ball boy turned professional golfer Shiv Ram Shrestha is Nepal's biggest international hope. The twenty four year old has won hearts and minds of the golfing fraternity by his amazing skills and will power to strike it rich.

Since turning professional last year he has not looked back. Like a raging torrent he has swept away virtually every tournament that has come his way. His latest triumph at the CMS Golf Championship held in Kathmandu baffled most, including me.

The margin of his victory was mind boggling. He simply walked away with the tournament unchallenged. The five titles that has come his way this year so far is a testimony to his talent and hard work. Determined to strive for greater success and efficiency he relentlessly trains three to four hours every day.

He brings to the golf course an array of positive play, including his forte, power packed long shots. At the moment he is gearing up for the all important 2010 Asian tour in Thailand. The upcoming Asian tour is a major break through for players like Shrestha, hoping to benefit fully.

He seemed all fired up and raring to go.

Shrestha's rise to stardom is a tale of rags to riches. Born and raised in a lower middle class family, life was always a struggle for the number one player. As a young boy he frequently bunked school to be at the Royal Nepal Golf Course (RNGC), hoping to pocket golf balls that went astray.

The course went on to become his second home, ultimately. He was greatly enamored with golf and stubbornly decided to stick to it regardless of the situation. With self improvised clubs he constantly practiced the game. In order to master the intricacies of the game he closely followed players in action.

His priority was golf rather than education. No wonder he quit school early, thus failing to even complete middle school. In pursuit of a career in golf he encountered difficulties in every twist and turn but kept going.

Finally he became an official ball boy at RNGC. The position fetched him a meager Rs 30 but put him in direct contact with players

which to him mattered most. Three years later he was in the role of a caddie. It was in the tournaments for caddies that he was able to steal the thunder. Though his maiden appearance was ordinary but in the very next tournament he came back with a bang.

More than winning the top prize of Rs 8000 he won high marks from RNGC members who were bowled out by his golfing potential. They saw in Shrestha a true champion in the making.

In no time he found a place in the amateur national team. At 17 as an amateur he made his debut at the Bangladesh Amateur Open, followed by participation in Bhutan, Pakistan and India. His training stint in India and Thailand has transformed him into a rock solid player.

He has a distinct edge over his fellow golfers in terms of confidence, composure, skills and physique. Already he has demonstrated what he is capable of at this year's Aircel Professional Golf Tour of India. He finished a creditable second, surprising many.

Should he continue to play with the same kind of poise, grace, elegance, consistency and confidence he is destined to become a highly successful player. Today he is already making around Rs 600,000 thanks largely to sponsors in the likes of Chaudhary Group, KIA Motors and Yeti Airlines.

Let us keep our fingers crossed and hope that Shrestha delivers the good for himself and the country.

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Cities Prone To Disasters Due To Rising Population

Kathmandu, April 02: Minister for Physical Planning and Works Bijay Kumar Gachchhadar Thursday said that the urban areas were prone to natural disasters because of growing population and mismanaged settlement.

"Natural calamity might hit the urban dwellers if the timely measures are not taken," said Minister Gachchhadar, inaugurating 'Panchakanya Real Estate Expo - 2009' that kicked off in the capital He said that the urban areas was messed up, which would obstruct the country's development works.

"As the nation's development is measured on the basis of its urban development, the concerned stakeholders should be conscious about the fact of developing a planned settlement in the urban areas," he said and added that the responsibility of making a well-managed urban settlement rested on the shoulders of real estate stakeholders.

He said that the government was working out to get the Real Estate Transaction Act approved from the ongoing session of parliament and bring its regulation thereafter.

Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha, a member of the National Planning Commission, said that the role of real estate stakeholders in making planned settlement was crucial.

Shrestha said that the stakeholders should work as per 'one city one identity' model.

According to the real estate entrepreneurs, around Rs. 70 billion has been invested in the real estate sector. The government collects revenue worth around Rs. 7 billion from this business.

The real estate business that started nearly a decade ago has been able to attract a growing number of investors, said Iccha Raj Tamang, president of Nepal Land and Housing Developers Associa-

...Contd. on pg 6

Short Story - II :

The Tale Of The Racehorses

- Aashish Jha, CA / nepaliaashish@hotmail.com

...Contd. from previous week

It took very long for the brother horse to realize that this family had left him. When he found that out he also felt the saddest in his life. All of a sudden, all the cheers and high fives did not mean much to him. He realized that his family was what meant the most to him and without his family all his happiness was also gone. He then immediately took off to his meet with his family. He found them barely dragging themselves along with the carriage so that they can return home before dusk. The brother horse felt very bad for them and he could not forgive himself for his family's situation.

He slowly approached his family members and apologized for being so stubborn, indifferent and selfish. He then kindly asked dad horse, mom horse, and sister horse to step inside the carriage and he pulled them the carriage all the way to home. When he got home, it was

already dark and he was very tired. He had blisters in his feet from dragging the wagon with his family in it for many hours and he had bruises in his chest and on his shoulders. He was very sore and exhausted. But he was happy that he got them home safely. There were no cheers or high fives for this accomplishment but this was the most cherished accomplishment of his life. That day, they all ate dinner together after a very long time. Everyone thanked brother horse for getting them home safe and they all said goodnight to each other before going to bed.

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