

Nepal Abroad

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Cops, SMM cadres clash; 46 hurt

Rautahat Feb 1 (HNS): At least 46 persons, including security personnel, were hurt in clashes in Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Bara, Dhanusha, Parsa and Siraha districts in the Tarai region today.

Thirty-one persons were also arrested in course of the clashes, which ensued as cadres of the Sanyukta Madhesi Morcha (SMM) tried to padlock District Administration Offices (DAOs) in the seven districts as part of the second phase of their agitation.

Eighteen persons, including pedestrians, two women and cadres of political parties, were hurt in Rautahat when police intervened as SMM cadres padlocked the Rautahat DAO.



Members of the Nepal Sadbhavana Party (NSP) Anil Singh, Mohammed Shamsheer Alam, Kiran Thakur, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum district president Ganesh Yadav, Gaurishankar Yadav, Rameshwor Yadav, Ram Babu Yadav, Shreebhawan Patel, Rautahat district president of the Madhesi Youth Forum (MYF) Nandkishore Sah and journalist Bikas Agarwal were among those injured.

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US Presidential Contenders Focus on Super Tuesday Contests

Washington Jan 31 (VOA): This coming Tuesday, February 5, will be the most important day yet in the U.S. presidential race. More than 20 states are holding primaries, caucuses or state conventions to select party delegates to the national nominating conventions later this year. VOA national correspondent Jim Malone has a preview.

The remaining two Democratic contenders, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama will compete in 22 contests on February 5 with more than 1,600 delegates at stake.

A total of 2025 delegates are needed to secure the Democratic Party's presidential nomination at the national convention in late August in Colorado.

With former senator John Edwards now out of the Democratic race, Obama presents himself as the clear alternative for change.

"It is time for a new generation of leadership," he said.

Clinton counters with an emphasis on experience.

"The decision facing Georgia on Tuesday and all of the Super Tuesday states is who will be the best president on day one, to meet those challenges and seize the opportunities," she said.

Clinton is focusing her efforts on winning delegates in larger states like California, New York and New Jersey, where the polls give her an edge.

Obama hopes to do well in his home state of Illinois and in Massachusetts, where he has the support of Senators Ted Kennedy and John Kerry. The Obama campaign is also targeting smaller states in the South, Midwest and the Plains.

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Legal Experts Against PLA Integration Into NA

(Courtesy: The Himalayan Times, Nepal)

Kathmandu Feb 2: Legal experts on Friday strongly opposed integration of the Maoist's People Liberation Army (PLA) combatants into the Nepal Army (NA).

"What should be done for the other armed groups if they also demanded the integration of their combatants into the national army?" questioned former president of the Nepal Bar Association, Harihar Dahal.

Dahal, also a lawmaker of Nepali Congress, said that currently Maoists have been demanding integration of their combatants into the NA, later other groups might demand the same. Dahal was

addressing a programme on 'Post Conflict Management of Combatants: International Perspectives' organised by NBA's International Law Committee.

"Holding the CA election is the most important thing than the management of 19,000 combatants," Dahal added. "How can they be fit for the army as everybody cannot be fit for the job," he said, adding: "They can be appointed as industrial security forces and involved in other development sectors."

Dahal, however, said that the PLA combatants should get job where they will be fit. He urged to wait

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US Tightens Canada Border Crossing Rules

The United States has set tougher identification rules for U.S. and Canadian citizens who want to enter the country from Canada.

Starting Thursday, travelers 19 years of age or older will no longer be able to cross into the United States by land or sea by simply stating their identity or citizenship. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security now requires documented proof.

Travelers must produce a passport, trusted traveler card or a government-issued identification card, such as a driver's license.

Travelers who do not have the proper identification may be delayed, as border officers try to verify their identity and citizenship.

Authorities say border officers will have some latitude to admit people who are unaware of the new rule.

The agency will provide a grace period for travelers without the proper identification and hand out fliers explaining the change.

Mexican citizens will continue to have to present valid passports and visas.

Canadian citizens previously were not required to show a passport but will need one starting next year. (voa 01/31)

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Editorial:

Support Gorkhaland !

The progressing plan of the formation of a separate state-Gorkhaland in neighboring India is a matter of great pride and encouragement for all the Nepalese people, and hence, provides more avenues of opportunities to Nepal as well. It would also expand the geographical domain of the Nepalese people in the region, thus creating a community to reckon with.

To have a neighboring state that speaks and understands the same way as we do in Nepal, the establishment of Gorkhaland would be of greater interests to us. At least it can rely on many counts in the eastern boarder as opposed to the southern boarders that has always been a pain and an annoyance.

Although there wasn't any active interaction with Sikkim until now, effort should be made to reactivate the business for our interests. In the event of the formation of Gorkhaland we shouldn't slack in extending available assistance to fellow Nepalese in that state. The politicians in these bordering states understand Nepal better than those (bureaucrats as well) seated in distant Delhi; therefore, it would also be advantageous to work with them. They can, to some extent, *inter alia*, influence the central government (at least during the coalition government like the present one) in their Nepal policy.

Undeniably a friendly state can lead to a healthy economic interaction too. A social tourism can be promoted through various medium in these states as well. Even today, many see Kathmandu as *Alakapoori Kantipuri Nagari* as described by late poet Bhanubhakta Acharya in one of his works. However, Nepal Tourism Board seems to be focused on mainland India only, but not in these states and the seven sisters.

The socio-cultural and religious similarity of these places provides us with abundant opportunity to export our cultural and media products and at the same time exploit their local talents and resources, so that a strong, cultural market base is established. Among other things, staging cultural and literary shows and musical performances on a regular basis in these places regenerates people's enthusiasm for cultural quest. The planners in Nepal should also think in making the Nepalese mass media – print, TV and radio, easily available in these regions.

Other gestures that can be extended to these states can be by assuring a defined number of quotas to the students from those areas to our institution of higher learning or something else. The idea is to strengthen the feeling of all the Nepalese people in this region towards a larger Nepalese community.

Children Of Former Bonded Labourers Face Hardship

Nepalgunj, Jan 28 (IRIN) - Hardship continues to be a reality for thousands of children of former bonded labourers who are among the poorest and most neglected Nepalese citizens, according to Freed Kamaiya Society (FKS), a network of 'Kamaiya' (bonded labour) families and human rights activists.

The practice of 'Kamaiya', which existed mainly in five districts in southwestern Nepal and affected some 35,000-100,000 people, was outlawed by the government in July 2000, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

Eight years after their liberation, the 'Kamaiyas' continue to suffer from illiteracy and landlessness, and survive on less than US\$1 a day, according to FKS.

It is the children who suffer most, with around 25,000 working in hotels, restaurants and households in the main cities and towns to support their families, according to Backward Society Education (BASE), a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) helping to rehabilitate and support the former 'Kamaiyas'.

"The state of these children is so horrible that they need to be rescued as soon as possible," prominent anti-slavery activist Dilli Chaudhary told IRIN on 28 January in Nepalgunj, about 600km southwest of Kathmandu.

About 80 percent of them are working as domestic servants in exploitative conditions and most are paid less than \$12 per year, according to the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), a local human rights NGO.

There are an estimated 125,000 children of 'Kamaiyas' but only 40 percent of them are able to attend school due to food insecurity and extreme poverty, according to BASE.

State neglect?

"State responsibility towards these children remains negligible and this is one root cause of their deprivation," said rights

activist Khadga Raj Joshi from INSEC. He said the Nepalese government had failed to provide free land to all liberated bonded labourers as promised.

According to local human rights activists, only 16,000 out of 36,000 freed 'Kamaiya' families have received land plots, while the rest live like nomads in makeshift huts wherever they find an empty space, in unsanitary conditions.

Government officials, however, said they were tackling the problem and would provide land to most of the 'Kamaiyas' by the end of the year. A group of parliamentarians recently visited 'Kamaiya' families in western Nepal to assure them of the government's assistance and commitment.

"We are watching the government closely and if it fails to deliver on its promises, we will launch a mass movement in the capital in a few months," said Chaudhary.

Initiatives

Chaudhary said several local and international NGOs, with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), were working to free 'Kamaiya' children, especially those working as domestics.

"But more needs to be done to prevent such exploitation and vulnerability of 'Kamaiya' children," said Chaudhary, who warned that they were also at high risk of being trafficked abroad, primarily to India.

The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of

...Contd. on pg 5

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am Parashuram Simkhada a resident of Kathmandu & a trek organizer for the higher & lower Himalayan region of Nepal.

For the promotional purpose of tourism of Nepal and also my business, I am looking some travel agencies from there who deal in Himalayan tours. Also looking some travel companies here run or owned by Nepalese as well. I have heard there are some such Nepalese companies growing in USA now days.

I would be grateful if you forward me the above information. The tourism covers a large number of people & place in the context of Nepal. So your help will be the help to Nepal in other way.

Sincerely

Parashuram Simkhada, Nepal.

ardhimal@wlink.com.np

January 29, 2008

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Nepali Calendar

Sun Feb 03 / Magh 20' 64

Duwadashin

Mon Feb 04 / Magh 21' 64

Duwadashin

Tue Feb 05 / Magh 22' 64

Trayodashin

Wed Feb 06 / Magh 23' 64

Chaturdashin

Thu Feb 07 / Magh 24' 64

Aunshi

Fri Feb 08 / Magh 25' 64

Pratipada

Sat Feb 09 / Magh 26' 64

Duwitiya

ANWA Celebrates BFMC 's Anniversary

The America-Nepal Women's Association of Greater Washington D.C. (ANWA) celebrated their completion of the first year of Basic Free Medical Clinic (BFMC) operations to the Nepalese community on January 27th, 2008 at the Nepal Educational & Culture Center (NECC), Pashupati-Buddha Mandir, Lanham, MD.

ANWA was established in 2005 by the Nepalese woman's from in and around the DC metro area. It aims to support and conduct activities in this area to increase communal awareness and social interaction and for the empowerment of the Nepalese women, among others.

The program started with Puja followed by briefing of the BFMC. Ms Madhavi Karki – coordinator of ANWA, welcomed community members, and invited all members (life and general) to participate in decision-making level to support and strengthen the Association.

Ex-coordinator Ms. Rita Tiwari briefed the gathering about the year long service rendered by the ANWA's BFMC and recognized the growing demand of this clinic

considering the emerging expatriates community in the area. She also urged the community members to come forward with new ideas, resources or help/service that one can provide to expand BFMC services.

She also introduced Dr Sharmila Aryal as a new member in the medical team to provide extensive medical service.

Dr. Maheswor Baidya highlighted the basic medical services provided by the clinic, such as general check ups, diagnostic advise, blood pressure, temperature, blood sugar, prescription and referrals to low cost or free medical service providers.

Ms. Manju Sangrula talked about handling the Nepalese patient and prospect of working as a registered nurse.

Ms. Sarita Dongol, a member of ANWA thanked all those who provided resources during a year of clinic operations.

During the open house Dr. Sharmila Aryal talked on general health information to the community members.

The program was attended by over 200 participants.

IMCI Project In 16 More Districts

Kathmandu, Jan 28 (HNS):The government has extended the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme to 16 more districts. Now, the programme, which has an aim to reduce under-five child mortality, covers 64 districts across the country and would cover all 75 districts in the next fiscal year.

The programme is an approach developed by the WHO and UNICEF and was being implemented by the government to reduce mortality among the under-five children from 1998.

The IMCI programme also helps improve skills of health workers to deliver quality care to children, improve health system and ensures good supply of health care. "It makes health workers in districts able to handle childhood illnesses properly under UNESCO and WHO standard," Dr Bhim Acharya, chief IMCI section, CHD said.

"The IMCI programme has been a milestone to reduce five major childhood illnesses including diarrhoea, Acute Respiratory Infections, measles, malnutrition and malaria, which accounted for about 70 per cent of child deaths," Acharya said.

A recent report released by UNICEF has stated that there has been 67 per cent reduction in under-five mortality rate in the last decade in Nepal.

"If the programme is universalised in Nepal, we will very soon be able to meet the target of reducing under-five child mortality rate by two-third, one of the Millennium Development Goals before 2015," Acharya said.

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Calendar Of Events

Feb 3 '08: The DC Nepali School of Languages and Cultures will begin its Spring Semester from Sunday Feb 3 through mid May '08. Free basic yoga relaxation and meditation session is offered from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm every sunday when the school is in session, among other things. Classes are limited to 12 students per classes. Registration starts from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. For questions regarding registration call Shanti Shrestha 301 385 2761 Saroj Bhattarai 703 378 1334. More @ nepalischool.org

Feb 9 '08: The Northwest Sherpa Association is celebrating Sherpa Lhosar (new year 2135 Chiwa-Lo) Night on Saturday Feb 9 from 5pm at The Rocking Horse Dance Barn, 11820 150th Ave SE, Renton WA. For details visit nepalseattle.org

Feb 10 '08: The America Nepal Society (ANS) is screening a successful feature film 'Pyari Bahini' on Sunday Feb 10 at Loehmanns Plaza 7219 Arlington Blvd Falls Church VA from 1pm. Artists include Dilip Rayamajhi, Bipana Thapa, Arjun Shrestha, Uttam Pradhan and others. For details on tickets, call Kabindra Sitoula 571 259 3984/ Khem Bhattachan 571 242 5510/ Netra Ghising 703 597 4098 and other ANS members.

Feb 26 '08: The Minnesota Council of Non-profits is organizing a workshop - 'Starting a Successful Nonprofit', designed to provide all the information needed to start a successful non-profit organization and other available opportunities, on Tuesday Feb 26 from 9am to noon, at 2314 Univ. Ave W, St Paul MN. mncn.org has details.

Nepali Class in MN: The Nepali language classes in Minneapolis MN would be held on the following dates at Mt. Olivete Church 5025 Knox Ave S, Minneapolis MN. Saturday Jan 12, Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 23, Mar 8, Apr 5, Apr 19, May 3 and May 17. For more information contact any executive members at anmn.org

To list the scheduled event(s) of your organization on the Community Events above, please email us: enews@nepalabroad.com

Canada: 'A Tool Box of Ideas for Smaller Centres'

Lethbridge, AB Feb 1 (CIC): Parliamentary Secretary Ed Komarnicki, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, joined provincial, municipal and community partners to launch the "Tool Box of Ideas for Smaller Centres," a resource aimed at attracting immigrants to smaller communities, and supporting their settlement and integration across Canada.

"The Government of Canada believes in the importance of immigration, and we are a proud partner in this initiative," said Mr. Komarnicki. "We want to help smaller communities across the country to benefit from immigration and this tool box will help them develop their own immigration strategies."

Immigration offers long-term potential for the growth and sustainability of a community. "Attracting and Retaining Immigrants: A Tool Box of Ideas for Smaller Centres" is a comprehensive guide for communities wanting to create their own immigration strategy. It was created in response to an expressed interest by smaller communities in attracting newcomers. It includes information on immigration and employment realities, and recommendations on strategies for

building support, reducing barriers and creating welcoming communities.

Specifically, the Tool Box addresses topics such as: creating local opportunities; setting practical objectives; building consensus; involving the community; the importance of family ties, employment, and housing services; accessing existing opportunities under current immigration rules as they relate to skilled and business immigrants, provincial nominees, refugees and temporary residents; and, factors needed to create a welcoming community, such as respect for diversity, accessibility of public services and educational facilities, health, safety, faith and spirituality and leisure activities.

"The Tool Kit is a practical tool for smaller centres to use as they build a strategy to address the issues surrounding the attraction and retention of immigrants to their community," said Jean McRae, Executive Director of the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, one of the members of the National Working Group. "It allows communities to be creative while encouraging active participation from existing community members as they build an inclusive plan for newcomers." ...Contd. on pg 6

Billions of Entrepreneurs in China and India

Q&A with Tarun Khanna / Author: Martha Lagace Jan 28 '08

Entrepreneurship in the world's 2 most populous nations, China and India, has through modern times been somewhat asleep. But now, says HBS professor Tarun Khanna in a new book, both societies "have woken up," and the results could reshape business, politics, and society worldwide.

"In some sense people in these societies are running faster than their rules and laws can keep up. So they are creating the rules as they go along. And entrepreneurship is, after all, doing things in new ways, ahead of social norms and customs, and establishing the rules and laws. In both countries, these processes are unfolding not just in the mainstream business sector but in society writ large and even in politics and civil society," says Khanna.

Khanna's book *Billions of Entrepreneurs: How China and India Are Reshaping Their Futures and Yours* will be published by Harvard Business School Press on February 1. Each chapter compares China and India on a broad range of factors in entrepreneurship, including access to capital, freedom and reliability of information, governmental involvement, and infrastructure. Khanna examines the landscape of big, medium, and small entrepreneurship, including rural health-care initiatives and even Bollywood.

As Khanna explained to HBS Working Knowledge, "One can see China clearly when juxtaposed against India, a neighbor that, like China, is a large, populous, and ancient country that chose a different path. The difference is stark. The same is true when we look at India with China as a backdrop. That's why I wrote a comparative book."

In our interview Khanna outlines the business landscape in both countries. He also describes how indigenous and foreign entrepreneurs could get a foothold, how China and India relate to their own diasporas, and how entrepreneurial activity is reshaping both countries for the better.

Martha Lagace: Why did you choose the title *Billions of Entrepreneurs*?

Tarun Khanna: The title captures the ferment that is taking place in both China and India. Entrepreneurship is not only about hotshots taking companies public. A lot of entrepreneurial activity in these countries is in the exercise of getting things done more efficiently and creatively in response to constraints that people find themselves immersed in. Some of these constraints are societal; some are political. And so this book is full of stories about social entrepreneurs, political entrepreneurs, and others whom we study in business schools—investors, capitalists, and so on.

Q: What's different about entrepreneurship in both countries?

A: The extent and type of government involvement and the nature of openness are 2 dimensions in which the countries are different. These dimensions pervade all aspects of societal existence, whether that means raising capital to start a new business, the nature of markets, copyrights, the media, movies, and religion, as well as the ways in which both countries themselves project their power, the way they deal with each other, and the way the village economy works.

In China, the government is often the entrepreneur. It is in many instances a very efficient entrepreneur. Of course there are bankrupt state-owned enterprises,

but there are equally dynamic companies starting out in villages, small towns, and major cities, often with a sizable amount of investment or involvement by local government authorities. It is hard to find any reasonably sized Chinese company in which government authorities do not have input.

In India, some islands of excellence notwithstanding, the government remains inefficient for the most part, and most pockets of entrepreneurship—interesting, vibrant new ways of doing things—are in the private sector or civil society, staying far away from government intervention. So here the private sector leads many significant initiatives; in China, the lead is often provided in a top-down manner.

The second difference is the nature and extent of openness to outside influence and foreigners. Foreign direct investment pours into China. India has embraced foreign direct investment much less, for good and bad reasons. On the good side, India never had to endure a cultural revolution. China "wiped its slate clean" in the Cultural Revolution. Literally and metaphorically, it got rid of intellectuals, human capital, private enterprise, everything. With a clean slate in those circumstances it came to rely on FDI, and help from the overseas Chinese was a big piece of that.

Because India did not follow a similar extreme path it didn't need to embrace FDI quite as much. So that's a reasonable reason to expect low FDI levels. On the negative side, however, India, with its indigenous entrepreneurs, still engages in some

protectionist behavior and lobbies to keep foreign investment out.

There are other aspects to openness, of course, than just FDI. Traditionally, India has been more open to ideas than has China, for instance.

Q: How should a foreign entrepreneur size up the potential of each country?

A: First, does it make sense to try to enter either of these countries? How does entry fit into a broader business model? In some cases it would be more sensible to enter China, in some cases more sensible to enter India. What China is good at, India may not be, and vice versa. Some companies—GE Healthcare is just one example—are finding that they can leverage both countries symbiotically.

Second, conduct a series of experiments. An entrepreneur has to make many decisions: how much money to sink in, whether to partner, how to work with relevant government or regulatory entities, whether to invest in local or global brands or none at all, et cetera. And several of these contextual factors that matter, which I illustrate through examples in the book, matter differently in China and India, so you might make different decisions in the 2 countries. It often takes a lot of time to experiment, but that doesn't have to mean losing money. They have to be clever experiments, not expensive ones.

Q: How does each country treat its diaspora in terms of stoking entrepreneurship at "home"?

A: To put it bluntly, China has embraced its diaspora, and India has



Tarun Khanna
Paulo Lmann Professor of Business
Administration, Harvard Business School

shunned it. While the numbers should always be taken with a grain of salt, it is said that about 50-plus million Chinese and 20-plus million Indians live outside their home countries.

India's tendency to shun its diaspora must rank as among the most disastrous decisions made by a nation in modern times: disastrous in the sense that a successful group of people is willing to give time, money, energy, and good will to their country of origin and is being pushed away. Fortunately, this situation has been changing in India in the last 4 to 5 years.

In China, by and large, the diaspora has played a much bigger role. In 1978, China didn't have the internal markets to rely on, so it turned to the overseas Chinese because they were the only people who could understand China well. To other people China seemed too difficult, too alien, too foreign.

In the case of both countries, there is a broad spectrum of people in the diaspora, so we should be careful about not lumping them all together. That said, the success of the Silicon Valley community and the massive wealth that some people have accumulated have caught the eye of India. And as in most things in life, timing is everything: In some sense the combination of India having its back to the wall in the early 1990s and rejuvenating its reform process, and the wealth accumulating among the diaspora, were the supply and demand side for getting the diaspora together with its home country.

Q: How does entrepreneurship affect the playing field in each country in terms of urban/rural divides, caste (as in India), and so on?

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The VibeZ' Honored In California

CA Contributor

The 'Motherland Nepal' - a nonprofit organization based in Oakland, CA honored the popular Nepalese band *The VibeZ* on Martin Luther King Day, January 21, 2008, at the Mount Everest Restaurant in Berkeley, CA.

The VibeZ is probably the most active and popular U.S.-based pop-rock band today. *The VibeZ* was the only band selected to perform live at the 2007 ANA Convention, the largest Nepalese convention in the U.S.

The VibeZ was formed in 2005 by three young Nepalese students in America. Although the three have surprisingly different musical tastes and backgrounds, their compositions are finding wide appeal in the Nepalese community and beyond.

The VibeZ are Direk Shrestha (percussion and guitar, and



the band's business and logistics manager), Prayeen Singh (lead vocal and *The VibeZ*' main composer/arranger), and Rupak Lama (lead guitar).

The VibeZ has been entertaining Nepalese crowds in

Northern California for over two years with their original numbers and their versions of classic Nepali songs. Whenever there is a cultural program or get-together in the Bay Area, *The VibeZ* is invited to perform.

Mr. Anil Pandey, president of Motherland Nepal, said "As Martin Luther King, Jr. worked for social causes for African Americans, *The VibeZ* has been actively supporting and contributing to Nepalese culture and music. *The VibeZ* worked tirelessly with various Nepalese associations in the Bay Area to raise funds for flood victims last year. This is why we are honoring *The VibeZ* on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in The States."

The VibeZ' first album will be released on Nepali New Year 2065. Prayeen declares that each song has been composed and paid attention in detail as if it were the main song of the album. Rupak promises that the album will be one in which you will not want to skip songs.

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Immigrating to Canada

(Courtesy: Citizenship and Immigration Canada)

Coming to Canada as an immigrant is an exciting opportunity. However, there are several things you should consider before you apply to be a permanent resident.

In most cases, you must apply at a Canadian visa office outside of Canada. In some cases, you can apply to become a permanent resident after you arrive in Canada. For example, live-in caregivers or people granted refugee protection can apply from within Canada. If you want to immigrate to Canada, there are a few different ways to apply. You will need to decide which immigration program will work best for you and your family. Find out about the requirements and the steps to apply in each category: 1. Skilled workers and professionals; 2. Investors, entrepreneurs and self-employed persons; 3. **Sponsoring your family**; 4. Provincial nominees; and 5. Quebec-selected skilled workers.

... Continued from the previous week

3. Sponsoring Your Family:

Eligible relatives

Frequently asked questions:

Sponsoring your family / Spouses, partners and dependent children

Q: Can I apply for permanent residence under the Spouse or Common-law Partner in Canada Class if I am inadmissible to Canada?

A: Yes. You can apply under the public policy relating to the Spouse or Common-law Partner in Canada Class. However, your application for permanent residence may not be approved if there are reasons that prevent you from staying in Canada that are not related to lack of status. For example, you may not be allowed to stay in Canada if you do not meet medical or security requirements, or if you have been convicted of a criminal offence.

Q: I am a temporary resident permit holder. Can I apply to become a permanent resident as a sponsored spouse or common-law partner?

A: If you are in Canada on a temporary resident permit, you can apply to become a permanent resident of Canada. However, if you

have a temporary resident permit because you are inadmissible to Canada for reasons other than lack of status, you cannot be granted permanent residence under the Spouse or Common-law Partner in Canada Class.

Q: I was deported from Canada and I returned without getting proper permission. Can I apply as a permanent resident under the public policy for the Spouse or Common-law Partner in Canada Class?

A: Your application will be refused because you do not have permission to be in Canada. You may be able to be sponsored from abroad if you return to your home country.

Q: I am a failed refugee claimant. Can I stay in Canada if I marry a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada?

A: Being in a common-law relationship with, or married to, a Canadian citizen or permanent resident does not guarantee that you can become a permanent resident of Canada.

As a failed refugee claimant, you can apply to be a

permanent resident under the public policy relating to the Spouse or Common-law Partner in Canada Class if you meet all the requirements and you are not inadmissible to Canada.

Q: Does this policy mean that I don't have to retain legal status in Canada?

A: If you do not have legal status, you cannot work or study in Canada. In addition, you could be subject to removal.

Q: How do I find someone to represent me or help me complete my application?

A: You do not need a representative to help you apply to visit or immigrate to Canada. The use of a representative is a personal choice. Find out more information about using a representative in the Quick Find section on the right-hand side of this page.

Q: Can I cancel my application once it has been approved?

A: If you change your mind about sponsoring a family member, you must write a letter to the appropriate

Case Processing Centre before a permanent resident visa is issued. Once permanent resident visas are issued, the promise that you and, if applicable, your co-signer, made to support your family member is valid for the term of your application.

The application is an unconditional promise of support. For example, the granting of Canadian citizenship, relationship breakdown or moving to another province does not cancel the application. The application also remains in effect if your financial situation changes and you can no longer afford to provide financial support.

...to be continued next week.

Children Of...

...Contd. from page 2

Child Labour (IPEC) has recently approved new action programmes worth about \$575,291 to combat child labour in Nepal. Through the programmes, thousands of children of freed 'Kamaiyas' would get support for formal education or Out of School Programmes (OSP) in addition to literacy training and vocational education in western Nepal.

Remembering Alys Muckart

-Dr Pramod Dhakal

Alys Muckart was the Executive Secretary of the Canada Forum for Nepal until her untimely death and was a tireless humanitarian. She played an instrumental role in making CFFN a vibrant organization and worked tirelessly from the inception of the organization. She was the Master of Ceremony of Himalayan Heartbeat event of year 2006 and 2007. She was actively contributing without any slowdown on CFFN activities until the second week of October 2007. However, in late October 2007 she was diagnosed with a terminal illness that was at an advanced stage. Succumbed to this illness, she passed away peacefully on December 18, 2007 at the age of 61. A Buddhist Service was arranged on Saturday, 22 December 2007.

Sometimes in the journey of her spiritual quest, Alys had found refuge in Buddhism. She was a devout practitioner of Buddhism and lived as vegetarian until the end. Professionally, she had a long and distinguished career as a nurse in the Canadian health care system, where she also played leadership roles in the union movement. Later on she was drawn to the causes of Tibet and also rose to become the president of the Canada Tibet Committee. With a complete zeal



Alys Muckart

(1946 Scotland, UK-Dec 18 '07 Ottawa, Canada)

of helping her causes she had taken early retirement from her profession and had become full time devotee of her causes. She took the causes of Nepal seriously and was elected as the first Executive Secretary of Canada Forum for Nepal. Her hard work, good ethics, and respect for all things around her were quickly evident to people who came in contact with her. Although Alys could not be with us today, her legacy will always remain with us.

Originally from Scotland, Alys was the beloved daughter of Edith and the late Sandy, sister of Brian, Hilary and Kerrin, sister-in-law of Joanne and Lindsay, and dearest aunt of Yvonne & Tracy, David, Anna & Sophie. Donations in Alys's memory would be appreciated by the 'PALYUL FOUNDATION', Attention Angela Sumegi, 11655 Hwy. 43 West, Mountain, ON, K0E 1S0.

The VibeZ' Honored

...Contd. from page 5

Direk adds, "Online media have been very supportive and have been covering all our news and events. We hope print media, radio, and television will support us as well when we release our album in Nepal."

Motherland Nepal was established in February 2005 in

California. The association has organized successful programs such as Nabin Bhattarai's concert and MaHa's show in Northern California. The association has donated funds to charity organizations in Nepal to protect human rights and establish peace and democracy in Nepal.

Cops, SMM cadres ...

...Contd. from page 1

SP Laxman Neupane said MYF (Rautahat) president Sah was arrested for pelting police with stones. The agitators have called an indefinite bandh in Gaur from tomorrow to protest against the police action.

In Sarlahi, six persons were injured in clashes between SMM cadres and police. Central member of the NSP Ramnaresh Roy, president of the Sarlahi Students' Front Ganesh Roy, MJF district treasurer Jagannath Singh were among the injured.

Sarlahi deputy superintendent of police Hanuma Shah, sub-inspector Bel Bahadur Raut, and armed police force's assistant havaldar Lokesh Chand also sustained injuries when SMM cadres pelted police with stones.

In Bara district, five SMM cadres were injured in clashes with police. Vice-president of the Madhesi Mahila Forum Kalawati Paswan, President of the NSP (Bara) Prakash Chaugain, MJF Bara vice-president Binda Yadav, MJF Bara secretary Pramod Gupta and NSP member Sunil Pandey were among those injured. SMM cadres later staged a demonstration on the Kalaiya-Birgunj road section. Police foiled the agitators' bid to padlock the Bara DAO.

In Siraha, police prevented agitators from padlocking the DAO. The agitators staged a daylong sit-in outside the DAO.

In Mahottari, agitators led by MJF district president Mohammed Yusuf Shafi padlocked the DAO, but police broke it open. The agitators then staged a sit-in outside the DAO. The Mahottari unit of the SMM has called a Mahottari district-wide general strike on February 3 and 4.

Saptari district coordinator of the pro-NSP Madhes Raksha Bahini Binod Kumar Yadav said SMM cadres padlocked the Saptari DAO, but police broke it open. Police arrested 25 SMM cadres. In Parsa, 10 persons, including MJF central member Ramsahay Yadav, were injured in police action. The Birgunj bazaar was closed due to the ensuing tension.

In Janakpur of Dhanusha district, seven persons were injured in clashes with police. In Sunsari, SMM cadres padlocked the DAO and stalled all work.

SMM cadres padlocked the DAOs in Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Banke and Bardiyia districts also. [Himalayan Times]

Canada ...

...Contd. from page 3

The National Working Group on Small Centre Strategies, which spearheaded this initiative, is comprised of representatives from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, provincial governments, and immigrant settlement service providing organizations.

The Tool Box was funded through a contribution agreement from Citizenship and Immigration Canada as part of its programming aimed at helping newcomers to Canada integrate and settle in their new communities. Overall, the Government of Canada is investing \$1.4 billion in settlement funding over five years to provinces and territories outside of Quebec, which receives annual funding through a separate agreement.

Nepal To...

...Contd. from page 7

progress made since the previous DTIS, accession into WTO, impact of SAARC and other regional memberships, especially new opportunities in neighbouring and international markets.

There are huge opportunities for Nepal to tap into new resources and expertise to make a quantum leap in the strengthening and expansion of its trade agenda in all areas, institutions, system and infrastructures with the aid for trade and EIF windows. Making a presentation, Panos Antoakakis, economic affairs officer at WTO said that EIF assist countries to mainstream trade into development plans and provide a structure for the coordinated delivery of trade related technical assistance.

Legal Experts Against...

...Contd. from page 1

till the CA election to integrate PLA into the NA as the election is the most important issue.

Vice-president of the NBA, Hari Prasad Uprety, said it would be improper to induct anyone in the NA just because they have any political ideology. "The politicians should consider the rule of law, the constitutional and legal provisions before adjusting the PLA combatants into the NA."

Sher Bahadur KC, chairman of the NBA committee,

said the government has done nothing though the constitution recommends doing the needful to integrate PLA into the NA.

Presenting their working papers, experts Shiva Hari Dahal and Sobhakhar Budhathoki said PLA combatants can be integrated into the NA considering the models applied in several countries. They demanded immediate formulation of security policy and urged to do homework on integrating the PLA combatants into the security forces.

Nepal To Update Trade Competitiveness Study

Kathmandu, Jan 28 (HNS):Nepal is set to update its Diagnostic Trade and Investment Study (DTIS) to broaden the scopes of trade and link it with overall development activities thus providing support to alleviate poverty. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MoICS) has requested some donor agencies including the UNDP to assist in updating the DTIS, which was first brought up in 2003 as Nepal's Trade Competitiveness Study.

Commerce secretary Purushottam Ojha appreciated the support of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) through the Integrated Framework (IF) for the capacity building of least developed countries (LDCs) like Nepal. He expressed that Nepal would be able to transfer benefits of such

initiatives to the grassroots and people with the introduction of Enhanced IF (EIF), being implemented soon.

"The updating DTIS will help us identify key areas for intervention and resources needed for identified activities therein. It will help in achieving the goal of poverty alleviation through sustainable growth and integration of trade at regional and multilateral levels," he said speaking at a workshop on EIF organised by the Enhancing Nepal's Trade Related Capacity at MoICS in association with WTO today in Kathmandu.

UNDP Nepal country director Anne-Isabelle Degryse-Blateau stressed the need for Nepal to take a step back and review

...Contd. on pg 6

US Presidential Contenders...

...Contd. from page 1

Democrats use a proportional system of allocating delegates, which means even though one candidate may lose a state primary or caucus, that candidate will still win some portion of the nominating delegates.

Experts say that means the Democratic race is likely to extend beyond February 5.

"I do think that you are not going to come out of February 5 with somebody with an enormous lead in delegates," said John Fortier, who monitors U.S. politics at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. "Even a pretty solid win by one of the candidates would probably be 55 percent of the delegates to 45 percent. That still leaves open the possibility that later states could change the outcome."

The remaining Republican contenders will also face what amounts to a national primary on February 5.

More than 1,000 Republican delegates are at stake in 21 state contests next Tuesday. A total of 1,191 delegates are needed to win the Republican nomination at the national convention in Minnesota in early September.

Senator John McCain of Arizona is now the frontrunner in the Republican race following his victory in the Florida primary.

Republican presidential hopeful John McCain in Los Angeles, 31 Jan 2008

"I am prepared to lead our party and the nation and I am prepared and am succeeding in uniting it. We need all parts of our party together if we are going to win in November," he said.

McCain's surge in the Republican race is winning him some high profile endorsements. Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani withdrew from the presidential race on Wednesday after a poor showing in Florida and threw his support to McCain.

On Thursday, McCain also won the endorsement of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"He is a fantastic, outstanding public servant," he said. "He is a great American hero and an extraordinary leader."

McCain's main remaining challenger is former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee and Texas Congressman Ron Paul are also in the race, but trail in the polls.

Romney argues that he is the candidate of change among the Republican contenders.

"Washington is fundamentally broken," he said. "We are not going to change Washington by sending the same people back just to sit in different chairs."

Super Bowl About More Than Big Game

- Tony Budny, VOA

Washington DC Feb 1: Hundreds of millions of people from around the world will watch the New York Giants face the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl this Sunday. The National Football League championship game is traditionally surrounded by holiday spirits in the United States as friends and family gather for celebrations. Tens of thousands will actually attend the game — and the host city of Glendale, Arizona in the southwest United States is ready to welcome them. VOA's Tony Budny has more.

Ninety-three million people watched the Super Bowl last year in the United States alone. This year, there is added interest, because the Patriots are playing to become only the second undefeated team in N.F.L. history.

The events around the Super Bowl last all week long and not only attract people interested in American football, but in having a good time.

Local businesses in Glendale are weighed down by tens of thousands of football fans and rooms are hard to find. Benedictine nuns in nearby Phoenix are trying to help out. They are renting rooms for \$250 a night, compared to \$500 elsewhere.

The latest polls give McCain an advantage in some of the larger states voting on Super Tuesday including California, New York and New Jersey.

Analyst John Fortier says the recent endorsements by Schwarzenegger and Giuliani should help McCain.

"He is likely to take all of those Giuliani votes, or a significant number of them, and [that should] help him especially in the Northeast where he has a pretty clear lead in many of the Northeastern states that hold contests on February 5," he added.

The Republican nomination fight could be settled sooner than the Democratic battle, because most of the Republican primaries and caucuses are winner take all events, which only award delegates to those who finish first in a given contest.

Sister Linda offers insight into the monastery's discount. "I would think that God's got to be excited about the Super Bowl as well. He wants people to enjoy life," she said.

Restaurants have no reason to rely on divine intervention. One employee says, "We've maxed out our staff and brought in a few people for our corporate headquarters to make sure everything's running smoothly." An event this large needs extra security. A small army of local police and federal officers are posted across town.

Not only does the town have to prepare for the unexpected, but so do the players. Ines Gomez Mont of TV Aztec had a very personal question for Patriots quarterback Tom Brady at a Super Bowl Media Day news conference.

Brady: "To the woman in the wedding dress."

Mont: "I'm in love with you, Tom!"

Brady: "Are you really?"

Mont: "Marry me, please!"

Brady: "Wow. I've never had a proposal before."

We will leave those two to work that out. For everyone else, get ready to watch the Super Bowl — not to mention its always-creative TV commercials.

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Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	63.11	63.70
Canadian \$1	63.47	64.07
Euro 1	93.77	94.65
Pound Sterling 1	125.46	126.64
Australian \$1	56.29	56.82
Swiss Franc 1	58.24	58.79
Singapore Dollar	44.53	44.95
Japanese Yen 10	5.92	5.97
Chinese Yuan 1	8.79	8.87
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.93	---
Danish Kroner 1	12.58	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	8.09	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	16.83	---
Qatari Riyal 1	17.35	---
Thai Bhat 1	1.91	---
UAE Dirham 1	17.18	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	19.48	---

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, 02.01.08]

Billions of Entrepreneurs in China...

...Contd. from page 4

A: We're at the point where half the world's population lives in cities. There is an ongoing debate about whether the overall quality of life is better in cities compared with rural areas. But certainly if you look at the migratory patterns of human beings in recent decades, there's no question that people by and large move from rural to urban areas in search of better economic conditions. In India, most social and economic indicators show that life is better in the cities than in rural areas, on average, even given the fact that there is wide disparity within the cities.

Is it easier to be an entrepreneur in a city? The answer depends on the meaning one assigns to the term "entrepreneur." In the more narrow sense of starting a business, then yes, it's easier to start in the city due to better infrastructure and support. But since entrepreneurship means doing things in new and clever ways, there are lots of stories in my book of rural entrepreneurs—people in India who are in civil society, and people in

China who act as entrepreneurs in rural settings. In both China and India I don't think there is any reason to think there is less entrepreneurship in rural settings.

Caste in India is both less important and more important than it used to be. In some sense business is a great leveler. In the cities a low-caste person may earn a lot more than a high-caste person. Business cares about the bottom line. It doesn't care whether you are in caste A or caste B if you can produce a product, manage a sales force, or produce the capital. On the negative side, politicians have whipped up caste frenzy. A lot of voting in India happens along caste lines in so-called vote banks. And so politics has become fragmented with some politicians highlighting caste differences in the electoral process. That has been pretty much a disaster for the system of governing.

Q: China and India have had tense relations in the past. Will these persist?

A: I think there are lots of ongoing sources of concern, as you know.

There are unresolved border issues, and people point to both countries flexing their military muscle increasingly: China's blue water navy, India's nuclearization. But I think to focus exclusively on this, even primarily, is a complete mistake. The on-the-ground productive ferment, and the possible complementarity between the China and India story, are far more interesting and promising to me. Building economic relations between the countries, not just through arms-length trade, but investments by individual companies in each other's countries, will cement ties. These will counterbalance the political tensions. So I see the glass as much closer to half full than half empty going forward. This is a happy story, a story of hope.

Q: You have watched India change dramatically in your lifetime. How has China surprised you?

A: I've been interested in China since I was a child. It was the big neighbor to the north that was Communist, had defeated the Indian Army in 1962 in a border conflict, and was

not generally portrayed positively. China was quite mysterious. After I cotaught an experimental MBA seminar on China and India at HBS, and then cowrote an article on India and China with Yasheng Huang ["Can India Overtake China?" in *Foreign Policy*, July-August 2003], I became so fascinated with China that I began to travel extensively there. In the course of writing this book I spent time with all sorts of people in better and the less well-traversed parts of China—entrepreneurs, of course, but also policymakers, politicians, and South Asia specialists in Beijing.

I discovered that the versions of events that I had been told were different from the versions of events that they, the Chinese, had been told. I found that very revealing. I also have a lot of Chinese students who were extremely gracious with their time as I traveled across China. I began to learn Mandarin, and the process of learning the language itself has been extremely revealing. For this book I went pretty deep into China as into India. It's been a terrific journey of discovery. (HBS)

Scientists Find Exercise More Important Than Age

Washington Jan 31 (VOA): People who are physically active may be biologically younger than sedentary people the same age. VOA's Carol Pearson reports on a new study that finds regular exercise may be key in slowing the aging process.

Studies show staying fit cuts the risk of heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Now scientists say the benefits of regular exercise show up in individual cells.

Professor Elissa Epel specializes in stress and cellular aging. She explains, "Looking into our cells is actually a window into how our bodies are aging. So our cell aging is linked to how quickly we get disease and to how long we live."

In the study, British researchers took blood samples from 2,400 twins. They studied their DNA — specifically the telomeres, protective caps on the end of chromosomes that prevent DNA damage. Telomeres get shorter as we age so the longer these strands are, the younger our cells are.

The researchers found that the telomeres of people who exercised about 30 minutes a day were significantly longer than those of sedentary people who were the same chronological age.

The findings do not surprise Professor Epel, who says, "This is the first study that's shown a factor that actually prevents or slows cell aging. So it's very exciting."

People in the study who spent an average of 30 minutes a day exercising had cells that appeared up to 10 years younger than those who did not exercise.

The researchers suspect that exercise helps reduce the inflammation and stress that damage our cells and shorten our lives.

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Centralized Filing Location For Certain H-1B Cap Exempt

Washington DC Jan 30 (USCIS): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today a new customer service initiative to streamline the adjudication of H-1B petitions.

Effective today, USCIS will employ a special unit dedicated to processing these types of H-1B cap exempt petitions at the USCIS California Service Center (CSC).

Aliens employed by certain types of educational, nonprofit or governmental organizations, as defined below (normally referred to as "cap exempt," aliens employed by such entities are not subject to the H-1B numerical limitations).

See section 214(g)(5)(a) and (b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA); and 8 CFR 214.2 (h)(8)(A).

H-1B "cap exempt" petitions, as referenced here, include petitions filed by:

- Institutions of higher education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. 1001(a);

- Nonprofit organizations or entities related to or affiliated with institutions of higher education; and
- Nonprofit research organizations or governmental research organizations, as defined in 8 CFR 214.2(h)(19)(iii)(C).

Such institutions and organizations can indicate that their H-1B filing is cap exempt by marking Form I-129 (Petition of Non-Immigrant Worker) with a "yes" answer to questions 1, 2, or 3 in Part C of the H-1B Data Collection and Filing Fee Exemption Supplement (page 10).

H-1B petitioners are now encouraged to use the following special mailing address for qualifying H-1B cap exempt petitions. To determine if your petition qualifies, please make sure your institution or organization fits one of the categories listed above. For Direct Mail: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, California Service Center, Attn: CAP EXEMPT H-1B Processing Unit, P O Box 30040, Laguna Niguel CA 92607-3004.