

# Nepal Abroad

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## Prachanda Enquires After YCL Manhandles Students



Photo: Nepal Samacharpatra

The Maoists Chairman Pushpa K Dahal enquiring the condition of Deepak Gautam—a central committee member of UML affiliated student wing, who along with five other students were manhandled by the Maoists affiliated Young Communist League (YCL) in Banepa, Nepal on Friday January 4, 2007. Also seen on the image is Keshab Badal—a UML Central committee member, shaking hands with chairman Dahal. Page 3 has details.

## IA Caucus Winners Obama, Huckabee Campaign in NH

- Cindy Saine, Washington

Democratic candidate U.S. Senator Barack Obama and Republican candidate Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas, are back on the campaign trail in New Hampshire, seeking to capitalize on their stunning victories in Thursday night's Iowa caucuses. The unexpected wins, each by a solid margin, by both Obama and Huckabee surprised the political establishment in Washington, as VOA correspondent Cindy Saine reports.

Barack Obama, 46, the son of a Kenyan father and an American mother from Kansas, managed to soundly defeat expected front-runner Senator Hillary Clinton, in a state whose voters are almost 95 percent white. The former civil rights lawyer and community activist attracted young and independent voters to turn out for the Iowa caucuses in record numbers by promising to stand for change. Speaking to crowds on the morning after his win, Obama was jubilant, seeing a real boost to his

dream of becoming the first African-American president.

"We will change the world," he said. "That is the opportunity that begins right here, right now, four days from now in New Hampshire. Stand with me, thank you."

His victory stung Senator Clinton, 60, who despite having raised \$100 million for her campaign, came in third place in Iowa. She has been emphasizing her 35 years of experience. She says she is the candidate ready to hit the ground running on her first day as president in the White House, she spent eight years there as President Bill Clinton's First Lady. She also resumed the campaign fight in New Hampshire Friday, where polls indicate a virtual tie between her and Obama.

"Are you ready for the next five days? Well so am I," she said. "I am looking forward to meeting as

...Contd. on pg 8

## Deuba Warns Maoists Against PLA Mobilization

Pokhara, Jan 4 (THU): Mobilisation of the People's Liberation Army on any pretext, in violation of the agreements between the seven-party alliance and the Maoists, will be countered with the government mobilising the Nepal Army, former prime minister and senior Nepali Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba said on Thursday.

Speaking at a press meet organised by the Press Union of Nepal Kaski chapter, Deuba added that the constituent assembly polls would be held by mid-April and that no one would create any hurdle.

The Maoists and the agitating groups in Tarai have expressed their readiness to participate in the CA polls and there should be no doubt that the polls would be held on time, he said.

Deuba said, "The issues of the Madhes are not so big, but the Maoists should not have thrust spokes in the peace process wheel."



Former PM Sher Bahadur Deuba

Stating that the deferral of the CA polls twice had shaken the faith of the people, Deuba said it was imperative to hold the CA polls by April at any cost.

Replying to a query, Deuba said the interim House would not be converted into a constituent assembly and that only an elected constituent assembly would take the needful decision on federal republic. Deuba also accused the Maoists of not being serious towards the commitments made by them.

## US Unemployment Hits Two-Year High

By Scott Stearns

White House Jan 04 (VOA): Unemployment in the United States rose sharply last month and government figures released late Friday show the number of new jobs was at its lowest level in four years. As VOA White House Correspondent Scott Stearns reports, President Bush is considering more tax cuts in an effort to boost the nation's sagging economy.

American unemployment rose to five percent last month, the highest rate since 2005. And new employment statistics released Friday show the U.S. economy added only 18,000 new jobs in December, far fewer than most economists expected.

Following a meeting with his top financial advisers, President Bush said that while the Friday jobs report shows some uncertainty, the U.S. economy remains strong.

"This economy of ours is on a solid foundation, but we can't take economic growth for granted, and there are signs that will cause us to be ever more diligent and make sure good policies come out of Washington," he said.

The president says consumer spending is still strong and core inflation is low, but home values are declining and gasoline and food prices are rising.

Mr. Bush warned opposition Democrats in Congress against raising taxes, saying that is the worst thing lawmakers could do. But he did urge them to pass legislation that could help more Americans refinance their homes.

"When Congress comes back, I look forward to working with them to deal with the economic realities of the moment and to ensure the American people that we will do

...Contd. on pg 7

**Editorial:**

## Unite against aggression

Subject to harassment in different or all possible way is a typical characteristic of a travel experience felt by many Nepalese populations traveling to or via India, primarily by the land and by air as well. Whether it be the Indian police personals or the customs officers at the boarder crossings like Sunauli, Raxaul and others, all try to extract something before they'd let you go. Harassment of the returning Nepalese workers and those employed in the Indian army at boarder check points is a everyday happening.

After a brief pause, news about the encroachments of the Nepalese land by India has again hit the press, and has drawn serious attention of all thinking people in Nepal and abroad. What can be more appropriate than the present time, when all major political parties are the part of the coalition government, and that they are all defining and debating the sovereignty and territorial integrity?

The Susta episode can be taken as an example. While the general populations are all worried about the encroachments and other damages caused by India frequently, student have taken to the streets and submitted their dissatisfaction to the Indian ambassador in Katmandu recently. But the primary stake holder- the government of Nepal has no concrete words to speak to people its action against aggression.

On January 5, one of the online news services from Biratnagar (udghosh.com) described how the

India's Boarder Security Forces (BSF) is collecting money from the daily commuters who cross border for employment and other daily purchases.

All these pictures point out the real attitude of India towards Nepal and the Nepalese people. The subordinate attitude displayed by the Nepalese rulers, including the political immaturity exhibited by the current day leaders and representatives towards India for political gains have been the prime factor for Nepal enduring encroachments and other damages silently. Not until our political parties produces a fresh group of people, who sees world beyond the Indian subcontinent, and who realize and assert their coordinate role and interacts in a similar fashion with India and other nation-states, we continue to endure annoyances from our southern neighbor.

The government's failure to respond to such an aggression shouldn't be attributed to the transitional period. However, all thinking individuals should unite, discuss with their friends and families and peer groups to expose such aggression, and support them that are advocating for reclaiming the lost territory. On every possible occasions and forums, and with all political executives in Nepal and abroad, all those associated with this beautiful country should broach this topic to pressure the government in Nepal to take a serious action, and not just a public eyewashing.

## Nepali Women's Rights Groups Demand

### High Representation In Future Gov't

Kathmandu, Jan 04:: A total of 10 women's rights organizations in Nepal Thursday handed over a memorandum to Speaker Subas Nemwang demanding one third representation of women in all commissions that the government is preparing to form, the local media house's website nepalnews.com reported on Thursday.

The 8-point memorandum handed over to Speaker Nemwang demands at least 33 percent women representation in the six commissions envisaged in the 23-point agreement sealed by the Seven-Parties Alliance (SPA) on Dec. 23.

The SPA, in 23-point agreement, had agreed to form

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## Challenges Of Reintegrating Former Child Soldiers

Guleriya, December 31 (IRIN) - Thousands of former child soldiers have returned to their communities in Nepal over the past year, but there are huge challenges facing their successful reintegration, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) say.

"We still have to work a lot at the community level to ensure that the former children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAGs) are treated like children, encouraged to rejoin school and not looked upon as a burden on society," said Iswari Prasad Biswokarma of the Dalit Welfare Organisation (DWO).

The DWO is involved in the reintegration and rehabilitation of CAAFAGs in Guleriya village, Bardiya District, some 700km southwest of the capital, Kathmandu.

The CAAFAGs in Nepal include child combatants and children associated with armed Maoist rebels or government forces. They were used as porters, messengers, spies, or for logistical support, and they were involved in cultural and indoctrination programmes, according to the CAAFAG working group, a coalition of UN agencies in the country and international and local NGOs.

Aged 9-18, these children initially joined the former Maoist rebels as entertainers and political workers but later ended up in the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA), NGO activists say.

Many were tortured to force them to collaborate with government forces, according to the CAAFAG working group.

### Fear

"Even today, many children still fear the return of war and constantly fear being tortured and abducted by both the Maoist rebels and government forces," said a reintegration worker in the remote Shivapur village, 30km from Guleriya, requesting anonymity.

"I'm not sure if my community will easily accept us

back because they still hate the Maoists a lot," said a 15-year old schoolgirl who had been involved in the Maoists' cultural programmes.

Requesting anonymity, the young girl told IRIN in her Bagna village that many of her friends were still with the Maoists and had been sheltered in the UN-supervised Maoist cantonment site of Bardiya.

### Effective reintegration programmes needed

Activists working with CAAFAGs say more needs to be done to promote their return: "Reintegration programmes should include more educational and vocational training as well as psycho-social support. This could help more CAAFAGs to return home," said CAAFAG worker Tilak Bahadur Sunuwar from DWO.

DWO, with help from agencies like International Rescue Committee (IRC), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children-Norway (SCF-N) have successfully reintegrated 147 CAAFAGs.

"The most important role is played by the local communities, but they need to be more aware of the need to help former CAAFAGs re-enrol in schools, learn vocational skills and assure them of a better future," said Biswokarma.

*We wish our readers, community*

*members and friends a*

***Happy New Year 2008***

**Govinda G Prerana**

Publisher: Vishwaparikrama

### Nepali Calendar

Sun Jan 06 / Poush 22' 64

Trayodashin

Mon Jan 07 / Poush 23' 64

Chaturdashin

Tue Jan 08 / Poush 24' 64

Aunshi

Wed Jan 09 / Poush 25' 64

Pratipada

Thu Jan 10 / Poush 26' 64

Duwitiya

Fri Jan 11 / Poush 27' 64

Tritiya

Sat Jan 12 / Poush 28' 64

Chauthi

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## Are Nepali Leaders Tech-savvy?

- Ravi Adhikari, Belmont CA

Nepali leaders and policymakers in general have come to a realization how computer technology and the internet could drive Nepal to the next level in near future, said Mahabir Pun, the winner of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award on Saturday December 29, 2007.

Pun, whose efforts to bring wireless (Wi-Fi) internet technology to remote villages in Nepal made him the recipient of Ramon Magsaysay Award, shared his thoughts about his projects, difficulties and success stories to an auspicious gathering of about three dozen Nepali and American professionals, at the University of California campus in Berkley.

"It was not an easy thing to do in the beginning. I remember my meeting with the then Information and Communication Minister. I explained him everything about computer and internet while requesting an approval from him to my application for the high speed internet connection. But he asked me what bandwidth was," Pun made the gathering break into big laughter when he explained the scenario in his lay-man's English.

"But the things are taking positive turn. The leaders now know many things about the computer technology and its importance for Nepal's future."

The program was presided over by Professor Alexander von Rospatt, UC Berkeley's Chairman of the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies. Amod Pokharel introduced the speaker to the audiences.

The gathering hailed Pun's noble works to create new opportunities in Nepali villages via computer technology, especially in isolated mountainous regions.

While giving a PowerPoint presentation, Pun explained in detail how his work was going to help Nepal, especially in the areas of telemedicine and education. "I need support from everyone to take this technology to every villages of the country. We need help, especially in three major areas: finance, equipments (hardware, software) and expertise.

Pun was visiting San Francisco bay area on the invitation of Bineet Sharma, President of Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA). "We must get involved with Mr. Pun's projects in order to bring basic humanitarian services to rural communities through Information Communication and Technologies (ICT)," Sharma made a candid appeal to the crowd.

Sandeep Giri, an alma mater of Pun at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, who represents Pun's organization, Himanchal, in the United States, said every small contribution could make a big difference in Nepal. "You can make a gift of \$12 every year, while celebrating your own birthday. One dollar a month is not a big sum for the support of such a decent work."

Pun received this year's Magsaysay Award for community leadership and for his innovative application of wireless computer technology (Wi-Fi) and bringing progress to remote mountain areas by connecting his village to the global village. The past recipients from Nepal are: journalist Bharat Dutta Koirala, Dr. Sanduk Ruit and late historian Mahesh Chandra Regmi.

## 'Battle' Plan To Be Ready By Jan 6

- Fight for Gorkhaland will be democratic: Morcha

Darjeeling, India Dec. 27: Bimal Gurung today urged the hills to be "ready for one last statehood fight", the plans for which will be announced on January 6 at Gorkha Stadium in Lebung, 7km from here.

"It might inconvenience people but everyone must be ready for one last battle for Gorkhaland. We will fight it out democratically and we hope the other parties will not let us down," said Gurung, the president of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, at a public meeting at Jorebunglow here today.

The Morcha said it has completed only one of its 14-point agitation program — the gherao of Lal Kothi, the headquarters of the DGHC, in November — and the rest were going to follow.

The three-month old party, which has been trying to garner support against the Sixth Schedule, showed signs of political maturity and, in order to bargain for Gorkhaland, seemed ready to play on the security concerns of this strategic area. "We are hemmed by international borders and if the Indian and Bengal governments do not secure our future, we might have to look back at history," said Gurung. Prior to 1835, Darjeeling was a part of Sikkim. In recent times, voices (Gorkha Rashtriya Congress) have been raised for its merger with the hill state.

"If the need arises we will also call upon the Gorkhas who are

...Contd. on pg 6

## Calendar Of Events

**January 5, 2008:** The Northern California Tamu Samaj is organizing 'Northern California Ashimala Tamu Gurung Lochhar Celebration 2008' on Saturday Jan 5 from 7pm to 1am, at African American Art Culture Center, 762 Fulton Street, San Francisco CA with Nepali cultural dance, and live band with Himalayan Vibe & DJ. More on nepalassociation.org

**January 9, 2008:** The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) is organizing Senior Manager Nonprofit Leadership Institute – an exclusive opportunity for current nonprofit executives and senior managers who are truly engaged in their own leadership, that of their organization and the nonprofit sector, on Wednesday Jan 9 from 4-5pm at MCN Conference Room, 2134 University Ave W, St Paul MN. Free event, prior registration. For details visit mcn.org

**January 10, 2007:** The Association of Nepalese in Minnesota (ANMN) announces the receipt of \$4000 grant from Asia Pacific Endowment of The Saint Paul Foundation for 'Empower Nepali Women in MN' project; and has scheduled a focus group meeting to discuss the project strategies to move forward and identify the training needs on the afternoon of Thursday Jan 10. The details about the venue would be updated soon. For details about the program contact Rashmi Sharma rsenneman@yahoo.com; Bijay Shrestha shresthab@gmail.com; Ajib Shrestha ajib713@yahoo.com and Padam Sharma padamsharma@comcast.net.

**January 10, 2007:** World Affairs Council of Washington DC will host 'Burma: The Next Steps' with speakers like Priscilla Clapp (former Chief of Mission to Burma 1999-2002), Derek Mitchell- Senior Fellow and Director for Asia at the International Security Program of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Bo Hla Tint - NLD MP-Elect, Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (USA), National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), Drew Thompson- Director of China Studies and Starr Senior Fellow at The Nixon Center in Washington DC. The event will take place on Thursday Jan 10 from 6:30pm to 8pm at 1800 K Street NW, Washington DC. For details visit worldaffairsdc.org

**January 13, 2008:** The Community Members Interested (COMMITTED) invites all to a Devotional New Year 2008 Celebration & Community Survey Results presentation at Unitarian Universalist Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton VA 22124 on Sunday Jan 13 from 2pm. For more information, contact Neeva Pradhan 703 944 7466, Jayjeev Hada 703 945 7258, Saroj Bhattarai 703 231 8357, Shiela Shrestha 240 506 5835.

**January 19, 2008:** Vishwa Parikrama-the fortnightly publication from the DC area, is celebrating its first anniversary on Saturday Jan 19 at Dolly Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean VA 22101 from 1pm. The Kids Poetry Competition would also be organized on the program for those Nepali kids who are under 15 years of age, and be residing in Canada and US.

**January 20, 2008:** Greater Washington TAMU (Gurung) Samaj cordially invites all community members and friends to celebrate Lhochhar Festival on Sunday January 20, 2008 at Best Western Hotel, 6633 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church VA 22042. For details, visit nepalhorizons.com

**February 9, 2008:** The Northwest Sherpa Association is celebrating Sherpa Lhosar (new year 2135 Chiwa-Lo (year of mice) Night on Saturday Feb 9 from 5pm at The Rocking Horse Dance Barn, 11820 150<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Renton WA. For details visit nepalseattle.org

**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 annm.org

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

## 10 Traders Hurt in YCL Attack in Baitadi, Cop Thrashed in Khadbari

Mahendranagar Jan 5 (THT): At least 10 businessmen were injured when Young Communist League activists beat up them at Khodpe bazaar of Baitadi district last night.

Vice-president of the Khodpe bazaar management committee Dhanidutt Bhatta said YCL cadres beat them after barging into their houses last night.

The YCL cadres who came on eight trucks beat traders including

Monsingh Bista, Mohan Kunwar, Ramsingh Bista, Dhanbir Singh Bista, Uttam Air, Raj Bahadur Bhandari and Shiv Raj Bhatta, according to Area Police Office at Khodpe.

The YCL cadres beat up the traders on the charge of holding a chakkajam to protest YCL's atrocities. Bhatta said YCL cadres attacked traders even this morning.

...Contd. on pg 6

## 'I will be interested to see a caucus for Nepal in the Congress/Senate': Dr Chalise

The recently appointed Nepal's Ambassador to the United States of America Dr Suresh Chalise arrived in Washington DC to execute his new assignment on November 2007. Prior to his appointment as the ambassador, Dr. Chalise worked as an advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal on Foreign Affairs since May 06.

Originally from Rajbiraj, Nepal, Dr Chalise accomplished his Ph.D program in Political Sociology from Banaras Hindu University, India in 1990. He attended the Senior Executive Course at Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hawaii USA ' May 06. He's also worked as a consultant with such international organizations as NDI, DFID, FES, UNDP, SARI and WHO. As a writer, his works on socio-political issues are published in various national and international papers.

The Embassy of Nepal in Washington DC is concurrently accredited to Canada, Columbia and Mexico; hence, he'd be presenting his credentials to those countries soon. He'd be presenting his credentials to President George W Bush on Tuesday January 22, 2008. On Sunday December 30, 2007, Ambassador Chalise talked Nepal Abroad on several issues. Below the excerpts:

**Q: You worked as an advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal on Foreign Affairs. How challenging has it been for Nepal as a member of a global community to stride in the regional and international arena under present circumstances?**

In contemporary Nepal, while the society passes through an acute transition, it has really been a major challenge for us to strike a balance-of course as a member of international community, in dealing with regional and global forces. As I have noticed, while working with the Prime Minister, the regional forces are more enamored for their sector related interests. However, on the part of the global powers, they seem interested to see Nepal as a democratic and an open society. Perhaps, the latter believe that a democratic and open Nepal- which occupies strategic location in the global political arena; would also help encourage lubricating the process of globalization. Here it never means that regional actors are not for democracy in Nepal. They, indeed, are for democratic Nepal and, as you know, have also been the associates of the globalization process. Regional and global forces have been engaged on the issue of Constituent Assembly elections, issues of inclusion, UNMIN's role and degree of participation on the entire peace process. In such a thorny political situation, to make a swift momentum on country's socio-economic and political realms has been a challenge for the government and its leadership.

**Q: How helpful has your recent experience been in taking the new assignment as an Ambassador in Washington DC?**

Actually, apart from rendering advises, I also worked as a chain between the Prime Minister and the International community in Nepal. In other words, my familiarity on external affairs as an advisor to the Prime Minister, at bottom, has helped me understanding the interest and areas of concern of the government of USA and areas of vital interest of my country. Being a Nepali- who had certain degree of experience on socio-economic and political domains as a researcher, I have advantage of understanding Nepal's fundamental interest in a better fashion than an outsider. Besides, I have had opportunities to develop personal relations with US officials, interact with high level personalities and delegations from the USA. Therefore, in nut and shell, I should say 'yes, my recent experience- has been crucial in taking up the new assignment of ambassador in Washington. It has, undeniably, been helpful to work for the mutual interests of USA and Nepal.'

**Q: The long absence of the Nepalese ambassador in DC has had many visible and perceived damages to Nepal and to the Nepal-US relations. How do you plan to normalize the whole thing(s)?**

I only partly agree to your assumption, as there has widely been perceived that there has been damage or losses to our bilateral relations with USA due to absence of ambassador for a quite long time in the mission. Undeniably, absence of ambassador in a mission for long time certainly does not give a good message, but, ours is an unusual situation, which has been accepted by our international friends, including USA. In this respect, the

role of instant information system, which Nepal also enjoys now, really helped to disseminate information to the global community. USA- like that of the other nations understands the difficulties through which Nepal has been passing. Actually, our bilateral relations have been excellent on all fronts.

Besides this, US must have taken the note of the fact that there was delay in appointing ambassador to her country due to a new yet sound process of taking the nation's diplomats on, which is corresponding to the recruitment process in USA. In the history of Nepal, this is the first time that the sovereign parliament held dialogue- through parliamentary hearing committee, with the ambassadors nominated and ultimately endorsed the government's decision. Such process, of course has been hedged with certain limitations, but ultimately encourages the transparency and accountability in appointing our diplomats globally.

**Q: Have you set any goals to achieve during your stay in Washington DC as an Ambassador?**

Of course, every person, who comes here as an ambassador, has certain aims and objectives. Some goals are prescribed by the institution that he or she represents, but, some goals are being innovated by individual himself- which are of course in consonance with the national objective of the country. And, I am not exception to this phenomenon. Broadly speaking, I have recognized three areas on which I should be focusing my attention. The first one is to make smoother the ongoing democratic peace process in our country, which is imperative for the establishment of democracy, heralding peace and beginning of real prosperity. For this purpose, I will



Dr Suresh C Chalise  
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of Nepal, Washington DC

be interested to see a caucus for Nepal in the Congress/Senate. I have information that some Congressman and Senators, who have love for Nepal and the Nepalese people, seem positive in this regard. If possible, I will also be working to set up a network of former volunteers of Peace Corps who served Nepal in the past. I consider them as the major resource for further strengthening the US-Nepal relations, as they know Nepal and Nepali people and have better knowledge and experience of Nepalese resources. Such steps- if materialized would advocate the interest of Nepal.

I will work, at all levels, in order to encourage the high level bilateral visits. It would definitely help familiarize our problems and needs. In this connection, I would like to mention here my recent meeting with Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher. He, upon my revelation, was surprised that, the secretary of state, Colin Powell, was the only visited Nepal till the date. In my meeting, Mr. Boucher was positive to increase the frequency of high level delegations to Nepal. Now, a high level team is scheduled to leave for our country- may be within a month.

Apart from helping the peace process, I need to work for the economic prosperity of Nepal. As you also know that despite huge natural resources, Nepal suffers from poverty and hunger. In present Nepal, helping the economic process means contributing to the peace process. Economic promotion in society shall help to lessen the deviant behavior of people in general. In order to achieve economic prosperity, I will try to find investors on mega hydropower generation, cement, and

## Mahabir Pun At U of California, Berkeley



Photo: Ravi Adhikari/Rav Image

On Saturday December 29, 2007 a talk program by Mahabir Pun was organized at Dwinelle Hall of the University of California, Berkeley. Pun was the recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2007 for community leadership and the innovative application of wireless computer technology (wi-fi) and bringing progress to remote mountainous area of Nepal, connecting the village to the global village. The Computer Association of Nepal[CAN] -USA invited him to the Bay Area. Detail news story about this program by Ravi Adhikari is on page 3.

## 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**

Your relative may be able to come to Canada as a permanent resident.

If you are a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, you can sponsor your relative under the Family Class program.

#### **Who can apply**

Certain relatives may be eligible to immigrate to Canada as permanent residents.

There must be a sponsor for any relative immigrating to Canada within the Family Class. Both the person sponsoring a relative and the person wishing to immigrate to Canada must meet certain requirements.

Applicants for permanent residence must go through medical, criminal and background checks. An applicant with a criminal record may not be allowed to enter Canada. People who pose a risk to Canada's security are also not allowed to enter Canada. An applicant may have to provide a certificate from police authorities in the home country. Medical, criminal and background

checks are explained in the application kit.

#### **Sponsoring an eligible relative**

You can sponsor certain relatives if you are a citizen or permanent resident of Canada and if you are 18 years of age or older.

You may not be eligible to sponsor a relative if you:

- failed to provide the financial support you agreed to when you signed a sponsorship agreement to sponsor another relative in the past
- defaulted on a court-ordered support order, such as alimony or child support
- received government financial assistance for reasons other than a disability
- were convicted of a violent criminal offence, any offence against a relative or any sexual offence—depending on circumstances, such as the nature of the offence, how long ago it occurred and whether a pardon was issued
- defaulted on an immigration loan—late or missed payments
- are in prison or
- have declared bankruptcy and have not been released from it yet.

Other factors not mentioned in this list might also make you ineligible to sponsor a relative.

When you sponsor a relative to become a permanent resident of Canada, you must promise to support that person and their dependants financially. Therefore, you have to meet certain income requirements. If you have previously sponsored relatives who later turned to the Canadian government for financial assistance, you may not be allowed to sponsor another person. Sponsorship is a big commitment, so you must take this obligation seriously.

#### **To be a sponsor:**

- You and the sponsored relative must sign a sponsorship agreement that commits you to provide financial support for your relative if necessary. This agreement also states that the person becoming a permanent resident will make every effort to support themselves. Dependent children under age 22 do not have to sign this agreement. Quebec residents must sign an "undertaking" with the province of

Quebec—a contract binding the sponsorship.

- You must promise to provide financial support for the relative and any other eligible relatives accompanying them for a period of three to ten years, depending on their age and relationship to you. This time period begins on the date they become a permanent resident.

If you live in Quebec, you must also meet Quebec's immigration sponsorship requirements after Citizenship and Immigration Canada approves you as a sponsor

If you are a Canadian citizen who lives abroad and plans to return to Canada when your relatives immigrate, you may sponsor your spouse, common-law or conjugal partner, or your dependent children who have no dependent children.

To sponsor any other eligible relatives (for example, parents and grandparents), you must be living in Canada. ...to be continued next week.

We wish you a  
**'Happy New Year 2008'**  
[www.nepalhorizons.com](http://www.nepalhorizons.com)

## 'Battle' Plan To Be Ready...

Contd. from page 3...

now part of security forces to help us," Gurung said.

The leader, however, appeared certain that Gorkhaland was a possibility. "Subash Ghisingh raised the demand but sold it off when he formed the DGHC. We are not going to do that. We have a man with brains behind us and the day Gorkhaland is formed we will publicly acknowledge his support," said Gurung.

After his return from Delhi, where he had gone to attend a hearing on the Sixth

Schedule status bill, the Gorkha leader had announced that Gorkhaland would be formed by March 10, 2010. "I have studied Ghisingh's kundali along with mine and the Morcha's. It says Gorkhaland will be formed soon," he said.

Gurung also accused Ghisingh of adopting a violent policy during the Gorkhaland agitation. "Lots of our CPM brothers were killed and many were martyred. Ghisingh was responsible for this. This must not be repeated again." [Source: The Telegraph, India 12/28/07]

## New Test Could Aid...

Contd. from page 8...

neck cancers will be with people who have already had the disease. They are at very high risk of developing cancer again.

Joseph Califano says early detection of these mouth and throat cancers could make a big difference in survival rates.

"It's actually incredibly important. In an early stage we can

cure about 90 percent of these head and neck cancers. And in later stages, cure rates are as low as 30 to 40 percent. So early diagnosis really is the key towards curing head and neck cancer."

Johns Hopkins medical researcher Joseph Califano published his findings in the new issue of the journal "Clinical Cancer Research."

## Nepali Women's...

.... Contd. from page 2.

commissions on involuntarily disappeared citizens, restructuring of state, monitoring the implementation of the comprehensive peace

agreement, land reform, among others.

The organizations signing the memorandum include Women Pressure Group, Joint Women Struggle Committee and Inter-Party Women Network. [Xinuha]

## 10 Traders Hurt in YCL ...

.... Contd. from page 3.

The bazaar was tense and local residents and stranded passengers were sloganeering against the Maoist when this report was filed. CDO Harikrishna Khatiwoda said talks were ongoing among the Maoists, traders and other political parties to end the tension.

Traders are on strike since Thursday after the YCL cadres beat up them in the name of searching their shops for illegal liquor. They had organized a chakkajam in the bazaar yesterday.

Meanwhile, police inspector Amrit Thapa was injured when a group of Maoist thrashed him in Khadbari bazaar of Sankhuwasabha district this morning. Thapa, who was airlifted to Dharan for treatment, told THT Online that a group of 10 Maoist cadres led by district committee member Lokendra Gadal beat up him on charge of snatching a poster. DSP Bishwaraj Pokharel said that necessary investigation is underway.

## 'I will be interested...

Contd. from page 4...

herbal medicine production. I have a plan to explore markets for our niche and other products to US markets.

Of course, we should be working to attract American tourists to Nepal, which has significantly enhanced in recent years in spite of red travel alert. And, for your information, in Nepal's case, one tourist provides job opportunities at least to 3-4 persons. On top of these, as our society had been beset by conflict, we need assistance from donors-especially from the US government, in the areas of reconstruction of infrastructure and rehabilitation of conflict affected people. I would pay my attention on these areas as well.

**Q: The Prime Minister had instructed all nominated envoys to work on Economic Diplomacy as well during their tenure as an ambassador to the respective country. Didn't that sound incongruous, considering the current situation in Nepal?**

I hardly agree with your notion that there is incongruity in Prime Minister's instruction to envoys for economic diplomacy and country's situation. As I have already mentioned, in my answer to one of your questions, that the influx of the USA tourists in Nepal has gone up by more than 30 per cent in spite of travel alert from their government. Indian investors are showing their keen interest in the project related with cement production. We have tremendous potentiality to harness our herbal resource by producing medicine. Yes, country had been marred by bloody conflict for a decade. But, now, peace process has been going on. International community, including UN, has recognized that Nepal's peace process has been one of the fastest in the world. The leadership and the government have also been quite confident to take the peace process to its logical conclusion. I also feel that we are very close to the success of the ongoing peace process. Therefore, it would not be contrary to the reality of the situation in Nepal if we talk to encourage economic diplomacy.

Another reason for encouraging the economic diplomacy by PM, as I understand, he thinks that economic diplomacy, which would bring economic prosperity to society,

would also help peace process-through reconstruction and rehabilitation. Do you know that hundreds of thousand people have been displaced due to conflict? They urgently need aid and assistance, which is possible only through economic advancement of society.

**Q: How would you make the Nepalese people and friends of Nepal in different states, including Canada feel the presence of the Nepalese Ambassador after a long gap?**

I agree that absence of ambassador for a long time in US, Canada, or in Mexico or in Columbia, require the presence of the Nepal mission every where in order to boost up the confidence of Nepali community and friends of Nepal. For this purpose, I have devised a plan and have started working on it. With regard to the consular services, the mission has strict instruction to all concerned that the visa or passport renew related matters be completed within 24 hours of receiving of the application.

Likewise, I have begun traveling to various places on the invitation of Nepalese community. A week ago I was in Boston to participate in Lohchhar- a unique and popular cultural festival of Nepal. I am doing this, partly to boost the moral of my country people and partly to understand their problems, which could be addressed sooner or later. Besides, we face a very sad situation as well here in abroad. Just last Thursday, we were informed about the death of a young and luminous student studying in Ohio University. The embassy did what it could- as far as papers works were concerned. I had talks with the brother of the deceased, Professor of Ohio University and Insurance Company representatives. We have issued a condolence statement on her untimely death in a car accident. I know that sheer statement of embassy would not console and heal the irreparable damage being caused, but, it is just a gesture to all affected that the country's institution or embassy has been with them emotionally on the cheerless point of time.

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## Canada: Resolve To Correct Your Tax information

Ottawa, ON Jan 3 (CRA): Did you fail to file an accurate tax return or not file at all, but should have? The Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) Voluntary Disclosures Program may be able to help. The program allows people to come forward and correct their tax information and avoid being penalized, criminally investigated and prosecuted.

Last year the CRA processed 8,244 disclosures for taxpayers who used the Voluntary Disclosures Program and got a second chance to comply with their tax obligations. Coming clean saved these taxpayers from an audit or a criminal investigation, which can result in penalties, fines, and even jail time. Their valid disclosures

involved more than \$525 million in taxes.

By encouraging taxpayers to come forward and correct the information they filed with the CRA, the Voluntary Disclosures Program helps protect the tax base and makes tax administration fair for all Canadians.

If you make a full disclosure before we start any compliance action or investigation, you may only have to pay the taxes owing, plus interest. If we come to you first, you could end up paying penalties and fines, and even face jail time.

For more information about the Voluntary Disclosures Program, visit [www.cra.gc.ca/voluntarydisclosures](http://www.cra.gc.ca/voluntarydisclosures).

## Handicraft Exports From Eastern Region Up

Sunsari Jan 4 : Exports of handicraft commodities through the two major custom points of the eastern region grew by 20 percent, touching Rs 300 million during the first five months of the current fiscal year, shows a data of the Eastern Trade Promotion Centre (ETPC).

"The demand of Nepali handicraft items has grown consistently over the past few years in third country markets," said an official at the center. He elaborated that during the year, Nepali handicraft items found markets in 20 countries.

According to the ETPC data, Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and the US were the major markets that absorbed the largest chunk of handicraft exports from the region.

Exports to Italy alone were valued at Rs 63.50 million. Similarly France imported Rs 49 million worth of handicraft items, while exports to Germany totaled Rs 10.70 million

during the first five months of the fiscal year, shows the data.

Likewise, exports to the UK and the US were valued at Rs 45.10 million and Rs 45.20 million respectively.

President of the Itahari Chambers of Commerce and Industry Tanka Dulal said that Nepali handicraft items have managed to gain fair popularity in third country markets. He, however, charged the government of not extending the necessary support to the industries to tap the export potentials.

During the first five months, Nepali handicraft commodities also found markets in the Netherlands, Hungary, Spain, Brazil, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal.

Australia, Ireland, Israel, Canada, the Czech Republic, Japan, Denmark, Taiwan, Norway and New Zealand have also fast emerged as good markets for handicraft items, said entrepreneurs. (K P 1/5)

## US Dollar Decline Impacts Immigrant Remittances

New York Jan 03 [VOA]: The value of the U.S. dollar has dropped about 20 percent against a basket of major currencies in the last five years. This decline has been especially tough for immigrants who work in the United States and send money to their families back home. As Nathan King reports from New York, these dollar remittances are key for the economies in many developing nations.

No weekends off and as much overtime as he can get. Eric Amaoako lives and works in New York, but has four children, a wife and his parents relying on the \$200 he sends back home each month to Ghana.

In previous years, life hasn't been this hard for Amaoako. But because of the continued depreciation of the U.S. dollar, the money he sends home has less purchasing power so he has had to work harder and longer to send more.

"I have to work double shifts, weekends, when I am supposed to take off. I have to work because I need more money now [that] the dollar is falling. I need more money to meet my commitments," Amaoako said.

Eric is not alone. With the dollar at record lows against many major currencies, millions of people

are having to send home dollars that are worth less or work harder to send more money.

That can have a big effect on poorer countries. The World Bank estimates remittances to developing countries totaled \$240 billion this past year. The Bank says some countries rely on remittances for up to half their national income.

Dilip Ratha is the World Bank's Chief Economist on Remittances. He says the dollar's fall already is leading to calls for wage increases from migrant workers. "They are saying, 'Look we came here only to be able to send money and support our families so please give us wage increases,' and that has led to some discontent for some migrant workers."

Ratha believes that over time this situation may turn the pattern of migration away from the United States. "This is obvious — migrants are looking for greener pastures. A stronger currency helps, [so] they are going to go for countries where the currency is stronger and buy more for their families back home."

But for those, like Eric Amaoako, who are already here in the United States with a job, each dollar earned and sent home has less value than before.

## US Unemployment...

Contd. from page 1...

everything we can to make sure we remain a prosperous country," he added.

The ongoing financial crisis over adjustable-rate mortgages continues to affect the overall economy and not just home sales. There has been a cut in jobs in the building industry and the Labor Department report also shows a drop in factory jobs.

President Bush is considering an economic stimulus package that could include more tax cuts. In a Thursday interview with the Reuters news service, Mr. Bush said he and his economic team are considering all their options and he probably will not decide whether to act until his State of the Union address later this month.

Democratic Senator Charles Schumer is urging the president to take action to avoid what the lawmaker says could be the economy tumbling into recession

### Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	63.23	63.85
Canadian \$1	63.64	64.25
Euro 1	93.13	94.01
Pound Sterling 1	125.24	126.42
Australian \$1	55.79	56.32
Swiss Franc 1	56.63	57.17
Singapore Dollar	44.08	44.50
Japanese Yen 10	5.78	5.83
Chinese Yuan 1	8.70	8.78
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.89	---
Danish Kroner 1	12.49	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	8.09	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	16.86	---
Qatari Riyal 1	17.37	---
Thai Bhat 1	1.89	---
UAE Dirham 1	17.22	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	19.22	---

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, 01.04.08]

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## Global Warming Tops Science Stories of 2007

By Paul Sisco

Washington December 17 [VOA]:2007 was a year notable for further evidence about global warming, terrestrial and extraterrestrial discovery and scientific breakthroughs. VOA's Paul Sisco takes a look back at some of the top science stories of the year.

Global warming tops our list of science stories in 2007. Scientists say there is new evidence that the polar ice caps are melting at a faster pace. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says it is 90 percent certain that human activity is linked to rising temperatures.

Panel Chairman Rajendra Pachauri explains, "...what you have is solid scientific evidence."

Pachauri's U.N. panel shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who said, "I'm going to speak an inconvenient truth, My own country is principally responsible for obstructing progress here in Bali. We all know that."

Gore's Academy Awarding winning film, An

Inconvenient Truth, documents the effects of climate change.

In other news, scientists uncovered a previously unknown, human settlement around Stonehenge, announced a new theory on the building of the Pyramids, and put King Tut on public display for the first time in 3,000 years.

Scientists also had a remarkable discovery in Kenya - a 10 million year old jaw bone that may link mankind to the great apes.

And in the fossil of a T-Rex, American researchers decoded soft tissue proteins linking the monstrous reptile to birds.

Japan and China jumped into the space race in 2007, both launching their first lunar probes. NASA shared 3-D (three dimensional) images of the sun, and with three shuttle missions, stepped up construction of the International Space Station. Mechanical problems halted a fourth shuttle launch in December, but station construction resumes in 2008.

## IA Caucus Winners Obama...

Contd. from page 1...

many people here across New Hampshire."

Former U.S. Senator John Edwards also vowed to fight on in the Democratic race, though he is trailing Clinton and Obama in the polls in New Hampshire. Democratic Senators Joe Biden and Christopher Dodd dropped out of the race after poor showing in Iowa.

The other political earthquake in Iowa was triggered by former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who was relatively unknown outside his home state just weeks ago. He was vastly outspent in Iowa by former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, but beat him by a wide margin.

The likable, joke-telling former Baptist minister has criticized the corporate greed of Wall Street and called President Bush's foreign policy "arrogant", which has not made him a favorite of the Republican Party's political establishment. But Evangelical Christians, who are strong in Iowa, turned out in full force for Huckabee. He is trailing Romney and Arizona U.S. Senator John McCain in the

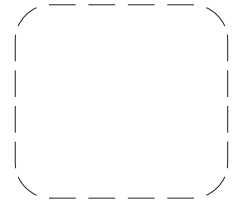
polls in New Hampshire, but he hopes to gain ground.

"My tax plan, which would completely overhaul the tax system, is connecting with voters in New Hampshire," he said. "We only have a few days to close the sale, but I think the momentum coming out of Iowa is going to be good for us."

After his stinging defeat in Iowa, the former Massachusetts governor and successful businessman Romney was cautious, seeking to downplay expectations.

"I'd like to do very well in New Hampshire, of course I'd like to win," he noted. "I don't think you have to win Iowa or New Hampshire, we've had nominees that haven't won either state before."

The candidates only have four days to savor their victories or recover from their losses until New Hampshire voters have their say on Tuesday. [VOA 1/4/08]



## New Test Could Aid Early Diagnosis of Some Cancers

Jan 04 [VOA]:Scientists at Johns Hopkins University are working on a simple, inexpensive test to identify people who may have cancers of the head and neck. Early identification of these cancers could save lives especially on the Indian subcontinent, where they are the leading cause of cancer death. VOA's Art Chimes reports.

Cancers of the head and neck - including mouth and throat cancers - are especially common among smokers and older people. In the United States, it's the seventh leading cause of cancer death.

"Worldwide, though, it is actually more common," says Dr. Joseph Califano of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center in Baltimore.

"It's actually the sixth most common cancer, and it is actually the most common cancer in India. It is actually the single worst cancer killer in the Indian subcontinent as well. In India it's actually those who smoke tobacco

and actually use betel or betel quid or paan or areca nut derivatives with tobacco."

Califano is one of the scientists developing a so-called "swish and spit" test to identify cancerous cells.

"For patients it's really very simple. All it involves taking a brush to brush the surfaces of the mouth and throat, and then gargle, rinse, swish and spit. And just that simple act provides an enormous amount of cells that are shed essentially constantly from the throat and the mouth."

Those may include cells from cancers in the throat and mouth that can be identified by genetic screening. Swishing and spitting may be simple, but figuring out what genes to look for in these cells is a challenge.

"What we really need to do is find the right combination of markers that will be specific enough so that we detect enough cancers but

don't catch in the net, so to speak, normal people who would undergo a needless confirmatory physical examination," he said in a telephone interview.

In new research, Califano and his colleagues report on their progress in finding those elusive genetic markers.

This sort of screening is most useful for testing groups at greater risk for head and neck cancers.

"If we limited our test to those who are older than 50 and are heavy smokers and drinkers, these tests would probably be very effective. Or, for example, say we employ these tests on populations in India, it would also be very effective because the prevalence of the disease is so high.

He says the first real world use of this screening for head and

...Contd. on pg 6

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