

Nepal Abroad

Published weekly from Washington D.C.

Nepal Abroad

Saturday Poush 28, 2064 B.S. / January 12, 2008

Year 3. No. 2

PM Expands Cabinet; Appoints More Ministers



Photo: Nepalnews.com
Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala administering the oath of office and secrecy to the newly appointed ministers at Singha Durbar on Friday Jan 11, 2008. He appointed seven new faces in his cabinet. Read more on 'PM Expand Cabinet Inducts Seven New Faces'.

CA Polls To Be Held On April 10, 2008

Kathmandu Jan 11 (HNS): The cabinet today decided to hold the election to the constituent assembly in a single phase on April 10.

The cabinet meeting held at the PMO at Singha Durbar decided on it 90 days ahead of the election day, a demand of the Election Commission (EC) for necessary preparations of the 601-member constitution making body.

The EC will publish fresh schedules for filing nominations to the candidates contesting polls on the proportional representation system and the first-past-the-post basis.

"Be assured, the election will not be deferred this time," Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula and Minister for Information and Communications Krishna Bahadur Mahara said.

Sitaula said the election would definitely be held as all the political parties, the House and the government were committed to holding the polls by mid-April.

Earlier today, according to Sitaula, PM GP Koirala, CPN-UML general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal and Maoist chairman Prachanda had a "long and serious" meeting at PM's residence, Baluwatar, about the preparations for the CA polls. "The leader trio is committed to holding the election on the scheduled date," Sitaula said. Today's cabinet meeting also decided to send home the Maoist combatants disqualified after the second stage of verification by the UNMIN, providing them with dues of their monthly allowances.

A total of 12,648 combatants were found to be disqualified during the UNMIN's verification. The government would provide dues of three months' allowances to the verified combatants, Minister Mahara added.

The government has also decided to give a priority to the first-class government officials of the

...Contd. on pg 6

PM Expands Cabinet, Inducts Seven New Faces

Kathmandu, Jan. 10 (TRN): Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Thursday expanded the cabinet, including three more ministers and five state ministers.

The Prime Minister also divided the responsibility as per the Interim Constitution-2063, sources at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers said.

The allocation of the portfolios of the newly appointed ministers is as follows:

Ram Chandra Yadhav: Minister for General Administration

Sujata Koirala: Minister without Portfolio

Pharmulaha Mansur: Minister for Environment, Science and Technology

Ram Kumar Chaudhary: State Minister for Home Affairs

Mahalaxmi Aryal Upadhyaya: State Minister for Water Resources

Nagendra Chaudhary: State Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives

...Contd. on pg 6

Indian Security Forces Bar MPs From Inspecting Dam

Khajura Jan 9 (TRN): India's Seema Surakshya Bal personnel on Monday sent back a team of the Natural Resource Committee of the parliament without letting it observe the Laxmanpur dam in India.

The team was heading to the dam to make an on-site inspection of the dam, after receiving complaints from the people living in Nepali side of the border. Dozens of villages get inundated during monsoon season due to the dam constructed by India near the border by violating international laws.

The SSB personnel did not allow the parliamentary team to move forward and sent it back from the no-man's land, some 400 metres ahead of the dam.

When the parliamentary team requested the SSB men to let them go for an observation of the dam, the team was told that it needed permission of the Indian district government. After making the team wait for an hour, SSB personnel sent it back, saying that their district government did not issue the permission.

...Contd. on pg 6

US Announces Revised Plan for National ID Cards

Jan 11 (VOA): The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released a revised plan for phasing in a national identification card program that was set to begin this year.

Passed by the U.S. Congress in 2005, the Real ID Act establishes national standards for drivers' licenses and government-issued personal identification cards to make it harder for terrorists, illegal immigrants and others to obtain or counterfeit.

At a news conference Friday in Washington, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the

phased-in program gives states greater flexibility in implementing it and extends the period of enrollment for citizens over the age of 50.

He estimates it will cost states about \$8 to make a Real ID license.

The original program was rejected by 17 states partly because it was expensive. But the cost of the new plan has been reduced by more than 70 percent - from \$14.6 billion to \$3.9 billion.

The Department of Homeland Security says enrollment will be completed for

... Contd. from page 6...

Editorial:

The Foul Decision

The Nepal government's decision to allocate rupees ten lakh to all the Members of the Parliament (MPs) is very unfortunate as it is guided by a petty political interests of the Seven Party Alliances (SPA). It also discriminates and betrays the Nepalese population.

Although officially the amount allocated is aimed at spending for the development purposes in the district they represent, the reality is little different. Out of all the nominated MPs, lots of them can't define the electoral district they represent. The amount thus taken would ultimately end up serving their own / party interests rather than a social good.

This decision also discourages and discriminates other able candidates within the SPA, the independents and other political parties in the country. If the amount goes to the party, then the parties with majority of the MPs tend to benefit most; and if it is used on their own discretion, then certainly personal benefits gets priority over the social good. In other words, the SPA government denies the existence of the newly formed political parties in the south and those not currently represented in the government.

This disbursement of the funds and the announcement of the

election date may seem days apart, but the funds made available to the incumbents undeniably serves personal and the political party in the SPA coalition. It is a foul play on the part of the government to use state's revenue to fund their election campaign.

This development has created a financial rift between the possible contenders within and outside the political parties not represented in the present government. Therefore, it should be seen as a violation of the concept – free and fair election, as it only favors those NOMINATED incumbents against the general population.

Analysts argue that instead of providing each MPs with the said amount for the stated objective, the collective amounts would serve the purpose better if invested in building basic development infrastructures and education; it would do more social good and will have a positive impact for the development of the country.

The MPs should make their expense transparent, as people have the right to know how their lawmakers spend the public money in their district. They should come up with no less than a substantiated expense statement.

Hunger In West Causes Children To Drop Out Of School

Tapri, Jan 09 (IRIN):Hunger and poor diet among children continue to be a key reason for truancy in many remote villages in west Nepal, according to local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the education sector.

"Food shortages have always been the cause of children not being able to attend school regularly," said schoolteacher Anil Srivastava, who teaches in the government-run Shri Gayatri primary school in Tapri village, Bardiya District, nearly 700km southwest of Kathmandu.

Tapri is the poorest village in poverty-stricken Bardiya District with most of its people living on less than US\$1 a day, according to Dalit Sewa Sangh, a local NGO which focuses on helping rural communities.

Srivastava explained that Tapri villagers, like many others in west Nepal, are unable to produce sufficient food, and cannot afford to buy food for their children either.

"How can they continue to attend class when they are hungry all the time?" asked Bijaya Ghimire, a schoolteacher. Bijaya said on average 10-15 percent of students aged 10-14 in the area drop out every year before completing primary school.

Tapri's situation is typical of many remote villages in the country, where 14.5 percent of primary level students in grades 1-5 drop out every year, according to the Ministry of Education.

Poor facilities at school, long walking distances to school and lack of road access have combined with poverty and hunger among children in remote areas to exacerbate the problem, according to NGOs.

Over a million children out of school

"How can we ever motivate parents to send their poorly fed children to school?" asked schoolteacher Himalaya Prasad Adhikari. Teachers often get blamed for failing to keep children at school, but the real reason has always been

poverty and food insecurity, Adhikari said.

"Food is the answer to their regular attendance but we can't afford that," said Adhikari.

Many teachers working in rural schools in remote villages in west Nepal have told IRIN that if the current situation continues it will be impossible to increase enrolment in schools.

Nepal has an estimated six million children aged 5-14, according to the government's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), and nearly 20 percent of them have never enrolled in schools, especially in rural areas where 80 percent of the population lives.

"The beginning of a child's destruction"

"Dropping out of school is merely the beginning of a child's destruction, as one can never attend school [again], and [they] will start working or get married at an early age," said Prem Yadav, a schoolteacher in Tapri.

Yadav said the problem is worse for girl students who, after dropping out of school, either get married or start working at an early age to support themselves and their families.

Most boys migrate to cities and towns in both Nepal and India and never return to school, said Yadav.

"Parents often ask us what they will get in return for sending their hungry children to school. We just have no answers," said Yadav. Until there is enough food or there is an improvement in their extreme poverty situation, over a million children will continue to be out of school, he said.

Letter to the editor

(With reference to interview with Nepalese Ambassador)

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest your interview with the newly appointed Nepalese Ambassador to the USA Dr. Suresh Raj Chalise. It was heartening to know that his knowledge and experience is now being tapped to its full potential for Nepal to reap the benefits during his tenure in office. I admire his innovative thoughts on building a Nepal caucus in the Congress and issuing passports within 24 hour of its application. Moreover, I see that he has the zeal to carry his duties.

However, there is a slight error when he said that Secretary of State Colin Powell is the highest ranking official to visit Nepal. In fact, Vice-President Spiro Agnew is the highest ranking official to have visited Nepal while in office. Probably Ambassador Chalise means that Gen. Powell was the highest ranking official to come to Nepal after the advent of multi-party democracy in 1990 which indeed is true.

Regards,
Nishchal N. Pandey
Consultant,
Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore. [01/06/08]

Publisher / C Editor: Sujeet Aryal (Arjel) **Assistant Editor:** Sabina Aryal **Marketing:** Kabir Ghimire; Anup Bhadra **Public Relations:** Ramesh Koirala **Representatives:** Sirjana Pokhrel-Texas, Sandip Sapkota-Iowa, Shreeram Khanal-Nepal, **Mailing address:** 10750 Main Street #202 Fairfax VA 22030. Email: print@nepalabroad.com Tel: 202 375 9700. Views expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not reflect that of Nepal Abroad.

Nepali Calendar

Sun Jan 13 / Poush 29' 64
Panchami

Mon Jan 14 / Poush 30' 64
Shasthi

Tue Jan 15 / Magh 01' 64
Saptami/Maghe Sankranti

Wed Jan 16 / Magh 02' 64
Astami

Thu Jan 17 / Magh 03' 64
Nawami

Fri Jan 18 / Magh 04' 64
Ekadashin

Sat Jan 19 / Magh 05' 64
Duwadashin

SPA Has No Right to Declare Republic: Thapa

Siraha Jan 12 (THT): Former prime minister and Rastriya Janashakti Party (RJP) chairman Surya Bahadur Thapa said on Friday that the seven political parties had no right to declare the nation a republic. He added that declaring a republic is the prerogative of the people only. Speaking at a program of the RJP in Ramnagar Mirchayia of Siraha district, Thapa said, "The parties in the government are to blame for the delay in holding the constituent assembly polls." He claimed that the increasing lawlessness and crime in the Tarai was being orchestrated by the seven political parties and added that until issues of the Madhes were addressed it will be difficult to hold the CA polls.

"If the Tarai problem is not solved, the country will drift towards grave danger," he said. Thapa accused the government of neglecting the rights and culture of the Madhesi people adding that it was

doing so even though the Madhes was an important and integral part of the country.

He urged the Madhesi community to struggle in earnest for its rights but cautioned that loot, abduction and killing will not ensure those rights.

Co-chairman of the RJP Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani claimed that the present government was not a government of the people but a syndicate of the seven parties. He added that the state had been keeping the Madhes in limbo too long and demanded that errors committed by successive governments in the past be rectified for building a new Nepal.

RJP general secretary Keshar Bahadur Bista said that the seven parties had failed to hold the CA polls and were trying to cover up for this failure by putting all the blame at "the king's doorstep". The program was chaired by RJP district president Mahesh Lal Mahaseth.

Mount Everest Legend Edmund Hillary Dies at 88

Sydney Jan 11 (VOA): Legendary adventurer Edmund Hillary has died at the age of 88. The New Zealander was the first man to climb the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest. From Sydney, Phil Mercer reports.

Edmund Hillary made history when he conquered Mount Everest with his Nepalese climbing partner, Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in May 1953.

After scaling the 8,850 meter peak, Hillary led a number of expeditions to the South Pole and devoted his life to helping the Sherpa people of Nepal's Khumbu region.

The death of the iconic New Zealander has prompted an outpouring of sympathy, with messages of condolence flooding in from around the world.

Acting Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard says the explorer was an inspiration to generations.

"Sir Edmund's name is synonymous with adventure, with achievement, with dreaming and then making those dreams come true," she said. "I'm sure there will be many Australians today who reflect on his

death. It was obviously a long life and well lived."

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said Hillary was a heroic figure and said all New Zealanders would deeply mourn his passing. Hillary will be honored with a state funeral.

He spent two years as New Zealand's High Commissioner to India, and founded the Himalayan Trust in 1964.

The trust helped build hospitals and schools in the region. He was made an honorary Nepalese citizen in 2003.

At home in New Zealand, the legendary explorer was a simple beekeeper. Speaking in 2003, he said he was just an ordinary man who did not deserve celebrity status.

Visit Nepalhorizons.com

For:

- Updated news, image and blog
- Pictures and schedules available on various community events
- Live image from Nepal
- Nepali Calendar with festivals
- Regular Interviews of personalities & celebrities

Online Radio presents updated News and Views from Nepal

Calendar Of Events

January 12, 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 12. For details about the program contact Rashmi Sharma rsnenneman@yahoo.com; Bijay Shrestha shresthab@gmail.com; Ajib Shrestha ajib713@yahoo.com and Padam Sharma padamsharma@comcast.net.

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 Bhattacharai 703 231 8357, Shiela Shrestha 240 506 5835.

January 15, 2008: Nepal Educational and Cultural Center (NECC) cordially invites all community members and devotees to celebrate "Maghe Sankranti" also called "Makar Sankranti" at Pashupati Buddha Mandir in Lanham Maryland on Tuesday Jan 15 from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm. For more information call Pundit jee at 301 552 2299.

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 150th 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 anmn.org

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

Federal System Not Fit For Nepal: British Envoy

Panchthar, Jan 9 (Kantipur): British ambassador to Nepal Andrew Hall Wednesday said that the people of a developing country like Nepal will be in trouble after restructuring the nation as a federal state.

During his meeting with the political party leaders at Panchthar district headquarters Phidim, the British ambassador reminded that a country lacking physical infrastructure and other mediums with federal state is more likely to fail.

Hall opined that the country could disintegrate if it adopted a federal governing system on the basis of ethnicity.

He stated that the government should find an outlet to the problems inviting all the disgruntled factions to the negotiation table.

Expressing concerns over the inactive participation of the parties for the CA elections, Hall who is on a visit to eastern Nepal informed that the British government would continue its assistance to Nepal, prioritising for the CA elections.

However, the British ambassador did not respond on the continuing extortion and thrashing by the Maoists, said the People's Front Nepal district secretary Dinesh Lawati.

To Subscribe Nepal Abroad email us at

print@nepalabroad.com with the subject as "Subscribe"

Every Sunday @ 9am-10am ET

Watch Sagarmatha TV

sagarmathatvusa.com

Justice Ginsburg Talks About Significance of the Supreme Court in the US Political System

VOA, Jan 10

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 74 – and the only remaining female judge serving on the highest U.S. Court – has been a lifelong champion of women's and minority rights. Speaking with host Carol Castiel of VOA's New's Now's Press Conference USA, Justice Ginsburg says she had the good fortune to grow up in an era when equality was the "prime concern" in the United States, which had to overcome a legacy of slavery and compensate for "losing the talent of half the population."

Regarding the status of women, even today she says that she sometimes feels that "men of a certain age" who are not used to how the world has changed will "tune me out," demonstrating a tendency "not to listen to a woman's voice." She says that whether a woman is a doctor, a lawyer, or a teacher, there is no satisfaction greater than "doing something to make your community a little better because of the skill that you have." Around the world, she says, governments and businesses need to "draw on a tremendous talent pool." For those meeting difficult challenges, she says she would advise

them to "have a sense of humor," and not to react to slights and putdowns with anger, and "never to lose sight of what your real objective is." That is, don't waste time on emotions that simply retard your effort.

Explaining the role of the Supreme Court in the U.S. political system, Justice Ginsburg says the U.S. Constitution creates three separate and independent branches of the government – the executive, legislative, and judiciary. She says the job of the judiciary is to judge cases and controversies fairly and impartially. And unlike the Congress and the Executive branch, the Court has no political agenda.

Justice Ginsburg says she thinks the labels "activist" vs. "strict constructionist judges" are grossly misused. Supposedly a strict constructionist adheres to the text of the Constitution whereas an activist judge does what he or she wants. But every judge in the nation is bound "by our oath to support and defend this Constitution of the United

States." She notes that in 1787, when the Constitution was completed, "We the people ... were all white, all male, and they all owned property." She says the genius of the Constitution is that it has managed to survive over two centuries because "we the people" over the course of the history of the United States have become more and more expansive.

Regarding whether the "separation of church and state," which is guaranteed by the First Amendment, is facing particular challenges in the 21st century, Justice Ginsburg says the Constitution has two clauses related to religion. One guarantees freedom of religion – that is, the right of every person to worship or not to worship according to his or her own conscience. It also says the government shall not be involved in preferring one religion over another. She says there are now – and there always will be – some zealously religious groups who think their way is the only right way, but our country is based on tolerance of differences. She reminds that the U.S. motto is "E pluribus unum" – out of many, one.

Justice Ginsburg is of Jewish parentage and both of her



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the sole remaining female among the nine-member court. She is the second woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

parents' families fled Europe in the early 20th century at a time when anti-Semitism was high. She says she has seen in her lifetime a "distinct improvement in the United States." When she was growing up, there were still places with signs that said, "No dogs or Jews allowed."

With last year's retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Justice Ginsburg is the only female judge of the nine judges serving on the Supreme Court. Regarding her proudest professional accomplishment, Justice Ginsburg says she is proud to see her daughter and granddaughter have opportunities that her mother "couldn't even dream of."

Nation's First Indian-American Governor Prepares to Take Office

By Eve Abrams, New Orleans LA

When Bobby Jindal was four years old, he asked his Punjabi-born parents for permission to change his name from Piyush to that of the youngest brother on a popular TV sitcom, The Brady Bunch. The name stuck, and Monday, January 14, a 36-year-old Bobby Jindal will become the nation's first ever Indian-American governor, and the first non-white governor of Louisiana in more than a century. Eve Abrams traces his journey to the Louisiana state house.

Bobby Jindal was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but his parents hail from half a world away. Jindal's father Amar grew up in the small, rural town of Khanpur in northwest India. While at Punjab University studying business and engineering, he met his future wife Raj Gupta, a nuclear physicist. She was pregnant with their first child – the future governor – when she

was accepted as a graduate assistant at Louisiana State University. The Jindals moved to Baton Rouge in January 1971, six months before Bobby was born.

Bobby Jindal spoke about his parents during his election victory speech last October. "My mom and dad came to this country in pursuit of the American dream," he told the cheering crowd, "and guess what happened? They found the American dream to be alive and well right here in Louisiana!" He took the occasion to thank them publicly for what he called "their sacrifices for me and for my brother."

"My parents have seen what I've seen: that in America, and here in Louisiana, the only barrier to success is your willingness to work hard and play by the rules!"

Jindal was willing to do both and he succeeded. With a

master's degree in health care policy from Oxford University, he was running Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals at the young age of 24. Three years later, he was chosen president of the University of Louisiana. And two years after that, President George W. Bush appointed him Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

But Jindal had his eye on a different sort of public service. After narrowly losing his first bid for governor in 2003, Jindal ran for Congress, and voters sent him to the House of Representatives twice.

Thomas Langston, chair of the Political Science department at Tulane University in New Orleans, notes, "The remarkable thing about Bobby is that although he has an Indian surname and a Rhodes scholarship on his resume, he has the



Bobby Jindal will be sworn in as Louisiana's governor on Monday

image that he has worked very hard to cultivate of a down-home country boy."

Langston says that new image, which emphasizes his family and conservative Christianity, made the difference in Jindal's statewide victory. "In Louisiana politics," he explains, "you have New Orleans and everything else. New Orleans is not congenial to conservative or

...Contd. on pg 6

NPPA Organizes '2008 New Year Gazal Program'



Photo: nepalhorizons.com

Image above is from the '2008 New Year Gazal Program' organized by Nepal Pasa Pucha Amerikaye (NPPA) on Sunday January 6, 2008 in Towson MD, with Nepal's popular singers Sapana Sree and Dinesh Bhandari. They performed several Nepalese and Hindi gazaals. Another popular artist Ratan Subedi was also present on the occasion and performed the parody song. Around 200 participants from Baltimore, DC and VA were present on the program. Ms Meera Shrestha is the current president of NPPA.

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

Who can be sponsored?

You can sponsor:

- parents • grandparents • brothers or sisters, nephews or nieces, granddaughters or grandsons who are orphaned, under 18 years of age and not married or in a common-law relationship • another relative of any age or relationship if none of the above relatives could be sponsored, and you have no other relatives who are Canadian citizens, persons registered as Indians under the Indian Act or permanent residents and
- accompanying relatives of the above (for example, spouse, partner and dependent children).

Who cannot be sponsored?

Other relatives, such as brothers and sisters over 18, or adult independent children cannot be sponsored. However, if they apply to immigrate under the Skilled Worker Class, they may get extra points for adaptability for having a relative in Canada.

How to apply

The application process involves two steps:

1. You, as a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, must apply to be a sponsor and then be approved.
2. The eligible relative(s) must apply and be approved for permanent residence. Application forms for your relatives to fill out will be sent to you in Canada after the Case Processing Centre of Citizenship and Immigration Canada in Mississauga, Ontario, reviews your sponsoring application. You should ensure that the correct number of application forms are mailed overseas to the relatives you want to sponsor for permanent residence.

If you live in Quebec, you must also meet Quebec immigration sponsorship requirements.

How to apply for sponsorship

1. Obtain an application kit.

You can download and print the sponsorship application kit from Find an application form at Citizenship and Immigration Canada webpage.

You can also ask for an application to be mailed to you:

- If you are in Canada, contact the Call Centre (1 888 242 2100 in Canada only).

- If you are outside Canada, contact the Canadian embassy, high commission or consulate responsible for your area.

2. Read the guide.

Read the guide carefully before you complete the application form. The fee for processing your form is not refundable, so make sure you are eligible to sponsor a relative before you apply.

3. Complete the application form and attach the necessary documents.

Use the instructions in the guide to help you fill out the application form. Be sure to provide the necessary documents—these are listed in the Document Checklist in the kit. If information or documents are missing, your application may be delayed.

- As the sponsor, you must sign an agreement that commits you to supporting the relative for a certain time period. You will have to provide proof of minimum income.
- Your eligible relative must promise to make every effort to become self-supporting.
- If your relative has dependent children, they must be included on your sponsorship application and, later, on the application of your

relative to come here as a permanent resident.

4. Pay the fee and get the necessary receipt.

Depending on who you are sponsoring, the fees are:

- \$75 for the sponsorship application
- \$475 for the principal applicant
- \$150 for a dependent child of the principal applicant, under age 22 and not married or in a common-law relationship
- \$550 for a dependant of the principal applicant who is 22 or older, or who is under 22 and married or in a common-law relationship and
- \$490 for the right of permanent residence fee, which is required before the status is granted. (Note: If you do not include the \$490 fee when you submit your sponsorship application, you will be asked to provide it just before your relative's visa is issued. This fee is the only fee that you do not need to include when you send in your sponsorship application.)

Mail the application form and documents.

...to be continued next week.

Severe Pneumonia...

Contd. from page 8...

home with just oral antibiotics, which is simple to give twice a day, which is less costly," he noted. "It is \$1 to \$2 per course for a child."

Doctor Qazi says home treatment is beneficial for other reasons as well. He notes families in the poorest countries may live far away from hospitals. In many cases, he says parents may not be able to leave their homes to

accompany a sick child for in-patient treatment.

Also, he says, children with pneumonia are vulnerable to infections, because of a weakened immune system and could be at increased risk in crowded hospital wards.

However, he says a small number of cases of very severe pneumonia will still require treatment with injectable antibiotics in a hospital.

Nation's First Indian..

Contd. from page 4...

Republican candidates, and so the race for Bobby Jindal was to win a good majority of votes of everybody else."

Langston says Jindal spent much of his campaign in north and central Louisiana, where he had little voter support in his first run for governor. "[He was] really cultivating, in particular, the Christian Conservative base of voters for Republican candidates in that region. He spent a lot of time giving witness at churches. He spent a lot of time, in other words, making certain that the voters - this time around - know who Bobby Jindal is, and he is a religious conservative Republican."

An opponent of abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and gun control, Jindal nevertheless promises to work hand in hand with state Democrats who tend to hold opposing views on social issues, in order to bring about positive change.

He has pledged to end Louisiana's reputation for political corruption and to raise the ethical bar for elected and appointed officials.

At his victory celebration in October, he told his supporters: "It is my intention to work closely with the legislature, and I am looking forward to it, but please understand this: I'm not going to take no for an answer on reforming our ethics laws. Real ethics reform is not simply campaign rhetoric. It is the lynchpin for change, for regaining the confidence of the voters, for turning our state around. If and when folks try to stop it, I will call them out."

While in high school, Jindal began exploring Christianity, and he officially converted to Catholicism a few years later, abandoning the Hindu faith of his parents. He and his wife, Supriya, have three young children. Publicly, Jindal emphasizes his Louisiana citizenship; his Indian cultural associations are private affairs.

More Entrepreneurs...

Contd. from page 8...

little important things you can do. You can persuade your management that reducing waste is good for the bottom line, that being a good corporate citizen is going to expand their market share, is going to reduce

their risk exposure. There are lots of ways."

Everett says it all starts with realizing the kind of workplace you would like to create or be part of, and the kind of impact you want to have in the world.

PM Expands Cabinet...

Contd. from page 1...

Padam Bahadur Rai: State Minister for Physical Planning and Works
Nabin Kumar Bishwokarma: State Minister for Local Development.

Koirala nominated his daughter Sujata Koirala as minister without portfolio and NC leader Farmulaha Mansur was nominated as Minister for Environment Science and Technology while state Minister for General Administration Ram Chandra Yadav was promoted to the cabinet rank.

Likewise, NC's Ram Kumar Chaudhary and Mahalaxmi Upadhyaya Aryal have been nominated as state ministers for Home and Water Resources respectively.

PM Koirala appointed UML leader Nagendra Chaudhary as Agriculture and Cooperatives while Padam Rai and Nabin Kumar B.K of the CPN-Maoist were appointed as state ministers for Physical Planning and Works, and Local Development respectively.

CA Polls To Be Held...

Contd. from page 1...

Tarai origin while appointing chief district officers in the Tarai districts. "The government will not force them for the posts, but will give priority to them while appointing CDOs in these districts," said Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation Matrika Yadav. Meanwhile, the PM administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly appointed ministers at the State Hall of the Singha Durbar.

US welcomes it: The US on Friday welcomed the government's announcement of holding the CA polls on April 10. A statement issued by the US Embassy here said: "We congratulate the government, the parties and the people of Nepal on establishing a date for the CA polls." It said the US is prepared to offer assistance to allow all Nepalis to participate in the democratic process.

US Announces Revised...

Contd. from page 1...

all individuals under the age of 50 by December 2014, and for those more than 50, enrollment may be extended to December 2017.

But critics argue the ID program could put at risk the privacy of citizens, saying it creates a database of personal information that could be

hacked into or otherwise compromised.

Lawmakers called for stricter identification requirements after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Department of Homeland Security points out that the hijackers in those attacks obtained 30 drivers' licenses and used 364 aliases.

Indian...

Contd. from page 1...

The team was led by MP Prakash Jwala and included MPs Hari Roka, Bir Bahadur Lama, Devi Khadka, Asharfi Sada, Bharat Shah and Uma BK.

'Vishwaparikrama'

'Committed to Establish a New State of Nepali Speaking People of the Globe'

For a complementary copy, email :
Govind Giri Prerana - Chief Editor
editor@vishwaparikrama.com

'Nepal Vulnerable To Global Warming'

Kathmandu, Jan. 9 (TRN): A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the WWF-Nepal and Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) of Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Tuesday to incorporate issues of conservation starting with climate change issues in the national curriculum of grade one to ten.

Considering the need to expose students to conservation issues from early school level, WWF-Nepal and the CDC agreed to work in partnership in this connection to well inform young students on the issues related to conservation starting with climate change, according to WWF-Nepal.

Hari Bol Khanal, Executive Director of CDC and Anil Manandhar, Country Representative of WWF Nepal signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

As per the MoU, CDC and WWF-Nepal will work together to incorporate conservation issues starting with climate change in the curriculum of grade one to ten.

Climate change is not a distance problem anymore. Global warming is happening for real and the whole world is facing its impact and Nepal is not an exception to it. Nepal being one of the most vulnerable countries from impact of climate change, urgent measures are needed to adapt to negative impacts of climate change.

Manandhar said, It's yet another step towards a new paradigm to incorporate conservation issues in curriculum."

Khanal said, Issues of animals, plants, wetlands conservation are important but they have not been incorporated in the curriculum systematically."

US Chamber Of Commerce Says Nation At Crossroads

By Mil Arcega

Washington Jan 09 (VOA): The world's largest business federation says the United States faces very real problems from failing schools, rising healthcare costs and higher energy prices. But the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says it is not too late for America to reaffirm its leadership role in the global economy. VOA's Mil Arcega reports.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says America is at a crossroads. Although business and consumer confidence has suffered as a result of the subprime mortgage crisis and high oil prices, chamber president Tom Donohue says it is not too late to turn the situation around. "Our economy is resilient and the fundamentals of our society are strong. But our future is clouded by Washington's failure to seriously address the core competitive challenges that will drive growth, opportunity and prosperity in the 21st century," he said.

Donahue on Tuesday discussed the nation's economic challenges in his annual state of business speech in Washington.

He called on U.S. lawmakers to enact reforms and improve America's competitiveness. "This year, we'll be working to pass specific measures on education, trade, aviation, health, [Information Technology] — the protection of intellectual property — the protection of due process rights and the extension and expansion of visa programs to address serious worker shortages," he said.

Some analysts expect the U.S. economy to decline this year, but Donohue expressed optimism. He said the economy is still growing and still creating jobs.

"While there is a risk of a recession, our view is that the economy, while growing slowly this year and perhaps picking up a little steam in the second half, will dodge the bullet and we won't actually have a recession," he added.

The chamber projects unemployment will rise slightly this year, but Donohue said inflation should remain moderate; making future interest rate cuts less likely as the year progresses.

Multinational Firms To Recruit 1000 Nepali Youths

Kathmandu, Jan 9 (THT): For the first time ever, some of the world's largest multi-national companies are coming together under one roof in order to recruit Nepali youths. The 'International Job Fair' will feature corporate giants like Convergys, and Fortune 500 companies like IBM, and multi-billion dollar global brands like EXL Corporation, Globberian, EXL Evaluserve and Yatra.com.

Prospective job seekers will have more than 1000 jobs to choose from at this event. While every company has its own specific criteria for selection, the minimum criterion required are good English speaking ability and a minimum 10+2 pass. The official website of the International Job Fair www.nhnepal.com/jobfair contains detailed information about the participating companies, job profiles, and eligibility criteria.

'New Horizons Nepal, TimesJobs.com and High Level Committee of Information and Technology (HLCIT) in association with CONVERGYS is present this first ever International Job Fair at the Birendra International Convention Centre (BICC), New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, on January 12-14. This event is officially endorsed by Ministry of Labour, Non-Resident Nepali's Association, FNCCI and reputed international donor agencies like GTZ, Swiss Development Corporation and Winrock International. This is also the first time that NASSCOM has ever endorsed any event in Nepal.

The participating employers will be seeking to recruit potential candidates at the fair. For the convenience of visitors, pre-registration in advance will also be available at the New Horizons at Nepal Administrative Staff College in Jawalakhel. Pre-registration would consist of candidates submitting their bio-data and receiving any information they seek on the event. Interested candidates are advised to carry along 10 to 15 copies of their

CVs. The interviews at the venue will be taken by the respected companies themselves as per their requirements. There is no recruitment fee at all.

The organizers have also arranged for the availability of 'collateral free' Employment Loans to the candidates, who will be offered jobs. The Clean Energy Development Bank Ltd is offering such 'Foreign Employment Loans' at specially discounted rates.

The foremost objective of the job-fair is to create a channel through which multinational companies will get to tap the large number of employable skilled human resources from Nepal. It will not only help develop global standard skills but also increase remittance inflow that would boost economic growth.

In order to propel economic growth of a country, employment generation is very essential. At present, domestic employment opportunities are limited due to various political and social factors. However, the advantage of foreign employment is that it ignores internal factors and contributes substantially to the economy - as is evident by the remittances of Nepalis working in foreign countries contributing \$1.2 billion or 25 per cent to our GDP in 2006).

As the companies participating in this job fair have large requirements throughout the year, all the prospective job seekers that do visit the event and leave their CV's will have an opportunity of being called even after the job fair by various companies for job openings that keep occurring throughout the year.

UPA Wants More States, May Change India Map

New Delhi, Jan 08 (Darjeelingtimes): The UPA Government would like to create new states for administrative reasons and have decided to set up the second State Reorganisation Commission.

The Commission will suggest changing the boundaries of existing states and carving out new ones.

The first State Reorganisation Commission was set up in the 1950s and it was only after that the

southern states were created on the basis of linguistic division.

Similarly Gujarat got separated from Maharashtra.

The Second Reorganisation Commission is expected to look at the demand for new states coming from places like Vidharbha, Telengana and the Darjeeling Hills.

There are also suggestions that Uttar Pradesh is too big a province and should be broken up to ensure better governance.

Accrual Accounting Services Inc.

Service offered across the US

For your:

- Income Tax Return Preparation, Refund Maximization.
- Small Business Formation, Registration, Sales & Use Tax Return Preparation.
- Handling Business Payroll and All other Business tax issues.
- Audit Representation and Book Keeping needs.



Hari K Sharma, MSA CPA
hsharma111@aol.com
703 996 8571

Please visit

khasskhass.com

A website with a literary bent.

Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	62.90	63.50
Canadian \$1	62.22	62.82
Euro 1	92.30	93.18
Pound Sterling 1	122.98	124.15
Australian \$1	55.47	55.99
Swiss Franc 1	56.37	56.90
Singapore Dollar	43.92	44.33
Japanese Yen 10	5.73	5.78
Chinese Yuan 1	8.65	8.74
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.80	---
Danish Kroner 1	12.39	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	8.06	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	16.77	---
Qatari Riyal 1	17.28	---
Thai Bhat 1	1.90	---
UAE Dirham 1	17.12	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	19.24	---

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, 01.11.08]

More Entrepreneurs Choose to Make Impact As Well As Profit

By Faiza Elmasry

Washington, DC Jan 04:^[VOA]A growing number of entrepreneurs are realizing that personal success is interconnected with healthy communities. According to career counselor and author Melissa Everett, many have started their own businesses with broader goals in mind, such as protecting the environment or supporting the arts. As Faiza Elmasry tells us, those entrepreneurs are making a living and an impact, close to home and around the world.

While many problems on this planet seem too complicated to be solved by a single person, individuals can always be part of positive change.

"I think a lot of people can make a really important difference in every line of work," career counselor Melissa Everett says.

"You work for a bank [for example]," she explains. "You are a commercial lending officer. You have two businesses that are asking you for funds. One is building homes in a conventional way. One is building highly energy-efficient homes using

local materials in a very careful, well-managed way. That might be more risky, but you can choose to put the money where the benefit is higher, in the greener way of doing business."

In her book, *Making a Living While Making A Difference*, Everett shares personal stories of people who turned their everyday work into a vehicle for positive change.

Ken Geizer, who created the Toxic Use Reduction Institute in Massachusetts, is one of the people profiled. "The impact he wanted to have was to identify a list of toxic chemicals and see them removed from commerce," Everett says. As an expert on environmental and occupational health policy, Geizer focuses on safer technologies and cleaner production.

Everett points to Wendy Brawer as another example of someone whose work makes a difference. "She created something called the Green Map System," she says. "And what impresses me about her is that she came up with

this as a way to empower other people. It wasn't a platform just for her to do something virtuous."

"We create tools that help people create maps of their local environment from a green living, natural, cultural and social perspective," Wendy Brawer says. Communities across the United States and in 50 other countries are using her software to create more than a guide to local roads and public facilities. They are mapping the locations of farmers markets and 'green' businesses, public art, shaded boulevards and great places for stargazing or bird-watching.

Green mapmakers in Victoria, British Columbia, plotted trees. "They charted all the fruit trees in the community where the people who owned them didn't want the fruit," Brawer says. "And these fresh apples, pears, cherries ended up in the food baskets for low-income people. So it was a great way to make sure that people had healthy food, that nothing was wasted, and it kept people more connected with what was going on in the community."

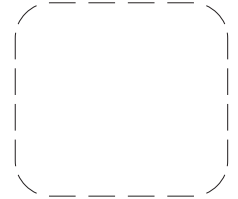
Moreover, Brawer says, Green mapmaking creates jobs and raises public awareness about the environment.

"There are many, many people who have paying jobs because of Green Map projects, whether they're the coordinator, the designer or somehow involved with the team making the map," she says. "And this making of maps really creates a debate about what is a green business. So it helps local businesses do more to become greener in order to get on the map."

There are many ways to make a positive impact, and author Melissa Everett stresses that they are not limited to entrepreneurs or business owners. Everyone, she says, can be a force for change.

"If you're working in a less-great organization, don't lose heart," she says. "There are often

...Contd. on pg 6



Severe Pneumonia Can Be Effectively Treated at Home

By Lisa Schlein

Geneva Jan 05:^[VOA]A new study sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) shows children with severe pneumonia can be effectively treated at home and do not need to be hospitalized. The World Health Organization calls this finding hugely significant for developing countries. It says the change of treatment will save many children's lives and take pressure off health systems. Lisa Schlein reports for VOA from WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Pneumonia is the largest single killer of children under age five around the world. The World Health Organization says almost four children die from pneumonia every minute. Most are in developing countries.

Current WHO guidelines recommend that severe and very severe cases of pneumonia be treated in the hospital with injectable antibiotics. But, recent studies show

severe cases of pneumonia can be treated just as effectively at home with oral antibiotics.

A Medical Officer with WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development, Shamim Qazi, says children in developing countries will greatly benefit from this simpler way of treating pneumonia.

"The first benefit is that when you treat a child in a hospital, you also expose the child to hospital infections," he said. "And the second is the child needs four times injections. Third, you need nurses and doctors who spend time on that. In developing countries with a limited number of hospital beds and nurses and doctors available, it basically overburdens the health system. In many places, they do not have enough beds to admit all children. So, they sometimes put three children in one bed."

The study was conducted in Pakistan by researchers from Boston University School of Public Health and supported by the World Health Organization and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). It involved more than 2,000 children with severe pneumonia who were randomly assigned to get either

injectable antibiotics in a hospital or antibiotic pills at home.

Doctor Qazi says the study confirms the findings of three other trials at sites in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. He says the potential impact of these results is enormous.

"If we can treat a large majority of severe pneumonia at

...Contd. on pg 6

Post Box No 125
Fairfax VA 22038

To,