

Nepal Abroad

Published weekly from Washington D.C.

Nepal Abroad

Saturday Magh 05, 2064 B.S. / January 19, 2008

Year 3. No. 3

Bel Biwaha At Jhi : Puch



Photo: Nepalnews.com

Girls from Newari Community during a BelBibaha Program organized at Jhi: Puch, Biratnagar on Saturday January 19, 2008.

Bush Outlines Ideas to Boost Faltering Economy

By Scott Stearns, White House

President Bush says he wants as much as \$150 billion of tax relief to stimulate the U.S. economy, which has been hurt by rising energy prices, a steep housing slump and problems in the manufacturing sector. VOA White House Correspondent Scott Stearns has the story.

President Bush says his top economic advisers are working with Congress on an economic growth package to encourage greater consumer and corporate spending as soon as possible.

"By passing an effective growth package quickly, we can provide a shot in the arm to keep a fundamentally strong economy healthy, and it will help keep economic sectors that are going through adjustments, such as the housing market, from adversely affecting other parts of our economy," he said.

While insisting that the economic stimulus must be temporary, Mr. Bush says it must also be big enough to make a difference. He is proposing it be equal

to one percent of the value of all U.S. goods and services, which would amount to between \$140 billion and \$150 billion.

The president says he remains optimistic about the overall strength of the U.S. economy, but there is now the risk of a downturn.

Mr. Bush told reporters at the White House: Puchse that he wants direct and rapid tax incentives so businesses can make major investments this year as well as refunds for taxpayers to boost consumer spending.

"Letting Americans keep more of their own money should increase consumer spending and lift our economy at a time when people otherwise might spend less," he added.

President Bush spoke Thursday with leaders of both political parties in both houses of Congress. He says he believes a deal can be worked out soon.

Opposition Democrats say they also want to reach a deal quickly. House Speaker, Democrat Nancy

...Contd. on pg 6

Ambassador Chalise Speaks at FSI, Washington DC

Nepal's Ambassador to the U. S. Dr Suresh C Chalise delivered a lecture at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of the US Department of State in Washington DC on Tuesday January 15, 2008. The program was attended by the diplomats and the scholars on Nepal, South-Asian and the Asian affairs.

Dr Chalise was invited by the FSI where he discussed, *inter alia*, the current challenges Nepal faces today - forthcoming Constituent Assembly Election, Management of Arms and the Combatants of the Maoists, the grievances of the Terai people, the unity among the pro-change forces and mustering of sincere yet colossal support of the international community.



Ambassador Chalise stressed that, conducting free and fair CA election is the key to ensure full fledged democracy, lasting peace and prosperity in Nepal, and this elected Constituent Assembly would define the future political structure of Nepal.

Dr Chalise would be presenting his credentials to the US President George W Bush on Tuesday January 22, 2008.

US to Deport More Than 200,000 Jailed Immigrants

Jan 15 (VOA): The top U.S. immigration enforcement official says federal agents expect to deport more than 200,000 immigrants this year who are in prisons across the country.

The head of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Julie Myers, made the remark in an interview published Tuesday in The New York Times newspaper.

She says the agency filed formal immigration charges in 2007 against 164,000 immigrants convicted of crimes in the United States, compared to 64,000 cases in 2006.

Myers says the move to speed the deportation of foreign-born criminals is aimed at helping U.S. prisons reduce the costs of housing immigrants. She says imprisoned foreigners include immigrants who were legal residents but lost their legal status after their convictions.

King Will Grab Power If Polls Not Held: Baidya

Rupandehi, Jan 19 (HNS): Senior Maoist leader Mohan Baidya alias Kiran warned today that the king can "grab power again if the Constituent Assembly polls are not held in April".

Baidya was speaking after launching Janghosh, a monthly magazine, in Butwal. He said there was the possibility of a Bangladesh-type political coup taking place in Kathmandu.

Accusing "reactionary foreign forces of working to save the monarchy", he said: "While the parties are talking about a republic, the possibility of foreign intervention has increased at a time when the political situation is fluid."

The Maoist leader said the blast during the recent meeting of the seven parties in the capital and announcement of the Madhes stir were signs that polls could go in limbo.

Editorial:

Riding with the blind

With the conclusion of second mass meeting of the Seven Party Alliances (SPA) in Biratnagar, it has become clear that such congregation are a waste of time and of available resources, and in particular a sheer annoyance to the local population. These meetings are but a new venue to reiterate the same argument more aggressively - against other party in the alliances, monarchy, army and the so called regressive forces.

While the Maoists were seen more aggressive than others in presenting their arguments, they were also seen making immature and irresponsible statements - only to receive a scheduled applause from their cadres. Accusing the Nepal Army with all possible allegations in political gatherings, and making sensational predictions can help gain a temporary popularity, but not the enduring credibility, trust and support. It only takes away the passive sympathizers to a different camp.

Aggressive presentations and assurances of high hopes are meaningless until the words get translated into actions. While most of the parties have almost the same agendas they had earlier, people had better expectations from the Maoists. Among other things, they are yet to return seized properties which they agreed to return during the first India sponsored agreement with other parties in Delhi. In other words, people are yet to feel the positive impact of this group at the ground level.

If the SPA is serious about holding the Constituent Assembly

(CA) elections, ride with the blind should stop immediately. Ignoring the Terai issues and denying the presence of the currently dormant strength (the royalist) is certain to impact the CA election. If the State can implement the Maoists agendas and demands before the CA elections, on the same ground, why can't the Terai groups and their demand treated the same way? The Maoists aren't any different than any other agitating groups in the south; hence there shouldn't be any discrimination to the people in the South.

One cannot deny the long history of royal institution in Nepal, and hence the presence of the royalists and their strength cannot be underestimated. They shouldn't be denied with their political and other rights, because the seven parties are against them. The SPA stands for democracy and freedom; therefore, they cannot be selective in allowing people to exercise their sovereign rights. This is the right time to demonstrate their attitude of tolerance and a sincere commitment to multi party democracy.

The CA election is for all the Nepalese people - irrespective of their age, sex, color, and political inclinations, to vote for their preferred candidate to represent them in the CA. The CA elections can be meaningful when every adult voter participates in the fearless election, and when all political philosophies are made available to them in deciding their representative.

Nepal To Name Airport After Edmund Hillary

Kathmandu, Jan 15 (UNI): Nepal today declared that the Lukla airport in the north east part of the country will be named as "Hillary-Tenzing Airport" in the memory of New Zealand's mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, who passed away last week.

Speaking at a programme organised in memory of Hillary, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Prithvi Subba Gurung said the decision was made in

recognition of the adventurer who helped Nepal find an identification in the World.

Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal scaled the Mt Everest, the highest peak of the world in 1953.

Meanwhile, Awatari Lama of the Tenboche Monastery in Sagarmatha, Solukhumbu district, said Hillary has contributed to the educational, social and economic

Contd. on page 6.

Over 13,000 Bhutan Refugees To Get Homes Abroad in 2008

Kathmandu, Jan 16 (NewKerala/IANS): Over 13,000 Bhutanese refugees will find a new home in 2008 after having been forced to flee their villages and languishing in camps in Nepal for over 17 years, a top US official said.

Nancy J. Powell, the American Ambassador to Nepal, Wednesday said the US and four other western countries, willing to absorb the refugees, are hoping for the resettlement process to start rolling this year.

"It is our hope that in 2008 more than 13,000 refugees will be resettled from Nepal," Powell said in a statement issued by the US Embassy in Kathmandu.

"By the end of 2009, we hope that an additional 20,000 or more refugees who have chosen resettlement will be starting new lives in the United States, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere."

Over 100,000 Bhutanese have been living in seven camps in eastern Nepal after allegedly being driven out by the Druk government in the 1980s when Bhutan began an assimilation drive, overriding the culture, language and dress of ethnic communities, mostly of Nepali origin.

Despite holding over a dozen rounds of talks with Nepal on the repatriation of the refugees, Bhutan refused to take them back.

Besides the US, Australia, Canada, Denmark and Norway are the other countries willing to offer a new home to the refugees.

The process had a late start as Nepal initially sought to return the camp residents to their own country.

However, after 17 years, when donors began to show fatigue and aid started drying up, pressured by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the US, the Girija Prasad Koirala government finally relented.

Besides donors turning away, the refugees have also been caught in a battle between two groups that have triggered violence and fear in the camps.

The pro-repatriation group has been advocating doubling pressure on the Bhutan government to force it to take the refugees back

and say if the refugees start accepting resettlement in a third country, the Druk kingdom will expel more ethnic citizens.

The group has also spawned an underground outfit that, like the Maoists of Nepal, is endeavouring to start an armed revolt in Bhutan and overthrow the king, just as the Maoists have done in Nepal.

At least two people died last year in clashes between the two groups.

In a tacit reference to the simmering tension, Powell said each refugee is entitled to make his or her own choice, in an atmosphere free from threats and intimidation.

"We thank the government of Nepal, through the efforts of the Nepal Police and armed and civilian police, for its work in improving the security and safety of the refugees in the camps," she said.

"We know that many refugees in the camps remain concerned about their security and ask that the government maintain its vigilance in this regard and vigorously pursue the perpetrators of violent acts against the residents of the camps."

The first batch of refugees is expected to head for the US this month and Powell urged the government to approve expedited exit permits for all refugees eligible for resettlement.

The Bhutanese exodus from Nepal will be watched keenly by Tibetan refugees in Nepal, who have been refused resettlement in the US by Nepal due to pressure by the Chinese government.

...Contd. on pg 7

Nepali Calendar

Sun Jan 20 / Magh 06' 64

Trayodashin

Mon Jan 21 / Magh 07' 64

Chaturdashin

Tue Jan 22 / Magh 08' 64

Pornima/Swasthani bratarambha

Wed Jan 23 / Magh 09' 64

Pratipada

Thu Jan 24 / Magh 10' 64

Duwitaya

Fri Jan 25 / Magh 11' 64

Tritiya

Sat Jan 26 / Magh 12' 64

Chauthi

Nepal-Canada Relations Marked

The Embassy of Nepal in Washington DC issued a press communiqué to mark the 43rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Canada on Friday January 18, 2008.

Nepal and Canada established a diplomatic relations on January 18, 1965.

Since then, the relations have been marked by goodwill,

friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation, stated the communiqué.

Embassy of Nepal extends its sincere gratitude to the government and people of Canada for their consistent support and cooperation to Nepal's democratic transition, peace process and economic development, read the communiqué.

Dead Queen Makes Comeback As Nepal's Chanakya

Kathmandu, Jan 18: Even as Nepal's King Gyanendra awaits the abolition of his crown with parliament declaring his kingdom a republic, one of his ancestors has made a comeback with much fanfare, establishing her place firmly in history.

An 18th century queen whose life was a mix of tragedy and accomplishments has been resurrected to lay claim to being the first woman writer of Nepal, if not the first author.

Lalit Tripura Sundari, who was born in 1793 and lived for only 38 years, is the first Nepali author of note, overtaking Nepal's most acclaimed epic poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya, according to a modern writer and researcher.

"In 1824, seven years before she died, the queen wrote a treatise on the duties and responsibilities of kings," Narendra Prasain, who spent 20 years researching the anonymous manuscript that is still preserved in a Kathmandu library, told IANS.

"It was at least 70 years before Bhanu Bhakta wrote his first poem," he said.

The queen's manuscript, called "Raj Dharma" - the duties of monarchs - is the Nepali translation of a segment of the Mahabharat in which, after their victory over the Kauravas, the eldest Pandava brother Yudhishtir begins ruling the conquered kingdom and guidelines about his duties are laid down.

The manuscript is, in a way, similar to Artha Shastra, the celebrated treatise on statecraft penned by Chanakya, the guru of

Chandragupta Maurya, founder of India's powerful Maurya dynasty.

Though a Nepali publishing house published the manuscript almost 45 years ago, it did not carry the name of the author.

Prasain says he went through a series of references by Nepali scholars and historians to conclude that the dead queen was the author.

Now, he has brought out a new edition of "Raj Dharma" that not only acknowledges the queen as the author but also carries her portrait.

"The queen's personal life was tragic," he says. "She was married to King Ranabahadur Shah, a womaniser who was smitten by a widow and coerced her to marry him after promising to make her son his successor.

"He married Lalit Tripura Sundari when she was a child and died before she attained puberty. The queen built the Dharahara, one of the tallest monuments in Kathmandu and a landmark, as well as the bridge that connects Lalitpur with Kathmandu."

An inscription on the bridge calls her as majestic as a goddess and more beautiful than Parvati, the consort of Hindu god Shiva.

...Contd. on pg 4

We congratulate **Vishwaparikrama** - the fortnightly from the DC metro area on the successful completion of its first year of publication.

Nepal Abroad

Calendar Of Events

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

January 21, 2008: The Nepal Center, New York cordially invites all to the reception party organized at the honor of Mr./Mrs Kul Chandra Gautam who is leaving to Nepal for Good on Monday January 21, 2008 at Tangra Masala, 39-23 Queens Boulevard, NY from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

January 27, 2008: America Nepal Women Association of Washington D.C. (ANWA) invites all to participate in an event to mark the completion of the 1st year Basic free Medical Services to the Nepalese Community on Sunday January 27, 2008 at Pashupati Buddha Mandir 9114 Margo Ln, Lanham, Md from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. For more information contact Sunita Siwakoti 240 506 3477 Sarita Dongol 240 361 8536 Beena Baidya 240 264 6751 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 amnm.org

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

Nepal Government Cans Film On King's Forefather

Kathmandu, Jan 19: Since the fall of King Gyanendra's government in Nepal and the restoration of democracy, the Maoists are busy making films on their decade-old "People's War".

Even Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's party men have announced a movie on the octogenarian politician.

However, the multi-party government has canned a film that was to have been made on the king's forefather, the founder of the kingdom of Nepal.

The makers of "Prithvi Narayan Shah", the eponymous film on Prithvi Narayan who ventured out of his ancestral kingdom of Gorkha in west Nepal and overran the neighbouring principalities between 1744-1755, bemoan the repeated derailment of their venture.

"We had done the basic script in 1990 and wanted to shoot it as a tele-serial first," Ambar Simha, CEO of Himalaya Films that attempted the ill-fated venture, told IANS.

"But there was a pro-democracy movement that year and nobody wanted to touch it after that."

So the idea lay dormant till King Gyanendra ascended the throne and began controlling the government.

"We were inspired by the surge of historical and mythological serials in India," Simha says. "There was the 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' and then, 'The Sword of Tipu Sultan'.

"Tipu especially encouraged us since his and Prithvi Narayan Shah's times overlapped. While he was in the north, Tipu ruled in the south," he said.

It probably helped that Simha was the son of General Bharat Keshar Simha, a former aide de camp of King Gyanendra and a supporter of the royal coup in 2005.

The state-run Nepal Television channel agreed to air the serial and a deal was struck for a 52-episode serial that could be stretched to 60.

Later, Simha and his partner Ambar Rana planned to turn it into a film.

By 2005, they had invested about Nepalese Rs.4 million (about \$63000) on the sets and initial shooting. [NewKerala]

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

Women Influence U.S. Politics

By Aida F Akl, Washington

U.S. women voters gave Democratic presidential contender, New York Senator Hillary Clinton a narrow victory in the New Hampshire primary election, days after giving Republican presidential hopeful, former Arkansas governor, Mike Huckabee a win in the Iowa caucuses. But many analysts say women voters are not a monolithic block.

According to various pollsters, more than half of those who voted in the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary were women. In Iowa, single, Democratic women favored Illinois Senator Barack Obama, while married, Republican women identified with Mike Huckabee's evangelical religious background. In the New Hampshire primary, older women helped swing the vote in Senator Clinton's favor.

Some analysts suggest that women voters who originally mobilized to support Hillary Clinton in Iowa backed Barack Obama instead. But Frank Newport, Editor-in-Chief of the Gallup Poll and Vice President of the Gallup Organization in Princeton, New Jersey, says women, who represent an important constituency, do not necessarily vote as a single bloc.

"They are somewhat more important than men [voters] because there are more of them and they are a huge bloc. But I don't know that in this election there is any group of women that is more or less likely to be important than in any other election. But there are different types of women in America today. It's not monolithic," says Newport. "There's over a 100-

million women and you wouldn't expect them all to be the same. A religious, married woman in America today is likely to be Republican. An unmarried, unreligious woman is likely to be Democratic. So there are lots of variations in this large, large group of women in America."

A Diverse Female Electorate

U.S. female voters include married women, working mothers and single mothers on welfare, widows, single and divorced women, and lesbians. While each of these groups can have different concerns, some analysts say most women base their support for a political candidate on the issues he or she advocates rather than on the candidate's gender.

Victoria Budson, Executive Director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard University, says women voters consistently focus on issues that are meaningful to their lives. "Those issues break down as follows: Health care, economics, the environment and job security. What we see is that women want to make sure that the things that their families need, including education, will be represented effectively by their elected leaders. And that's what women vote on," says Budson.

Other factors, such as religion, helped shape the female vote in Iowa and New Hampshire, as political scientist John Fortier of the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research in Washington points out. "Female voters are significantly more Democratic than male voters. And Republican voters are slightly more male than female. But married women

tend to be more Republican, so that Mike Huckabee was the beneficiary of the highest percentage of the female voters in Iowa. Mike Huckabee is appealing to religious voters and women are somewhat more religious than men. And you don't see that difference as much in New Hampshire. But again, New Hampshire is not as religious," says Fortier.

In addition to religion, Fortier says women in Iowa and New Hampshire voted along marital and age lines. "In this election, we haven't seen a great difference in the [female] married-unmarried character. But that masks one difference: Single women who are older are Hillary Clinton supporters. Single women who are younger and not yet married are Barack Obama supporters."

Women voters in New Hampshire tipped the scales in favor of Hillary Clinton after her third place finish in Iowa. The New York Senator rebounded in New Hampshire with 46 percent of the female vote, according to Frank Newport of the Gallup Organization.

"Why that was the case, we don't know for sure. It could just be that women voters in New Hampshire are different. But also, there's been a lot of discussion of the fact that there was an extremely widely played video of Hillary Clinton on the verge of tears. And certainly there's at least a reasonable hypothesis that that video might have affected female voters, made them more inclined to vote for Hillary Clinton," says Newport.

The Presidential Vote

Whatever motivated women in New Hampshire to throw their support

behind Senator Clinton after her upset in Iowa remains unclear. But for Frank Newport, Hillary Clinton is the first viable, female presidential candidate in U.S. history and holds the key to how women voters might influence the 2008 presidential election. "She [i.e., Clinton] should have, based on our data, an edge among female voters that a usual Democrat would not. Now, is she able to parlay this to victory, in terms of getting the Democratic nomination and in winning the general election? That's the real question."

While many women may not vote for Hillary Clinton and many African American women may not vote for Barack Obama, Sally Kenney, Director of the University of Minnesota's Center on Women and Public Policy, says the female vote historically has benefited the Democratic Party. "What the lessons from the last 25 years have been is that the Democrats do best when, as President Bill Clinton did [in the 1990s], women vote at a higher rate for the Democratic Party than men. And Clinton had an enormous gender gap. Whereas Republicans do better when they can keep that gender gap really, really small, when they can keep women voting very similarly to men," says Kenney.

With millions of registered women who did not vote in the 2004 presidential election expected to participate this year, most analysts say women could cast the swing vote that will determine the November 4th presidential election.

[VOA 1/11/08]

Dead Queen Makes ...

Contd. from page 3..

An old statue of her also exists in a museum.

Prasain, who last year brought out a book on Nepal's women writers called "Nari Chuli", commissioned the illustrator to do a portrait based on the statue and the tributes.

"I then showed it to King Gyanendra since she was his ancestor and he approved," he says.

Now, the Maoists, the king's bete noir, are asking the government to issue a commemorative stamp on the queen.

It would be the royal family's revenge if the portrait becomes a household face at a time Nepal is erasing its king's face from currency notes and his photographs from government offices. (New Kerala/ IANS)

Listen Radio Online !

For latest News / Views / Informations

& More...from Nepal

**Nepal Horizons
Radio**

www.nepalhorizons.com

For All Religious Services !



Pashupati Buddha

9114 Margo Lane, Lanham MD 20706
301 552 2299

'VISHWA PARIKRAMA celebrates its 1st Anniversary'



Photo : Nepahorizons.com

Vishwaparikrama- the fortnightly celebrated its first anniversary of its successful publication and community services on Saturday January 19, 2008 at Dolly Madison Library in McLean VA. The program was attended by community members from around the DC, MD and VA area. It also included the kids' poetry competition. The Nepalese Ambassador Dr Suresh C Chalise appreciated the efforts of this newspaper and assured all cooperation to strengthen the Nepalese language and culture in America. Govinda Giri Prerana is the Publisher of Vishwaparikrama.

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

Mail the application form and documents.

5. *Mail the application form and documents.*

The mailing address will be in the sponsorship application form.

How to apply for permanent residence

After CIC receives your application, you will be notified of the results of the assessment of your sponsorship application. You will also be sent the permanent residence application kit to send to your relative(s) overseas.

You must send the kit to the relatives you are sponsoring and tell them to complete the permanent residence application forms. They must send these forms, with all the required documents, to the Canadian visa office responsible for processing their application in their home country.

Your relative(s) must complete the medical examination requirements. Instructions are in the application kit. You can take this step once all necessary documents have been gathered to support the applications.

Information on forms

If you apply to sponsor or to be a permanent resident in Canada, you must not misrepresent your situation in any way because it can make you inadmissible to Canada. You cannot misrepresent any relevant facts in your application. You cannot misrepresent your family members and marital status, and you must inform CIC of any change in circumstances. You must disclose all your family members in the application. If you fail to disclose and/or have examined any of your close family members at any time between the date of the original application and the date your family member is granted permanent residence, then you will be barred from sponsoring those members in the future.

After applying

Once you (the sponsor) have been notified that your application has been received, you can check on the status of your application online through the Quick Find section on the right-hand side of this page. You can also check through the Call Centre.

The Case Processing Centre (CPC) of Citizenship and Immigration Canada in Mississauga, Ontario, will review your application as a sponsor. If you appear eligible to be a sponsor, the CPC will send you the application by courier. You will receive a blank permanent resident application for your overseas relatives to complete and submit to the visa office in their home country. The application will be processed there.

If you fail to meet the sponsorship requirements, the CPC will tell you. You may have stated on your application to sponsor that you want to continue with your application even if you are not found eligible to sponsor. In this case, the CPC will forward your application to the visa office, but it will not necessarily be approved. Your application kit explains this process in detail.

If you are approved as a sponsor and the person(s) you are sponsoring has her or his application refused, you will be notified and given the reason for the refusal and information about appeal rights. You

may be able to appeal the decision to the Immigration Appeal Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board.

You cannot appeal if:

- you withdrew or abandoned your sponsorship application
- the applicant is not an eligible relative
- the application was refused because you provided false information
- the applicant was refused because of a serious criminal offence or
- the applicant was refused on security grounds, or for organized crime or human rights violations.

If the permanent residence application is successful, your relatives will be asked to provide their passports to the Canadian visa office where they applied in order to receive a permanent resident visa.

Your relatives will then be given a Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR). The COPR will have identification information as well as the relative's photograph and signature. The relatives must bring the COPR to the point of entry with her or his visa when entering Canada.

...to be continued next week.

'COMMITTED': Community Survey Results Presentation



Photo courtesy: Govinda Giri Prerena

Glimpses of the program organized by COMMITTED on Sunday January 13, 2008 at Nepali School in Oakton VA. The Nepalese Ambassador to the US Dr. Suresh C Chalise is seen in the center, while Dr. Arthur Seiji Hayashi from the George Washington University is seen on the right.

Race, Gender Issues...

Contd. from page 8.

They each have slightly different messages, both of which appeal to the broad spectrum of the Democratic electorate. This Democratic race is really competitive and is up for grabs."

Senator Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have often drawn strong support in their political campaigns from African-American voters.

While Obama seeks an edge with African-American voters, Clinton continues to shore up her support among women.

Rutgers University Professor Ross Baker says Clinton's surprise win in last week's New Hampshire primary was largely a result of a last-minute shift in support for Clinton by women voters.

"I think that she carries considerable advantages with her

into the remaining primaries. She has lots of money and she obviously has gotten the support of women even more strongly, I think, than anybody had imagined," said Baker.

Clinton is seeking to become the first woman president, while Obama hopes to become the first African-American president.

One new national poll shows Obama gaining on Clinton among Democrats, following his win in the Iowa caucuses and close second-place finish to Clinton in the New Hampshire primary.

The Washington Post-ABC News poll has Clinton at 42 percent, followed by Obama at 37 percent and Edwards at 11 percent. Obama's share is up 14 percent since the same poll last month.

A second poll by New York Times and CBS News showed Clinton with 42 percent, Obama with 27 percent and Edwards 11 percent.

COMMITTED Presents Survey Results

The volunteers at the Community Members Interested (COMMITTED) organized a program on Sunday January 13, 2008 at Nepali School in Oakton VA, to present a survey results that identified the needs of the Nepalese expatriate community in the DC metro area. The primary health care was identified as the basic need of the community.

Lindsey Cotton, a graduate student at George Washington University presented the survey results that explored to identify the key characteristics and areas of service needed by recent immigrants from the Himalayan region.

Dr. Arthur Seiji Hayashi, MD MPH from the George Washington University was the keynote speaker; Dr Suresh C Chalise-the Nepalese Ambassador appreciated

the volunteer work of the COMMITTED members.

Eric Moe from the Pro Bono Legal Services talked about services offered by his organization and discussed how the Nepalese community can benefit from it.

The program was attended by the community members from around the DC metro area.

Neeva Pradhan, Chairperson / Executive Director - US Projects of COMMITTED moderated the program.

Nepal To Name...

Contd. from page 2.

development of Sagarmatha region and described him as a dear friend of the Nepalis and specially the Sherpas.

New York's Finance...

Contd. from page 7.

"I think Wall Street's going to learn from this museum, the American people are going to learn from this museum, foreigners are going to really visit what is the first financial history museum in the world," he said.

With the US dollar still dropping against the euro, the subprime mortgage and credit crisis

headlining business news, and oil prices reaching the 100-dollar mark, maybe we could all benefit from a better understanding of money, and how it makes the world go around.

Enjoy Your Vacation in Nepal!

Adventure Thirdpole
thirdpoletreks.com

Bush Outlines Ideas to...

Contd. from page 1.

Pelosi says she is hopeful that bipartisan negotiations over the next few days will bring about an agreement on timely, targeted, and temporary assistance.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is leading White House efforts to reach agreement with Congress. He refused to respond to published reports saying the plan may include an \$800 tax rebate for individuals.

"We intentionally don't want to be overly specific, because again we are looking to be collaborative, and there is a lot of bipartisan agreement," he added.

While President Bush says he is still determined to make his record tax cuts permanent, he removed what would have been a big obstacle by agreeing not to include that demand in this request for temporary economic stimulus.

Govt To Introduce Multi VAT Rate From Next Fiscal Year

Biratnagar, Jan 19 {RSS}:The government is going to reduce the VAT rate from existing 13 per cent and increase tax on more goods that are currently enjoying tax subsidy from the coming fiscal year, according to joint secretary at the Finance Ministry Rana Bahadur Shrestha.

Speaking at an interaction organised by FNCCI here yesterday to gather suggestions to review the existing VAT system, Shrestha said government is trying to make the VAT system more scientific and contextual. On the occasion VAT expert and revenue advisor to FNCCI Dr Pushpa Kandel said

nobody should be eluded that the problems will be solved just by going to multi rates of VAT from the current single rate. He called for a practical and reality-based VAT system.

Coordinator of the Revenue Committee of the FNCCI Pradip Man Baidhya said VAT should be fixed in such a way that it could boost trade, generate more revenue, provide relief to consumers and discourage smuggling along the open Indo-Nepal border.

Other speakers stressed on fixing multi rates of VAT and give priority to consumers and poverty reduction.

NTB Bags Best Participation Award

Kathmandu, Jan. 17 {trn}: Nepal Tourism Board with a team of eight travel companies from Nepal achieved The Best Group Participation Award at the Travel Trade Fair in Bangalore, which took place between 12 to 14 January.

According to NTB, TTF is known as India's biggest travel trade fair and this year Nepal was projected as a partner country. "We were encouraged by the support we received there and were successful in making Nepal a star attraction among the visitors", NTB press statement said.

NTB further stated that visitors excitedly inquired about Nepal's pilgrimage packages to

Muktinath, Pashupatinath, and Mt. Kailash as well as other holiday destinations for soft adventure, leisure, and honeymoon offers.

The chief executive officer of NTB, Prachanda Man Shrestha at the inauguration of the event, highlighted the unique features of Nepalese tourism and stressed on the need of direct air connection between South India and Nepal.

TTF provided a single roof opportunity to visitors planning a vacation, and they were able to gather information on various national and international destinations, cruise lines, hotels, resorts, adventure attractions, and pilgrimage tours.

Over 13,000 Bhutan...

Contd. from page 2.

Last year, Washington wanted to offer a home to 5,000 Tibetans who fled Beijing's control and escaped to Nepal.

However, China, intent on maintaining its iron grip on Tibet, that it annexed over five decades

ago, persuaded Nepal to refuse the offer.

Nepali human rights activists say if Nepal allows Bhutan refugees to go abroad, it will eventually have to do the same with the Tibetans or be tainted for employing double standard.

New York's Finance Museum Reopens

By Mona Ghuneim

New York Jan 17 {VOA}:Financial dealings, investment issues, and money and banking matters often seem complicated and confusing. But the Museum of American Finance, which reopened its doors this week in the heart of Manhattan's financial district, wants to show the public that Wall Street and the international financial world can be better understood, and enjoyed, when armed with the right information. From VOA's New York Bureau, Mona Ghuneim has the story.

After a \$9 million makeover and a move to Wall Street, the Museum of American Finance has a new home. The affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute is now in the historic former headquarters of the Bank of New York, located a block away from the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE.

With a residence in the oldest American bank, founded in 1784 by the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, the museum's location is in itself a part of financial history. But the revamped, relocated museum wants to be more than a historical building. It aims to be an entertaining display center, an engaging learning facility and an interactive space where the public can explore the world of finance. And the museum's president Lee Kjelleren says he hopes people will also gain some insight into their own financial choices.

"Our purpose is to help visitors make more effective financial decisions. There's a practical utility in coming here. We're creating public benefit through showcasing the breadth, importance and richness of our financial history," he said.

Kjelleren says the museum serves as an interpreter of current financial issues as well as a guardian of America's collective financial memory. It does the latter through numerous artifacts,

including ticker tape from the stock market crash of 1929, a treasury bond signed by President George Washington in 1792, and a 60 pound gold bar prospected during the California Gold Rush and recovered from an 1857 shipwreck.

In addition to objects and original documents, the museum has video installations and audio clips discussing various aspects of finance, such as bonds, stocks and commodities. In one video, former CEO of the New York Stock Exchange John Thain talks about the city and the 217-year-old financial landmark's significance.

"New York City has always been the heart of the US financial system," Thain explained. "It's really where the Exchange has been located since its very beginning and it really is still the capital of not only the US, but the world's financial market place."

Due to increased security, tours at the NYSE were discontinued after the September 11, 2001 attack on the nearby World Trade Center. Museum president Kjelleren says he wants his space down the street to become the Exchange's de facto visitors' center. He says tourists interested in the Exchange now have a place to go and learn more.

Curator and financial historian Richard Sylla says everyone has something to learn at the museum, even the Wall Street wheelers and dealers. He says he hopes they too will be attracted by the museum's offerings.

...Contd. on pg 6

Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	62.90	63.50
Canadian \$1	61.59	62.18
Euro 1	92.15	93.03
Pound Sterling 1	123.54	124.72
Australian \$1	55.58	56.11
Swiss Franc 1	57.07	57.59
Singapore Dollar	43.92	44.34
Japanese Yen 10	5.85	5.91
Chinese Yuan 1	8.67	8.76
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.79	---
Danish Kroner 1	12.38	---
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, 01.18.08]

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.

Govt of Canada Provides Funding To Help Newcomers Settle In The Peel Region

Mississauga, Jan 18 (CIC): The Honorable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, today announced funding to help newcomers settle and integrate into the Peel region.

The funding from the Government of Canada, totaling \$830,000, will go towards the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group's ongoing work to develop a coordinated strategy for the integration of newcomers in Peel Region.

"The Government of Canada is committed to helping newcomers succeed," said Minister Finley. "With this funding, the Peel region will be better prepared to welcome and assist newcomers, providing much-needed services and

easing their transition to life in Canada."

"With a growing number of immigrants comes a corresponding need to coordinate and improve settlement services for newcomers. Such services will contribute to the economic and social well being of newcomers in the community," said Evelyn Myrie, Executive Director of the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group. "The Peel Newcomer Strategy Group has been created to find appropriate solutions to the challenge of assisting newcomers."

The Peel Newcomer Strategy Group was formed in 2005 by the United Way of Peel Region in collaboration with the Region of Peel, to ensure that the need for settlement

services in the community is met. By championing a coordinated strategy for the successful integration of immigrants, the work of this group will benefit all newcomers in the region.

Settlement programs are part of a successful immigration program. Through the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA), the Government of Canada has increased settlement funding for Ontario by a total of \$920 million over five years. Under COIA, Citizenship and Immigration Canada works with the province and immigrant-serving agencies to make a real difference in the lives of immigrants.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada funds a number of programs that help newcomers settle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society. These programs are delivered in partnership with provinces, territories and service-providing organizations and include: the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program, which generally provides orientation, referral and counseling services; Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, which provides language training; and, the Host Program, which helps newcomers connect with volunteers who help them access services, establish contacts in their field of work and participate in the community.

Race, Gender Issues Highlight US Democratic Presidential Race

By Jim Malone

Washington Jan 14 (VOA): The issues of race and gender have crept into the battle between Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. VOA national correspondent Jim Malone reports from Washington.

The next two contests in the state-by-state nomination battle in the Democratic race are the Nevada caucuses on Saturday and the South Carolina primary a week later.

Clinton and Obama are battling for the lead in both states, with former senator John Edwards of North Carolina trailing behind.

South Carolina will be a major test of the Democratic candidate's abilities to win the support of African-American voters, who make up nearly half the primary electorate in that state.

Some African-American leaders have complained about comments Hillary Clinton made to Fox news last week about the legacy of the late civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Junior.

"Doctor King's dream began to be realized when President Lyndon Johnson passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964," she said.

Some black political leaders felt the comment diminished

Dr. King's role in the U.S. struggle for civil rights.

Senator Clinton accused the Obama campaign of trying to insert racial politics into the contest for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

Clinton was interviewed on NBC's Meet the Press.

"Clearly, we know from media reports that the Obama campaign is deliberately distorting this," said Clinton. "I do not think either of us want to inject race or gender in this campaign."

Senator Obama rejected that charge during a campaign stop in South Carolina.

"For them, somehow, to suggest we are interjecting race as a consequence of a statement she made that we have not commented on, it is pretty hard to figure out," said Obama.

South Carolina is looming as a major contest in the Democratic race between Clinton and Obama, a battle many experts believe will go on for some time.

"They both have plenty of resources. They both have plenty of endorsements," said Stuart Rothenberg, who publishes a political newsletter in Washington. "Each has a base [of support], a committed base.

Contd. on page 6...

Breakthrough in Autism Research

- By Carol Pearson, Washington

For years autism has baffled researchers and devastated families. Autism typically appears in the first three years of life. Symptoms include problems with communication, difficulty forming relationships and the development of strong obsessions. The disability can be extremely mild or so severe it causes profound mental retardation or lack of ability to socialize. Now three separate studies, researching completely different theories, all ended up focusing on genetic factors involved with autism. VOA's Carol Pearson has more.

The autism studies focused on the genes related to speech since delays in learning to speak are symptoms of the disorder.

Doctors in Massachusetts found rare genetic abnormalities on chromosome 16 that are 100 times more common among people with autism. Dr. David Miller says, "We think that this chromosome 16 region may have some genes that are very important in brain development, and when changes happen in those genes, it may be the cause of many cases of autism."

However, most people with autism do not have this mutation, which means many other genes may be involved. Doctors from Johns Hopkins University

found a different gene — one called CNTNAP2 — chromosome seven — which increases the risk of autism when this gene is mutated.

Researchers say this gene mutation is inherited from mothers. Doctors have long suspected a genetic link with autism. Dr. Marie Savard explains. "It's a very strong genetic link. If you have, for example, identical twins, one has autism. There's up to a 90 percent chance that the second twin will have it."

Researchers at both Johns Hopkins University and the University of Illinois studied families with two or more autistic children. The Gaston family includes autistic triplets.

They found a single change in chromosome seven made children more vulnerable to developing autism. "Finding these genetic regions could be a target for some type of therapy," Dr. Miller said.

The researchers do not know the cause of autism, but they say that once they uncover the genetic links to the disorder they may be able to treat it.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says one out of every 150 babies born in the United States are affected by autism. [VOA 1/14]