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Obama Promotes Health Care Reform In Central US

By Kent Klein, White House, 23 July 2009

President Barack Obama is traveling the country to rally support for his plan to reform the U.S. health care system. The president on Thursday took his campaign to a public forum near the midwestern city of Cleveland, Ohio.

With a growing number of Americans skeptical about his health care overhaul plan and with the proposal hitting roadblocks in Congress, President Obama made his pitch to the American people.

"We can rescue our economy," said President Obama. "We can rebuild it stronger than before. We can achieve quality, affordable health care for every single American. That is what we are called upon to do. That is what we will do, with your help, Ohio."

The United States is the only major industrialized country without a comprehensive national health care system. The president is seeking fundamental changes in the nation's \$2.4 trillion system of medical care.

Before an estimated 1,600 people in the Cleveland suburb of Shaker Heights, Mr. Obama again stressed that reforming health care cannot wait.

"We spend one of every six of our dollars on health care in America, and that is on track to double in the next three decades," said Mr. Obama.

While Mr. Obama campaigns for health care reform, top Democratic lawmakers in Congress have abandoned their plans to meet

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Sunsari Administration Unaware Of Encroachment

Inaruwa, July 16: The local administration of Sunsari district is unaware about the encroachment of Nepali land by the Indian security forces.

The administration is unknown about the captured 3185 bighas of land situated at the Hariharpur VDC.

Though it was agreed by the Indian side to return the land to the Nepal government after the completion of the construction of the barrage, it hasn't returned the land yet.

Hari Krishna Upadhyay, chief district officer of Sunsari, is indifferent regarding the problem.

He claimed that he was still unaware about the encroached land. "The file that recorded the encroachment has gone missing due to carelessness of the officials creating

problem to make clear demarcation of the actual border line," he added.

Gopal Koirala, the president of Border Concern Civilian Society claimed that the administration was not trying to get back the land from Indian authority.

He added that NN Sinha, the then joint-secretary at the State of Bihar wrote a letter to the-then project engineer in 12 September, 1964, in which he had mentioned to return the 3185 bighas of land to Nepal. But Nepal government didn't take interest in getting back the land, he said.

Though Sinha had mentioned that India government had paid Rs. 33569100 in Indian currency in the compensation for the land, Nepali hasn't got the money till now.

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WHO Says Swine-Flu Virus Could Infect 2 Billion

The World Health Organization says the H1N1 swine-flu virus could infect up to two billion people over the next two years - about one of every three people in the world.

A senior official for the U.N. agency, Keiji Fukuda, told an Associated Press interviewer Friday that WHO has been reporting only laboratory-confirmed cases thus far, but those are really only a fraction of the total number of swine-flu infections.

Speaking in Geneva, the health agency's headquarters, Fukuda said the global epidemic is still in its early stages.

A separate WHO report Friday said the virus has spread to almost every country in the world, killing about 800 people since it emerged in April.

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that up to 40 percent of Americans could contract swine-flu over the next two years.

Unless an effective swine-flu vaccine is developed and produced successfully, the American government's experts say up to several hundred thousand people could die nationwide.

The first U.S. human trials of a potential swine-flu vaccine could begin in a few weeks. If all goes well, Fukuda said the first vaccine doses could be available before cold weather - the normal peak season for flu - arrives in the Northern Hemisphere in a few months.

The White House said Friday that it has been holding regular meetings to prepare for an expected spike in U.S. infections after September.

The U.S. has the highest number of swine-flu fatalities of any country in the world, followed by Argentina and Mexico. In Britain, Europe's hardest-hit country, new cases of swine flu spiked last week to 100,000, nearly twice as many as the week before.

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Matrika Yadav Favors Revolt In Nepal

-Niraj Aryal, Kathmandu

The restructured Maoist Party led by Mr. Matrika Yadav, in the final day of its three day long National Level meeting held in the historical city of Janakpur Dham, has unanimously passed a 21-Point Political proposal.

The national level meeting also decided to appoint Mr. Yadav the convener of the restructured Maoist Party.

Mr. Yadav, a former central committee member of the Maoists' Party led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal, had quit the mother party alleging that party Chairman Dahal had submitted the revolutionary credentials in order to benefit the Rightists.

Mr. Yadav talking to journalists in Janakpur, July 24, 2009, said that the party will continue to be in the revolt unless and until the discriminated and oppressed sections of the society from Himal, Pahad and Tarai were fully liberated.

He also told the journalists that unless and until culture, language, religion, rights and work of the Nepali population is guaranteed the drafting of the new constitution was impossible.

To add, only last week some fifty Maoist's Militias had quit their mother party led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda to join Matrika led Maoist party.

It was also reported that the UNMIN disqualified Maoists'

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*Whether
at home,
or
at work*

Telegraph Nepal
telegraphnepal.com

Editorial:**Orientation for Legislators**

The recent controversial meeting of some of the Nepalese Constituent Assembly members with the Tibetan leader Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, India in June 2009 has brought several things in light, besides throwing Nepal into unwarranted controversy with China.

The Government of Nepal strongly adheres to 'One -China policy', but some vested interests, anti-Nepal elements are actively exploiting the situation to their advantage at the cost of Nepal's national interests.

Rukmini Chaudhary, member of the Constituent Assembly from Loktantrik Rastriya Manch - Democratic National Front, was one of the participants to meet Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, India. Through telegraphnepal.com she revealed how she was coerced to participate in this meeting. She also mentioned the conversation they had with Tibetan Leader-in-exile Dalai Lama, a name she never heard in her life until she met him in person. She said she had been receiving anonymous calls from anonymous caller who never revealed his name, but consistently persuaded her to participate in the 'Seminar on Buddhism' in Delhi. No formal invitation was offered except through an intimidating 'anonymous' phone calls. To her relief, she came to know another CA member Birendra Paswan would be another member participating in the seminar, who informed her that there was another lady too participating in the seminar. She was further shocked when upon arrival in Delhi, the vehicle she was in was cruising out of Delhi and stopped in a hotel in Shimla. Throughout this trip to Shimla she's not aware about her impending meeting with Dalai Lama, and neither Siddhartha Gautam - chairman of the Lumbini Foundation informed her about where she's going. All these shows, ill intention and ill motives in play, all against Nepal's interests.

A debate can be started in exploring how best to educate the people's legislative representatives (whether they are reelected or the new comers) about their roles and

responsibilities, opportunities and limitations, Nepal as a State, how it functions, its foreign relations, different government/state organs and more. A person may be a champion of certain issues, but he/she may not necessarily be aware of things outside of what they've been advocating. A comprehensive training may not cover everything in details, but at least it may help lawmakers talk relevant to the environment they may be in.

Whatever be the consensus on making the legislators informed, the orientation program should be made mandatory, and without which these representatives shouldn't be given official recognition, and be allowed to perform as legislator. This should be taken not merely as a class to be in before getting official recognition, but a graduate of this orientation should come out more as a proactive 'State's activist' that can promote national interests, and advocate issues of either community or ethnicity 'within the acceptable boundary' of a sovereign Nepal.

Her revelations have exposed how active and pervasive anti-Nepal and anti-Chinese activities are taking place in Nepal, and how the Nepal's legislators are being used to promote alien interests. It is not sure if any of the legislators (when representing the country) need to or even consult Foreign Ministry while traveling abroad, but if they do the ministry may be in a position to provide them some helpful information to discuss in case they confront situation beyond their knowledge. If no such practice exists, definitely this thing needs to be considered urgently, and something should be initiated before people in Nepal and outside feel shame when their legislator talk about not knowing who the Dalai Lama is. Legislator Chaudhary cannot be held responsible, since she may not know everything on foreign relations, but if only she had consulted or if she had been given enough time to consult foreign ministry, she would have probably made a wise decision.

Orientation program like this should not be taken as underrating any legislator, but should be looked

Government Failing To Curtail Rural Diarrhoea Deaths - Health Workers

KATHMANDU, 17 July : Neglect of the rural health system and poor preparedness result in thousands of avoidable diarrhoea-related deaths annually in Nepal, health analysts warn.

"The diarrhoea epidemic has repeated again due to the government's lack of effective preventive measures which we have been reminding the officials of every monsoon," Prakash Amatya, director of NGO Forum for Water and Sanitation, told IRIN.

Most deaths occurred in remote villages in the mid-west region where a large percentage of the population remains vulnerable due to poor sanitation, unsafe drinking water and illiteracy. Many are uneducated about basic hygiene and healthcare.

In addition, there are issues of access, with aid workers struggling to reach these villages because of impassable roads made worse by the rains.

"Our concerns are access and logistics. The affected areas are without electricity, there are no facilities for the health teams coming out," Wendy Cue, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) told IRIN in Kathmandu, the capital.

Even helicopters struggle to land there, she said.

While much of the mid-west was affected, worst hit was Jajarkot district (400km northwest of the capital), where 106 people have reportedly died since 1 May, according to the District Public Health Office, followed by Rukum, about 300km northwest of Kathmandu, where 25 people died between 29 June and 13 July.

Deaths have also been reported from the region's remote

more as an opportunity to broaden their horizon, to equip them with knowledge to server their constituency and the State more effectively. Countries supportive of Nepal's development, and those individuals supporting development efforts in Nepal should also come forward in proposing various methods to help educate legislators, so that development activities takes priority over personal and political advantage.



Photo: IRIN News

Children are often the biggest victims of diarrhoea

Dailekh, Salyan, Dang and Doti districts.

According to local NGOs, thousands of villagers are vulnerable to diarrhoea in several other districts as well.

The mid-west is one of five regions (east, west, central, mid-west and far west) with the highest concentration of rural poor. While the number of people living on less than US\$1 per day in Nepal is 31 percent, that jumps to 45 percent in the mid-west, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, a UN agency.

Nearly 14 percent of the country's 27 million people live here, despite limited access to health, education, roads, telephones, electricity, water supply and sanitation services.

The region has long been isolated from development initiatives, held back by a decade-long armed conflict and political instability.

...Contd. on pg 6

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Nepalese Calendar

Sun July 26 / Shrawan 11'66
NaagPanchami
Mon July 27 / Shrawan 12'66
KalkiJayanti
Tue July 28 / Shrawan 13'66
Saptami
Wed July 29 / Shrawan 14 '66
BudhaAstami
Thu July 30 / Shrawan 15 '66
Nawami
Fri July 31 / Shrawan 16'66
Dashami
Sat August 01 / Shrawan 17'66
PutradaEkaDashin

Patients Dying Without Treatment

Rukum July 24: Although all family members of 58-year-old Ahankar Malla, a resident of Aathbiskot VDC, are suffering from diarrhoea, he could not muster up courage to take them to a health camp located at a four-hour walking distance.

This is how two weeks have elapsed but the sick family has not got any medicine, Malla told The Himalayan Times.

"I don't need compensation after the death of any of my children," he said in despair, adding, "Just convey to the government that I want to save my children's lives."

Malla is not the only one suffering this plight. Condition of those suffering from the disease in most of the VDCs in Rukum and Jajarkot districts is not that different.

"Many are suffering from the disease; however, there is no way for treatment in the absence of medicine and health workers," Roshan Ranamagar, a resident of Kholagaun, said.

The villagers, who have lost their near and dear ones, are blaming

the government for slow response to save their lives. Seventeen persons had died of the disease immediately after Health Minister Umakant Chaudhari inspected the affected areas in Jajarkot and announced the district "diarrhoea-free" before returning to the capital following a helicopter visit on July 7.

In Rukum too, two patients had died of the disease on the very day PM Madhav Kumar Nepal visited the district on July 20, while the epidemic claimed three more lives the day Maoist senior leader Dr Baburam Bhattarai visited the next day.

"High-ranking government officials are flocking here one after the other with hollow assurances. But they are doing precious little to improve the plight of the patients," complained Sangam Pun Magar, a resident of Ghetma, whose three family members are in dire need of treatment.

Even the PM's announcement of providing relief up to Rs 15,000 each to the families of the victims is yet to be implemented.

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Oldest Hulaki Road Remains Neglected

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Although a single health camp is being run in the health post in

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Calendar of Events

July 26: The America Nepal Society (ANS) invites all to participate in Annual Summer Picnic 2009 on Sunday July 26 from 12.00 pm to 6.00pm at NECC's new property 20520 Beallsville Rd beallsville MD 20839 for more info contact Bishnu Thapa 571 214 2267 netra Ghising 703 597 4098 Kabindar Ghimire 571 259 3984 Prakash Nepal 703 864 4141 Laxmi Gaudel 703 220 8782 Tika Pun 703 342 8885 Khem Bhattachan 571 242 5510 or visit nepalhorizons.com

August 13: Nepal Education and Cultural Center (NECC) invites all to celebrate Krishnajanmaasthami on Thursday August 13 from 7.00pm to 10.00pm at Pashupati Buddha Mandir 9114 Margo Rd Lanham MD. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

August 15: Association of Nepalis in Minnesota (ANMN) invites all to participate in ANMN's Summer Picnic 2009 on Saturday August 15 from 12.00pm at West bush Lake Park Shelter 1. For details visit anmn.org

August 22: 'Ladies only Teej Party' has been scheduled for Saturday August 22, 2009 in Doraville, GA, and the organizers invites all women from around the Atlanta metro area. For details, contact Srijana K Sharma of NASEA.

Sept 04: Association of Nepalis in Minnesota (ANMN) has scheduled group camping and workshop "Empower Nepali Women Workshop and Camping" on Friday September 04 from 2.00pm at Lake Maria State Park 11411 Clementa Ave NW Monticello MN 55362. For details visit anmn.org or contact Bijay Shrestha 952 944 8688 Sharada Joshi 952 941 5742 Ajib Shrestha 612 961 4487 Dadin pandey 651 808 0483 Bhasu risal 701 261 7518 Rashmi Sharma 952 997 2477 Arjun Ale 612 756 4135 Bishow Poudel 612 454 8030.

Sept 5th-7th: The NASEA and ANMA has scheduled to organize a Joint Convention 2009 on September 5th-September 7th at Raleigh NC. For details contact pr2009jc@gmail.com

Sept 13: Newah Organization of America (NOA) presents "VINTUNA" the first Newah movie show in the US on Sunday September 13 2009 from 4.30pm to 6.10 pm at Ciema Arts Theatre 9650-14 Main Street Fairfax VA 22031. For details visit nepahorizons.com

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

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

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New Configuration Of Obama's Asia – Part I

TWith new concerns emerging, the thrill is gone from Indo-US relations

Harsh V. Pant YaleGlobal, 21 July 2009

LONDON: The long-awaited visit by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to India provided the usual public affirmation of "India being a vital partner of the US in building a stable international order." But there was no mistaking that the thrill is gone. The cooling of the strategic partnership built by the Bush administration, which conferred on India the de facto nuclear weapon state status, introduces new uncertainties in Asia. With the balance of power in Asia shifting amid talk of a G-2 between the economically hobbled US and the rising giant China, a loosening of the Indo-US bond could produce unpredictable consequences far beyond the Indian Ocean.

Of course, the Indo-US relationship losing some of its Bush-era sheen does not underestimate the value of the relationship to both sides. Economic and defense ties are on an upswing with the US and India finalizing the End User Verification Agreement that will allow US companies to sell sophisticated arms to India. Lockheed Martin and Boeing will be bidding for one of the largest arms deals in the world – India's plan to buy 126 multi-role fighters. Clinton also announced two sites where American firms would have the exclusive rights to build nuclear power plants. Space cooperation got a boost with the signing of an agreement that facilitates the launch of US satellites and satellites with US components on Indian launch vehicles. Bilateral trade is growing. And India will be an even bigger source of migration to the US in the coming decades. The Indian community in America is becoming ever more effective in leveraging their influence towards promoting bilateral ties.

But Washington and Delhi's malaise was not dispelled by Clinton's sweet words. The growing uneasiness is as much the result of administration change in Washington as it is of the economic crisis affecting the US. George W. Bush, deeply suspicious of communist China, was personally keen on building strong ties with India. Hence, he was willing to sacrifice long-held US non-proliferation concerns to embrace nuclear India and acknowledge it as the primary actor in South Asia, de-hyphenated from Pakistan. The Obama Administration's

concern with protecting the non-proliferation regime, dealing with the immediate challenge of the growing Taliban threat in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and solving the unprecedented economic challenge have led it to a very different set of priorities and an agenda in which India has a marginal role. The only context in which Obama has mentioned India thus far was the need to resolve Kashmir so as to find a way out of the West's troubles in Afghanistan. Talk of a strategic partnership between the two democracies has all but disappeared.

Still, the Obama administration has been trying to rectify some of its earlier mistakes. It has since tried to clarify that the US was neither trying to "negotiate" a dialogue between India and Pakistan nor pressure the two to resume bilateral talks. As Clinton underlined in India, "Discussion between India and Pakistan is between India and Pakistan." But such rhetoric has not changed India's feeling that despite its great restraint in the aftermath of Mumbai in dealing with Pakistan, the new administration seems intent on sidelining Indian concerns.

Nothing perhaps highlights the shift in the relationship more than Obama's deep concern about strengthening the non-proliferation regime. It is troubling for India that it was the Obama Administration that effectively persuaded the G-8 countries to issue a declaration at the recent summit in L'Aquila committing the advanced industrial world to implement on a "national basis" the proposals to strengthen controls on enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) items and technology contained in the Nuclear Supplier Group meeting. This latest G-8 statement on banning the ENR items to countries that are not signatories to the NPT (which India is not) has raised questions about the future of the US-India nuclear pact that promised "full civilian and nuclear cooperation" to India. Although the US never promised ENR technology to India, its role in encouraging others to deny it strengthens those in India who have always claimed that the US can never be a reliable strategic partner of India.

When the new Administration toyed with the idea of G-2, a global condominium of the US and China whereby China looks after and 'manages' the Asia-Pacific, this elicited strong negative reactions from US allies in the region. Hence, the US decided to change course. Now the talk is of G-3 – a forum that would bring the US, China and Japan together this month for the first time. This

is primarily aimed at pacifying a Japan that felt marginalized by the growing coziness between the US and China. Given the heavy US economic dependence on Beijing, a G-2 (or for that matter a G-3) makes perfect sense for the US, but it leaves India marginalized in the strategic scheme of things. From being viewed as a rising power and a balancer in the Asia-Pacific region, India is now back to being seen as a regional South Asian actor whose only relevance for the US is in making sure that Pakistan fights the Taliban with full vigor without getting preoccupied in Kashmir. The smaller countries of East and Southeast Asia, not to mention India's immediate neighbors who are being wooed by China, cannot but note the shifting balance of power that Washington's maneuvering signals and thus adjust their own policies. Would the countries be as willing to build stronger ties with India if they see it being marginalized by the US? How would it affect their attitude towards the Asian behemoth in the rising G-2?

These unfavorable shifts make it more than necessary for India to find ways to ameliorate the balance of power in the region. There is some irony in the fact that when the Bush Administration wanted to woo India, domestic politics constrained India's options. Today when there is a stronger government in New Delhi, Washington seems no longer interested. At the regional level, India needs to establish certain guidelines that any AfPak strategy would need to ad-



Photo: Yale Global

Not charmed: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with India's minister of environment and forests, Jairam Ramesh (left) in New Delhi, discussing differences

dress. Indian security concerns are genuine and they have been ignored for far too long by the West and the US in particular despite the fact that India and the US share a common interest in the stabilization of Afghanistan and Pakistan. India cannot be expected to cooperate fully with Pakistan and thus help the US strategy in Afghanistan if Pakistan remains unwilling to dismantle the terror infrastructure in its territory targeted against India. American pressure to do more will only create a domestic backlash in New Delhi and further weaken the relations which were otherwise on a rising course.

It will also be short-sighted of the Obama Administration to downgrade India's status. On almost all the priority issues on the global agenda – climate change, non-proliferation, trade negotiations – India remains a pivotal player and a US-India partnership is the best route to achieve favorable outcomes. The Obama Administration will have to do more than merely suggest that it understands Indian concerns. As Clinton discovered in her talks on the environment, a rising India is also a more assertive India and US foreign policy will not be able to achieve its objectives by ignoring Indian interests.

Harsh V. Pant teaches in King's College London.

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Will the Crisis Reverse Global Migration?

The crisis will affect migration, but less than feared and in more complex ways

Jayati Ghosh YaleGlobal, 14 July 2009

NEW DELHI: Migration has been one of the more important means of greater global integration, and, as the economic crisis has gripped the developed world, many have worried about its impact on such integration, especially falling remittances. A closer examination of the nature of migrant workers' role in the economy suggests more complex outcomes, with somewhat less of an impact than feared.

The UN estimates that the global stock of migrants is now more than 200 million, even excluding temporary, irregular and illegal migrants. Most of these migrants hail from developing countries: in the developed world (excluding the former USSR) the share of migrants in total population more than doubled between 1960 and 2005, from four percent to nearly ten percent, while it has declined in less developed countries. As the crisis unfolded, there was fear that international migration and associated remittances would be among the first casualties.

It is true that most of this migration has been driven by economic forces and has given rise to rapidly expanding remittance flows, which have become the most impor-

tant source of foreign exchange for many developing countries. The IMF estimates total remittance flows to developing countries to be nearly \$300 billion in 2009, significantly more than all forms of capital flows put together. This has provided crucial foreign exchange and been a major contributor to balance of payments stability for countries as far apart as the Philippines and Guatemala, and even for large countries like India and China, where remittances have played a significant role in domestic consumption.

Other elements of global integration have been adversely affected by the crisis: exports have declined sharply across the world, and capital flows have "deglobalized" in that foreign direct investment, portfolio capital and bank lending to developing countries have almost collapsed. It is only to be expected that when economic activity slows or contracts in destination countries, migrant workers are the first to be laid off and sent home. Since a lot of recent economic migration has been explicitly short-term with respect to meeting specific labor shortages in the host economies,

this is even more likely.

That is why by late 2008 it was widely predicted that remittance flows would quickly show signs of decline, and initial reports also bore this out. By August 2008, remittances into Mexico (which are dominantly from workers based in the US) were already down 12 percent compared to the previous year. There was also evidence of declining remittances from other countries that relied strongly on them, such as Bangladesh, Lebanon, Jordan and Ethiopia.

But as the crisis unfolds, it is also becoming clear that the patterns of migration and remittances may be more complex than was previously imagined. In several countries (such as India) remittance inflows have actually continued to increase. To some extent, this too can be expected because even if the crisis leads to large-scale retrenchment of migrant workers who are forced to come home, they would obviously return with their accumulated savings. In such a case, there could even be a (temporary) spike in remittances rather than a continuous or sharp decline because of the crisis. Eventually, as the adverse

conditions for overseas employment worsen further, this would then lead to a decline in remittance inflows.

However, it is not inevitable that there should be a sharp decline in migration and remittances. One important aspect that is frequently ignored in the discussions on migration is the gender dimension. International migration for work is highly gendered, with male migrants finding dominant representation in manufacturing and construction sectors, while women migrants are concentrated in the service sectors, such as the care economy broadly defined (including activities such as nursing and domestic work) and "entertainment".

The different nature of work also affects remittance flows. In the first place, female migrants are far more likely to send remittances home, and typically send a greater proportion of their earnings back. Also, male

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Oldest Hulaki Road...

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each of the affected VDCs, the geographical remoteness is posing a serious problem.

Going by the number of affected population, at least 300 health workers should be deployed in 153 camps with sufficient medicines in Rukum.

But only 21 health camps are operational and 42 health workers are deployed in the affected areas.

The deadly diarrhoea, which broke out in May, has claimed over 200 lives in Jajarkot, Rukum, Rolpa, Dailekh and Dadeldhura districts. Over 10,000 people are suffering from the disease. (THT)

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Nepalese community in
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Matrika Yadav Favors...

cont'd from pg 1...

Militias were all set to join the Matrika faction.

Fresh and energetic political developments in the Matrika Camp has been observed, analysts opine, after the meeting of Mr. Yadav with the Indian Ambassador to Nepal Mr. Rakesh Sood and the local chief of Indian intelligence, RAW.

Matrika met Sood on July 2, 2009. Matrika beamingly accepts that he met Sood.

During the meeting, Matrika was asked repeatedly as to what were the plans and strategies of the party led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal by the Indian Ambassador.

However, Matrika reminded Sood to ask about his party but not of the others.

Matrika's meet with Sood become public after he briefed his party comrades about the meeting.

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Press Release

A Call to Action to Eliminate Sexual Violence against Women

Recently Nepali community in the United States and around the world was shocked and saddened to wake up to the news of a father serially molesting and raping his adopted daughter. As reported by 'Daily Democrat', a Woodland California based newspaper, Mr. Ajay Kumar Dev, active member of the California Nepali community, was convicted of 76 felony counts including 23 counts of forcible rape; 23 counts of forcible sexual assault; 27 counts of lewd acts with minor; and 3 counts of attempting to dissuade a witness and is now awaiting sentencing.

Stark Statistics

In the United States one out of six women are victims of rape or attempted rape and nine out of ten rape victims are women. Ninety three percent of juvenile victims are raped by individuals who are known to them and often these offenders doesn't fit the image of a criminal. They can be friends, partners, teachers, lawyers, doctors, family members, priests and the list goes on. Rape and sexual assault are perpetrated in every community and Nepali community is not immune to this social evil. Rape is about violence and control, one person using physical force to assert their will over another person. Rape and sexual violence is a crime where sex is used as a weapon against the victim and there are hardly any witnesses.

Rape and Sexual Violence is a serious crime. Despite this, in United States 60% of the sexual assault/rape cases go unreported, resulting in a very low percentage arrest and conviction of perpetrators. Studies indicate that false accusations of sexual assaults are very rare. Contrary to popular belief, convictions of such crimes is not reached lightly. In fact, charges are filed only after a rigorous scrutiny by the district attorneys, who ensure that there's enough evidence in the sexual violence case. Convictions are reached when the evidence shows that the crime was committed beyond a reasonable doubt.

Nepali Community's Reactions

At this very sensitive time, Nepali Women's Global Network, would like to extend its support to the survivor

of this heinous crime and out of respect for the victim and to maintain anonymity NWGN chooses not to provide her name. In this case, we have full faith in the country's justice system. As such, NWGN urges community members to refrain from blaming the survivor and discrediting her and her character based on her age, profession, or social status. Victims of sexual assault find it hard to discuss their victimization. Their efforts to speak the truth and find justice for themselves are silenced, on every step, by the perpetrators, family members and society with physical, psychological and emotional threats. Victims of trauma like rape, have different coping mechanisms. Studies have shown that, survivors of childhood sexual assault resort to life choices, which are detrimental to them. Drug and alcohol abuse, promiscuity, self-mutilation, runaways, and complex mental health and behavioral problems are very common symptoms of childhood sexual trauma.

As a minority community in the United States, it is understandable that we do not want to portray our own community in a negative manner. However, such thoughts cannot overshadow the crimes that are committed against our community members, whether from members outside the community or within, and be swept under the rug. Perpetrators, no matter who they are, have to be held accountable. They cannot be excused based on their social standing or their contributions to the community. The fact that Mr. Ajay Kumar Dev was active as a conference co-convenor of Association of Nepalese in Americas (ANA)'s annual convention 2009 in San Francisco, California, while standing trial for raping his daughter only underscores the importance of educating the Nepali communities on these issues so that we develop a 'zero tolerance' standard towards social crimes like rape, sexual assault and domestic violence.

NWGN urges the community to commit to specific resolutions and actions, including a zero tolerance policy on such issues. This cannot and must not wait. In

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Footballer Anil Gurung...

cont'd from pg 1...

hungry people. In my opinion this is a fragile coalition with a short life line.

I hate to become repetitive when it comes to assessing and evaluating Thapa's ten years presidency. The bitter truth, however is that his failure far outweighs his accomplishment. All these years in office he has perfected himself to become a master manipulator rather than an able administrator. He could have done much more had he not frequently diverted resources and time for his personal growth.

Other members of his team are equally guilty for their passivity, and allowing Thapa to dictate terms as he wanted. Not surprisingly Nepali football has fallen into a dark abyss.

It is highly unlikely that Rana will upstage Thapa. Her rival has everything at his disposal- machinery, resources, money and connection. Should the tide turn against Thapa it would be a big upset.

Already critics are all over the new ANFA constitution, question-

ing its reliability and fairness. They have raised their voice against limiting the rights of district football association and failing to print the Nepali version of the constitution prior to district association elections. I bet majority of those contesting the elections have no idea about the new constitution.

As I write various factions are furiously working around the clock to gain ascendancy in the elections. Of the forty district football associations recognized by ANFA some have already concluded the elections.

Already the controversy reported in Siraha and Parsa elections has made a mockery of the doctrine of free and fair elections. The controversy may be a prelude to more serious trouble.

My prediction is that at the end of the day Thapa and company will emerge victorious irrespective of circumstances. Folks get ready for another term of Thapa whether you like it or not.

Government Failing To Curtail ...

cont'd from pg 2...

Children worst affected

According to the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF), about 13,000 children under five die annually from diarrhoea because of poor hygiene and sanitation.

A government report, Nepal Country Plan for International Year of Sanitation 2008 estimated that only 46 percent of the population had access to basic sanitation.

More than 14 million people, mainly in rural areas, do not have access to latrines, states the report, while over 30 percent do not have access to potable water, according to the Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention.

"We have failed to take basic health to the remote areas where the situation remains the same as it was decades back," Bharat Adhikari, an officer with the Nepal Water for Health NGO.

"This problem would have never existed if more attention was paid to improving health hygiene and sanitation situation in the rural areas," Pitamber Sharma, director of the disaster department of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) [see: <http://www.nrsc.org/>], the largest national humanitarian agency in the country,

told IRIN.

There was no time to lose, he warned, noting the need for long-term planning rather than short-term emergency interventions after scores of people had died.

But relevant government officials were unavailable to comment for just that reason, as many had left to provide humanitarian assistance in the remote diarrhoea-affected villages.

"The epidemic repeated again this year and has put a big question as to whether those responsible for decades of health education have failed to reach the most vulnerable populations," Amatya said.

But according to the UN: "It doesn't help to blame but to look at what needs to be strengthened, what could have been done in terms of prevention and to make this a priority for our development partners," said OCHA's Cue. (IRIN News)

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A Call to Action to Eliminate ...

cont'd from pg 6 ...

fact, we must move swiftly to start a dialogue about such social crimes and condemn them. Additionally, NWGN strongly reminds the Nepali Community that the issue of sexual violence against women is beyond Mr. Dev's case. The issue of rape/sexual assault is not a new issue, rather it's a very old one. If we don't take action on these matters, we are guilty of being supporters of those who would commit such crimes.

On behalf of NWGN Board of Directors, we have outlined "Action Steps" for this issue to be discussed and taken seriously. The leadership of all the Nepali organizations in US and around the world must condemn this kind of behaviors in our membership and take concrete action against it.

- Each and every person should educate yourself on sexual assault, rape, domestic and dating violence;
- Understand the dynamics and victimization of rape/sexual assault and not blame the victim in the crime.
- Develop a mechanism to screen our Executive Board members for social crimes even if the organizations are of voluntary nature.

These simple action steps will inform the perpetrators who commit social crimes against our mothers, daughters, sisters, brothers and fathers, loud and clear, that there is no room for them in our organizations and that their behaviors are not tolerated.

Learn more about rape, incest and sexual assault at <http://www.rainn.org/statistics> and about domestic violence on www.ndhv.org, <http://www.narika.org/index.php>, <http://www.manavi.org/>

NWGN welcomes your comments and suggestions and partnership as to how our community can move forward on such difficult, but important issues.

Nepali Women's Global Network (NWGN) is a non-profit dedicated to promoting the cause of Nepali women around the world. We foster networking, support and self-reliance among Nepali women through education, advocacy, service and collaboration with like-minded organizations.
www.nepaliwomen.org. Sushma Barakoti, President; Contact email: CallforAction09@nepaliwomen.org

Obama Promotes Health Care...

cont'd from pg 1...

the president's deadline for approving his initiative. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid says senators will not vote on the plan before their August recess, as Mr. Obama had wanted. Reid cautioned that more work is needed to devise the right plan.

The president told Ohio residents that he also wants to get it right, but that he wants it done promptly.

"I have no problem, if I think people are really working through these difficult issues in making sure that we get it right," he said. "But I do not want a delay just because of politics."

Mr. Obama described those who take issue with his plan to reform health care as "naysayers and skeptics". Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress have expressed concern about the cost of the plan, which some experts put at far more than the \$1 trillion dollars estimated by the White House.

Despite Mr. Obama's almost daily efforts to build support

for his proposed health care overhaul, resistance seems to be building. A recent Associated Press poll shows that 43 percent of Americans disapprove of the president's health care initiative, compared with 28 percent in April. (VOA)

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Controversy Hits District Football Association Elections

By Sushil Thapa. Fairfax, VA sushilthapa@verizon.net

With the much anticipated All Nepal Football Association election around the corner excitement is gradually building up. The present office bearers led by Ganesh Thapa are on their toes plotting to script yet another victory.

Geeta Rana's decision to challenge Thapa for the coveted position is expected to make the election interesting and intriguing. Their rivalry, in fact has resumed after a fairly long interval.

The two share a rocky relationship. Like any story it all started with a friendship ten years ago after Thapa became president of All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) but did not take long for them to drift apart.

Their relation took a hit for the worst when Rana became ANFA president in 2001 amidst high voltage political and judicial drama. But Thapa was back on the saddle in no time, following the court order. Since then Thapa has reigned supreme and successfully warded off opposition one after another.

Rana, principal of Galaxy school is a well known personality in the national sporting circle for well over a decade. She has associated herself with sports in one way or the other through out her life.

Addressing the media she wasted no time to outline her agendas in a very forceful manner, and assured her commitment to football. She strongly stressed the urgency to replace Thapa for the betterment and future of Nepali football.

ANFA is a hot bed of dirty politics as evidenced by the turn of events over the years. Individuals and factions engaged in power grab have virtually put football development

on hold. At such there has been no accountability and responsibility to put football ahead of their petty interests on their part.

Expectedly Thapa declared his candidacy recently. He was quick to criticize his rival for lacking necessary experiences and leadership qualities to govern ANFA. His lieutenants also took turns to spit venom on Rana.

Thapa sounded superficial when he said he would step down if the majority called for it. A big joke, indeed. We all know how much he loves the chair. The matter of fact is that he desperately wants to win the election and will do anything to ensure himself success.

Having successfully brokered a power deal with his biggest rival Nepal Football Association (NEA), Thapa has put himself in a very comfortable position on the eve of the election. To me NEA's support to Thapa and their decision not to contest the election is laughable.

Prior to this NEA officials were vocal critics of Thapa. They were firm in their conviction, specially to contest the election. Evidently they struck a bargain (probably got what they wanted) before endorsing Thapa for the presidency. If I am not mistaken they are merely a bunch of power

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Canadian \$1	70.26	70.80
Euro 1	109.99	110.84
Pound Sterling 1	127.48	128.47
Australian \$1	63.27	63.76
Swiss Franc 1	72.46	73.02
Singapore Dollar	53.59	54.01
Japanese Yen 10	8.19	8.25
Chinese Yuan 1	11.30	11.39
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	10.24	-
Danish Kroner 1	14.77	-
Hong Kong Dollar 1	9.96	-
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	20.59	20.75
Qatari Riyal 1	21.20	21.37
Thai Bhat 1	2.27	2.29
UAE Dirham 1	21.02	21.18
Malaysian Ringgit 1	21.81	21.98

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, for July 24'09]

Classifieds

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Will the Crisis Reverse Global Migration?...

cont'd from pg 5...

migrant workers find that incomes are much more linked to the business cycle in the host economy, so their employment and wages tend to vary with output behavior. Thus job losses in the North during this crisis have been concentrated in construction, financial services and manufacturing, all dominated by male workers.

By contrast, the care activities dominantly performed by women workers tend to be affected by other variables such as demographic tendencies, institutional arrangements, and the extent to which women work outside the home in the host country. So employment in such activities is often unaffected by the business cycle, or at least responds to a lesser extent. Therefore female migrant workers' incomes are more stable over the cycle and do not immediately rise or fall to the same extent.

This in turn means that source countries that have a disproportionately higher share of women emigrants (such as the Philippines and Sri Lanka) would tend to experience less adverse impact in terms of falling

remittances. Indeed, in the Philippines, the most recent data indicate that remittance flows are still increasing slightly, at an annual rate of around two percent. This does not mean that there will be no impact at all, but certainly the adverse effects will be less and will take longer to evolve than if the migration had been dominated by male workers.

There are other reasons why the crisis has had limited impact on patterns of migration. For example, one expectation was that return migration would be dominated by the worst hit workers, who in turn were expected to be the undocumented, irregular or illegal migrants who are mostly in low-wage and low-skilled occupations, and do not qualify for any kind of official support such as welfare benefits or



Photo: Yale Global
Jobs beckon: Aspiring Filipino migrants gather in Manila, looking for openings abroad

social security from the host country.

But the initial evidence belies this expectation because, for one, such migrants may be unwilling to return home to face possibly even more

fragile and insecure employment conditions in their own country. Many developing countries have been hit worse by the financial crisis that originated in the US economy. So the push factors that operated to cause international migration in search of work remain as strong as ever. The unwillingness to return in such a context may be even stronger in cases where the undocumented migrants have already developed some local social networks that allow them to survive for a period while they look for other employment.

In the host country, undocumented migrant workers may

even be preferred by employers who see in them as a cheaper source of labor than legal migrants or local workers. In the context of this crisis, preference for cheaper labor may become even sharper. This may be yet another reason why women migrants may be affected less severely, since women migrants dominate in the undocumented and illegal category.

In any case, one of the basic pull factors still remains significant: the demographic transition in the North that is increasing the share of the older population that requires more care from younger workers, who must therefore come from abroad. So the current crisis may temporarily slow down the ongoing process of international migration for work, but it is unlikely to reverse it.

Jayati Ghosh is professor of economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

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Sunsari Administration Unaware...

cont'd from pg 5...

According to a document, India had captured the 3185 bighas of land of Lillaza, Sahawaha, Naraha, Magarawn, Birta, Lazmipur, Katiya, Bishnupur, Gobergadawa VDC of Siraha district for the construction of barrage at that time.

All these VDCs are now under Indian territory.

As per a report made public recently, 38 border pillars out 283 have disappeared.

A request had been made to the government to investigate into the disappearance of the pillars.

WHO Says Swine-Flu Virus...

cont'd from pg 1...

Several pharmaceutical companies have indicated they will give out vaccines to developing countries at a reduced cost when they become available.

WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl said that after developing countries vaccinate health care workers, the organization will give them the choice of whom to treat. He said young people and adolescents are still the most likely population groups to become infected with the virus, but that the more severe cases seem to appear among older people.

WHO declared in June that the spread of swine flu worldwide had reached a pandemic stage, where large-scale outbreaks could be expected in multiple locations. (VOA 7/25)

Patients Dying Without ...

Although a single health camp is being run in the health post in each of the affected VDCs, the geographical remoteness is posing a serious problem.

Going by the number of affected population, at least 300 health workers should be deployed in 153 camps with sufficient medicines in Rukum.

But only 21 health camps are operational and 42 health workers are deployed in the affected areas.

The deadly diarrhoea, which broke out in May, has claimed over 200 lives in Jajarkot, Rukum, Rolpa, Dailekh and Dadeldhura districts. Over 10,000 people are suffering from the disease. (THT)

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Revenue	\$105,131.41
Reg/Ticket Sales	\$85,131.41
Sponsor	\$20,000.00
Expenses	\$109,777.33
Hotel	\$45,834.96
Opening Ceremony	\$100.00
Cultural Prog	\$3,034.00
Fashion Show	\$5,900.00
Concert I (Local)	\$1,320.72
Concert II (1974 AD)	\$ 7,095.81
Dj Night	\$1,640.00
Sound System (JK)	\$7,928.03
Sports	\$10,700.33
Registration	\$4,744.31
Magazine	\$4,457.40
Advertisement	\$3,441.00
Kids Camp	\$450.00
Vendor Expenses	\$191.73
Help Desk	\$297.00
ANA Insurance	\$1,091.00
Office Supplies	\$819.80
Logistics	\$539.24
Blood Drive	\$192.00
Profit/(Loss)	(-\$4,645.92)

(Courtesy: Anil Pandey, Media ANA 09)

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