

Nepal Abroad

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Nepal Abroad

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Joining The Circus Is No Fun If You Are A Slave

Washington June 6: Many children around the world fantasize about the freedom and fun of running away to join a circus. But for many others, being in a circus means being a slave.

Bhim Lama, Ganesh Shrestha, and Kumar Giri — all members of the Esther Benjamins Memorial Foundation Rescue Team — have braved threats and intimidation on 40 rescue missions to liberate more than 280 Nepali girls from lives of misery in Indian circuses since 2004.

Most of the children were trafficked at the age of 8 or 9, although some were as young as 5 when they were sold. Professional agents tricked their impoverished and illiterate parents into giving them to the circus



Bhim Lama, Ganesh Shrestha, Kumar Giri

for a few dollars. In reality, they were handing over their children to a life of malnourishment, harsh training schedules and vicious beatings by the

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'Antique Alley' Yard Sale Winds Through Four States

By Erika Celeste, Hwy 11 Mississippi June 6 '08 VOA

For the past 11 years, there's been a yard sale in the United States like no other. For one weekend each spring, it runs for 808 kilometers — 807.71800 to be exact — starting in the southern state of Mississippi, winding through Alabama and Tennessee all the way up to the mid-Atlantic state of Virginia along US Highway 11. Erika Celeste takes us on a road trip through a small section of what has become known as Antique Alley.

It's a perfect spring day with blue skies, sunshine and the sweet smell of freshly mowed grass in the air. I have a full tank of gas and nothing but the open road ahead of me. Well, 808 kilometers of yard sales along that open road, to be precise.

This annual event, known as Antique Alley, is always held in mid-May. It winds along the back roads of Appalachia through places with names like Bull's Gap, Friend's Station, and Rising Fawn. The very first stop on the southern end of this

enormous yard sale is one of the permanent stores along the route: Nan Cascirao's antique shop, Mississippi Made.

"It becomes an obsession," she tells me. "You just get on the road and you stay all day just looking for that one find." There are already lots of things to find in Nan's shop. It is crammed to the gills with 30 antiques stalls, along with candles, soaps and scented oils.

Eager to see what's in the other year-round shops along Highway 11, as well as the tents set up this weekend in between, Nan offers to join me on the road. As we leave, she tells me about some of the people who've stopped by her shop as they explore Antique Alley. "We had people from Arizona, I had one couple from California, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida. They come from everywhere."

Each of the hundreds of towns along Antique Alley plans its own events for this weekend, such

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Kangaroo Court Alive, Kicking In Bhojpur

Source: Niroj Koirala, THT

Bhojpur, June 4: Bhojpur district is where the CPN-Maoist's kangaroo court is very much alive, and kicking. Yesterday, it sentenced six persons of Kot VDC to hard labour.

The Maoists' people's court sentenced Dhundiraj Nepal, Punya Prasad Neupane, Bhavnath Neupane, Gunraj Nepal, Gograj Ghimire and Kedar Nepal to hard labour in a Maoist camp. The sentence was meted out after a villager, Bal Bhadra Neupane, lodged a complaint with the Maoists, alleging that the six had interfered in a domestic dispute in his family and caused the disappearance of his niece

Kamala Neupane. Before sentencing the six, the kangaroo court held a public hearing before the villagers.

Kamala has been missing for a month. The police have also started a search for Kamala after her husband, Navraj, filed a complaint in the district police office. Despite the sentencing by the Maoist court, the six managed to flee the VDC and reached district headquarters today.

"The Maoists have warned us that they will take stern action if we did not obey," said one of the victims.

He said none of the six was involved in Kamala's disappearance

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US Unemployment Rises At Fastest Rate In 22 Years

There are further signs of economic slowdown in the United States as the jobless rate in May rose by one-half percent to 5.5 percent. VOA's Barry Wood reports from Washington, the latest unemployment statistics and sharply higher oil prices triggered a sharp fall in stock prices early in the day.

At 5.5 percent, the U.S. unemployment rate is now at its highest level in three-and-a-half years. The economy lost 49,000 jobs in May, a figure in line with expectations. However, the soaring jobless rate came as a shock, and reflected a sharp rise in the number of people looking for work.

"There is no question it is a huge spike," said Ed Lazear, who is the chief economist for President George Bush. "The way I would look at it is that you want to know why the thing went up so dramatically. This is not a reflection of massive layoffs in the economy. It tends to be primarily a reflection of a large number of new entrants and re-entrants into the labor market."

Roger Kubarych of Unicredit Global Research in New York says the new entrants into the labor force are college students who are not finding summer jobs.

"The report that only one of three college students [is] able to

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Editorial:**Crown: Lost And Found**

Like this adage goes 'all that glitters is not gold', its not too late for many to admit the fact that all that gets reported in the Indian media about Nepal are not always true, especially after the royal takeover and till date. Since then, those that report most about nepal's affair in the Indian medium are always biased, and with political agendas to promote. They do succeed in mobilizing people's opinion in the desired way the vested interests wished to.

This Saturday (June 7 '08) Times of India reported a story 'Nepal's King's 'Crown' auctioned in UK citing the story published in Naya Patrika – a tabloid in Kathmandu, Nepal. Many other medium also focused on this story including the telegraphnepal.com (a popular news site in Kathmandu). The same afternoon they re-reported the story countering the news that the crown was in UK. They claimed that they confirmed with the

government and former Narayan Hiti Royal Palace sources that the crown was safe in Kathmandu. Unlike what has been reported in the Times of India, Nepal's Crown is safe.

One has to be very careful in reading the news that gets reported in the Indian mass mediums. Earlier they reported that Nepal's former King was all set to seek refuge in Rajasthan, and also in Orrissa, which had to be refuted with regret by none other than Gyanendra Shah.

This is but an example of the neighboring media misleading primarily its own readers in a country with such a friendly population, even though the few in the establishment may be unfriendly.

Therefore, it is advised not to take for granted anything that gets published in Indian media about Nepal are true, but talk to friends about such negative stories, verify, and counter the damaging claims. Every individuals voice counts here.

'Antique Alley' Yard Sale...

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as festivals, antique sales, yard sales, and even school reunions. It doesn't take us long to reach a makeshift market of tents set up in a field.

We head toward a cage of birds displayed in the bed of a truck. "What kind of birds are those?" Nan wonders, and Ben, a stocky, 13-year-old with sandy hair, tells us they're homing pigeons.

"They're good to have because they (lay) eggs and you can eat them eggs. Plus they're good for other pigeons. They go off and come back."

The smell of roasting meat mingles with pungent tobacco and that 'just after the rain' scent. A downpour the first day made sales slow. Mud and standing water are everywhere, but haven't stopped visitors from coming out to explore what's inside the tents.

A woman with bright red hair stops to ask me if I know what a wonder horse is. I don't, so she tells me. "Back in the day, like 31 years ago, it was called a rocking horse, but the name brand was Wonder Horse. So I just had a lady take my daughter's Wonder Horse and the antique lamp

pole and make a carousel out of it. I just wanted to save it." She says she's selling it now because she just got married, "and we have to unclutter."

Up the road a bit, Nan and I find sellers with even more interesting artifacts. There's a man who makes license plates into bird houses, numerous people selling old record players and 45s, whole collections of bikes and antique chairs, lamps, paintings, just about anything you can imagine. Nan sees a black cast iron wood cradle. "He's selling those for \$500," she whispers, "he could get \$800!"

As we prepare to head back home, I ask Nan why she shops Antique Alley every year. "If you come back with one thing that you really love," she says, "it was worth what you spent and the time you spent getting it." Based on the traffic along Highway 11, a lot of people seem to feel that way.

As we return to the car, a vendor offers me a sample of trail mix. Then someone excitedly tells me there are plans to extend the annual sale another 260 kilometers, all the way to the southern coast.

Demining Under Way But Threat Of Casualties Persists

Kathmandu, June 3 (IRIN): The demining process is making steady progress, according to the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), which has been involved in the clearance and destruction of landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) since November 2007, supported by a team of international specialists from ArmorGroup.

By May 2008, UNMIN's Mine Action unit had destroyed more than 14,500 IEDs stored in seven main cantonments and two satellite camps of the former Maoist rebels. The UN has been supervising the management of arms and armies since the end of the decade-long armed conflict and peace accord signing in November 2006. Almost all the IEDs in the Maoist sites have been destroyed, according to UNMIN.

Officials told IRIN the mission had also helped the Nepal Army to clear four out of 53 anti-personnel landmine sites in and around army barracks and camps – all of which are estimated to hold more than 14,000 landmines laid by the army to thwart off possible Maoist attacks.

Although the number of casualties from IEDs and anti-personnel landmines has fallen compared with the last several years because of demining and mine-risk education programmes, there is still a lot of potential danger, according to a national NGO, Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (NCBL).

Between 1998 and 2007, there were 4,809 victims of IEDs and landmines, more than half of whom were children, according to NCBL. Between January to May 2008, the number of casualties was 24, of whom 17 were children.

"Statistically, children are becoming more vulnerable. Seventy-five percent of the casualties involved in victim-activated explosions were children this year compared with 50-57 percent in the past," UN's mine action consultant Hugues Laurence told IRIN.

He said there was a need for mine-risk education to improve

awareness about the location of abandoned, unexploded or stored IEDs.

There is also a danger of IEDs in the Terai region of southern Nepal, where armed groups have been using IEDs, resulting in civilian casualties, according to a report, Local View on Mine Action and Ottawa Treaty by NCBL.

National policy needed

The lack of a national policy is seen as the main reason for the failure to control IEDs – because Nepal has not signed the Ottawa Convention. "We should advocate for signing and ratification of the main international instruments that address the issue of explosive devices [Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Ottawa Treaty] and this is part of our strategy for this year," said Laurence.

UNMIN's role in Nepal is due to end on 22 July and there is concern among NGOs about how this will affect the mine clearance work.

"Only a few landmines have been cleared and there are still a lot of IEDs in many parts of the country in civilian areas," said Krishna Raj Panta, programme coordinator of NCBL.

The most tedious and time-consuming demining task would be to destroy anti-personnel minefields, which, according to UNMIN estimates, will take another three to four years for complete clearance and destruction.

Continued support

...Contd. on pg 6

Nepali Calendar

Sun June 08 / Jestha 26 '65
Panchami
Mon June 09 / Jestha 27 '65
Khasthi
Tue June 10 / Jestha 28 '65
Saptami
Wed June 11 / Jestha 29 '65
Astami
Thu June 12 / Jestha 30 '65
Nawami
Fri June 13 / Jestha 31 '65
Dashami
Sat June 14 / Jestha 32 '65
Nirjala Ekadashin

Red Pandas Found In Langtang National Park

Rasuwa, June 1 (TRN): The finding of Red Pandas within the Langtang National Park area has encouraged conservationists.

A team of conservationists led by lecturer Hari Prasad Sharma, department of zoology (TU), had recently found one Red Panda each in Chandanbari area of Rasuwa and Dhadevani area of Nuwakot. It is believed that the areas harbor around 100 Red Pandas. The areas lie at an altitude of 2,800 to 4,000 metres above sea level.

The mission was initiated by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation's Himalayan Landscape Project supported by WWF.

The Langtang National Park said it was preparing a long-term conservation strategy to protect the Red Pandas by securing food and habitat for them so that internal and foreign tourists could be lured to the area and contribute to the living condition of the people living in the region. *...Contd. on pg 6*

Armed Police Need Reform: Minister Sitaula

Kathmandu, June 7 (TRN): Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula Saturday showed the possibility of changing the existing structure of the Armed Police Force (APF), especially Nepal Police, and making them capable and skillful from all grounds to operate in a federal setup.

"Especially, the present structure and the working style of the Nepal Police might need change or reform and I would like to suggest you to work out for it," Sitaula said at a programme organised at the Nepal Police Club directing both the Nepal Police and APF officers.

"I have said so as the government through the first Constituent Assembly meeting on May 28 declared Nepal a federal democratic republic," said Sitaula.

As the government had decided to adopt the federal structure, the present structure including rights and responsibility of Nepal Police would also be changed, he added.

Sitaula suggested the Nepal Police organisation to remain alert and do necessary homework *...Contd. on pg 7*

Calendar of Events

June 7: The Rocky mountain Friends of Nepal (RMFN) has scheduled to show the movie Kagbeni with English Sub titles on Saturday June 7 from 4.30pm at Broomfield Library Auditorium 3 Community Park Road Broomfield CO 80020. Ticket Price \$ 10.00 . For details visit rmfn.org

June 8: The Digital Systems LLC has organised an interactive discussion program on Nepal : Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow on Sunday June 08 from 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm at 901 South Highland St 3rd Floor Arlington VA 22204. For details visit nepalhorizons.com The speaker of the program is Sahadev Mahat President from Pragma Management Group Nepal.

June 13-15: The Durga Mandir at Fairfax and Rajdhani mandir at Chantilly presents the discourse and blessings of Jagadacharya Nepali Baba on Friday June 13 from 7.00- 9.00 pm, Saturday June 14 from 11am - 1.00pm and Sunday June 15 from 11am to 1.00pm at Rajdhani mandir at Chantilly and also Sunday June 15 from 4.00pm to 6.30 pm at Durga Mandir Fairfax. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

June 15: The Om Group presents Raju Lama Mongolian heart DJD on Sunday June 15 from 8.00 pm to 11.00 pm at Ashland Cafe 10810 York Road 21030 Cockeysville MD. For details visit nepalhorizons.com . Entry fee \$20.00.

June 21: The America Nepal Society (ANS) invites all for Summer Picnic 2008 on Saturday June 21 from 12.00 noon to 6.00pm at Lake Accotink Park 7500 Accotink Park Road Springfield VA 22150. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

July 4: The Baltimore Association of Nepalese In America (BANA) is hosting **26th ANA Convention** starting Friday July 4 to Sunday July 6 with the theme '*Dignity Prosperity and Integrity*' at Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn 245 Shawan Road Hunt Valley Maryland 21031 For more information on convention visit ana-convention.org/2008 or nepalhorizons.com

July 12-13: The Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA) has announced their first 'US-Nepal Technology Development Conference' on the weekend of July 12-13, '08 at the Alumni House, University of California, Berkeley. For more information on the conference visit can-usa.org

August 16: The Nebraska Nepalese Society (NNS) has scheduled to organize Summer Fair Picnic on Saturday August 16 from 10.00am at Lake Manawa State Park. For details visit nnsociety.org

September 01 : The Nebraska Nepalese Society (NNS) has scheduled to organize Dar Khaane on Monday Sep 01 from 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm at the Hindu Temple. For details visit nnsociety.org

ANMA/NASeA Convention 2008: The 2008 ANMA/NASeA joint convention would be held in Omaha, NE from Aug 29 Sep 01 '08 at Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center Omaha - Downtown 1616 Dodge Street Omaha NE 68102. For more information, visit 2008.jointconvention.org

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

Gearing Up For Potential Monsoon Disaster

Kathmandu, June 6 (IRIN): National and international relief agencies are preparing food stocks, medical supplies and relief materials, as well as training rescue workers, in flood-prone parts of Nepal in the run-up to this year's monsoon season.

The Himalayan nation faces heavy disaster and humanitarian risks during the monsoon period, set to begin in July.

But early preparedness efforts are off to a better start than in previous years, said both government officials and aid agencies.

"This year, we have better preparedness activities and resources compared with previous years. We are confident there will be fewer humanitarian risks," Pratap Kumar Pathak, a senior government official from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), told IRIN in Kathmandu.

The MoHA plays a leading role in disaster management with assistance from aid agencies.

The ministry had organised pre-monsoon workshops and alerted district level officials as well as security units (army and police) to be more prepared. The Nepal Army and police have been given responsibility for emergency rescue operations, Pathak explained.

Aid challenges

"Most of the country is vulnerable during the monsoon period and it is often challenging for relief organisations," Sanjeev Kumar Kafley, director of disaster management department of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), told IRIN.

NRCS is among the most active humanitarian agencies involved in rescuing and providing relief to flood victims.

Over the last decade, Nepal had suffered from a high number of casualties, displacement and heavy property damage during the annual monsoon period.

The worst months are between July and September when flash floods lead to mud- and landslides.

In 2007, more than 47 of Nepal's 75 districts were severely affected by floods and landslides, which killed 148 people, displaced more than 24,116 families (each family comprises five to seven members) and destroyed over 24,815 houses, according to a report by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Humanitarian risks

The situation has been virtually unchanged in terms of humanitarian risks, with some experts blaming the Nepalese government for failing to adopt sufficient precautionary measures to mitigate against the risks on a large scale.

"The central government is often involved in disaster preparedness work on an ad hoc basis and fails to respond and provide

enough resources to the local government bodies," maintained one local disaster management expert official, who requested anonymity.

Some international agencies also expressed concern that despite serious preparedness activities taken by Nepalese government this year, there are still shortcomings at the local community level.

"The government should be commended on being pro-active in terms of this year's flood season but there are still concerns about capacity and presence at the local level of the authorities," Wendy Cue, head of OCHA in Nepal, told IRIN.

Focal point

Humanitarian and relief aid agencies explained that they were actively trying to reinforce the government's role in being the focal point for coordination during the flood season. *...Contd. on pg 6*

"... ANA becomes stronger as the local organizations become strong.": Dutta

Naveen Dutta is an Electrical Engineer working in the telecommunications sector for the last 13 years. He has been very active in the Nepali community in the USA. He was the founding President of the Rocky Mountain Friends of Nepal, Denver, CO and a founding member of Association of Nepali Teraian in America. He has been associated with Association of Nepalis in the Americas (ANA) for the last several years in the capacity of an executive member, vice president and currently as the President. Last weekend, he talked to Nepal Abroad about ANA, its activities and the impending ANA Convention 2008 in Baltimore scheduled for July 4th weekend. Below the results:

Q: Can you give us the historical context of the ANA Conference?

ANA was established as a non-profit corporation in 1982. Since 1983 ANA has held its annual convention in different cities of the United States during July 4th weekend. In the earlier years the convention was comparatively small but still rich in content. The tradition started back then continues to date. The convention was started to create an environment for people to come and meet with each other, enjoy traditional Nepali culture and food, renew old friendship, make new friends in a friendly environment. The other purpose of the convention was to strengthen cultural values and Nepali traditions in 2nd generation Nepali Americans.

Since the last several years the convention has become the biggest gathering of Diaspora in the North America. It draws several thousand people from all over the world. The theme is loaded with stimulating intellectual and entertaining programs to suit the palate of young and old alike. It includes sporting events including soccer and basketball with teams participating from all over the USA. It provides forums for positive experience of camaraderie enriching the lives of the members at large. It has several discussion sessions such as contemporary issues in Nepal, Non Resident Nepalis (NRN), Young Adult Forum, and Women's Issues along with rich and diverse Cultural program with artists from many parts of North America. There are screenings of Nepali movies. Many well know Nepali artists' paintings are displayed at the Art show. In short, it has something or the other for all the attendees.

Q: What impact has the outcome of ANA Conferences made in North America or in Nepal so far?

Like I mentioned ANA convention has become the largest gathering of Diaspora in North

America. It has become an annual ritual for a lot of folks in North America to attend the convention every year and enjoy a multi day gala event in the company of their friends and relatives and enjoy typical Nepali culture and tradition. This is by far the biggest contribution of the convention to the Diaspora. Besides this the convention provides a platform to for businesses owned by the folks of Nepali origin in the Americas to advertise their products and services. It provides opportunities to intellectuals to engage in discussions pertaining to the homeland and several other topics of interest to the Diaspora. The literary seminar encourages people living in the Americas to contribute to the development of Nepali literature. Many amateur artists get to display their talents at the cultural programs. Professional artists from Nepal are invited every year to provide quality entertainment and to show their talent and art to the convention attendees. The artists also tour the continent showcasing their talent in different cities. Sportsmen engage in sporting events such as soccer and basketball etc. Lately, we have also started inviting professional organizations such as Computer Association of Nepal and engaging with them in activities supporting development of Information Technologies (IT) sector in Nepal. Likewise, ANA has had a tradition of inviting political figures from Nepal where they get to share their perspective about different issues in Nepal and get to hear about the NRN perspective as well. All these things contribute in their own ways to the development of the Diaspora and our motherland.

Q: How are you making a difference as the President of ANA?

In the year 2007, a taskforce including the current ANA officers (Simon Dhungana, Medini Adhikary, Roger Adhikari, Dhiren

Gurung) was formed to come up with ideas and ways to identify elements that are important to make ANA more relevant/viable in the future and recommend an actionable plan to do so. Based on the recommendations of the taskforce we have accomplished several things outlined below.

- Creation of Emergency Fund (Help extended to several individuals during tragic events)
- Champion NRN cause and engage with North America Coordination Council (the NRN organization in USA)
- Revamped ANA website (www.anaonline.org)
- Creation convention infrastructure (guidelines for convention activities, creation of permanent website www.anaconvention.org, format of contracts with different entities)
- Empowered the executives to lead an activity of their interest such as Nepali issues, sports, emergency solutions, arts and culture, literature, membership, fundraising etc. Grooming them to be future leaders.
- Increased media presence (interviews, press releases etc. in Nepali magazines, newspapers etc.)

As you know, an effective team can make great progress even in a short period of time. I am fortunate to have a great team of people and it is because of our joint effort we have been able to accomplish all the things mentioned above.

Q: Many argue that the local organizations have become stronger, making ANA-the national organization, more distant and alien? What do you say on this?

I personally do not agree with this assessment. Surely the local organizations have become stronger. That is because of increase in numbers in our local communities. As the numbers increase, the needs and desires of the community changes and the local communities have to address those issues. So they have been doing that and we are happy to see stronger



Naveen Dutta

communities in different cities/states. But that doesn't make ANA distant and alien. As a matter of fact as a national organization ANA becomes stronger as the local organizations become strong. We have been working with several local organizations in times of emergencies within the community, for fundraising efforts etc. They have approached us from time to time when they needed help. At the same time ANA has a history of leading several initiatives on its own on a national level. So in summary, we are trying to spread the level of interaction with local organizations and also lead efforts to act as a national organization.

Q: Besides the yearly convention, does ANA have other ways to make the expatriates realize its presence?

We are taking several new initiatives to address this issue. Our executive team members are leading some of the efforts as outlined below:

- Expanding membership
- Expanding services in all sectors possible that concerns Nepalis in Americas.
- Networking and collaborating with local organizations.
- Actively engaging in disseminating information about ANA and its activities to the Diaspora.

Q: Finally, why should anyone (Nepalese expatriates and friends) participate in this convention?

As I said, ANA conventions have something or the other for every one. There are folks who attend the convention because they have a strong sense of belonging to ANA. Then there are folks who come for some intellectual discussion on issues

Golden Wild Mushroom: Yarsa Gumba (Cordyceps Sinensis)

Yarsa Gumba's scientific name is *Cordyceps sinensis*. It is called Dong Chong Xia Cao in China; Tochukaso in Japan; Yarsa Gumba in Nepal; Yartsa Gunbu in Bhutan & Kira in India.

It is known to Ayurveda since 4000 years ago but first described in China, in 1757 AD during Qing Dynasty. It is a fungal/bacterial symbiosis (Holliday et al 2004). Popularly known as summer grass-winter Insect and is found in high Himalayan ranges in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, China(Tibet), Nepal & Bhutan. It is a magic herb (Ascomysectes) naturally emerges each year in high altitudes between 3000-6000 meters of harsh climate of the Himalayas as a natural gift. In China, it is listed as No. 1 herb among thousands of Herbal List & is sought after by millions of its user's world wide. It carries a Price of USD 10,000 per kgs depending upon quality, size, quantity, Origin place (Dolpo/Darchula/Manang/Bajhang are No 1. Origin in the world) or more in China. Markets in the USA exist but a plant/animal regulation makes it harder to export.

Emperor of China knew the value, use and effect of *Cordyceps* 2000 years ago. He used to send his special task force in search of *Cordyceps* upto Tibet, a long distance to travel from present day Beijing. Thousands of Books are written in Chinese medicine about *Cordyceps* use, importance and medicinal benefits from its use. Thus it is very popular in China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, and also great demand in Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand & USA recently.

What is Cordyceps.?

It is a mixture of plant & insect. There are many species yet to conduct more R and D world wide. A special kind of moth (*Heapilus armoricenus*) lays eggs in the high Himalayan ranges (3000- 6000 meters). The normal habitat is sunpati forests in Nepal's Manang Range (A.Aryal pers. comm.). Catterpillars emerges in large numbers. In the mean time a special fungus spores attacks the caterpillars. Within few days caterpillars goes underground. A special grass grows on this caterpillar

forming a hyphae & symbiosis relationship and emerges out gradually when the snow melts. High altitudinal inhabitants only are capable of reaching in such places and collect this mushrooms that carries a very high prices now. They know how to identify it, how to collect it but yet need scientific training on drying, storage, and marketing.

Medicinal Use:

It is used in many kinds of diseases to boost immune system. It acts as a natural Viagra .It has got very special effect on asthma. It is learnt that Cancer sufferers, Aids victims are also using it in many countries including USA pushing its price per kgs higher & higher. There are thousands of Web sites that can be seen in Google and Yahoo Internet. Unfortunately many companies are manufacturing and marketing Capsuls containing Rice powder when it was tested. Therefore Chinese users are smarter than the western countries users because Chinese will pay a higher price and use the *Cordyceps* intact rather than the Capsuls. Fake *sinensis* capsuls are plenty in the International markets. Unfortunately Nepalese have not been using it at all as a medicine.

Health Efficacious of Cordyceps.

Poor renal function; renal injuries by chemical; chronic bronchitis, coughing; regulating blood pressure; Asthma; Anti-aging; Weakness; strengthening the body's immunity; poor function of lungs, Kidneys; the declining of sex drive; effective into unifying arrhythmia; Treatment of chronic Nephropathy; Chronic Nephritis & prevention of Nephralgia; Increasing blood cells & Protein for producing blood plasma; strengthen the immune system of tumour patients who have received radiotherapy; Chemotherapy or Operation.

Why Price Up & Up:

Americans discovered that the Chinese runner broke 9 world records in 1993 World Outdoor Track in Germany revealed by the Chinese coach about the proper use of *Cordyceps* by these runners. Many scientists, sports man, athletes & others became quite interested to use and get benefit thus pushing the price of *Cordyceps* in the International markets. Price soared heavily after 2003 due to increasing demand in Europe and USA but very limited supply from the wild. Chinese Traders paid upto USD 10,000 per Kgs in 2006 in Nepal & Bhutan (A.Arjel. pers.

Comm). Price hike may be due to Summer Olympics in 1908 in China?

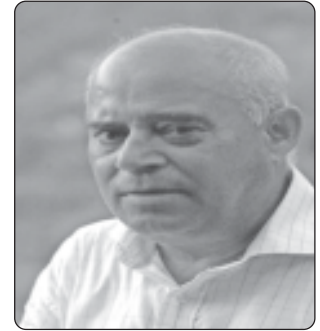
Cordyceps is valuable than GOLD in the region where it is found naturally & brings in lot of money into the local economy. But proper scientific training

in collection, drying, storage and shipments is crucial as well as essential. Many middlemen buyers have lost their money because ants, mites, insects can destroy it if not taken care of properly. It can absorb moisture from the air if left in the shades & prone to insect attack into dust of no use.

In the nature, at 2- 5 degree Temperature, larve size were found 3.0 to 5.4 cm long; Hyphae-3.0 to 7.5 cm long; Density-920-1010 per HA; Fresh Weight— 1503-2500 pieces per Kgs; dry Wt- 0.29 to 0.57 gram; and germinates in April/May in the Manang Area of Nepal Himalayas.

CULTIVATION:

World wide growing demand for *Cordyceps* as a Medicine & Health Supplement coupled with high Prices of wild *Cordyceps* has given rise to an increasing cultivation attempt by mushroom growers in many countries. China, Korea, Japan USA are leading countries towards cultivation of *Cordyceps*. But until



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now no well understood Protocols to produce high quality *Cordyceps* exists.

It is possible to duplicate cultivation to increase production per HA by more Research & Development. It is also possible to cultivate in suitable habitat in Nepal. But more research and Development is needed in its own natural habitat to find out the proper techniques. A joint research Project can be proposed to conduct in Nepal's Himalayas to develop techniques of producing moth larve, it's food plant Anthopogon and releasing the larve in the nature again to form *Cordyceps sinensis* thus increasing its number per HA. FAO/ UNDP-GEF-/ICIMOD/ Department of Wildlife and other Donor agencies can join hands in a Nepal joint research Project that is a possibility and promising as well as pragmatic aspect at this stage where Nepal can reap an ever increasing Global Market of high value in great demand. Interested Groups can contact me globally.

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Demining Under Way...

...Contd. from pg 2

"The UN mine action team requires an invitation from the government for us to continue our work after 22 July. However, we would like to stay here and continue to support the Nepal Army to develop the mine clearance capacity at least for another 12 months," Grant Milthorpe, UNMIN's senior mine action adviser, told IRIN.

UNMIN provided mine-clearance training to 80 army personnel who have been involved in clearing the mines under the supervision of the UNMIN Mine Action unit. "The Nepal Army demining teams have performed very well in the past 10 months, but will continue to need

supervision and financial support to continue mine-clearance operations," he added.

According to UNMIN, mine clearance, as opposed to the clearance of IEDs, is a slow as well as dangerous process.

"With the right cooperation, we can clear all the minefields in three to four years. But if we can't continue lending support to army demining teams post-July, then that could be seriously affected," said Milthorpe.

"We are not here to do the work, but rather assist in the development of the Nepal Army's capacity to complete the clearance of all minefields. The demining teams trained thus far have done a great job, but they do require additional support to continue," he added.

ANA becomes ...

Contd. from pg 4...

affecting the Diaspora. Some people come to participate in sports. Some come to advertise their products and services. Above all it is just a venue for people to

get together mix and mingle with their friends and relatives and enjoy typical Nepali culture. I don't see any reason why anyone wouldn't want to participate if they want to be at the forefront of the Diaspora.

Cyber Law And Its Practice...

Contd. from page 8...

in, "A Declaration of the Independence of Cyber Law". In his statement, Barlow addressed the governments of the world and stated "Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where

we gather." [14] In brief, Barlow's statement is - where there are real conflicts, where there are wrongs we ourselves will identify them and address them by our means. We are forming our own social contract. This governance will arise according to the conditions of our world, not yours. Our world is different. [4] Is it applicable to follow Barlow's statement? Can Cyber Government run smoothly by isolating the National Government?

...to be contd. next week.

US Unemployment Rises...

Contd. from pg 1...

find summer jobs is very recessionary. We haven't seen a figure like that since the early 90s," said Kubarych.

Both Lazear and Kubarych spoke on Bloomberg Television.

The stock market plunged on news of the jobless report. The Dow Jones Industrials lost nearly 250 points in the first two hours of trading, giving back all of the impressive gains of the previous trading session.

Oil prices compounded the distress on Wall Street. Prices had peaked at \$135 a barrel two weeks ago, and had been falling gradually since then. However, amid further declines in the dollar, oil prices turned around on Thursday. Rising gasoline and food prices, combined with a credit squeeze and falling home prices have driven U.S. consumer confidence to the lowest levels in 30 years.

Technically, the U.S. economy is not in recession, although many economists say it is. The

...Contd. on pg 7

Gearing Up For Potential...

Contd. from page 3...

Besides the UN agencies, several international agencies including CARE Nepal, the Lutheran World Federation and Oxfam have been actively supporting pre-monsoon preparedness.

Provisions are being made to send food supplies and non-food items such as tarpaulins, cooking utensils and clothing to remote and difficult terrain areas, which would be hard to access once the flood disaster starts, said officials from NRCS.

"Local emergency funds have been established and community-based disaster mitigation measures are under way," said Kafley from NRCS.

In addition, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) has been preparing to supply medical stocks and emergency kits at the regional level

to avoid any health hazards, according to OCHA.

It said that the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) had already provided WHO with a grant of US\$300,000 for emergency health preparedness.

"We're also doing contingency planning and community-based awareness. There is increased preparedness in that sense," Cue said.

Meanwhile, concern remains over how to convince the most vulnerable communities to move out of the high-risk areas - especially labourers, farmers and landless people who live close to the riverside, according to NRCS.

"Most of them have no option for alternative livelihoods and lands and are still living in unsafe zones and compromising lives," said Kafley.

Red Pandas Found In...

Contd. from page 3...

Though a study conducted by Dr Prahlad Yangden in 1982 had found 73 Red Pandas in Chandanbari area of Rasuwa, they could not be conserved due to lack of funds and technical expertise.

Joint secretary at the Department said the department, national park and the landscape project would prepare the strategy after collecting suggestions from the locals and the stakeholders concerned and the main focus of the strategy would be conservation of Red Pandas.

Red Pandas are 60-cm long, have 40-cm long tail and weigh 3 to 6 kg. They copulate only during the winter season and a female Red Panda

can give birth to four offspring at a time. Experts said it won't be difficult to raise the number of Red Pandas once food sources and habitat for them is secured.

Lecturer Sharma said Red Pandas enter adulthood within a year and get separated from mothers at around 1.8 years of age. He said dogs, leopards and vultures are some of the natural predators of Red Pandas and they also need to be protected from illegal wildlife traders. Red pandas have an average lifespan of 14 years.

Officials said people would cooperate them in conservation of Red Pandas as a people-centric approach would be adopted to protect them.

Kangaroo Court Alive...

Contd. from page 1...

and added he had received word that she had gone with her father to Hiley in Dhankuta district.

The kangaroo court has directed the six to begin breaking stones from June 15. The six have appealed to the administration, police, human rights activists and mediapersons to get them off the hook.

Meanwhile, Maoist district leader Krishna Sampang said, "The decision to punish the six was taken after the consent of the entire village."

Though the Maoists claim they have disbanded their parallel

government and also dissolved the people's court, analysts said their kangaroo court is a travesty of the comprehensive peace agreement they signed with the government and understanding they reached with the seven parties, as well as their participation in the government.

'Vishwaparikrama'

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Japanese Automaker, US Firm Team up to Convert Cars to Electric Power

By Liu Enming Morrisville, NC June 2 '08 VOA

As gas prices in the U.S. soar, electric hybrid cars have grown in popularity. To meet this demand, the Japanese carmaker Toyota has teamed with a small company in (the southern state of) North Carolina to create an electrically powered hybrid vehicle. For producer Liu Enming, Elaine Lu has more in this Searching for Solutions report.

"Our cars are very different from a gasoline car in that it uses no gasoline, it's all electric, lithium battery and with a proprietary battery management system by Hybrid Technologies," Ron Cerven said.

Ron Cerven is a project development engineer at Hybrid Technologies, a research and development company focusing on electric vehicles powered by lithium batteries. The cars, like the Toyota Yaris, look like any other until you peek under the hood. Inside, the gas-powered engine has been replaced by a powerful elec-

tric motor that is powered by a stack of lithium batteries.

In the company's plant in Morrisville, North Carolina, many familiar car models are being transformed into electric vehicles: The Toyota Yaris, Chrysler PT Cruiser and the SmartCar.

Cerven says the electric cars offer consumers a brand-new driving experience. "The first time you ever drive an electric car, (you notice) how much road noise you hear from tires and stuff," Cerven said.

"That's because you are not use to, even though you don't realize the exhaust isn't very loud or the gasoline motor isn't very loud, you don't realize that actually it is. Very smooth, very quite, they take off real smooth, they accelerate. One thing that an electric motor has is a very large torque band."

Cerven says not only do the cars save gas - they are also low-maintenance. "Maintenance-wise, the majority of the stuff we took out is what

needed to be maintained. You have no spark plugs, no oil filters, and no air filters, all that stuff went away. So your maintenance costs are very much lower than what (you) originally had," he said.

Cerven says the cars powered by Hybrid Technologies are a big leap forward from earlier electric vehicles.

Cerven says, "I think in the past, the electric vehicle were held back by the batteries. Battery technology in the past 10 years has come a long way. We were running at about 600 pounds [72 kilograms] of batteries to get the same mileage we use to be running at about 2,400 pounds [1088 kilograms] of batteries," he said.

Cerven says lithium powered cars are just as powerful as vehicles fueled by gas. For example, with ten packs of these lithium batteries, a PT Cruiser can accelerate to 100 kilometers per hour in seven point two seconds, rivaling the performance of a six cylinder, gas-pow-

ered car. A six-hour electrical charge provides enough power to drive the car nearly 200 kilometers.

"This one was designed for military. To fit in an aircraft it has a very small cargo area," Cerven said. "This vehicle is very fast and agile, 87 miles an hour [140 kilometers per hour] almost 200 miles [320 kilometers] on the range but fits in a five foot-by-five foot [1.5 meter by 1.5 meter] container. So it's very easy to deploy.

These electric vehicles are not cheap. But Linda Hill, the marketing and public relations manager of Hybrid Technologies, believes after factoring in the gas and maintenance savings over seven to 10 years, she believes the vehicles are competitive.

Hill says, "We want to make lithium powered, electric-powered vehicles (a part of the) mainstream in America, moving towards more electric-powered vehicles, electric-powered products, and electric-powered energy."

Armed Police Need...

Contd. from page 3...

and hold discussions inside the organisation on what kind of structure would be fruitful and effective to this organisation.

Everybody should admire the changed political context and show readiness to work accordingly, Situala said adding that the police had to work responsibly irrespective of the structure of the government.

Situala stressed the need for cooperation and understanding among the political parties as the only way out to solve the present crisis and to form a new government and write new constitution.

He also thanked the police force for their role in maintaining security during the election.

Situala suggested the Nepal Police and APF to remain alert in context of the declaration of republic in the

country, as challenges would surface in new form and style.

Appreciating the skillful performance of the security bodies, Situala said that the efforts made by the security force during the CA election played a vital role to conclude it successfully.

Umesh Prasad Mainali, secretary at Home Ministry, said that security organisation should be ready to work either under a parliamentary democracy or a republic. He also suggested the police administration to be more public oriented.

Inspector General of the Nepal Police Om Bikram Rana clarified that Nepal Police was ready to adapt to the new situation and work under any type of government in place.

Rana also thanked the political parties for the peaceful transformation of the 10-year long conflict and the establishment of a republican state.

Joining The Circus Is No...

Contd. from pg 1...

circus staff. Frequently the girls also were sexually assaulted.

Lama, Shrestha and Giri also have apprehended six agents in Nepal who trafficked the girls; some were prosecuted and some are now serving terms of up to 20 years in jail.

The three men are among the "Heroes Acting to End Modern-Day Slavery" named in the 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report.

The heroes designation began with the Trafficking in Persons Report for 2004 under then-Secretary of State Colin Powell to recognize ordinary people who have done extraordinary work to combat modern-day slavery. Since then, the State Department has identified each year in its Trafficking in Persons Report individuals who have shown great courage in the face of adversity in fighting this worldwide problem. (*america.gov*)

US Unemployment...

Contd. from pg 6...

economy has grown at an anemic 0.6 to 0.9 percent annual rate since the fourth-quarter of 2007. Over 300,000 jobs have been lost this year, while, over the same period, oil prices have surged by 40 percent from already record high levels. (*VOA 6/6*)

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Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	68.30	68.90
Canadian \$1	67.10	67.69
Euro 1	106.66	107.60
Pound Sterling 1	133.72	134.89
Australian \$1	65.55	66.12
Swiss Franc 1	65.82	66.40
Singapore Dollar	50.01	50.45
Japanese Yen 10	6.44	6.50
Chinese Yuan 1	9.86	9.95
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	11.45	---
Danish Kroner 1	14.30	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	8.75	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	18.21	---
Qatari Riyal 1	18.76	---
Thai Bhat 1	2.07	---
UAE Dirham 1	18.59	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	20.95	---

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, June 08 '08]

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Cyber Law And Its Practice In Nepal: Future Perspectives

-By Sudeep Khanal, BE - Nepal

Background

In present era of rapid growth, Information Technology is encompassing all the walks of life all over the world. Technological developments have made possible the paper mode transaction to paperless transactions [3]. With the advent of computer as a basic tool of Communication, Information Processing, Information Storage, Physical device control etc. – a whole new cyber society has come in to existence. The cyber society operates on a virtual world created by technology popularly known as 'Cyber Space' (i.e., the Internet.)

The Internet is the collection of interconnected networks, linked either by Wired or Wireless Channels. In other words, Internet trims the World to shorter and shorter [1]. The World Wide Web (www) is one of the services accessible via the internet [4]. Today, the wings of Internet such as e-mail, online gaming, sharing of data and information, chatting, messaging, e-commerce, e-governance etc., are spread all over the world. The basic features of the Internet are widespread usability and accesses which are the backbone for the rapid

development of Internet. The global network of overlapping links automatically re-routes messages the when any one channel is blocked. According to the World Internet Usage Statistics News and Population Stats (updated, September 30, 2007), 37% of Internet Users are from Asia, followed by Europe 27%, 19% in North America and 9% in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cyberspace is a whole new world of risks.

Cyber Law is a term used to describe the legal issues related to the use of communication technology, particularly "Cyberspace" [4]. Cyber Crime is unlawful acts wherein the computer is either a tool or a target or both. As with each passing moments, new horizons of cyberspace are being discovered and explored, there is all the more need for legal mechanisms governing cyberspace [13]. When the internet was launched for the commercial usage, our Internet ancestors were unnoticed about internet growing its popularities (wings) all over the world and its consequences. The most unfavorable consequence is the criminal activities via the Internet.

Internet has an anonymous nature and has the possibility of the wide spread use for the exodus into Criminal Activities. The crime via Internet has virtually no boundaries and can affect any nation at any time. The issue is alarming and the governments around the world start thinking to this aspect of crime, i.e. CYBER CRIME. It is really a tough task to draft cyber law. Cyber Criminals are not only responsible for the breach of law of the Country where he or she resides but is also responsible to the law of the country where he or she is making his/her final transactions and to the law of the country where the server hosting the transactions is located. If a user in Nepal is conducting a transaction with the user in China via the Server in India, parties involved in the transaction are subjected to the laws of all the three countries. Many nations around the globe have adopted Cyber Law and Nepal is no exception to it. The history of Cyber Law in Nepal is not very old. This law, for the first time in Nepal, enforced in the form of an Ordinance. As there was no legitimate parliament at the time of the enforcement of this ordinance it was promulgated by the

then King in the year 2005. The Electronic Transactions Law (popularly known as the Cyber Law) was introduced in Nepal on December 08, 2006 AD.

Cyber Law is less a distinct field of law in the way that property or contract are as it is an intersection of many legal fields including Intellectual Property, Privacy, Freedom of expression and Jurisdiction. In essence cyber law is an attempt to apply laws designed for the physical world to human activity on Internet.

The most striking part is that most government around the world has drafted their own Cyber Law. The punishment for the breach of the Law is different for different Countries. If anyone commits some crime in USA then he undergoes through a severe punishments but if the same crime is committed in Nepal, his punishment will be comparatively negligible. Is it fair, from the humanitarian point of view, for the people who knowingly or unknowingly commit Cyber Crime in USA?

I would like to focus on the John Perry Barlow's statement quoted

...Contd. on pg 7

India Grapples With Huge Power Shortfalls

By Anjana Pasricha New Delhi June 6 '08 VOA

India is coping with huge energy shortfalls as a growing economy raises demand for power. But as Anjana Pasricha reports from New Delhi, the government has pledged to cover the gap in five years.

Temperatures frequently soar above 40 degrees Celsius across the vast plains of India as the summer heat peaks. But for most people, like 54-year-old Renuka Taimni in New Delhi, the sweltering heat is worsened by the frequent power outages.

"The frig did not work, the AC does not work, brings life to a standstill, you can't do anything, you just sit waiting for the power to come back," said Taimni.

The situation is equally bad across other big cities such as Kolkata or Mumbai.

And it is much worse in smaller towns and rural areas, where power blackouts can last for more than 12 hours a day. Last month,

violent protests erupted across India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, as long outages left people without fans and even drinking water.

Power blackouts have been a regular feature of life in India for many years. But a five-year-long economic boom has intensified these shortages as expanding industries guzzle more power, and a growing middle class can afford more air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines.

An energy advisor to the Confederation of Indian Industry, V. Raghuraman, says the current power capacity generation is about 14 percent short of demand.

"For the last 15-16 years we have not been able to add capacities required. The power-demand supply gap has been actually increasing year after year," said Raghuraman.

The government has promised to change that, and provide power to all by 2012.

Industry experts like Raghuraman say the situation will improve in the coming years because massive investments are in the pipeline.

"The investments are more than \$200 billion say in the next five years ... we believe a good amount of capacity will come in the next five to six years," said Raghuraman.

The power plants being built by the government are expected to add 70,000 megawatts of power generation. They include thermal and hydroelectric plants.

The private sector is also making large investments in power projects.

However, skeptics fear that many of these projects will face delays, and the gap between demand and supply will continue to grow in the coming years.

But optimists hope the power sector might replicate the success of the telecommunication industry. A decade ago, it could take years to obtain a phone line, but now the privatized industry is one of the fastest-growing in the world.

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