

# Nepal Abroad

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## Ambassador Chalise In Dallas, TX



Photo: America Darpan TX

The Nepalese Ambassador to the US Dr. Suresh C Chalise (center) is seen with Harish C Ghimire (R)-First Secretary at the Embassy of Nepal, and Ram C Pokharel (L)-President of Nepalese Society Texas (NST), in Dallas TX during an interaction program organized by NST on Saturday June 14 2008. On the occasion, Dr Chalise talked about his efforts to bring investment in the hydropower projects in Nepal, and the opportunities Nepal has in the days ahead, among other things.

## Obama Vows Change In Foreign Policy

By Bill Rodgers Washington 13 June 2008 VOA

Presumptive Democratic party presidential nominee, Barack Obama, says he will change the direction of US foreign policy if he is elected president. Experts say the views he has expressed so far in the campaign put him in the American foreign policy mainstream — though he has come under sharp criticism from his Republican rival over his willingness to meet with leaders of adversary countries. VOA's Bill Rodgers has this report on candidate Obama's foreign policy views.

From pulling US troops out of Iraq, stopping Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, and closing down the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, Obama says, "I want a fundamental change. It's time to turn the page on how we do business and say to the world we are ready to lead. We are ready to lead by deed and example."

His views reflect some of the foreign policy positions of previous American presidents, particularly those of the Democratic party. Harry Truman, John Kennedy

and others stressed that the promotion of democracy and human rights cannot be separated from the struggle against poverty and despair.

Peter Beinart, a US foreign policy expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, explains, "There's more of a sense in Obama, echoing back to [President] Woodrow Wilson, of the idea that we are in a world of common threats, things like global warming, public health threats, economic instability, threaten us as well as other nations so they have to be dealt with through cooperation."

On Iraq, Obama has promised a phased withdrawal of US troops, removing all combat brigades within 16 months. On Iran's nuclear ambitions, he made this pledge in a speech recently to the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

"I will do everything in my power to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Everything in my power to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon," Obama said. "Everything,"

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## Maoists Block Highway, Seek Comrades' Release

Itahari June 11: Demanding the release of their comrades, Maoists obstructed the East-West Highway for two hours on Saturday.

They were demanding the release of Ramesh Yadav, Bidur Yadav, Rabindra Yadav and Bijay Yadav, who were arrested with weapons from Narasingh VDC 10 days ago.

"Due to the obstructions, traffic came to a complete halt," the Sunsari District Police Office (DPO) said.

"As the arrestees were innocent, we obstructed the highway to pressure the local administration to release them at the earliest," Maoist area no 5 in-charge Aditya said.

"We will obstruct the highway from 8 am tomorrow and gherao the Sunsari District Administration Office the day after to mount pressure on the administration to release them," he said.

The Sunsari District Police Office has been interrogating the arrestees. "We cannot release the Maoist cadres, who were arrested with weapons," deputy superintendent of police at the Sunsari DPO Rupam Lama said.

"They cannot be released simply because they are Maoist. An investigation is underway and action

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## Global Survey Shows US Image Improving

For the first time this decade, an international survey shows an increasing number of people have a favorable view of the United States. But as VOA's Kent Klein reports from Washington, the survey also shows pessimism about the world economy.

Anticipation of a new U.S. President seems to be one factor in a global poll that shows that the number of people who look at the United States in a positive way has increased modestly in the past year.

The Washington-based Pew Research Center surveyed more than 24,000 people in 24 countries. Among those polled, favorable views of the U.S. were higher this

year than last year in almost half of those countries. One big reason for that is the prospect of a new U.S. President next year, according to Andrew Kohut, the president of the Pew Research Center.

"People around the world are looking forward to a new President," said Andrew Kohut. "President Bush has been very unpopular over the course of his term. And many people, if not most people following the election say the next President will provide a more acceptable foreign policy, and I think that may be part of the answer here." In almost all of the countries surveyed in March and April,

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**Editorial:**

## Dealing Indian Interference

People in Nepal and elsewhere have all expressed their concern through various medium and on different occasions about the blatant violation of the diplomatic norms by the Indian ambassador since his arrival in Kathmandu. What he's doing is pursuing aggressively his country's interests and translating his (India's) agendas into reality in Nepal. His activities have certainly insulted the sovereign people of Nepal, but he least cares as he's riding on Nepal's weaknesses.

The prime weakness being the current political parties and their leaders, who continue to ignore things that are visible even to the layman in the streets like the undiplomatic excessiveness of the Indian ambassador, the Susta encroachments, and others. Civil society doesn't seem to understand diplomatic limitations but only anything against ex-monarchy.

Like many others media can take an effective role in debunking the 'omnipotent' and 'omnipresence' of Indian influence in Nepal. India is also plagued with Naxal violence (similar to the Maoists movement) in several states, and there are several separatists' movements within the North Eastern states of India. Gorkhaland is a struggle for a separate identity within the Indian union. The

Nepalese media should also find some space in their medium for the developments in India, how the Indian government responds to the challenges faced by such movements and the atrocities committed by the Indian army in the deployed areas, besides the growing Indian economy.

The champion of human rights in Nepal should demonstrate the regional solidarity, and stand against the human rights abuses in India. It is surprising to see only the Nepalese HR groups nonchalant about the indefinite detention of Dr. Binayak Sen in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

The issues of India brought forth to the Nepalese readers across Nepal will help redefine their understanding of India, the contrasting pictures of disparity between the haves and the have-nots and more; can help remove all the unseen barriers created by the biased presentation in various (Indian) medium and the false pretension supported by a large resources of the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu.

The threat to sovereignty cannot be solved solely by blaming the Indian ambassador and his stooges, but doing our own home works, talking on every possible occasion about this with friends, families and peer groups at work and outside, since strengthening sovereignty is but every body's responsibility.

## Global Survey Shows US...

*Contd. from pg 1...*

presumptive Democratic Party nominee Barack Obama received much more support than his likely Republican Party opponent, John McCain.

But America's popularity still remains very low in the Islamic world, and very few of the people surveyed there expect big changes in U.S. foreign policy, regardless of who wins the November election.

New York Times columnist David Brooks, after reviewing the survey, said he believes the results show the "Post-9/11 era," in which the global fight against terrorism dominated people's thinking, is coming to an end.

"It seems to me one of the results of this poll is that we are leaving an era in which global opinion was dominated by 9/11, and we're entering an era in which it is

dominated by other stuff," said David Brooks.

That "other stuff" includes the economy, and the survey results in that area are not encouraging. Most of the people in 18 of the 24 countries polled describe economic conditions in their country as bad. And large majorities say the U.S. economy is hurting their national economies.

The exceptions to the pessimism are China and India, where people remain upbeat about their national economic conditions. People around the world also expressed concern about China's impact on the global economy, but while China's favorable ratings slipped from last year, people in most countries still approve of the decision to hold the Summer Olympics in Beijing. (By Kent Klein Washington 13 June 2008 VOA)

## Gearing Up For Malaria Season

Kavre June 13: (IRIN) - Sarita Chettri rubs mosquito repellent on her children before securing the mosquito net. "We have to be very careful for the next three months," the 30-year-old mother told IRIN in Pachkhal village, Kavre District, nearly 50km southeast of the capital, Kathmandu, where malaria is rife.

Kavre is one of Nepal's most affected districts and transmission is particularly high between July and September, says Nepal's Ministry of Health, Department of Health Services.

According to the department's epidemiology and disease control division, 65 out of the 75 districts are deemed malaria-endemic - affecting nearly 79 percent of the country's 28 million inhabitants.

Worst at risk are 13 districts, including Kavre, where temperatures of 20-30 Centigrade and an altitude below 2,000m make them ideal mosquito breeding grounds.

The other districts include Sindhuli, Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Mohatari and Dhanusa in the eastern region; Banke and Bardiya in the mid-west, and Kanchanpur, Kailali and Dadeldhura in the far west, as well as Nawalparasi in central region.

Geographically divided into mountains ("parbat"), hills ("pahad") and lowland plains ("Terai"), the Himalayan nation is administratively divided into five development regions - far west, mid-west, west, central and east.

Most of the districts affected are in the eastern region of the Terai, where the climate is

particularly hot and humid. Compared with the mountain and hill areas, the Terai is the most populated, according to Nepalese government statistics.

### Environmental challenges

Although the mortality rates due to malaria are low (five to seven reported death annually), the incidence rate is 5,000-7,000 every year, according to the epidemiology division, which explained that malaria eradication is quite difficult due to Nepal's tropical climate.

"The low rate of deaths does not mean we should be happy, because there are factors intensifying the malaria problem. They make our jobs very challenging, especially during these three months [July-September]," Garib Das Thakur, the division chief, told IRIN in Kathmandu.

Thakur explained that Nepal had witnessed some significant changes in its ecology and environment, including deforestation, as well as heavy migration.

The rapid deforestation had led to floods and landslides, as well as water logging, which hosts breeding places for mosquitoes. In addition, migrant workers often left their villages for Indian and Nepalese cities rampant with malaria problems, only to return infected.

Moreover, the lack of behavioural change among vulnerable communities, lack of mosquito nets, no indoor residual spraying and delayed treatment, had contributed to malaria outbreaks, he added.

*...Contd. on pg 7*

### Nepali Calendar

Sun June 15 / Asar 01 '65  
Duwadashin  
Mon June 16 / Asar 02 '65  
Trayodashin  
Tue June 17 / Asar 03 '65  
Chaturdashin  
Wed June 18 / Asar 04 '65  
GaiduPooja/Poornima  
Thu June 19 / Asar 05 '65  
Pratipada  
Fri June 20 / Asar 06 '65  
Duwitiya  
Sat June 21 / Asar 07 '65  
Tritiya

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## Maoists Spoiling Investment Climate: Mahat

Pokhara, June 14: Finance Minister Dr Ram Saran Mahat blamed Maoists for creating disturbance in the inflow of investment.

While inaugurating special general meeting of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) in Pokhara, on Friday, he said CPN-Maoist has not yet stopped issuing threats that have stalled the free flow of investment into the country.

"The condition would not improve until the Maoists give up their extremism and change their behaviour," he added. Mahat also urged industrialists to raise voice against the

Maoists' atrocities. "Nobody will benefit from the Maoists' fear, terror and threats, now."

He also blamed the Maoists for creating confusion over their economic policy. "They sometimes say that they will follow capitalist economic policy and sometimes they threaten of nationalisation of property," he said, adding that the confusion has spoiled the atmosphere of trust. "Mutual trust is key for the development of economy at present," he said.

"The current economic growth is positive and all the

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## Army To Help Institutionalize Democracy: CoAS

Kathmandu, June 13 (THT): Chief of the Army Staff Rookmangud Katawal said on Thursday that purity, sanctity and integrity of the Nepali Army should not be compromised in the name of democratising the institution.

Addressing a wreath-laying ceremony organised to commemorate the golden jubilee celebration of Nepal's participation in the UN Peacekeeping Mission, he said the army had always obeyed orders of legitimate government

mandated by people and had always been an inclusive institution.

"The army will remain as the ground upon which nascent democracy can take roots and flourish in the days ahead," Katawal said in a statement.

Stating that many measures had been taken to institutionalise human rights, Katawal said, "This is reflected by the fact that there has

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## Canada And PE Island Sign New Agreement On Immigration

Charlottetown, June 13: The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and the Honourable Allan Campbell, Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development for Prince Edward Island, on behalf of P.E.I.'s Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, today announced the new Agreement for Canada Prince Edward Island Co operation on Immigration.

The new agreement will make it easier for the province to attract more skilled international workers, to process those applications more quickly and to strengthen its Francophone community.

"The Government of Canada believes in immigration and the signing of today's new agreement means Prince Edward Island has an immigration agreement that is tailored to the province's unique needs and priorities,"

said Minister Finley. "The focus of the Prince Edward Island agreement is the removal of limits in the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), collaboration on overseas marketing initiatives, and the targeted use of the PNP to attract and retain Francophone immigrants. This will ensure that the province is able to select the number of immigrants it needs to meet labor market demands and build a stronger economy."

"We are very pleased to renew this immigration agreement with the federal government," said Mr. Campbell. "It gives the province the authority we need to attract new immigrants who will meet gaps in our labor market and help boost our declining population."

The agreement, which sets out the roles and responsibilities in

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## Calendar of Events

**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

**July 12:** The Nepali Association of Oregon has scheduled to organise Summer Picnic 2008 on Saturday July 12 from 12.00pm till dusk at Cook Park 17005 SW 92nd Avenue Tigard OR. For details visit nepaloregon.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

**August 30:** The 7th Northwest Nepali Picnic is to be hosted by Vancouver B.C on Saturday August 30 from 12.00pm to 8.00pm at Beer Creek park 8584 132nd Street Surrey Vancouver. For details visit nepalseattle.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

**October 18:** The Nepali Association of Oregon has scheduled to organise Dashain 2008 Celebration on Saturday October 18 from 6.30pm to 11.00pm at Multnomah Arts Center 7688 SW Capitol Hwy Portland OR 97219. For details visit nepalseattle.org

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

## Army Called To India's Darjeeling Hills In Response To Gorkha Strike

Officials in India's West Bengal state have called in the army in response to escalating tensions with ethnic Gorkhas wanting a separate state.

Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee said on Thursday that he has asked the army to deploy in Siliguri and the surrounding area as soon as possible.

Authorities say supporters of the Gorkha Liberation Front attacked a tourist vehicle today in Jalpaiguri district. In another incident, officials say police used tear gas to disperse a crowd of Gorkha supporters in Darjeeling district.

The ethnic Gorkha community began protests earlier this week, demanding independence.

The separatist group's general secretary, Roshan Giri says the strike will continue until the government accepts demands for a separate state.

Police say many tourists — including foreigners — have been stranded due to a strike-caused lack of transportation. (VOA 6/12)

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Telegraph Nepal

telegraphnepal.com

# Redrawing The Map Of Gorkhaland

*An indefinite bandh in Darjeeling has fixed the focus once again on the issue of Gorkhaland. Joel Rai explains what's behind the demand for a separate state and how the current demand differs from previous ones.*

## • There is an indefinite bandh in Darjeeling and tourists have been stranded. What is happening there?

The three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling district—Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong—have been closed down for an indefinite period by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) as part of their agitation for the formation of a separate state of Gorkhaland. The GJM, formed late in 2007, has revived the demand for Gorkhaland and has been holding protests and rallies in support of a state that is to be carved out of West Bengal.

## • What is the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha and who is leading it?

The GJM was formed by Bimal Gurung, earlier a councillor of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. He was a close associate of Subhas Ghising, president of the Gorkha National Liberation Force (GNLF). The two fell out in 2007 over the attempt to extend 6th Schedule status to Darjeeling. Under the 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, certain tribal-majority areas are given autonomy in administration. While the GNLF wanted the 6th Schedule status with enhanced powers for the Hill Council, the GJM desired full statehood. The Centre introduced the 6th Schedule to the Constitution Amendment Bills in Parliament in December 2007 but it was shelved.

## • So where is Subhas Ghising and what has happened to the GNLF?

While the GNLF exists as a political organisation, almost its entire support base has moved to the GJM. After a visit to Kolkata in March this year, Ghising was barred from entering Darjeeling by the GJM until he resigned as caretaker administrator of the Hill Council. The term of the last Hill Council expired in 2004, and no elections were held thereafter. The West Bengal Government appointed Ghising as caretaker administrator, extending his term every six months until his resignation in March. Thereafter, Ghising has remained confined to his home in Darjeeling.

## • What is behind the demand for Gorkhaland?

The demand for a separate administrative set-up for Gorkhas of India was first voiced in 1907, when the premier civil-society body of the Gorkhas, the Hillmen's Association, asked the British for an administrative set-up separate from Bengal. In 1946, the then undivided Communist Party of India demanded that the Darjeeling areas be constituted in an entity called Gorkhastan. The GNLF took up the issue in a big way from 1986. All these demands considered the ethnic, cultural and linguistic distinctions between the populations of Darjeeling and the rest of West Bengal. Under the West Bengal administration, feel the Gorkhas, Darjeeling has not developed despite being a world-renowned centre for tea, tourism and education.

## • What is different from this current demand for Gorkhaland and the one led by the GNLF?

There are two major turns that the current demand for a separate state has taken that distinguishes it from the earlier demand.

First, the map for the current Gorkhaland envisages not only the three hills subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong, but also Siliguri and parts of the Dooars that fall in Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri districts in North Bengal, extending up to the River Sunkosh on the border with Bhutan. While the GNLF had included Dooars in its programme, it did not push for their inclusion in their map of Gorkhaland, a result of which was that when the DGHC formed only the hill subdivisions were included in it, leaving out chunks of the plains where large populations of Gorkhas reside. The GJM has managed not only to garner the support of Gorkhas in the plains, but also of the Adivasis, who form a substantial percentage of the population of the Dooars. This has created tensions between the Bengalis of Siliguri and the Gorkhas. The Bengali resistance to Siliguri's inclusion in the agitation plans of GJM is led by its local MLA and West Bengal Minister of

Municipal Affairs Asok Bhattacharya. The Siliguri Municipality has already passed a resolution that it will fight all attempts to include Siliguri in the proposed state.

Second, unlike earlier, there is an intellectual push to the current demand for Gorkhaland. One of the impetus for a separate state of Gorkhas would be securing of their identity as Indians. Indian Gorkhas have long been misidentified as being citizens of Nepal and they feel that a state of their own will root them to India. The Gorkhaland of their imagination, therefore, does not only secure the economic development of the Darjeeling area but also the political identity of the over one crore Indian Gorkhas across the country.

## • So are the Indian Gorkhas migrants from Nepal or where have they come from?

Indian Gorkhas have been residents of India for centuries. Under the Treaty of Sugauli in 1815, Nepal ceded an area of 18,000 sq km to the British. This territory constitutes what are today parts of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Darjeeling district. A treaty with Bhutan in 1860 brought the current Dooars areas in Bengal and Assam into British possession. The Gorkha population resident in these territories became part of British India then. The Gorkhas participated in the Freedom Movement with Gandhiji and also joined the Azad Hind Fauj in big numbers. The tune of India's national anthem Jana Gana Mana was taken from an original composition by Captain Ram Singh Thakur, a Gorkha in the INA. Two Gorkhas, Damber Singh Gurung and Ari Bahadur Gurung were members of the Constituent Assembly. Ari Bahadur Gurung was a member of the drafting committee. He is a signatory to the first Constitution of India.

However, there are two groups of Gorkhas in India, the Indian Gorkhas and those who have come to India under the provisions of the 1950 India-Nepal Treaty of Friendship that allows Nepalese citizens to come and work, buy property and settle in India without permits. Their presence in India has led to confusion about the



Joel Rai

nationality of Indian Gorkhas and they are often misidentified as Nepalese citizens. A separate state of Gorkhaland, they feel, will help seal their identity as Indians.

## • What happens now?

West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee has said that there will be no official talks with the GJM so long as they continue to demand Gorkhaland. On its part, the GJM says it's a separate state or nothing. The 1980s agitation saw violence that took a toll of 1,200 lives. Dialogue between the political organisations and the state and Centre looks like the only way out.

*(The story was originally published in Indian Express, posted online on Thursday June 12, 2008 at 22:45hrs. It can be viewed online at <http://www.indianexpress.com/story/321606.html>)*

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## Picture of Nepal in Austria

Bhumika Ghimire attempts to explore expatriates in Austria

Arriving in Innsbruck, Austria, I was struck by how similar the small Alpine city is to Kathmandu.

Snow covered mountains peeing through the hills, gurgling river running through the city, old palaces and alleys that carry hundreds of years of history.

Although the façade of history and culture seemed similar, there were stark differences. Walking through Innsbruck, I never had to cover up my nose to escape dust, smoke or unpleasant smell of stray garbage. No member of opposite gender offered uncomfortable comments on my dress; traffic was sane and public transportation a class of its own.

Austrians take pride in preserving their natural resources and their heritage sites. Rivers in Innsbruck run clean and clear, museums are well kept. People value their family and culture and work hard.

Innsbruck and Austria offered a picture of what Nepal could be if only we could correct all the mistakes made in the past and stop repeating them now.

Contrary to Austria, in Nepal we are plagued by the national disease of procrastination and myopia. We rob the rivers of the sand to make quick buck, we spread trash even in temple premises and we are too happy to brand our own culture as "backward". Somehow we have lost that spark of optimism and hope for our country and people.

So what do Nepalese living in Austria think about their homeland?

Dr. Shyam Upadhyaya, President of Non-Resident Nepali Association Austria answered some of our questions.

**Approximately how many Nepalese are now living in Austria? Please tell us about their profession and background.**

There is no reliable data about the number of Nepalese in Vienna. A large number of Nepalese are asylum seekers. Not all of them want to disclose their identity. Also due to the free movements within Schengen states, it is hard to establish the actual number. The estimated number is around 1000. A formal gathering like New Year or Dashain celebration is attended by 100 to 150 Nepalese.

A small number of Nepalis are working in professional position. In United Nations, there are 3 professional staff (UNIDO), two general service (IAEA and UNOV) and 5 UN Security Officers.

Outside UN there are around 5 or 6 families of professionals. There are around 150 university and Ph D students. Around 100 Nepalis permanently settled in Austria through job or marital relations. All others are refugees, victims of conflicts whose lives were threatened by Maoists or Army.

**There have been reports that about 200 of Nepali refugees now live in the country, why do you think they sought refuge in Austria, any reason that makes the country attractive to r e f u g e e s ?**

Well, to be a refugee cannot be an attractive matter. Social security is very strong in Austria. A recognized refugee may get the benefit up to 600 Euro equivalent to US\$1000.

**As a president of Nepalese association in Austria, in your observation, what is the general perception on ongoing political turmoil in Nepal-especially with regards to the Terai issue?**

As a president of NRN I am not supposed to make political statement. As an independent citizen of Nepal I could say that the culture of violence is created

by Maoists and they are responsible for lives lost during the war and up to the date. Right of all ethnic groups must be respected within the state of Nepal. Maoist violence is a set back in the struggle of ethnic groups for their cause.

**Please tell us a little about your life in Austria.**  
I am working as a Chief Statistician of

UNIDO. Most of my time is spent within Vienna International Centre, where all UN bodies based in Vienna are located. When I have free time I like to meet other Nepalese, especially those who have hard life here. We also have a small group who arrange the Nepali class for our children every Sunday in the house of one of us. It gives us opportunity to meet each other frequently. Being a UN employee, I have to travel extensively. I miss my country, my society.

## USCIS To Offer Premium Processing For Certain Form I-140 Petitions

Service Begins June 16, 2008

Washington June 11 (USCIS): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that on June 16, 2008, it will begin accepting Premium Processing Service requests for Forms I-140 (Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker) filed on behalf of certain alien workers who are nearing the end of their sixth year in H-1B nonimmigrant status.

Premium Processing Service offers 15 calendar-day processing for designated employment-based petitions and applications upon request. There is a nonrefundable fee of \$1000 for this service. During the 15-day period, USCIS will issue either an approval or denial notice, a notice of intent to deny, a request for evidence, or open an investigation for fraud or misrepresentation. USCIS previously designated certain classifications under Form I-140 for Premium Processing Service in the May 23, 2006 issue of the Federal Register. See 71 FR 29662.

USCIS is limiting Premium Processing Service for Form I-140 petitions that are filed on behalf of aliens:

- Whose sixth year will end within 60 days;
- Who are only eligible for a further extension of H-1B nonimmigrant status under section 104(c) of the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 (AC21); and

- Who are ineligible to extend their H-1B status under section 106(a) of AC21.

Section 104(c) of AC21 permits applicants to extend their stay in H-1B nonimmigrant status in increments of up to three years, provided they are the beneficiary of an approved Form I-140 and an immigrant visa is not immediately available. Section 106(a) of AC21 permits applicants to extend their stay in H-1B nonimmigrant status in increments of up to one year, provided the Form I-140 petition or underlying labor certification has been pending for at least 365 days.

## Condolence



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Place: Hetauda, Nepal



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## Canada And PE Island ...

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immigration matters, replaces a previous agreement signed in 2001. It includes several new provisions aimed at keeping pace with Prince Edward Island's changing economic, social and demographic needs. Specifically, the new agreement means:

- Prince Edward Island will be able to address particular social, demographic, economic development and labor market needs.
- Prince Edward Island will be able to nominate more immigrants possessing the skills needed in the province, for quicker processing by the Government of Canada.
- Prince Edward Island and Canada will work together to share information and to develop and implement strategies to better integrate immigrants into the labor market. This includes improving the process for the recognition of foreign credentials.
- Canada and Prince Edward Island will enhance their cooperation in overseas immigration marketing initiatives, including bringing

temporary foreign workers and students to the province.

- There will be increased encouragement for the recruitment and retention of Francophone immigrants through the Provincial Nominee Program.

The agreement formalizes and builds on the existing collaborative relationship between Canada and Prince Edward Island on immigration matters, including the delivery of settlement and integration services. It also recognizes the importance of involving community stakeholders, including service providers, municipalities and the private sector, in welcoming newcomers.

Attracting more immigrants to Prince Edward Island will help maintain population levels in the province's communities and will provide skilled workers who can meet the labor market needs of P.E.I. businesses.

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### Tentative Schedule July 4 -7 2008

[ana-convention.org](http://ana-convention.org)

Thursday July 3 '08:

**Registration:** 6 pm-8 pm.

Convention Kick Off Meeting: 5 pm; Sports Team Meet 6 pm, Nepalese Literature Program from 7 pm-9 pm.

Friday July 4 '08:

**Registration:** 9 am-6 pm.

Convention Inauguration 9 am; General Assembly 10 am-1 pm; Literature Program 2 pm; Business Networking Forum 3 pm-4 pm; Professional Association conferences 5 pm-6 pm; Banquet 7 pm-8 pm; Cultural Program 9pm-Midnight. Sports: Soccer 1pm-7pm; Basketball 1 pm-7 pm; Volleyball 1 pm-7 pm. Children Camp: Noon-5 pm; Movie Screening 1 pm-2 pm and 4 pm-5 pm.

Saturday July 5 '08:

**Registration:** 9 am-6 pm.

Yoga- 7 am to 8 am; Forum: Ethnic Diversity- 9 am; Forum - Nepal: 10 am-Noon. Forum: Youth 2 pm; Forum-women and Cultural: 3pm; Reunions: 4pm-5pm; Food Festival: 6 pm; Fashion Show: 7 pm-8 pm; DJ Program 9 pm-Midnight. Sports: Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Children League 10 am-6 pm. Children Camp: Noon-5 pm. Movie: 1 pm-2 pm & 4 pm-5 pm.

Sunday July 6 '08:

**Registration:** 9 am-6 pm.

Yoga: 7 am-8 am; Forum-Women and Cultural: 9 am; NRN Forum 10 am-Noon; ANA AGM 1 pm-2 pm; Forum- Immigration: 3 pm; Reunions 4 pm-5 pm; Banquet: 6 pm-7 pm; Concert Program: 8 pm-11 pm. Sports: Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Children League: 10 am-7 pm; Children Camp: 11 am-5 pm; Bhutanese Program: 4 pm-6 pm.

Monday July 7 '08:

Post Convention Meeting: 9 am-10 am; ANA Ex Com Meeting: 10 am.

## Cyber Law And Its Practice...

Contd. from page 8...

United Kingdom. On May 19, 2008, the UK government announced that the government will store all phones and internet data. The UK government wants all mobile phone data and internet traffic logs to be collected and stored in governmental database [16]. This step would be very much useful for tracking the criminals.

### Improving Cyber Law in Nepal

Cyber Law, in Nepal, can not be effective unless the Nepalese legal system has the following three prerequisites:

#### 1. A Sound Cyber Law Regime:

The cyber law, in Nepal, can be found in 'Electronic Transactions Act 2006'. Nepal introduced this law very recently. Every law need some time to mature and grow. The technology is developing tremendously. The law has to be tuned with the technology. The law suffers from various loopholes and lacunas. Over the period of time it will grow and further need amendments in the laws or a fresh law will be enacted tuning with the technology and making compatible with the International Standards.

#### 2. A Sound Enforcement Machinery:

A law might have been properly enacted and may be theoretically effective too. But it is

useless unless enforced in its true letter spirit. The law enforcement machinery in Nepal is not well equipped to deal with cyber law offences and contraventions. They must be trained appropriately and should be provided with suitable technological support.

#### 3. A Sound Judicial System:

A sound judicial system is the backbone for preserving the law and order in the society. The cyber law in Nepal is in its infancy stage. Most of the Judges lacks technological know how. Cyber Law training for Judges and Lawyers is the need of the hour. The dream for an "Ideal Cyber Law in Nepal" requires a considerable amount of time, money and resources. The Judges and the Lawyers must be trained in the contemporary legal issues so that the law may be enforced in an effective manner. Future Perspective

The policy makers should show their farsightedness and frame the Cyber Policy, Cyber Act and Cyber Regulations that boost up the growth of cyber regime. Two giant neighbouring countries, India and China are facing the music with the cyber crimes and criminals. We must have some long term plan that leads us towards the safe cyber journey. Although at present we, in Nepal,

## Maoists Block Highway,...

Contd. from page 1...

will be taken against them under the Arms and Ammunition Act."

District-based Maoist leaders are piling pressure on the police administration to release the arrestees, Lama said, adding, "I have received threats."

"I follow the rule of law and will not encourage the culture of impunity," he said. "But what can we do if the Maoist high command orders us to release its cadres? "

According to the police, the arrestees, earlier associated with the Madhesi Mukti Tigers, had joined the CPN-Maoist three weeks ago. The police have been claiming that the arrestees were involved in the killing of Keshav Karki, a timber dealer of Prakashpur in Sunsari district. (Source: *The Himalayan Times*)

## Army To Help...

Contd. from page 3...

not been a single incident of human rights abuse by the Nepali Army after the commencement of the peace process."

"The army believes in objective civilian control that ensures depoliticisation, neutrality, and subordination as part of its professionalism and ethos. The essence of objective civilian control is the recognition of autonomous military professionalism," he stated.

Lauding the role of Nepali peacekeepers and the sacrifice made by them, he said Nepali security forces had excelled in their roles as loyal, dedicated, professional, impartial and committed peacekeepers.

Katawal maintained that the Nepali army, police and civilian personnel were engaging themselves

...Contd. on pg 8

## IRS Adds Functions To Online Payment Agreement Application

Washington June 6 (IRS): The Internal Revenue Service today introduced several new features to the interactive Online Payment Agreement application, which will make it easier for taxpayers and their authorized representatives to make changes to existing installment agreements.

The system will now permit:

- Individuals to revise their payment due dates and/or amounts on existing agreements.
- Individuals to revise existing extensions to regular installment agreements and direct debit installment agreements.
- Individuals to revise existing regular installment agreements to a payroll deduction installment agreement or a direct debit installment agreement.
- Practitioners with valid authorizations to use the signature data found on their approved Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, or the caller ID as an alternate way to

authenticate when requesting agreements for clients.

More than 75 percent of those eligible for an installment agreement can establish one using the online application, according to the IRS. Since launching in October 2006, more than 30,000 taxpayers have successfully used it to set up a payment agreement.

Eligible taxpayers who owe \$25,000 or less in combined tax, penalties and interest can self-qualify, apply and receive immediate notification of approval for installment agreements – including pre-assessed agreements on tax year 2007 Form 1040 liabilities and paperless direct debit agreements.

Paying taxes on time and in full avoids unnecessary penalties and interest. However, taxpayers who cannot pay in full may request a payment agreement. To be eligible, a taxpayer must first file all required tax returns and be current with estimated tax payments, if applicable.

## Gearing Up For Malaria...

Contd. from page 1...

### Migration issues

The steady industrialisation of the Terai - the country's most fertile and lowland region bordering India - has also led to a lot of water logging where malaria vector intensity grows, according to epidemiology division officials.

"Nepal also has an active migrant population moving frequently to malaria-risk areas of India like Assam and other northeastern states for livelihood and they return home infected and easily transmit malaria," said Thakur.

According to the UN World Health Organization (WHO), malaria is a major health problem in Assam and other eastern states.

In eastern Terai, according to the District Public Health Office (DPHO), the threat of malaria is large and more than 300 cases have been detected since March in a single district of Morang, 500km southeast of Kathmandu.

"So far we have already distributed 400,000 long-lasting insecticidal nets and been actively involved in improving services for

immediate diagnosis and treatment," explained Thakur.

### Improved mortality

Nepal has come a long way in reducing mortality and morbidity rates since it started its malaria control programme in 1954, according to the epidemiology division, which explained that the annual number of reported malaria cases has been reduced from 200,000 then to only 5,000-7,000 now.

The country aims to cut malaria cases in half by 2015 in line with its Millennium Development Goal.

Thakur said the government had made plans to distribute about 2.2 million mosquito nets to the poor and build better services in all public health centres to provide free diagnosis and immediate treatment to the poorest communities. (IRIN News)

### 'Vishwaparikrama'

Fortnightly publication from Washington DC metro  
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## Obama Vows Change In...

Contd. from page 1...

His strong words were aimed at countering Republican rival John McCain, who has denounced Obama as naive and inexperienced in foreign policy matters. Obama's stated willingness to meet with foreign adversaries such as Iran's president has been ridiculed repeatedly by McCain.

"Americans ought to be concerned about the judgment of a presidential candidate who says he's ready to talk in person and without conditions with tyrants from Havana to Pyongyang," said McCain.

Obama has dismissed such criticism, saying previous presidents including Republican Ronald Reagan met with America's enemies. Yet foreign policy expert Helle Dale at the Heritage Foundation says Obama is vulnerable on the experience issue.

"He's not even a one-term Senator, he has not been exposed to a lot of foreign policy issues," she said. "His statements suggest he is someone who does not really understand how international politics works as you do if you follow it for many years."

But Obama counters by saying his background - his mixed racial heritage and having spent part of his youth in Indonesia - will give him a unique perspective in the conduct of foreign affairs.

Despite a lack of experience with foreign policy issues, Obama's has strong ties to other countries like Kenya, where his grandmother lives.

Peter Beinart says this would make him unlike previous presidents, whose overseas ties were primarily in Europe.

"The fact that he's lived in Indonesia, which is a Muslim country, but also that he himself has roots outside the United States and that he has roots in the Third World, I think will be a powerful thing for people around the world," he said. "And that will have an impact on their leaders."

"Now at the end of the day, America will still have interests that will put it at odds with other countries, that's not going to go away," Beinart added.

Yet the intense interest in Obama and the presidential campaign overseas may be due in part to his unique background - and his promise to turn the page in US foreign policy.

## Moaists Spoiling...

Contd. from page 3...

financial indicators are good," he said. The economic growth could touch 10 per cent, if there is political stability and conducive environment for investment in the country.

Though Nepal has been declared a republic, its management is complex, he said, adding that the international circle is also keenly watching our steps towards a republican state. He also expressed dissatisfaction over unnecessary interest of foreigners on selecting prime minister and president. "Nepalis themselves are able to take decision on the issue," he added.

Mahat also asked businessmen and industrialists to suggest clearly over the things that private sector could contribute to the economic development of the country.

FNCCI chairman Kush Kumar Joshi, on the occasion, said there is no respite from the incidents of killings, abductions and lootings of businessmen and industrialists by different groups.

If there would be a mutual understanding between government and the political parties, it could create a conducive environment for private sector, he said.

Over 400 businessmen and industrialists across the nation are attending the special general meeting of the umbrella organisation of the private sector. (Source: The Himalayan Times)

### Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	68.45	69.05
Canadian \$1	66.91	67.50
Euro 1	105.49	106.41
Pound Sterling 1	133.01	134.17
Australian \$1	64.25	64.81
Swiss Franc 1	65.56	66.13
Singapore Dollar	49.65	50.08
Japanese Yen 10	6.34	6.39
Chinese Yuan 1	9.91	10.00
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	11.25	---
Danish Kroner 1	14.15	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	8.76	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	18.25	---
Qatari Riyal 1	18.80	---
Thai Bhat 1	2.06	---
UAE Dirham 1	18.63	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	20.93	---

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, June 14 '08]

# Cyber Law And Its Practice In Nepal: Future Perspectives

-By Sudeep Khanal, BE - Nepal

...Contd. from the previous week.

What contents in The Electronic Transactions Act 2006?

Electronic Transactions Act 2006 is an enactment to provide legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as "electronic commerce", which involve the use of alternatives to paper based methods of communication and storage of information to facilitate electronic filing of documents.

The Act is divided into twelve Chapters totaling 80 Clauses.

## Positive Aspects of Electronic Transactions Act 2006

1. Electronic Mail (E-Mail) now would be valid and legal form of communication that can be duly produced and approved in a Court of Law.

2. Companies shall now be able to carry out Electronic Commerce (E-commerce) within the legal frame work provided by the Act.

3. Digital Signatures have been given legal validity and sanction in the Act.

4. The Act now allows the government to issue notification on the web thus heralding E-governance.

5. The Act enables the companies to file any application or any other document to any office, authority, body or agency owned or controlled by the government in electronic form.

6. The IT Act addresses the important issues of security which are so critical to the success of electronic transaction.

## Cyber Crime and Criminal Activities around the World

Cyber crime (also known as e-crime or hi-tech crime or electronic crime or computer crime) generally refers to a criminal activity where a computer or network is the source, tool, target, or place of a crime. Computer crime can be defined as a criminal activity involving an information technology infrastructure, including illegal access (unauthorized access), illegal interception (by technical means of non-public transmissions of computer data to, from or within a computer system), data interference

(unauthorized damaging, deletion, deterioration, alteration or suppression of computer data), systems interference (interfering with the functioning of a computer system by inputting, transmitting, damaging, deleting, deteriorating, altering or suppressing computer data), misuse of devices, forgery (ID theft), and electronic fraud. [8]

Computer crime is a general term that embraces all such crimes as Phishing, Credit card frauds, Bank robbery, Illegal Downloading, Industrial Espionage, Child Pornography, Kidnapping children via chat rooms, Scams, Cyber Terrorism, Creation and/or distribution of Viruses, Spam and so on.. All such crimes are computer related and facilitated crimes. Although, hi-tech crime is nascent in Nepal and has not cause any serious damage expect that once the website of government office was hacked. But this is a serious issue and Nepal must look in to it. Although, lot of cyber crimes are being committed around the world some of our neighboring countries India and China have tried

to check the crimes by blocking websites. Some of the hi-tech crimes in India are drugs trafficking, harassment, offensive content, on-line credit card fraud, bank hooked up by phishing attack, blackmailing etc. Such activities can be a headache to Nepal as well and may cripple the Nation. Cyber crimes have now been very serious .Hence a careful and appropriate step must be launched to check such crimes as soon as possible.

In an article, "Empirical Analysis of Internet Filtering in China", the authors attempted to access approximately two hundred thousand web sites and they tracked that 19,032 websites were inaccessible from China on multiple occasions. But these sites were accessible from other countries. The author in this very article, concluded that the Chinese Government maintains an active interest in preventing users from viewing certain web contents, both sexually explicit and non-sexually explicit [15].

The other example for minimizing the cyber crime is the step taken by the

...Contd. on pg 6

## A New Wind Power Design Good For Rural And Urban Environments

By Zulima Palacio, Washington 10 June 2008 VOA

Wind power is one of the fastest growing forms of alternative energy in the world. More and more, wind power mills are seen in the countryside, in large wind farms and for the most part, away from city life. But a new form of "wind power" is now designed to work in an urban environment. VOA producer Zulima Palacio has more in this Searching for Solutions report. Mill Arcega narrates.

Wind farms, like these ones in California, are becoming more common in rural areas of the U.S. An industry association says last year, alone, wind power capacity in America grew by 45 percent. Mostly wind power is generated by large propellers that can only be placed in the countryside.

But now, a U.S. company is offering a propeller-free personal windmill that can be set up in city or suburb. The president of Mariah

Power, Mike Hess, demonstrates what he calls the "Windspire."

"This one generates 25 to 30 percent of the power in your house, but if we are building a three kilowatts version, which is only twice the width, same height, then it generates 100 percent of your power requirements," Hess said.

This new system was part of an environmentally friendly exhibit at the U.S. Botanical Garden in Washington. The design was inspired by a 3,000 year-old windmill the Egyptians used to grind wheat.

The company had the modern version independently tested, here in Utah, to prove it can be competitive with large propellers of traditional windmills.

The large blades have been known to kill birds and bats. And because they move much faster than wind speeds, they can be noisy.

But Hess says the Windspire's verticle-axis wind turbine is not only very quiet, but also bird-friendly.

"Bird friendly yes, because they only spin at two and a half times the speed of wind, so they can see it." He explained.

Hess says the company has begun installing the nine-meter tall devices, which can plug into household power. And customers can see on their home computers how much electricity the Windspire is giving them.

Hess says, "This is the wireless connector which allows them to tell how much power is being produced, it allows the to tell how fast the wind is blowing, all of that comes out in a computer read out," he said.

The new windmill design attracts the curiosity of tourists and passersby, many who might find the Windspire an affordable way to help power their homes.

## Army To Help...

Contd. from page 6...

in a wide range of activities, including disarmament, demobilisation and human rights monitoring, to create an environment in which people can lead a normal life.

The Nepali Army has been contributing in UN peace missions for 50 years.

Nepal is the fifth largest contributor to UN's peacekeeping missions. Other contributors are Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh which together provide over 45 per cent of the blue berets. At present, 120 countries of the world have been providing 1,10,000 uniformed and civilian peace keepers to the UN. (The Himalayan Times)

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