

Nepal Abroad

Published weekly from Washington D.C.

Nepal Abroad

Saturday Chaitra 02, 2064 B.S. / March 15, 2008

Year 3. No. 9

Nepal Talks To Victims Of Maoists Attack



Photo: Nati Kaji Gorkhapatra

CPN-UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal inquires about the condition of UML leaders and cadres injured in Maoist attack in Ramechhap, at Teaching Hospital Thursday.

Obama: Racial Issues Will Not Decide US Election

By Cindy Saine VOA

Washington March 13: Senator Barack Obama has expressed frustration that racial issues keep rising to the surface in his battle with Senator Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. In the latest skirmish, a prominent Clinton fundraiser gave up her post in the campaign following backlash over remarks she made about Senator Obama's race. VOA Correspondent Cindy Saine reports from Washington.

Former New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro has given up her honorary position in the Clinton campaign, after she told a California newspaper that Senator Obama owes his success in the race for the White House to the fact that he is African American.

Ferraro refused to back away from her comments in her resignation letter, saying she is stepping down from the campaign so she can speak freely, and accusing the Obama campaign of using her comments to attack Senator Clinton. Ferraro was the first woman to run

for vice president on a major party ticket in 1984.

Speaking to a group of journalists from more than 200 black newspapers across the country, Senator Clinton distanced herself from Ferraro's statement.

"And I certainly do repudiate it and regret deeply that it was said," she said. "Obviously, she does not speak for the campaign, she doesn't speak for any of my positions, and she has resigned from being a member of my very large finance committee."

Senator Obama has called Ferraro's comment "ridiculous" and "wrongheaded", but said he did not believe she intended it to be racist.

Obama said a great majority of voters will base their decisions on substantive issues, and that his victories in states across the country show he can draw support from all races and all regions.

Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, said raising the issue of

...Contd. on pg 6

Dr Chalise Discusses Peace Process, Crucial Elections

Washington, D.C March 11 (IRPP): With an important election due April 10 in Nepal for a constituent assembly, Nepalese Ambassador Suresh Chandra Chalise discussed challenges in Nepal's peace process after years of political turmoil at today's Diplomatic Forum of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy.



Dr. Suresh C. Chalise

Nepalese voters will elect a constituent assembly on April 10, which will then vote on a new constitution and on the fate of Nepal's monarchy. The vote for a new assembly was postponed twice last year due to disagreements within the interim government.

In February 2005, then-King Gyanendra declared absolute

rule and dissolved parliament, but lifted it over a year later after street protests.

In November 2006, the government and Maoist rebels signed a peace agreement. The agreement ended a 10-year Maoist insurgency and allowed the rebels to participate in a democratic process while putting their arms under

...Contd. on pg 7

Police in Nepal Disperse Pro-Tibet Rally

Kathmandu March 15 (VOA): Police in Nepal have violently dispersed a pro-Tibet rally staged outside United Nations headquarters, injuring and arresting several demonstrators. The rally was a show of support from Tibetan refugees in Nepal for their countrymen in the Chinese-controlled Tibetan Autonomous Region. As Liam Cochrane reports from Kathmandu, the U.N. has expressed concern about the use of excessive force at the rally.

Tibetans gathered outside the U.N. headquarters in

Kathmandu, chanting prayers and holding signs asking for an end to the killings in Tibet.

For the past two days, Nepalese police have dispersed similar rallies. The rallies are a show of support for Tibetans as reports emerge of violence in the Chinese-controlled Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Gundop Dorje was one of the protesters in Kathmandu.

"Absolutely Tibetans did nothing wrong, but now seriously Tibetans are suffering so much, we

...Contd. on pg 6

Tickets to Nepal, India & Worldwide

1 866 391 0475

Call for quotes & availability

Cathay Pacific, Korean Air, Thai Air, Gulf Airway, Qatar Airways, PIA, Thai Airways and more...



Low price tickets from all over the US & Canada to Nepal and the rest of the world!

Indus Travels Inc., Washington DC Metro Area / 703 310 7267

Editorial:**'Send Home a Friend'**

'Send Home a Friend' concept is a Great vision put forth by the Nepal government and the NRN group, but the ground reality may challenge this mission considering the situation in Nepal.

We hear promising news about the increase in the number of tourists visiting the country during this transition period, the travel warnings issued by many western states poses another challenge. Such warnings are issued on the overall analysis of the security situation in the country, and not just in Kathmandu. The news about taxing the foreigners by the Young Communist League (YCL-Maoists affiliated) in several tourists area and sometimes physically harming them, only discourage further tourists arrival and minimizes the collective efforts of individuals and organizations that have been working to get more visitors in Nepal.

The strategy behind 'send home a friend' as put forth by its founders argues, among other things, that each expatriates should recommend and motivate their friends, colleagues, relatives, acquaintances to visit Nepal. This may sound good in Nepal but can be annoying abroad (west) when repeatedly make an argument trying to convince the people around you to visit Nepal. The argument can be expanded more to include the details

of how each defined expatriates can play a role in talking about Nepal and its various aspects with the aim to generate interests in our country.

International students from Nepal primarily have a very important role to play. They can be a very good messenger, as they go through several stages- as a new student, working professional and a part of any community they live. During the process they come across a lot of people-as friends, host parents, professors; hence the stake holders should find a way to reach them with this messages. And encourage them to talk to people they come across about Nepal.

Other expatriates groups also have important role to play, yet their reach is outweigh by the students reach.

Effort should also be made by the Nepalese organizations (abroad) to invite and include non-Nepalese individuals and groups in their programs. Those ex-Peace Corps volunteers, for example, who've been to Nepal, can be of great resources in achieving these objectives rather than just depending on the expatriates group.

Therefore, the phrase 'Send Home a Friend' is little vague and limiting in nature. Talking to as many people as possible by an individual and or groups would help meet this objective.

Activists Call For Decisive Action To Improve Sanitation

Kathmandu, March 09 (IRIN): Nepal has poor sanitation systems, with only 46 percent of its 27 million people having access to basic sanitation, according to the Nepalese government.

Over 14 million Nepalese - mainly in rural areas - do not have access to latrines, the government says.

"The facts are very grim and show there has been only slow progress in addressing the sanitation problem," said Bharat Adhikari, an official from Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH), a non-government organisation (NGO) which promotes sanitation, health and safe drinking water.

Dozens of local and international NGOs involved in local sanitation programmes have expressed concern, and called for urgent action to remedy the situation.

Over 13,000 children under five die from diarrhoea-related diseases caused by poor hygiene and sanitation besides unsafe drinking water, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Over 80 percent of diseases (including diarrhoea, cholera, intestinal worms, trachoma, typhoid) among adults and children are caused by lack of basic sanitation, according to a new government report entitled Nepal Country Plan for International Year of Sanitation 2008.

The report said poor hygiene and sanitation were causing losses of over US\$150 million per year in terms of health costs, loss of economic productivity and the adverse effect on tourism.

Ambitious goals, new policy

"Unless we act fast, the problems will get worse," said NEWAH's Adhikari, who said there was a need to build at least 15,000 latrines a month (until 2015) if Nepal

Letter to the editor can be emailed to print@nepalabroad.com with your name, and contact no to verify the sender.

Visit

khasaskhas.com

A website with a literary bent.

was to achieve its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of 53 percent access to sanitation and improved drinking water systems by 2015.

Nepal is 'likely' or 'potentially' to meet most of the MDG targets but its prospects on meeting the sanitation target are not so good, according to Asian Development Bank (ADB), one of Nepal's key multilateral funding agencies.

Nepal also aims to achieve 100 percent sanitation coverage by 2017 but this means increasing the number of latrines by 148,000 to 320,000 every year for another nine years, according to the Steering Committee for National Sanitation Action (SCNSA), comprising government officials and international and local NGOs.

"We will be giving a lot of emphasis to developing new policies to expand our sanitation programmes," said government official Kamal Adhikari, a sociologist at the government-run Environmental Sanitation Section of the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS).

He said the government had recently drawn up a nationwide sanitation policy with the help of NGOs and aid agencies, and the aim was to unveil it in 2008. It would include a detailed plan of work at community level to cover urban areas throughout Nepal.

Not yet a political issue

NGOs told IRIN the government had neglected sanitation.

"It has yet to make this a political issue and most

...Contd. on pg 6

Watch Musical Videos Online!

For latest News / Views / Informations

and More...
from Nepal & abroad

Nepal Horizons
www.nepalhorizons.com

To access the independent,
non-partisan news and
indepth analysis
of political developments
unfolding in Nepal

Visit

telegraphnepal.com

'The press & the nation's democracy rise and fall together!'

Nepali Calendar

Sun March 16 / Chaitra 03 '64
Nawami
Mon March 17 / Chaitra 04 '64
Ekadashin
Tue March 18 / Chaitra 05 '64
Duwadshin
Wed March 19 / Chaitra 06 '64
Trayodashin
Thu March 20 / Chaitra 07 '64
Chaturdashin
Fri March 21 / Chaitra 08 '64
Fagu Pornima
Sat March 22 / Chaitra 09 '64
Pratipada

Nepalese Students In SDSU Organize Annual 'Nepal Night'

A special report from NDSU Brookings, SD



Nepalese students' Association (NeSA) successfully organized the second annual Nepal Night at South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota. Nepalese Alumni, Nepalese living at Sioux Falls (SD) and Huron also played a big part for the success of the event. Nepalese community is fastest growing community at SDSU and currently it is educational play ground of fifty three Nepalese students.

Nepal Night is a cultural show which is meant to bridge gaps between individuals, cultures and communities while expressing Nepalese heritage.

The program was on February 24, 2008 (Sunday) but majority of tickets were sold out a week in advance. The students worked all weekend from Friday to last minute on Sunday to prepare Nepali food to serve the 450 invitees.

With a lot of hard work and co-ordination between each other Rice, Rajma, Chicken Curry, Chicken Roast, Mixed vegetable, Potato-cucumber pickle and Fruit Salad were prepared.

At 6:00 pm sharp the program was inaugurated by lighting an inaugural lamp ("panas") by chief guest Dr. Carol Peterson, Provost and Vice President of academic affairs which bestowed our tradition. Dr. Matthew Hansen, the advisor for Nepalese Students Association (NeSA), gave welcome speech. After inauguration the guests queued for the large variety of

Nepalese dishes. After Dinner the entertainment program began with a patriotic song "Gaucha Geet Nepali" with English translation in the background.

The program went to a height with beautiful solo and group dances, a Khukuri dance, Tihar Act, instrumental, Presentation about Nepal which included its tourist destinations, cultural diversity, arts and architecture, and cultural dress presentation which included many ethnic dresses from Nepal.

The ceremony came to an end by vote of thanks by NeSA president, the

...Contd. on pg 6

IDPs Being Neglected By Government, Say Aid Workers

Kathmandu, March 12 (IRIN): Local and international aid agencies struggling to get internally displaced persons (IDPs) back to their homes are concerned about an alleged lack of government interest in their plight.

Some 35,000-50,000 people are still displaced in various cities and towns, despite the end of the 1996-2006 armed conflict, according to estimates by agencies dealing with IDPs.

IDPs say it is not so much security which is the main obstacle to their return but the government's refusal to recognise most of them as IDPs.

"The main problem now is that the government has stopped registering any displaced persons and this is a matter of serious concern," said Pushpa Pandey, IDP protection coordinator of the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), a local human rights non-governmental organisation (NGO).

"So far, only a small proportion of displaced families are able to return home as they are still waiting for government recognition and

support," said IDP expert Amrita Shrestha.

According to international NGO Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which works with IDPs in 15 districts, the number of displaced families yet to be officially registered is growing. NRC officials explained that those who had lost the opportunity to register their names with the government were now desperately seeking help from the NRC and INSEC.

NRC already has over 1,000 families (nearly 5,000 people) registered with them as IDPs, and every week 10-15 more are registering.

"The problem was that most of these persons had no clue that they were IDPs and many of them had no access to information," said the NRC's country director, Phillippe Clerc.

He said there was a crucial need for the government to set up a proper system to deal with the IDP issue effectively, so that IDPs are not only returned but also reintegrated properly, said Clerc.

...Contd. on pg 6

Calendar of Events

March 15 '08: The Nepal Seattle Society is organizing a movie show - 'Kagbeni' on Saturday March 15 at 1411 21st Ave Seattle WA 98112. Details at nepalseattle.org

March 15 '08: The Nepalese Student Association of Minnesota State University at Moorhead (MSUM) is organizing Cultural program 'Nepal Yatra 2008 - Pratibimba a Reflection' on Saturday March 15 at CMU Ballroom of MSUM from 4.30 pm. \$10.00 pp

March 22 '08: The Nebraska Nepalese Society is screening nepal movie KAGBENI n Saturday March 22 from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm at Bellevue University, Criss Auditorium. contact Sushma Manandhar 402 203 4442. For details visit nnsociety.org

March 22 '08: The Dallas Everest Lions Club (DELCL) invites all to Dallas Everest Talent Show on Saturday March 22 at Irving Art Center 43333 North MacArthur Blvd Irving TX. For details visit dallaseverestlions.org and nepalhorizons.com

March 28 '08: The Nebraska Nepalese Society (NSS) is organizing Kid's Pajam Party for child from age 4-12 on Friday March 28 at Sujata's Dhungel Residence at 3807 S 190th st Omaha NE 68130. For details call 402 935 0873 or visit nnsociety.org

March 29 '08: The Nepal Seattle Society (NSS) is organizing a fund raise to show support to help Marbin Shrestha who needs bone-marrow transplant on Saturday March 29 from 2pm to 4:30pm at The Everest Kitchen Lake City Way NE. Details at nepalseattle.org

March 29 '08: The Nepalese communitiy in Rockville-Silver Spring invites all to attend community event to support Nepal Educational & Cultural Center on Saturday March 29 from 1.00-4.30 pm at Wheaton Regional Library at 11701 Georgia Ave Wheaton Md. For detail visit nepalhorizons.com

April 05 '08: The Nepalese Student Association at St Cloud State University St Cloud Minnesota is organizing Nepal Night 2008. For details mail at nsa@stcloudstate.edu.

April 06 '08: America Darpan is presenting 'Indreni Saanjh' - a collection of varieties cultural programs on Sunday April 6 from 4pm to 8pm at Irving Art Center, 3333 N MacArthur Blvd, Irving TX. For details visit americadarpan.com

Nepali Class in MN: The Nepali language classes in Minneapolis MN would be held on the following dates at Mt. Olivete Church 5025 Knox Ave S, Minneapolis MN. Saturday Jan 12, Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 23, Mar 8, Apr 5, Apr 19, May 3 and May 17. For more information contact any executive members at anmn.org

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

Is the World Running Out of Oil?

-By Aida F. Akl, Washington D.C.

Soaring global oil prices, and increased demand and production have some analysts worrying that the availability of oil could begin to diminish in a few decades. Others say the rate of depletion is so gradual that oil could be a source of energy for centuries to come.

The idea that oil reserves are finite was broached by U.S. geologist M. King Hubbert, who in 1956 theorized that oil production peaks before falling sharply as the amount of oil in a particular field declines.

Industry experts building on Hubbert's work predict that global oil production will begin to fall by three or four percent within a few decades. One of them is journalist David Strahan, a trustee for the London-based Oil Depletion Analysis Center, a non-profit organization that raises awareness about the issue.

"Peak oil is not about running out of the last barrel of oil on the planet. 'Peak oil' is so-called because the expected profile of global oil production on a graph looks like a fairly symmetrical mountain, so therefore it has a peak in the middle. But what it really means is that we are accustomed at the moment for oil production to keep on growing every year, but that growth will hit a peak and then go into decline so that, in the coming years, we are

going to have a steadily shrinking oil supply," says Strahan. "It's almost certain that peak oil will happen before 2020. There are people who believe it's happening right now. I am not sure about that, but I cannot see any set of circumstances in which the world does not hit peak oil before 2020."

Tight Supplies

Some analysts accuse oil-producing countries of keeping supplies tight despite rising demand to maximize their profits as record prices surge past \$100 per barrel. Others say a weaker U.S. dollar against other currencies has contributed to the price surge, particularly in the United States. Kenneth Medlock, an economist and energy expert at Rice University in Texas, says that, and supply and demand, are shaping today's oil market.

"Production and consumption are basically the same because the market has to balance. But global crude oil production, the last number I saw was on the order of 84-and-a-half-million barrels a day. In the past decade, demand has risen faster than it has at any point in time in the previous 30, 40 years," says Medlock. "So it's been rising very rapidly and supply was rising with it. But in the past three years, when we've seen this very rapid run-up in prices, we've also seen supply not continue to increase. And so basically

what's been happening is the pressure is there for demand to continue to rise, but because the supply is ever more difficult to get to, we've seen the price go up with it."

Some analysts maintain that after large oil fields are explored, it becomes harder and more expensive to drill deeper for increasingly smaller amounts of oil. But chemical and bio-molecular engineer Michael Economides of the University of Houston says oil will not run out anytime soon.

"The first time that people said we were running out of oil was in 1866, four years after the first purposeful well was drilled in Pennsylvania. The whole concept that we are running out of oil has been repeated on at least six major occasions in the last 150-some years. Peak will happen," says Economides. "But my calculations suggest that peak oil may happen around 2040, perhaps 2050. And then after that, it will linger on for decades—perhaps two, three centuries. We are still going to be producing commercial quantities of oil."

Technology to the Rescue?

Economides says technology and new drilling techniques have extended the world's known oil reserves. As a result, many experts say estimates for oil reserves have been rising, with this year's global

reserves estimated at one-and-a-third trillion barrels.

"The introduction of modern geo-sciences has probably added 20 percent [more oil] to the United States' reserves. Fifteen years ago, it was a good strike if we drilled ten wells and one well was good. Today, seven out of ten drilled wells are commercial successes. All of that is because of technology," says Economides. "We have gone below 10-thousand feet of water, which would have been unthinkable 15 years ago. So all of these things extend reserves and world production capacity."

Even if the world reaches a point when it can no longer extend the life of proven oil reserves, Economides says necessity will lead to the development of energy alternatives. Geologist Eric Cheney of the University of Washington in Seattle agrees. He says the global economy will cope with shortages before oil runs out.

"Science, technology and economics are going to provide more oil. And we're going to start manufacturing oil from non-conventional sources like the tar sands of Alberta [in Canada], possibly even the shale of the western United States. And with increased money, we can afford to produce oil that we could not pump out of the ground before," says Cheney.

...Contd. on pg 6

Rural Poor Pin Hopes For Better Life On 10 April Elections

Kathmandu, March 10 (IRIN): After witnessing so much violence over the past 11 years in Nepal, Laxmi Motari, aged 60, was beginning to lose hope of ever improving her impoverished life. "But now I am quite hopeful that things will change for the better," she said, explaining that the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections on 10 April could restore lasting peace.

Motari and her 70-year old husband, both of whom were displaced from their village in Mahottari District of eastern Nepal, are now planning to return home - to vote.

"We would like to have a member of parliament from our area who will share our problems of food shortages and extreme poverty in my village," said Motari.

Millions of impoverished and food-insecure Nepalese like Motari are pinning their hopes on the elections.

The decade-long armed conflict (1996-2006) between the former Maoist rebels and the Nepalese government ended with the signing of a peace agreement in November 2006 but new political conflicts surfaced with protests by pro-Madhesi political groups in the Terai region, Nepal's most fertile and industrialised region.

Pro-Madhesi parties have led a year-long campaign demanding the government give the region greater autonomy and local people more political rights. According to human rights groups, the protests and strikes have almost crippled the nation's economy.

Accord

However, an agreement between the Nepalese government and the main Madhesi parties signed on 29 February has gradually restored peace and security for civilians in the Terai,

according to rights groups. They said the elections were key to lasting peace and greater prosperity.

"This is a major breakthrough for all Nepalese and now we should all focus on making the elections a great success," said senior political leader Madhav Nepal, leader of the Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), one of the main parties, which played a key role in reaching an accord with the Madhesi groups.

Hopes high in Bajura village

"I have been counting the days to cast my vote," said Shanti Nepali, a low caste woman who was displaced from her remote village of Bajura District, nearly 600km northwest of Kathmandu. Nepali is also preparing to return home to vote.

Bajura is one of the most food-insecure areas: Most people live on less than US\$1 a day, according to

government Village Development Committee (VDC) officials.

The villagers are hoping that currently defunct government initiatives might be revived, and that officials might bring in money for agricultural projects, better storage of farm products and better market facilities.

"For villagers, the election is a symbol of the country returning to normalcy and better livelihoods," said Kausi Giri, a Bajura teacher who works to educate local people on elections.

She said all the villagers wanted to take part in the election in the hope of bringing about such things as road construction, improved electricity distribution and better farming technologies.

"I think now that the political war is over we can finally breathe an air of peace," said a 70-year-old farmer, Shiva Yogi.

ANWA Celebrates 'International Women's Day 2008'



Photo: nepalhorizons.com

The 'America Nepal Women's Association of Greater Washington DC (ANWA)' organized a program on Saturday March 8 in Falls Church, VA to celebrate the 'International Women's Day'. The program was attended by people from the DC metro area. Among other speakers, the Nepalese Ambassador to USA Dr. Suresh C Chalise (2nd from Left) was the chief guest in the program and Aditya Baral (4th from Left)-foreign advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal, also spoke on the occasion. Madhavi Karki (1st from left) is the current coordinator of ANWA.

Canada: The Refugee System

(Courtesy: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.....Continued from previous week...)

Some people are not eligible

Some people are not eligible for a PRRA. You are not eligible if you are:

- subject to extradition (extradition is a formal request that Canada return you to another country because you are a suspected or convicted criminal)
- ineligible for a hearing at the Immigration and Refugee Board because you came to Canada from a safe third country (find information about the Safe Third Country Agreement in the Related Links section at the bottom of this page)
- a repeat refugee protection claimant who is being removed from Canada less than six months after you previously left
- already recognized as a protected person or
- recognized as a Convention Refugee by a country to which you can return.

If your claim is accepted

If the PRRA officer accepts your claim, you may receive the status of "protected person." This means you can stay in Canada and you can apply to become a permanent resident of Canada.

If your claim is not accepted

If the PRRA officer rejects your claim, you will receive a written notice. Your removal order comes into effect again and you may receive a

reasonable period of time to ensure your departure from Canada.

What you can do if your claim is not accepted

You can apply for a review of the decision by the PRRA officer to the Federal Court of Canada.

Humanitarian and Compassionate Review

Any person can apply to stay in Canada on humanitarian or compassionate grounds. This includes refugee protection claimants whose claims are not approved by the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Applications to become a permanent resident on humanitarian and compassionate grounds are approved only in exceptional circumstances. It can take many years to process an application.

If you have received an order to leave Canada (this is called a removal order), you can still apply to stay in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Your application will not prevent or delay your removal from Canada—you must leave on or before the date stated on your removal order. Your application will still be processed even if you have to leave Canada. Citizenship and Immigration Canada will notify you in writing about the decision on your case.

There is no guarantee that your application will be approved. There is no right to appeal a refused application for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. In some cases, however, you can ask the Federal Court of Canada to review the decision.

Apply to the Federal Court of Canada for judicial review

Under Canada's immigration law, you can ask the Federal Court of Canada to review decisions related to immigration. A lawyer must apply for judicial review on your behalf.

In some cases, there are deadlines by which you are allowed to apply for review by the Federal Court. For example, if the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) has rejected your claim for refugee protection, you must file an application to ask for a Federal Court review within 15 days after the IRB decision was issued.

Review by the Federal Court is a two-stage process. In the first stage, which is known as the "leave" stage, the Court reviews the documents related to your case. You must show the Court that an error was made in the decision, or the decision was not fair or reasonable. If leave is given, this means the Court has agreed to examine the decision in depth. At this second stage, called

"application for judicial review," you and your lawyer can attend an oral hearing before the Court and explain why you believe the original decision was wrong.

In the case of decisions made by the IRB, a request for review by the Federal Court automatically puts a removal order on hold, and you can stay in Canada until the Court makes its decision.

Cases are usually argued before the Federal Court by your lawyer. The Court can agree with the original decision or return your case to the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) to be reheard. This does not mean the original decision will be reversed.

If the Court finds that there was no error in the decision of your case, you must leave Canada within 30 days and you are under a removal order.

Enjoy Your Vacation in Nepal !

*Trekking, Expedition, Rafting, Jungle
Safari, Mountain Flight,
Peak Climbing and much more.....
....Only in Nepal.*

Adventure Thirdpole

Treks & Expedition
www.thirdpoletreks.com

Activists Call For...

...Contd. from pg 2

parliamentarians brush it aside as a minor issue, not realising the disastrous adverse impact nationwide," said a Nepalese environmentalist who preferred anonymity.

According to SCNSA, one third of Nepal's 75 districts have sanitation coverage of below 20 percent. Of the government and community schools, 41 percent have latrine facilities.

Only one-third of schools have sufficient facilities and only a quarter have separate facilities for girls, said the SCNSA sanitation report.

The practice of open-air defecation, especially in the Terai, had badly contaminated groundwater and jeopardised public health, it said.

Lack of investment

The main problem, said NGOs, is that hygiene and sanitation

are a very low priority in terms of the national budget, and investment in the sector is inadequate. There was also ineffective implementation of policy due to inadequate coordination among stakeholders, the government and NGOs, environmentalists said.

However, government officials explained that priorities have now changed on sanitation, especially given that it is the International Year of Sanitation 2008, which Nepal is also marking.

"A lot has been planned this year on sanitation programmes and the government is ready to take quick action without delay," said government official Kamal Adhikari (his official post already mentioned above).

Children promoting sanitation

Schoolchildren in various districts have been helping to promote sanitation and hygiene issues, said UNICEF.

Obama: Racial Issues...

...Contd. from pg 1

race could be harmful to both Democratic candidates, but it could hurt Obama more.

"I suppose you could argue that anytime race is raised it hurts Obama more, simply because, in America, the electorate is about 11 to 12 percent African American and for Obama to win a general election he has to win a very substantial minority of the white vote, and he has to win the majority of the Hispanic vote," he said.

Flanked by nine retired military officers in Chicago, Obama challenged Clinton's repeated suggestion that she and Republican candidate John McCain both have the experience to be commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces, but Obama does not.

"After years of being told that Democrats have to talk, act and vote like John McCain to pass some commander-in-chief test, how many times do we have to learn that tough talk is not a substitute for sound judgment," he asked. "After years of a war in Iraq that should never have been authorized, how many more politicians will appeal to Americans' fears instead of their hopes?"

While the Republicans have already settled on Senator McCain as their nominee, the two Democratic rivals now have more than five weeks to fight it out until the next primary on April 22 in Pennsylvania, followed by primaries in North Carolina and Indiana. Obama currently leads in the total number of delegates and in the popular vote.

Nepalese Students In...

...Contd. from pg 3

invitees were all still seated after two and half hour of the program, thus a song was played where all the guests and Nepalese got up to the stage and danced in harmony to finish the program.

The Nepalese culture and dishes are appreciated by a big community in SDSU, Brookings and its vicinity

Yeti Airlines starts...

...Contd. from pg 7

recycled properly in the Khumbu region, the best alternate is to remove them to Kathmandu where they can be properly recycled, states a press note.

Vishwaparikrama

Fortnightly Publication with news, views & more from around the world

Govind Giri Prerana
editor@vishwaparikrama.com

Police in Nepal Disperse...

...Contd. from pg 1

really need a clear answer from here, from [the] United Nations," Gundop Dorje

Shortly after the protest began, several mini-vans carrying riot police arrived on the scene. The police began to forcibly remove the protesters, striking them with bamboo sticks as they resisted by sitting on the ground.

Several protesters appeared to be injured, and police detained around 20 of them.

The police commander refused to comment on why his men were ordered to attack the protesters.

As the Tibetans walked from the U.N. office to the local police station to ask for their friends' release, there were more scuffles with police.

Protesters gathered outside a police station, but the police refused to allow staff from the U.N.'s High Commissioner for Human Rights to check on the well-being of the detainees.

A United Nations spokesman later said the U.N. had not requested police action outside the organization's headquarters and is concerned about reports of excessive use of force.

IDPs being neglected...

...Contd. from pg 3

On 11 March INSEC's Pandey escorted 88 IDPs back to their home communities in the remote hill districts of Humla, Kalikot, Jumla, Accham and Dang, all 400-600km northwest of Kathmandu. On 12 March, his office helped with the return of an additional 150 IDPs, he said.

Government says it is providing help

The government's Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction told IRIN they have been making serious efforts to help the IDPs.

The ministry had disbursed US\$5.6 million to district administration offices all over the

country to provide relief aid to displaced families. The government estimated that nearly 35,000 IDPs would get such support. The ministry had also recently proposed implementing IDP legislation introduced in 2007.

But IDP experts are concerned that the government's lack of monitoring means most relief packages fail to reach the most needy IDPs.

"The Peace Ministry should have more resources and a greater presence at the field level to monitor," said Clerc. He said the ministry needed to put more officials on the ground, especially at strategic places, so as to ensure there is mechanism for helping IDPs.

Is the World Running...

...Contd. from pg 4

When the End is Near

If oil begins to run out, most analysts agree that the consequences would be dire for the world's economy and its political stability. But Rice University's Kenneth Medlock reasons that the consequences depend on the rate of depletion.

"So if there's a very slow, gradual decline, then that's not as bad as if we sort of fall off a cliff. If we sort of run out of oil very quickly, then there are pretty large adjustment costs in the sense that countries like China, India, the U.S. — which is the world's largest oil consumer — really have to adjust very rapidly to maintain even the status quo," says Medlock. "And that is probably not likely to happen. What's more likely to

happen, if we run out of oil quickly, is a pretty deep global recession."

Other experts say soaring oil prices and a diminishing supply will likely encourage exploration and a shift to cheaper alternative fuels such as coal and natural gas. What will run out, says geologist Eric Cheney, is cheap oil. He says oil will never go back to ten dollars-a-barrel, but it will be there -- for those who can afford it.

Every Sunday @ 9am-10am ET

Sagarmatha TV
on MHz Network

Also online @

www.sagarmathatvusa.com

US Treasury Unveils Guidelines to Ease Credit Markets

U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson has unveiled new guidelines to ease the credit crisis that has dragged the U.S. economy toward recession.

The guidelines, developed by a presidential working group, recommend more oversight of mortgage lenders and more stringent lending standards.

Paulson Thursday said poor judgment and poor market practices have led to mistakes in all sectors of the credit market. In recent years, lenders have relaxed credit standards for home loans, and in the tightening economy, many homeowners have found themselves unable to make their payments.

A California-based company that sells information on

home foreclosures, RealtyTrac Incorporated, issued a report today saying the number of foreclosure filings in February was up 60 percent compared to February of last year. It said the states of Nevada, California, and Florida had the highest foreclosure rates. Some experts say the situation is likely to worsen before it improves.

In other economic news, the U.S. Commerce Department released figures showing monthly retail sales dropped six-tenths of a percent in February, far more than the expected drop of two-tenths of a percent.

The White House today urged Americans to spend more and to have confidence in the U.S. economy. (VOA 03/13)

Dr Chalise Discusses Peace...

Contd. from pg 1...

U.N. supervision. Chalise said "conflict-related killings are almost non-existent" in Nepal now. The interim government declared Nepal a secular, as opposed to a Hindu, state in 2006.

Speaking at the March 11 roundtable, Chalise said Nepal has made much progress recently, but still faces several challenges. Rebels from Nepal's lowland Terai region, for example, recently demanded independence. The government

granted the region autonomy in a peace agreement, but about 10 to 12 rebel groups refuse to sign on. Nonetheless, said Ambassador Chalise, the "chances of elections are very high this time."

Other challenges Chalise foresees are rehabilitating the Nepalese population after years of conflict have displaced hundreds of thousands. Pro-change forces, at risk of breaking apart, also have to remain united in order to agree to a new constitution, Chalise said.

Yeti Airlines starts Lukla campaign

Kathmandu, March 14 (HNS): Yeti Airlines launched a campaign to lend a helping hand to clean up Lukla, the gateway to the world's highest peak Mt Everest, this spring, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility program.

A large number of trekkers and mountain lovers from around the

world visit the Khumbu region through Lukla each year. "In order to lessen the environmental impact to this region from tourism, Yeti Airlines has decided to remove as many empty beer bottles from this area as possible.

As the beer bottles are neither bio-degradable nor can they be

...Contd. on pg 7

Accrual Accounting Services Inc.

Service offered across the US

For your:

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



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

Remittance Increases by 18pc: A Report

Kathmandu, March 14(THT): The flow of remittances rose by 18 per cent in Nepal, during the first half of current fiscal year 2007-08 and touched the total amount to Rs 57 billion as of mid-January 2008. Nepal had received Rs 48.26 billion during the same period in the previous fiscal year.

Similarly, the largest remittance-recipient developing country India's private current transfers grew by 30 per cent in the first half of 2007.

According to a report - Remittance Trends 2007, the flow of remittance globally continues with a robust growth with developing countries taking lead as major recipients. The growth of remittances to developing countries remains robust because of strong growth in Europe and Asia.

The worldwide flows of remittances are expected to reach \$318 billion in 2007. Of the total amount, remittances sent home by migrants from developing countries are expected to exceed \$240 billion in 2007, up from \$221 billion in 2006 and more than double the level reached in 2002.

This amount reflects only officially recorded transfers-the actual amount including unrecorded flows through formal and informal channels is believed to be significantly larger, states the report.

Money sent in home by millions of migrant workers worldwide has already outstripped the global development aid and for many countries, remittances are larger than foreign direct investment (FDI), and in some cases, larger even than official development aid.

The report further states that the recorded remittances are more than twice as large as official aid and nearly two-third of FDI flows to developing countries. Remittances are the largest source of external financing in many poor countries. Also remittances have been less volatile than other sources of foreign exchange earnings in developing countries.

The remittance industry is experiencing some positive structural changes with the advent of cell phone and internet-based remittance instruments, according to the report. The diffusion of these changes,

however, is slowed by a lack of clarity on key regulations including those relating to money laundering and other financial crimes.

With induction of new technologies, the remittances transfer costs have fallen, but not far enough, especially in the South-South corridors.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region remains the largest recipient of (recorded) remittances. However, the growth of remittances to the region has slowed in recent months. The remittance flows to Europe and Central Asia have registered the highest growth rate among six developing regions, mostly due to upward revision of data in some countries.

As a share of GDP, remittances are the highest in the Middle East and North Africa region. The remittance flows to Sub-Saharan Africa are grossly underestimated, with wide gaps in data reporting in many countries.

In 2007, India, Mexico and China are top three recipients of remittances, accounting for nearly one-third of remittances received by the developing countries. Interestingly, the top 10 recipients list also includes several high-income countries such as France, Spain and UK-these countries receive remittances mostly from the other high-income European countries. As a share of GDP, however, remittances to these countries were about 0.5 per cent or less.

...Contd. on pg 8

Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	64.70	65.30
Canadian \$1	65.82	66.43
Euro 1	100.87	101.81
Pound Sterling 1	131.52	132.74
Australian \$1	61.00	61.56
Swiss Franc 1	64.12	64.72
Singapore Dollar	46.76	47.19
Japanese Yen 10	6.45	6.51
Chinese Yuan 1	9.13	9.22
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	10.68	---
Danish Kroner 1	13.53	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	8.31	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	17.25	---
Qatari Riyal 1	17.80	---
Thai Bhat 1	2.06	---
UAE Dirham 1	17.62	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	20.41	---

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

Where Have You Gone, Miss Columbia?

- By Ted Landphair, VOA news

Washington, DC March 10 : America is often represented in illustrations and political cartoons by symbolic characters. The fierce-looking bald eagle is a familiar one. The most widely-known human symbol of the United States is Uncle Sam. He's an old, gray-bearded fellow with stars on his top hat who has been around since the War of 1812. You still see him — sometimes on stilts — walking down Main Street in Independence Day parades.



A woman dressed as Miss Columbia played a prominent role in a 1913 suffragist parade in Washington D.C

But a softer and more nurturing figure was once America's favorite icon. She was Miss Columbia, a goddess of freedom whose regal bearing projected



Nothing could, or did, prevent private companies from using Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia in their advertisements. Here, Miss Columbia hawks a bock beer

America's positive ideals and poetic nature.

Though she usually wore a Roman-style metal bonnet and was draped in the stars and stripes of the American flag, kind-hearted Columbia reached out to immigrants and the poor. She and Uncle Sam often



Wearing a liberty cap and a skirt made of the American flag, Columbia protests the Civil War by asking President Lincoln to give me back my 500,000 sons!!! in 1864

appeared together, Sam wagging his finger in warning while Columbia offered a warm embrace.

In 1886, sculptor Frederic Bartholdi's monumental Statue of Liberty rose in New York Harbor — a gift of the French people. The copper Lady Liberty looked a lot like Columbia, though she wore a spiked crown and held high a torch of welcome. She fired Americans' imagination, and pretty soon she had elbowed Miss Columbia out of most illustrations. One of

Columbia's final, though most enduring, appearances came in 1924, as the logo of the Columbia Pictures movie studio, though this Columbia borrowed Lady Liberty's torch.

Library of Congress researcher Ellen Berg notes that wholesome — almost feminine — American idealism retreated as the nation embarked on imperialist adventures at the dawn of the twentieth century. Uncle Sam grew even more scolding, and to this day his likeness turns up in scathing political cartoons that attack a U.S. government policy or its critics. If you want to see the kinder, gentler America figure that Miss Columbia represented, you'll have to catch a movie!

For a free email subscription of **Nepal Abroad**, email us at print@nepalabroad.com with subject: subscribe; your name and location

Online Terrorism is Global Concern

By Mandy Clark

Internet experts warn that the Worldwide Web has become a haven for organized crime and they say the threat of online terrorism is real. At a recent e-crime congress in London, a NATO official said online espionage and Internet-based terrorism represent some of the gravest threats to global security. VOA's Mandy Clark reports from London.

While people work hard on their computers - so too do the Internet viruses or malicious software known as malware. Cyber experts say hundreds of thousands of them bombard personal computers every day. Far from being a mere nuisance, these bugs threaten modern life.

British opposition lawmaker David Davis warned an e-crime conference in London that the danger of cyber terrorism is real.

"In America, hackers have already broken into the Pentagon's computer systems; in India, into government ministers' files; in Germany, into the chancellor's," Davis said. "Such attacks could be designed to compromise safety

systems, critical national infrastructure, to overwhelm communication systems, or even to cause a run on the bank."

Last April, Estonia fell victim to cyber-terrorism. A barrage of spam and hacking paralyzed the former Soviet republic's banks and government.

James Finch is assistant director of the FBI's Cyber Division. He says governments are in a constant battle with cyber criminals.

"Unfortunately bad guys and their talents are maturing on the Internet, so it is a constant battle or challenge to stay ahead of the Internet criminal," Finch said.

NATO warns that the online terror threat will continue to grow as groups become increasingly aware of its potential. The military alliance says it considers internet terrorism to be a greater threat than a missile strike.

Cyber security expert Mikko Hyppönen says malware are making the Internet a more dangerous place.

I think we have never seen as bad a situation as we are seeing

right now," Hyppönen said. "We are getting more samples than ever before in the history of malware and many people are surprised by that because people see less outbreaks, but there are still more viruses being created. And the reason behind this is the virus writers have changed from the old hobby virus writers who did it for fun, to the professionals who do it to make money."

Ghost malware and other bugs are hidden deep within infected computers, allowing criminal gangs to silently gather personal information. The FBI's James Finch says there is a well-organized, Internet mafia.

"If there is a crime that is profitable on the Internet, it is safe to say that an organized group of people is probably carrying it out," Finch said. "We are looking at very structured organized groups, individuals who have never physically met, but are collaborating on the Internet globally.

Internet experts say they do not want people to pull the plug on their life online, but rather they

caution them to stay vigilant, keep anti-virus software up-to-date and know the enemy. [VOA 03/13]

Remittance Increases by...

...Contd. from pg 7

In contrast, the top recipients in terms of the share of remittances in GDP included many smaller economies such as Tajikistan, Moldova, Tonga, Kyrgyz Republic and Honduras, where remittances exceeded a quarter of the GDP.

Countries in South Asia and East Asia are experiencing robust growth in remittances. In the Philippines, remittances rose by 15 per cent year-on-year during the first nine months of 2007. Both Bangladesh and Pakistan reported over 20 per cent growth during the first nine months. High oil prices and strong economies in the oil-exporting Middle Eastern countries are contributing to strong demand for migrant labourers.