

Nepal Abroad

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Motherland Nepal's President Meets PM Dahal



President of Motherland Nepal Mr. Anil Pandey meets PM Puspha Kamal Dahal during his Nepal visit. The President and the PM is seen discussing the ways to make Nepalese Organizations in US like the Motherland Nepal to make effective in stabilizing and restoring Peace in Nepal and also highlighting the significance of Nepalese Counselor's Office in California.

During his stay Mr. Pandey also organized an interaction program on 'Shanti Prakriya Ma Prabashi Nepali' at the Reporters club where Foreign Minister Mr. Upendra Yadav highlighted on the importance of NRN'S investment.

Motherland Nepal is a nonprofit organization established in February 2005 officially registered in California in order to help and support the people from Nepal and around the world in the time of need.

Badal Queers The Integration Pitch: Advocates New Norms For NA

Kathmandu, October 18 (HNS): Defence Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa 'Badal' today joined the issue on integration of the Maoists' combatants into Nepal Army (NA).

He said new standards were needed to settle the contentious issue. Speaking at an interaction at Reporters' Club, Badal explained that the erstwhile standards — formulated during the royal regime — would not have any bearing on the integration process. "We require new norms on the basis of national and international experiences," he said.

Responding to a query, the Defence Minister spelt out that the PLA would be integrated into the national army and attendant security forces under the able guidance of the special committee.

Taking a dig at Nepali Congress (NC) acting president Sushil

Koirala's recent remark, he said; "All those who are questioning the integration process are speaking against the people's mandate. If the NC takes to the streets to oppose the move, the government has every right to crack down."

The minister said the Maoists would come up with their vision of integration soon.

"The government will unveil a national security policy shortly. It will determine the strength of the security forces," he added.

Interestingly, Badal had commented a few months ago that the size of the Nepal Army should not exceed more than 50,000, which is almost half of the current strength.

He blamed the opposition for making a mountain out of the People's Republic issue.

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Electoral College Chooses US President

- By Jeffrey Young Washington, October 17 2008 VOA

While millions of Americans will cast ballots for president on November 4, their votes do not directly send one of the candidates to the White House. In this segment of How America Elects, VOA's Jeffrey Young explains that the selection of the president is actually done by the Electoral College.

On December 15, a total of 538 people will assemble in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and cast ballots. These people are Electors in an institution called the Electoral College. It was set up under the U.S. Constitution to elect the president.

Professor Curtis Gans at American University describes how each state's number of Electors is determined.

"Those Electors are, in number, [equivalent to] the Congressional delegation in each state - - two for the Senate, and however many Representatives. And, they are elected by a winner-take-all in the states," Gans explained.

Two states, Nebraska and

Maine, are an exception to the winner-take-all rule. They assign Electors proportionately according to the popular vote.

George Washington University Professor Dennis Johnson says the Democratic and Republican Parties are fixated on capturing a majority of the 538.

"When you think about the strategy of an election, the most important number is 270. And that is the number of Electors that will get you over the top [get you elected president]. And, any combination of states that has 270, that is the magic number that you are really looking for," Johnson said.

But each candidate's pursuit of these states is different, as Professor Gans explains.

"Every candidate in this polarized country, at this point, starts with a number of states that are clearly

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Poorest Struggling To Rebuild After Floods

KATHMANDU, October 17 (IRIN): The floodwaters in west Nepal have receded but the poorest communities who were the hardest hit are still suffering, according to local NGOs.

The heavy rainfall between 19 and 21 September caused flash floods and landslides in several districts of the far west and mid-west regions, displacing about 180,000 people.

"The situation looks normal now but the poorest are facing a lot of difficulties because their livelihoods have been severely affected," Dhanpati Dhungel, coordinator of the Forum for Awareness and Youth Activities (FAYA), a local NGO helping the flood victims in Kailali district, told IRIN.

Kailali, nearly 600km southwest of the capital, was the worst affected, with 144,000 displaced. Most families have already returned to their semi-destroyed homes but are uncertain how they will sustain themselves

as their farms have been ruined and livestock killed, according to NGOs.

The crops were badly damaged by water-logging and rainfall, with most of the land near the river covered with sediment, destroying most of the household food stocks after nearly 100,000 hectares of land were ruined, causing nearly US\$8 million worth of crop loss, according to the government.

Officials told IRIN that seeds for the winter crops had also been destroyed and the sediment had damaged soil fertility. A joint mission of the government and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is expected to visit the district this week and chart ways to support the worst-affected families.

"The problem is the farming season has arrived and the families need immediate support, especially for seeds and planting," said Sitaram Joshi from the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Kailali.

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Editorial:

Child Soldiers Accountability Act 2008

On Friday October 3, 2008 US President George W Bush signed into law the 'Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2008, which makes the recruitment and use of child soldiers a Federal crime; and makes aliens convicted of engaging in these offenses inadmissible and deportable under the Immigration and Nationality Act. This act was introduced by Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois and adopted unanimously by both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate in September 2008. In a statement issued on October 3, Senator Durbin said, 'The United States must not be a safe heaven for those who exploit children as soldiers. Period. The use of children as combatants is one of the most despicable human rights violations in the world today and affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of boys and girls who are used as combatants, porters, human mine detectors and sex slaves. The power to prosecute and punish those who violate the law will send a clear signal that the U.S. will no way tolerate this abhorrent practice'.

The New York based Human Rights Watch on Tuesday October 7 said that the leaders of the police and government-backed Salwa Judum vigilantes, as well as armed Naxalite rebels who have recruited child soldiers in India's Chhatisgarh state may be arrested and prosecuted in the US.

Both sides in the Chhatisgarh conflict have used the children in armed operations. Reports states that Naxalites have admitted recruiting children 16 and older, but have also used those as young as 12 in armed operations. Government (India) backed Salwa Judum have used children in violent attack against villages as part of their anti-Naxalite campaign. The Chhatisgarh police also have actively recruited children under 18 as special police officers (SPO) but claim that all children have been removed from ranks. But things are different in the ground. Human Rights Watch investigators in Chhatisgarh have found that underage SPOs continue to serve with the police and are used in counter-Naxalite operations that often result in armed exchanges with the Naxalites, and they are so vulnerable to landmine blasts and Naxalite reprisal killings.

Using child soldiers in not uncommon in Sri Lanka and Nepal. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE), a rebel group in Sri Lanka has recruited and used children soldiers throughout the two-decade-long civil war. Prior to the 2002 ceasefire agreement, the LTTE have rou-

tinely used children in combat, including for mass attacks during major battles. The LTTE used child soldiers in all capacities, including as infantry soldiers, security and intelligence officers, medics, combat and administrative support, and as trainers for other cadres. They also used children as suicide bombers, including girls, who may be less likely to undergo rigorous searches at government checkpoints. They gave cyanide capsules and grenades to its soldiers, including children, with instructions to ingest the capsule or blow themselves up rather than allow themselves to be captured by the Sri Lankan security forces, states HRW. Since 1997, the United States Department of State has included the LTTE on its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The Maoists in Nepal also have a record of recruiting children for fighting or supporting combat during the insurgency. They employed several techniques in recruiting children: kidnapping of individual children; abduction of large groups of children, often from schools or at mass rallies that they were forced to attend; and through the use of propaganda campaigns to attract children as "volunteers". They had also introduced 'one family, one child' program whereby each family had to provide a recruit or face severe punishment, in the areas firmly under their control in Nepal's west and far-west during insurgency. Majority of the child soldiers are still languishing in the cantonment today, waiting for the reintegration into the Nepalese society.

Detail stories on child soldiers, their recruitment and the way they're being used in various conflict-ridden areas can be found in HRW and other human rights organizations.

Although the rebels in Nepal have joined the peace process and are also into the government through the election, the continued retention of these child soldiers in the cantonment is also another abuse these confined children have to go through. They're denied their basic childhood requirements – opportunity to attend the school, their desire to be with their families and their right to decide not to remain as child soldiers.

This act has come out as a major support to the advocates of human/child rights that have been reporting abuses under dire circumstances. World community should rise against the child rights abusers, who use them as medium to advance their cause.

Huge Challenges In Preparing For Natural Disasters

KATHMANDU October 8: Nepal is becoming a disaster hotspot, with natural hazards increasing over the past two decades, according to aid agencies.

Floods, landslides, fire, cyclonic winds, hailstorms, drought and famine are among the disasters gripping the Himalayan nation with increasing ferocity.

In addition, there is a serious threat of an earthquake, particularly in the capital,

Kathmandu. Records show that a quake occurs every 75 years in the city, with the last one in 1934 when 3,400 people died.

Another big one is expected within a few years in the range of 8.1 to 8.3 on the Richter scale, which could kill at least 40,000 people and render 900,000 homeless.

According to the Nepal Contingency Report 2008 by the Nepal Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), a forum for coordination and decision-making among key UN agencies and NGOs, between 1971 and 2006, flash floods, landslides and urban and rural fires resulted in a huge loss of life.

More than 1,000 people die annually in Nepal because of natural hazards, with almost 300 deaths due to floods and landslides alone, the report stated. Experts say the death toll is higher than a decade ago.

In addition, the disasters frequently damage livelihoods and property, limiting development in the impoverished nation.

Stepping up preparedness

For these reasons Nepal, with a population of 27 million, is boosting its disaster-preparedness activities between aid agencies and the government.

"There has been improvement in terms of coordination on the ground," said Wendy Cue, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Nepal.

"As it is very important to know who is present to react, we now



Photo: Naresh Newar/IRIN
In the Terai, thousands of families are routinely displaced from their homes due to lack of pre-disaster preparedness

have lots of local NGOs in partnership with international NGOs in the districts," she said.

To complement that, the "cluster approach" was introduced this year to help reduce immediate post-flood vulnerabilities in both east and west Nepal where nearly 240,000 people were displaced.

The cluster system helps each agency to focus on particular areas such as food security, health, education, protection of children and women, while avoiding duplication of effort.

Moreover, the cluster approach allows agencies to more effectively raise funds, and faster.

Challenges ahead

Yet despite such progress, challenges remain.

Aid workers maintain the focus continues to concentrate on post-disaster response preparedness rather than pre-hazard situations, since the cost is much higher. "Most of the money comes only after the disasters [especially floods and

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Nepalese Calendar

Sun Oct 18 / Kartik 02 '65

Chauthi

Mon Oct 19 / Kartik 03 '65

Panchami

Tue Oct 20 / Kartik 04 '65

Khasthi

Wed Oct 21 / Kartik 05 '65

Saptami

Thu Oct 22 / Kartik 06 '65

Astami

Fri Oct 23 / Kartik 07 '65

Nawami

Sat Oct 24 / Kartik 08 '65

Rama Ekadashin

Madhesi Armed Groups Ready For Peace Talks

KATHMANDU October 14: Peace talks are likely to be held soon with armed Madhesi groups that have been fighting for a separate province in the Terai, the flat southern region of Nepal, according to senior government officials.

"We are making efforts to establish links with the groups of the Terai to hold a dialogue soon and create an environment conducive for peace talks with them," said the Minister for Peace and Reconstruction, Janardhan Sharma. He is also the coordinator of the recently formed government negotiation team.

The armed groups have responded to the government invitation. "We are positive about having a dialogue with the government but they have to form a trustworthy talks team," said Rajan Mukti, chief of Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha-Rajan, one of the leading groups among the 14 armed Madhesi organisations, in a statement.

However, the group said the government should withdraw all



Photo: Naresh Newar/IRIN
Madhesi armed groups agree to talk peace with the government

the court cases against their cadres and release their members who were imprisoned this year. The group wants the government to also agree to their demand to hold a referendum in the Terai concerning its autonomy.

The government officials said they were ready to release the cadres from prison and guarantee their safety, said Sharma.

Security of civilians

A truce with the armed groups would provide a major breakthrough for innocent civilians in the Terai, especially the Pahade, who have

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Development Drive To Start From Far-West

Kanchanpur, Oct. 17 (TRN):The government would start the development campaign from the far west, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' said Friday.

"The region will be developed into a special economic area," Prime Minister Prachanda told participants at the inaugural function of the Far Western Tourism and Industrial Fair. "The courage shown by the people of the Far West, who were neglected and discriminated by the erstwhile dispensation, has given added strength to the government to work for development."

The Prime Minister assured the flood-affected people of the region that the government would leave no stone unturned in distributing relief materials and that it would build the 13-kilometre road link between Mahendranagar and Brahmadev, for the development of tourism there, "whether or not this is included in the budget."

The government would build a university in the region as per its policy of opening universities in all regions, PM Prachanda, who did not make any political comments at the function, said. "The new government has always respected the ideas and sentiments of the people of the far west," he added.

After inaugurating the fair, PM Prachanda inspected the flood affected areas. He is scheduled to meet with journalists here at 10 am tomorrow.

The fair, jointly opened by the PM and the President of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kush Kumar Joshi, intends to bring in some 300,000 visitors. The inaugural function, chaired by Kanchanpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, Hemraj Pandey, was attended by Prime Minister's spouse Sita Dahal, Minister for Labour and

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Calendar of Events

October 18: The Rocky Mountain Friends of Nepal (RMFN) invites all to participate watching in Fund Raising movie to help Koshi Flood Victims "Srimati Jindabad" on Saturday October 18 from 6.00pm at Broomfield Library Auditorium 3 Community Park Road CO 80020. For details visit rmfn.org

October 18: The America Nepal Society invites all to participate in Dashain Tihar Mela 2008 on Saturday October 18 from 12.30pm to 7.00pm at Knights of Columbus 5115 Little Falls Road Arlington VA 22207. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

October 18: The Nepali Association of Oregon has scheduled to organize 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

October 19: The Embassy Of Nepal has scheduled 'An Open House Tea Party Reception' to mark Dashain Tihar Festivals 2065 on Sunday october 19 from 2.00pm - 6.00pm at 2730 34th Place NW Washington DC 20007. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

October 25: The Nebraska Nepalese Society (NNS) has scheduled to organize Dashain Tihar Sanjh on Saturday October 25 from 6.00pm to 12.00am at Bellevue University Student Center. For details visit nnsociety.org

October 25: The Association of United Hindu & Jain Temples of Silver Spring MD has scheduled Saturday October 25, 2008 as 'Diwali Mela'. The celebration starts from noon till 10pm at 1st Mariner Arena (near Baltimore Inner Harbor). For further information visit dcunitedtemples.org

November 01: The Rocky Mountain Friends of Nepal (RMFN) has invites all to Dashain Tihar Pot Luck Dinner and Cultural program on saturday November 01 from 4.00pm @ Westminster recreation Center Community Room 10455 Sheridan Boulevard Westminster CO 80020. For details visit rmfn.org

November 08: The Nepal Pasa Pucha Amerikaye (NPPA) invites all to participate in NPPA's 17th Anniversary Bhintuna Celebration of Nepal Sambat 1129 on Saturday November 08 from 12.00pm to 11.00pm at Shady Grove Middle School 8100 Midcounty Highway Gaithersburg MD 20877. For details visit nepalhorizons.com

December 06: The Asian Division's Friends Society of the Library of Congress is organizing 'Intangible Cultural Heritage - Musical Instruments in Asian Culture' on Saturday Decemeber 06 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Asian Reading Room, Asian Division, The Library of Congress 101 Independence Ave SE Washington DC 20540. For details contact Yuwu Song at yson@loc.gov or visit nepalhorizons.com.

Thursdays: The Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi Bhajan / Kirtan is conducted at Durga Temple 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station VA every Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm.

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

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

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Global Crisis: How Far to Go? Part I

Branko Milanovic YaleGlobal, 8 October 2008

Mistrust over lending grips the globe, but a wiser, more nimble US could emerge from the chaos

WASHINGTON: Contemporaries are often poor judges of historical events. People who saw a group of soldiers pushing around a man in rags before he was crucified could be excused for not realizing they were witnessing perhaps the most important event in human history. On the misty, cold morning of October 25, 1917, those who saw a few detachments of soldiers crossing the vast plazas of Petrograd did not recognize the beginning of the biggest revolution since the one in France. And when the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 9 percent on October 24, 1929, few had heard of an Austrian citizen named Adolf Hitler.

Thus, today, too, nobody knows which way the financial crisis will go, with what force it will spill into the real sector—decline in output, higher unemployment—and finally, perhaps most importantly, to what outcomes it will lead in the political arena. But what certainly raises fear among ordinary people is that politicians and economists alike seem equally baffled, as if they were in the presence of a cyclone whose true origin or destination are unknown.

We cannot foretell the course of this cyclone nor its ultimate effects, and can only summarize its impact so far, broadly surmising the direction the world may be headed.

In the speed with which this turmoil propagates itself, how it has spread from the United States to Asia to Russia and to Europe, it's indeed the first worldwide crisis in the current era of globalization. It started in the citadel of global neoliberal capitalism, the United States, and even more centrally so, in Wall Street. The very heart of the system was discovered to be corrupt and mismanaged. Since globalization has been so successful in rapidly encompassing the entire globe into one single system, now the crisis likewise affects all. As the means of communications have become capable of real-time transmission of information, panic in any one place spreads quickly to the other end of the globe. All the advantages of financially-driven globalization—sophistication of the financial markets, speed and volume of transactions, with \$3 trillion dollars on average traded every day, the geographical reach—have suddenly transmuted into disadvantages.

This crisis's global effects differentiate it from earlier crises like the Asian 1997-98 crisis which spread only to Russia and Brazil or from the debt crisis of the early 1980s that affected the developing world. It's different from the recessions of 1973-75 and 1979-81 because they did not propagate as fast and hardly affected China, India and the Soviet Union.

So, how does the crisis affect the process of globalization? To see this, we ought first to recall the current makeup of globalization—a two-pronged process, resting on two pillars. On the one hand, globalization means an ever-tighter integration of markets for goods, capital and technology—and to a much less extent, labor—undergirded by an ideology best summarized in the Washington Consensus' 10 precepts among which privatization, deregulation and generally a lesser role of governments were key. The first pillar provides incentives for and ideology of globalization.

But there's also a second pillar which provides the muscle. Globalization is not underwritten solely by ideology and interests but also by the military might of the US. This part was made clear in the by-now infamous "Project for the New American Century," developed in the 1990s by leading neoconservatives, which laid out the blueprint for American domination of the world, justifying it by the need to allow other nations to compete peacefully in matters of economics, but not in destructive nationalism. The invasion of Iraq was a logical consequence of this policy.

The crisis severely undermines both pillars. It sweeps the rug out from under neoliberal capitalism by making it painfully clear that the



Photo: Yale Global
Guns and Butter: The deepening US economic crisis threatens not only its prosperity at home, but ability to project power abroad

precepts dished out with abandon around the world—transparency, efficiency—were openly flouted even as they were preached. And with own wealth at stake, the ideology of self-regulating markets is easily forgotten, and recourse unabashedly made to state subsidies, so reviled only months earlier. It will be a long time before the cheerleaders of globalization can flaunt its textbook advantages with a straight face. Thus the massive

bailout, done in the face of obvious reluctance of the public and taxpayers, the swelling real estate crisis born of financial mismanagement by “the best and the smartest,” severely undercut the first ideological pillar.

In the rest of the world, government interventionism will now be seen as more acceptable than at any time in the last quarter century. More countries will experiment with economic policies that do not fully follow the tenets of neoliberalism.

The huge costs of the crisis, probably more than \$1 trillion in the US alone—or some 7 percent of US gross domestic income—weakens the second pillar of globalization also. Not only is the US military already hopelessly stretched, involved in the wars that it can neither lose nor win, but the financial costs of these adventures are mounting. Add to that the costs of the bailout, likely recession and further reduction in tax receipts, and an already weakening dollar, and the financial costs of new American military-led globalization episodes become unsustainable.

It's said that Soviet Communism collapsed because of the rebellion of nature: So long as it was cheap to exploit oil and gas, the show continued. The US-led globalization may come to a temporary halt for more prosaic reasons: indigestion and over-extension, both the

common diseases of the empires, from Caesar's Rome to Bush's Washington.

Yet, even if the crisis is deeper than currently conventionally expected—a cumulative gross domestic income decline of several percentage points—it will still leave the US as, by far, the most powerful country in the world. In current dollar terms, American GDI per capita dwarfs by more than 20 times the Chinese. Were China to continue growing during the next three to five years at close to 10 percent per annum and the US to remain mired in recession, the gap would have declined only to 15 to 1. The US accounts for a quarter of world output, and that share is unlikely to change much. Finally, the US spends on military more than all the other countries combined. That too is unlikely to change. Thus, the relative setback to the second pillar of globalization must be seen in context.

The crisis would likely, particularly under an Obama presidency, lead to a much more self-centered America that would try to limit its external commitments and get its own house in order first. Rather than fear such semi-isolationism, both the US and the world should welcome it. For the US is generally regarded, in global opinion polls, as both the country with the strongest “soft power” of attraction and the one that's the gravest danger to world peace. An America that works more on its soft power—better education and health systems, stronger protection of the poorest and greater openness to multiculturalism—will be a better country to live in, attract more talent from abroad and create more goodwill in the world.

A US turn to semi-isolationism will make the world safer and more peaceful, sparing the globe unnecessary conflict, phony Crusades and blatant disregard of the United Nations. So rather than wringing our hands at this crisis, one should see it for what every crisis is—an opportunity for a new and better start.

(Branko Milanovic is an associate scholar with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Reprinted with permission from YaleGlobal Online - www.yaleglobal.yale.edu - (c) 2008 Yale Center for the Study of Globalization.")

ANS Celebrates Dashain-Tihar Mela 2008 in DC



Photo: Nepal horizons.com

The ANS (America Nepal Society) has organized a Dashain Tihar Mela 2008 on Saturday October 18 from 12.30 noon to 7.00pm at the Knights of Columbus Arlington VA. The large number of participants were attracted with exhibits and merchandise for sale along with a delicious Nepali food and cultural program. Present on the occasion were Nepalese Ambassador to the US Dr. Suresh C. Chalise, and also representatives of the other Nepalese Organizations in and around DC metro area. An Election for a new ANS Executive body was also scheduled today and Ms. Bishnu Kumari Thapa and Mr. Khem Bhattachan has been elected as President of the Society for the first and second year respectively.

America's Gun Epidemic and Crumbling Immigration System

Bhumika Ghimire IN



On September 29th, Houston Chronicle reported sad news, Ashok Bhattarai, 21, a Nepali student who had been in America for about a year was killed by a robber. The masked man walked into the convenience store where Bhattarai worked as a clerk and shot him with a rifle and made away with about \$5,000. Adding yet another name in growing list of innocent lives lost due to mindless gun violence.

Second Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms for self defense and to defend one's property. America's founding fathers probably thought that allowing the people to defend themselves will insure no government or dictator in the future will be able to hold the country hostage and deny people their freedom. With guns the people will be able to stand up for their rights.

Unfortunately, the right that many Americans hold so dear is directly or indirectly killing hundreds every year. According to Coalition to Stop Gun Violence,

every day more than 80 Americans die from gun violence. Center for Disease Control and Prevention said in 2007 report that 1.35 million high school students are threatened or injured with a weapon on school property at least once every year. In 35 states you can buy a gun at gun shows without a background check.

Easily available guns and fire arms are making America unsafe for everyone. From high schools to main street, from university campus to a convenience store-innocent people are becoming target of criminals for whom getting a gun or a combat grade weapon is as easy as buying a can of soda or Windex. Some states have introduced laws to conduct background checks and mental health evaluation before a gun can be sold, but in majority of states buying a gun is very easy. For a criminal this attitude is godsend, he is free to arm himself to harm the society.

Ashok Bhattarai is not the first victim of America's gun violence crises nor is he the last. His murder is adds to the grim statistics the lawmakers are choosing to ignore. But gun

epidemic is not the only culprit in this case. America's decaying immigration and enforcement system is also to blame.

Based on the Houston Chronicle report, Bhattarai was a student at Houston Community College and had been in the country for about a year. His family is in Nepal. It is safe to assume that he was in America in a non-immigrant international student visa or the F1 visa.

According to immigration rules, students on F1 visa are not allowed to accept employment outside their college or university. If they are unable to finance their education, then they can apply for a work permit to work off campus. The permit allows a student to work off campus but it is often difficult to convince the immigration authorities that the student indeed needs the permit to continue his education and process is time consuming. Many international students thus find work off campus without the permit.

It is not fair to Bhattarai to speculate under circumstances he was working at the convenience store, whether he

had the permit or not. But if he was working off campus without a permit, then the local immigration authorities and the college should be held responsible. I am not saying that they could have prevented his death; at least stricter enforcement of the rules could have forced Bhattarai to seek a safer on campus job.

Every year hundreds of Nepali students come to America with big dreams. Their parents have huge expectations and dreams-one among them is that the student will be financially independent within months of reaching American shores. Nothing could be further from truth, especially in these hard times.

These vulnerable students, pushed by their parents' expectations and economic reality, are desperate for a job. Working at a gas station or a convenience store is not a walk in park. Armed robberies, break-ins are very real threats. But the students ignore these risks, they have no other way. If only the universities and the immigration authorities would take this issue seriously and make sure that students don't accept off campus employment without a permit and when then do so with a permit go to a much safer working environment.

Huge Challenges In ...

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landslides] take place," Deepak Paudel, an official with the Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNET) Nepal, told IRIN in Kathmandu.

He explained that preparedness had to be strengthened on a par with the frequency of the disasters intensifying every year.

Weak infrastructure and poor housing in both the Terai (fertile flatlands in the south) and the hills is one of the key reasons why the situation worsens during disasters, displaces more people and poses increased challenges in bringing in humanitarian assistance, according to NGOs.

The nature of disasters differs in each region, with the Terai prone to floods while the hill region faces more landslides. The mountain region is most vulnerable, due to the cyclonic wind that destroys crops in spring, while hailstorms cause significant harm to crops in both summer and winter, according to the IASC.

Government response

"The government has been doing a lot in disaster relief operations but now there is a need to focus also on pre-disaster and mitigation efforts," Thir Bahadur GC, a senior official from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), told IRIN.

The government is introducing a National Strategy for

Disaster Risk Management, designed to scale up funding as its annual budget of US\$700,000 is insufficient to cope with the magnitude of disasters.

"There is an important need to focus also on recovery measures, which include reconstruction and rehabilitation of victims," said Bahadur GC.

Still another area requiring work by the government is housing and land rights as many of the affected people live on marginal lands more susceptible to disasters.

"That is something the government needs to take seriously in terms of policy for people who have been affected by flood and rehabilitation," said an international disaster expert, who did not want to be named.

At the same time, rescue and disaster relief workers agree there is a need to boost the coping strategies and mechanisms of affected communities.

"So many communities have so few resources and are living on the threshold of poverty. If they lose their grains and food, they have nothing to lean on," said OCHA's Cue.

She explained that while dealing with disaster preparedness, it was important to look at people's capacity and respond to their vulnerability. (IRIN News Service)

Badal Queers The Integration...

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"We want to empower the marginalised. This is our primary concern. The name has little to do with our goal," he added.

Asked about the party's proposal to drop the 'Maoist' tag, Badal echoed chairman Prachanda.

"Unification among the communist forces triggered the thought. The party's general convention would take a decision on this," he said.

However, he is in favour of a common front of all like-minded forces.

Badal said the Maoists were against denial of autonomy to the underprivileged and ethnic groups simply on the basis of the numerical strength in the Constituent Assembly.

The minister accused a few

groups for "inciting communal tension". "The government will urge the Madhesi to put up resistance against the secessionist forces. Administrative measures will also counter the threat," he said. "The old foreign policy, which wrongly depicts a 'weak nation image', has to be dispensed with. We are committed to non-alignment and panchsheel. We favour One China and One India policy," he signed off.

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Madhesi Armed Groups...

Contd. from page 3...

been targeted by the groups, said local human rights activists.

The Pahade make up about one-third of the population of the Terai, which in turn accounts for nearly half Nepal's population. The communities have had a long history of tension, especially over the control of forests and regional politics, but the level of communal violence has intensified over the past few months due to the armed Madhesi groups, said activists.

"Many live in fear, are robbed and abducted every day and constantly displaced from their homes," said a rights activist, who asked not to be named. Over the year, activists and journalists have been threatened and attacked by the groups for criticising and reporting their armed activities.

The peace talks are necessary to restore law and order in the Terai as ethnic fundamentalism is ... putting the whole country at risk.

"The peace talks are necessary to restore law and order in the Terai as ethnic fundamentalism is

... putting the whole country at risk," said independent political analyst Kapil Shrestha.

He added that the violence had also affected livelihoods and security. Districts such as Saptari and Siraha in south-east Nepal had seen a majority of the Pahade families displaced en masse from their homes and they were now living in more secure districts in central region, including the capital Kathmandu, where they had to depend on aid agencies for survival, said activists.

The key groups in the Terai include the Madhesi Mukti Tigers, United Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha, Terai Cobra, and Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha-Rajan.

The leaders of the groups, however, denied attacking civilians or spreading communal violence.

According to regular updates by national human rights NGO Informal Sector Service Centre, there were regular incidents of bomb explosions, abductions, extortion and attacks against civilians by the armed groups. (IRIN News Service)

Poorest Struggling To...

Contd. from page 1...

NRCS is preparing its latest situation report, a key source of information on the ground for all the international and national aid agencies. "We will know very soon how we can respond to the challenges and take crucial steps," said Joshi.

The government-led District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), a joint committee of international aid agencies and NGOs, has already requested the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to provide free seeds, plants and fisheries to the affected families as part of a rehabilitation project costing nearly \$700,000.

"There is an urgent need for long-term rehabilitation as most of them have lost their means of livelihood," said FAYA's Dhungel.

Most vulnerable groups

Ethnic communities such as the Raji, Badi and Tharu indigenous groups, who already live below the poverty line, have been pushed into even more dire circumstances, said aid workers.

The Raji - categorised as endangered by the government - are the worst affected as they survive on for-

ests and farms. "It is also the first time this group faced a flood crisis on such a scale and so the hardship is worse for them," said Sher Bahadur Basnet, chairman of the NGO Samudaya Ko Lagi Ban Wataran Manch (SBM).

The Raji are semi-nomadic, moving from the upper hills of the northwest over the past several decades. They continue to lead nomadic lives by moving wherever there are rivers and forests as they depend on bee-farming, fishing, agriculture and hunting for survival.

"There is a lot of neglect of this community and although aid agencies and government promised to help during the initial stage of the floods, the Raji families have really received no support for their livelihoods," said Basnet.

The NGO estimated that 150 Raji households were affected in Kailali, of which 23 houses in Bhuruwa Village Development Committee of the district were washed away by the floods.

"There is a huge challenge to restore their livelihoods because they don't have farms and animals any more," said Basnet.

NRNA For Dual Citizenship To Non Resident Nepalese

Kathmandu, October 17 (HNS): Non Resident Nepali (NRN) organizations in other nations can evoke a positive change in the economic condition of the country.

Speaking at a programme of Nepal Chambers of Commerce (NCC), vice-president of the Non Resident Nepali Association and president of NRN Japan International Monitoring Committee, Nirmal Hirachan said, "For rapid economic growth of the country, there should be dual citizenship for NRNs by making necessary changes in the NRN Act."

Hirachan said since six years NRNs have been helping in the export of Nepali products to other countries and in inflow of foreign currencies. He added the 46 branches of the association located in different parts of the world would continue to

help in the promotion of Nepali products in the world.

"Employment opportunities should enlarge so that the number of NRNs can be cut down. This way, the development of Nepal will be faster," he said.

NCC president Surendra Bir Malakar said, "With the restoration of peace in our country, the development of water resources, medical sector, industries and tourism can be achieved and through NRNs' investment there would be better economic prospects. The private sector should pressurise the government to create a friendlier environment for investment."

NRN Japan International Monitoring Committee general secretary Milan Bikram Thapa said, "Our group will hold new programmes soon to increase economic activity in Nepal."

Electoral College Chooses...

Contd. from pg 1....
their states to win, and a number of states that are their states to lose," Gans said.

In the middle, there are states that could go to either candidate. That's where Democrats and Republicans mount their biggest efforts.

"You have to make really hard choices when you go out there [campaigning] - on where you are going to campaign, where you are going to put your dollars, [and] where you are going to put your effort to get that 50 percent plus one [vote in each state] that takes you over the top," Peter Fenn, a Democratic marketing strategist said.

The states that could go for one candidate or the other are called "battleground" states. Sometimes, the battles have become national dramas. It happened in 2000, in the contest between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush. Gore had won the national popular vote by a half-million votes.

But, in Florida, the vote was so close a recount was started. Both

sides fought for weeks over the way the recount was conducted.

The Bush team took the issue all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. On December 13, it effectively ended the recount. Florida's 25 electoral votes put George W. Bush in the White House with 271 Electors to Al Gore's 266.

Both parties are so entrenched in the current Electoral College that Professor Dennis Johnson doesn't expect a change to a proportional system or direct voting.

"The parties are kind of looking over the strategy, and looking over the map, and saying 'You know, for us, no, let's keep it the way it is - winner take all,'" Johnson said.

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Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	78.00	78.60
Canadian \$1	65.98	66.49
Euro 1	105.14	105.94
Pound Sterling 1	135.36	136.40
Australian \$1	53.55	53.97
Swiss Franc 1	69.69	69.21
Singapore Dollar	52.73	53.14
Japanese Yen 10	7.69	7.75
Chinese Yuan 1	11.42	11.50
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	10.58	---
Danish Kroner 1	14.11	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	10.05	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	20.79	---
Qatari Riyal 1	21.42	---
Thai Bhat 1	2.28	---
UAE Dirham 1	21.23	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	22.16	---

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, October 18 '08]

Development Drive To...

Contd. from page 3...

Transport Lekharaj Bhatta, Maoist leader Post Bahadur Bogati, some Constituent Assembly members of the region, former parliamentarians, businessmen, civil servants and common people.

Local dances, including Gaura, Chhali and Hudkeli, were performed at the inaugural function in addition to the game shows presented by the Republican Sports Federation.

A crowd of thousands gathered for the inaugural function was

rather unmanaged in the absence of a tight security and other nwhile, our correspondents report from Lalbojhi of Kailali district that premier Dahal rejected the complaints about the government's negligence towards the flood victims. After spending an hour with the victims of floods by listening to their problems, he acknowledged that floods were more devastating in the Far West than those in the East.

Similarly, PM Prachanda also assured the locals of forming a

panel to address the border-encroachment problems facing the Lalbojhi people.

Likewise, in his brief talk with the media in Nepalgunj, Prachanda said that there was no conflict in the CPN-Maoist about bringing the CPN-Unity Centre (Mashal) into the party.

He also said that adequate foodstuff has been supplied to the Mid-West and the Far-West so that the regions would not face any food shortage problems.

Nepal's Home Minister Rejects One Madhesh One Province Demand

After inaugurating the "International Tharu Convention and Discussion on Buddhist Ideology" Nepal's Home Minister Mr. Bam Dev Gautam ruled out the possibility of talks with the India nurtured Madhesi Armed outfits terrorizing the Tarai with set pre-conditions.

Mr. Gautam said this talking to the reporters on October 18, 2008 in Lumbini.

"Their demands will be heard after they sit-in for talks with the government representatives", assured Gautam.

"It seems that the armed Madhesi groups are not very serious

to sit for talks with the government".

Mr. Gautam speaking at the program also said that the One Madhesh One Province demand forwarded by some Tarai based Madhesi regional parties could not be met with as the majority of the Nepali population is against the demand.

"There should be equal treatment for all ethnic, linguistic and religious groups in the New Nepal", added Gautam.

"The identity of the indigenous Tharu Community is being ignored deliberately---that will not be tolerated", said Raj Kumar Lekhi the general secretary of the Tharu Wel-

fare Society speaking at the program.

The Program is being organized by the Tharu Welfare Society-Nepal.

Tharu leaders from twenty-four districts have participated in the program, with some participation from India's Tharu Community as well. (TGW)

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How To Sue In Small Claim Court ?

Contd. from the previous week...

What Do I Do After I Win?

If you have convinced the judge or jury that your side of the story is correct, and that you are entitled to some money from the person you sued, the judge will enter a "judgment" in your favor. But this does not automatically get you any money. Sometimes the hardest part of small claims court is getting your money. In the vast majority of cases, the person you sued will simply pay you after you win. If he or she does not, however, you must take legal steps to try to enforce your judgment.

There are a number of legal devices you should consider after you have won in small claims court. The first thing you should do is file an "Abstract of Judgment". This is the device that makes your judgment public record and gives it legal effect. It also gives you a "lien" on any "non-exempt" real estate the person owns in the county you filed in. In Texas, a person's homestead is exempt. If they own any other property, for example, rental property, your abstract of judgment gives you a lien on that prop-

erty and you could force its sale to satisfy your judgment.

If the person does not own any nonexempt real estate, however, your abstract of judgment will not help you. Therefore, you should consider a 'writ of garnishment'. This device allows you to obtain any money owed to the person you sued. The most common type of money that a writ of garnishment is used for is a bank account. If you know where the person you sued banks, you can go back to the clerk of the court and obtain a writ of garnishment to force the bank to turn over the money in the account to you.

You can also use a writ of garnishment to go after money owed to a person who is self-employed. For example, if you sue a contractor and he does not pay the judgment, you can use a writ of garnishment to get money owed to the contractor by other customers.

Texas law also allows you to obtain what is called a "writ of execution". This device orders the constable to take the debtor's non-exempt personal property and sell it to

pay your judgment. In Texas, however, much of what the average person owns is exempt. Exempt property includes most personal property, up to \$ 30,000 in value for a single person and \$ 60,000 for a married couple. If you sued a business, however, its property may not be exempt.

Finally, there is a device called a "turn-over order". This permits the judge to order the person to turn over nonexempt property to you to satisfy the judgment. For Example, if you know the person you sued is receiving a large sum of money from a construction job he is just completing, you can use a turn-over to have the court order him to pay some of that money to you.

Texas law is very favorable to debtors and it can be hard to collect, even after you win. In most cases, however, you will get paid. There are a number of legal ways to try and force even the most stubborn debtor to pay up. You should consider discussing you post-judgment remedies with a lawyer. In Texas, a judgment lien continues for



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10 years following the date of recording and indexing the abstract, except if the judgment becomes dormant the lien ceases. Therefore if you do not collect your money right away, be sure to take the proper steps to keep your judgment alive.

(This information is not a substitute for the advice of a lawyer and is intended for general information concerning how to sue in small claims court. This information is published as a handbook which is prepared and distributed as a public service by the Texas Young lawyers Association and the State Bar of Texas. This is the general information for the public about the procedure of small Claim Courts in Texas.)

A Phsyic Wears GAP

Parrying the gusts off my face and squeezed between two females, I was still trying to decipher what ANA actually meant. The jeep had its hood off and was speeding at a record 80 miles an hour somewhere in north-west part of maryland. One of the females was from St. Louis, the other – no one knew. As long as a free ride was available even strangers became instant friends.

My wife's sister, who controlled the wheels smiled as she caught my eye in the rear view mirror.

"You will meet a lot of interesting Nepalese people there Bob babu, it will be a fun trip."

"Yeah right" her husband, seated beside her snickered, "only for those who plan to drink the entire weekend and for those who look for future bride and grooms for their children".

"And oh", he added more. "...also for those who cannot wait to display their brand new Mercedes, fine jewelries and Gucci shoes".

The girl seated to my right seemed to be troubled, she had just brought a fine necklace from Zales a few days ago, she looked away.

The jeep swerved around the windy road with five of us as the roadside sign displayed – Frederick, 20 miles.

The only sound audible in the miasma of cacophony was that of a loudspeaker which blared "ekadasi bazarai ma". I sat at a corner of a room keeping a safe distance from almost everybody. Women giggled, girls grinded, men guffawed and couples groped. I drank quietly, sharing a word or two with an exasperated young bartender who vowed to quit the very next day.

"Dude, I've never been to a party where people drank so much, who drives them home?" He asked wearily.

"And what's up with Blue label, everyone keeps asking for it."

I shrugged, as if I knew the answer.

A woman in red sari sailed towards us with an empty glass,

"Jack with coke", she spoke with difficulty.

"Make it two" a man behind her appeared out of nowhere.

The woman turned around to look at him and almost lost her

balance.

"Hey, its you!" she hugged him mumbling in acute inebriation.

The man smiled and winked at me. I looked away; I guess I knew what that meant.

So that was ANA, a medley of politics, seduction and alcohol. The only difference between the convention and the conventional nightclubs was some speeches initially delivered by future deubas and koiralas which was now forgotten over a bottle of Johnny Walker.

"From Midwest?" she asked me without looking.

"Uh yes", I was caught off guard "how did you know?" I glanced at her. She sat in a stool next to me with her legs crossed, making a striking, although unconventional combo with a glass of vodka and her lavender salwar kameez.

She looked straight into my eyes, "I am a psychic", she said slowly.

"Just kidding", she said, "Look at you, you are all country".

I laughed.

Instant impression.

We started talking. If I was



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from smalltown Illinois, she was from heartbreakville North Carolina. And when asked what heartbreakville actually was, she said,

"Simple, a boy broke my heart there". Her smile could not conceal a little pain.

"you can find lots here maa'm" my eyes wandered looking for some hottest dude flexing biceps, all I could see was some bulging crotches.

"nah....boys never go out with women in salwar kameez" she chuckled.

"I would", I blurted without thinking, and corrected myself instantly, "uh I mean....I like women wearing salwar kameez".

...to be contd.nextweek