

# Nepal Abroad

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Nepal Abroad

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## US Ambassador Powell Calls PM Dahal



Photo Courtesy: The Rising Nepal

US ambassador to Nepal Nancy J. Powell paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" at Singh Durbar on Tuesday October 21 2008. During the meeting PM PDahal and Ambassador Powell discussed the matters relating to bilateral interests, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## US Presidential Race Once Again Shines Spotlight on Electoral College

The U.S. presidential election is shining the spotlight once again on the Electoral College, a system of electing the president that some consider archaic.

Under the more than 200-year-old U.S. political system, the Electoral College actually decides the presidential race, and technically American voters do not directly elect their president. The Electoral College is composed of representatives from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Each state is given a number of electoral votes based on its congressional representation and its population. The more populous a state is, the more electoral votes it will have. In nearly all cases, the candidate who wins the highest number of popular votes in a state gets all of that state's electoral votes.

The Electoral College representatives will meet in their state capitals in mid-December to cast their votes. The presidential candidate must receive a simple majority, at least 270 out of 538 total electoral votes, to win the election.

The system has resulted in four elections - 1824, 1876, 1888 and 2000 - in which the winner of the popular vote has lost the election. (VOA 10/24)

*We wish  
all our valued readers*

*Happy Deepawali /  
Tihar 2065*

**Nepal Abroad**

## President Stresses National Unity

Kathmandu, Oct. 24: President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav has said that he would continuously work towards protecting and promoting the national unity, integrity and sovereignty.

Addressing the Outstanding Educationist Honour Programme organised by the National Development and Honour Centre, Nepal at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Shital Niwas, here today, President Dr. Yadav said, "It is necessary to firmly establish the sentiment that we are foremost Nepalese whatever language we speak, whatever clothes we wear, whatever religion we follow and notwithstanding where we live - in the Mountainous region, Hilly region or the Terai region."

"It has been difficult to make progress in the economic, social and cultural sectors in the country as we have not been able to give stability to politics in the right manner", the President said, adding that the process of providing stability to the country's politics by taking

the peace process to a conclusion was in progress.

Stressing on the need of establishing the democratic system, which has been established and recognised in the world in Nepal too, President Dr. Yadav said separation of power, maintenance of the independence of judiciary, upholding the fundamental rights of the people and guaranteeing freedom of the Press are the life and blood of the democratic system

President Dr. Yadav said the new Constitution of Nepal should be written by incorporating these fundamental topics and the democratic republic should also be made stable.

Stating the inaction, misunderstandings and underdevelopment that have remained in the country since the past have affected every sector of the country, he emphasised the need for institutionalising the state governance system in a democratic and systematic manner.

President Dr. Yadav said the

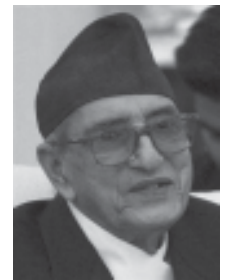
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## 'New Revolution Begins From Biratnagar'

Biratnagar, Oct. 23: An awareness campaign to be launched by Nepali Congress from Biratnagar would create a new wave across the country, Former Prime Minister and Nepali Congress president Girija Prasad Koirala, who flew in here Thursday told journalists at his residence. Koirala did not elaborate on the campaign.

"The trumpet for a new movement will be blown from Biratnagar," Koirala said. "Other successful revolutions were also started from the east. The labour movement should inspire us to do this."

Regarding a query by journalists about the controversy over army integration which resulted in the failure to hold the cabinet meeting, Koirala said he would only speak about the new campaign. "I don't care whether the cabinet meet could be held or not."



Koirala, who came to Biratnagar to address a Nepali Congress mass meeting scheduled in Biratnagar for Saturday, said his party was trying to do away with the "leader" concept to develop "field workers."

The party organised a motorcycle rally in preparation for the mass rally which aims at setting off a campaign across the country to raise awareness among the party cadres. "I want it to take to Sarlahi, Janakapur and Birgunj before making it a nationwide campaign," Koirala said. (TRN)

**Editorial:****October Engagements**

Late September and most of the October 2008 kept the Nepalese expatriates in the Washington DC metro area busy. Several high profile visits from Nepal followed by the ANS election on October 18, 2008 kept the community moving.

Visits by Nepal's Foreign Minister Upendra Yadav who was here to participate in the UN affiliated meetings also visited Washington DC and Philadelphia. During his interactions with the expatriates in one of the Nepalese restaurant in DC, inter alia, he mentioned that the Nepalese Ambassadors posted during the supposedly coalition government would not be recalled; and that the Government and the Foreign Ministry would rather determine future ambassadorial appointments based on their qualifications, on their performance to do good for the country, and that their political affiliation would not be a factor in the event of a recall. Well things are different in Kathmandu now. Recent reports from Nepal states that the government in Kathmandu is planning to recall those posted in USA, UK and India. It was little ironic to observe the conflicting stories and actions, but wasn't unexpected. Certainly, to be a diplomat one has to have experience and a certain level of maturity that would help the country being represented. But it would make a lot more difference to the country if those who occupy the top chair in Foreign Ministry are also equally qualified, far more than just a street demonstration and being an advocate of a certain group of people under alien support.

Finance Minister Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai was greeted by expatriates with skepticism. Many still remembered his Budget plan for the future days that sounded very promising, but dependent largely on foreign aid. He represents the same party that always talked against capitalism, the ideals that the US represents in the world, and was heard talking about transforming Nepal at par with other developed countries, at a certain time frame, utilizing resources available at home. When he was in US talking to the (capitalist) donor community in America, seeking further financial assistance in rebuilding Nepal, his fellow party men were reportedly talking about transforming Nepal to a people's republic. Conflicting stories has also left many suspect whether they

really represent communism or an organized plan to control the establishment under any pretext. Conflicting implications emanating from various government officials have only escalated the confusion about Nepal.

During the same time, expatriates were busy working out to give a new leadership to one of the oldest Nepalese organizations – America Nepal Society (ANS – estd. 1967). A group of community volunteers were petitioning over a month before to change the ANS bylaws that restricts the presidential candidate only to those who have had served at least once in any capacity as a board member earlier. Since this is a community organization, volunteers argued for the change of bylaws before the election so that it gives an opportunity for more capable, interested and committed individual, who may not have served ANS under any capacity earlier but is now willing to serve. But the executive committee was adamant to stay with and abide by their bylaws, and would let the new committee under a newly elected president take care of the desired changes. Election took place on Saturday October 18, 2008 with the emergence of two presidents – a very unusual and unheard of trend, that do not conform the bylaws. Well, their decision to abide by the bylaws and the announcement of two presidents for the two year term of ANS executive body, knowingly or inadvertently, shows a selective interpretation of the bylaws.

Although the commitment and service of outgoing ANS committee and those who helped the organization while remaining outside should be admired and appreciated, it would be wrong to point out for any shortcomings. The arguments for changing the bylaws of ANS may have emanated from the fact that there are growing numbers of Nepalese expatriates in the DC region, supplemented by the Diversity Program (DV) annually, and to tap the resourceful person for a revered institution like ANS. Efforts now should be to unite the community and to achieve the goals of ANS and its projects, and to create an amicable environment for all to exchange a healthy dialogue.

**Talks Crucial To Prevent Upsurge In Terai Violence – rights Groups**

Kathmandu, October 21 (IRIN): Rights activists are worried that delays in long-awaited peace talks between ethnic Madhesi, fighting for greater autonomy of the Terai region in the south, and the Nepalese government, could unleash more violence.

Killings, abductions, death threats, extortion and road blocks by armed men have been affecting the livelihoods and security of ordinary citizens in the fertile flatlands, and failure to resolve the conflict could mean an upsurge in violence in the near future, the activists warned.

Eastern and central Terai, in particular, have faced growing unrest since January 2007, as the militant groups push their demands for the establishment of an autonomous Madhesi state and greater rights for the Madhesi people, the dominant ethnic population of the Terai.

**Volatile situation**

"The situation is becoming very volatile and there is a need to be transparent about how the peace talks are going to be held," human rights activist Subodh Pyakhurel told IRIN.

He explained that the government should also involve citizens' groups such as the human rights community to help in the peace talks.

On 3 October, the government invited all the armed groups to talks but so far it has been able to contact only eight of the 17.

Among the key ones are two factions of Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM), Madhesi Tigers, Terai Madhesi Mukti Tigers, Terai Cobra, Terai Liberation Force and Madhesi Virus Killers.

**Representation issues**

Activists and analysts claimed both the government and militants lacked commitment to addressing the crisis as none was trying hard enough to make peace, nor had they sought mediation help from human rights groups or other political parties close to both sides.

"There is a need for genuine commitment and there is a need to get

a clear picture of who will represent the various armed groups," independent conflict analyst Bishnu Upreti told IRIN.

He explained that until now the groups had not yet agreed on any common party or individual to represent them. Each group wanted to hold separate talks and this would complicate the negotiations.

However, state officials said the government had already formed a committee, including Janardhan Sharma, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction, and was still in the process of contacting all the rebel leaders.

The government has also agreed to release members of the armed groups arrested for alleged involvement in violence.

One of the key militant organisations, JTMM-Jwala Singh, said recently it would talk to the government if it announced a ceasefire, withdrew charges against its cadres, guaranteed security for its negotiating team and withdrew police and the army from the villages.

"Communalism [strong ethnic identity] is growing and impunity has not been addressed. These issues have to be strongly raised in the peace talks," said Pyakhurel, warning that failure could push the country into an even more dangerous situation.

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**Nepalese Calendar**

Sun Oct 26 / Kartik 09 '65

Kag Tihar/Dhanwantari Jayanti

Mon Oct 27 / Kartik 10'65

Kukur Tihar

Tue Oct 28 / Kartik 11 '65

Laxmi Pooja

Wed Oct 29 / Kartik 12 '65

Goverdan Pooja

Thu Oct 30 / Kartik 13 '65

Bhai Tika

Fri Oct 31 / Kartik 14 '65

Duwitaya

Sat Nov 01 / Kartik 15 '65

Tritiya

## "Fake Victims" Undermine Assistance Programmes

Kathmandu, October 23 (IRIN):Relief agencies and government officials are battling to help thousands of flood-displaced families in east Nepal two months after the Koshi River, the country's largest, breached its banks following heavy rains.

More than 100,000 people in Sunsari district (nearly 300km south-west of Kathmandu) were affected, according to an initial assessment by the government, and the current number of displaced is estimated at more than 65,000, of whom 42 percent are Indians who fled over the border. All the displaced are living in temporary camps and host communities in the Sunsari and adjoining Saptari districts.

Massive flooding and displacement in the neighbouring Indian state of Bihar affected up to three million and left 250,000 displaced. Many fled to Nepal in the hope of securing immediate humanitarian assistance.

### Registration challenge

Aid agencies told IRIN the main challenge now was verifying the number of displaced to help in their full recovery. Government officials said they were registering the survivors and hoped to complete the work within a few weeks.

The government has offered assistance to families willing to return home

"The registration process is most challenging for all of us, and this has to be given top priority now," Dharma Raj Pandey, deputy director of the disaster unit of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), told IRIN in the capital.

Local disaster relief NGOs expressed concern that there were many "fake victims" claiming humanitarian assistance - undermining the genuinely displaced.

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## Calendar of Events

**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](http://nnsociety.org)

**October 25:** The NOA-NOALC invites all at the recital of Pancha Sheel and a talk program by Ven. Bhante Kondanya and Ven. Dharmavatu Guruma on Saturday October 25 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm at Burke Center Library Meeting Room 116 @ 5935 Freds Oak Road Burke VA. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com) or call 703 999 6477 / 301 996 6970 / 410 404 5388 / 202 459 7926 / 703 887 3478

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Mariner Arena (near Baltimore Inner Harbor). For further information visit [dcunitedtemples.org](http://dcunitedtemples.org)

**October 26:** The DC Nepali School invites and encourages all to attend the orientation day (Open House) with their kids on Sunday October 26 from 11.00am to 1.00pm at Hunter Mill Country Day School 2021 Hunter Mill Rd Vienna VA 22181. RSVP by email to [shiela.shrestha@gmail.com](mailto:shiela.shrestha@gmail.com). For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com)

**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 @ Westminister recreation Center Community Room 10455 Sheridian Boulevard Westminister CO 80020. For details visit [rmfn.org](http://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](http://nepalhorizons.com)

**November 09:** The America Nepal Women's Association of Washington DC (ANWA) invites all community members to participate in an interaction program with Sapana Malla on Sunday November 09 from 1.30pm to 4.30pm at Arlington Central Library 1015 N Quincy St. Arlington VA 22201. For info call Madhavi Basnet 703 609 7165 and Sunita Siwakoti 240 506 3477. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://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](mailto:yson@loc.gov) or visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://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](mailto:enews@nepalabroad.com)

## Maoists Have Forgotten Spirit Of CPA: Koirala

Biratnagar, Oct. 25 (TRN):Former Prime Minister and president of Nepali Congress Girija Prasad Koirala Saturday said that CPN-Maoist was playing up the issue of army integration by forgetting the spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

"The essence of the CPA was to run the state affairs by forging consensus, coordination, peace and unity," Koirala said, adding, "but the Maoists were playing up the army integration issue alone."

While inaugurating the party revival campaign in Biratnagar, Koirala said it was his duty at this juncture to alert the Maoist party. "Everything included in the peace agreement should be implemented," he said, "army integration is an aspect of this."

Insisting that the international community was supporting Nepal in view of the "formula" it adopted for the peace process, Koirala said, "they were supporting the politics of consensus."

The leader of the main opposition objected to the remarks by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' that the "parliamentary system had failed" and said, "Prachandaji is now talking in twists and turns, I object to his assessments that parliamentary system had failed."

The campaign started today was intended to remind Prachanda about this, he said. "Maoists appear like they have forgotten the people, there cannot be a state without the people."

Koirala asked a barrage of questions, "How did the Maoist come this far? What role did the Congress play? Why were the roles played?" and said "Prachandaji should not forget this."

He criticised the Prime Minister as playing with words to entangle the people. "But he himself was getting enmeshed in those words," he added.

"Congress came thus far because of its history," Koirala said, adding, "No one can defeat it."

Koirala recalled having worked with Prachanda for three and a half years and asked him not to forget the past relationship. Talking about "YCL excesses such as entering the parliament with weapons," Koirala said, "NC cannot remain silent about them. Prachanda should understand this."

He instructed party workers to go to villages with the message of peace and save their revolutionary images. "From today onwards, no one

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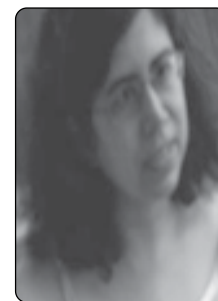
## The Beauty Of Karnali

**Why did it take us so long to get here?** I think, as I watch an actor cross the entire theatre of Gurukul on a rope suspended diagonally above our heads. Simultaneously, a screen in front of us displays a video projection of the raging Karnali river. The actor in question is in the play *The Karnali Moves Southward* (Karnali Dakkhin Bagdo Cha), and as the audience looks up and watches him cross the rope bridge over a virtual river, he plunges to the ground to his death. The shock that follows in the theatre is visceral. We are watching a moment of performance, and yet the lament that follows from the death is so real it shocks the audience to a funerary silence. The video footage of a woman with a basketful of grass crossing the same river in the same manner, when it appears on the video screen, appears banal. The audience is sure to check its momentary knowledge of the "real" with the "virtual", and wonder how many times it has watched a television screen and not understood the visceral reality of Western Nepal. Why did theatre take so long to tap into the immense drama of life in all corners of Nepal? How come these rich stories, waiting to be explored from each corner of Nepal, never appeared in the same corporeal manner, with the same intensity, before

Kathmandu? I have watched a lot of good plays in everywhere from London to New York, but Karnali still touches me in a way Broadway doesn't. With Karnali, regional theatre has arrived in Nepal. And I have no doubt the stories we will come to hear from outside Kathmandu will be richer, more powerful and more intense than anything the capital can ever produce.

Amongst the many plays I've seen at Gurukul, one of the ones I will never forget was one titled "Tara Baji Lai Lai." "Tara Baji Lai Lai" is a chant used by Nepali children when they play. The play follows the group of Aarohan actors through their formative years, from kindergarten moments to high school, with all the attendant joys and tribulations in between. Directed by a Norwegian, Morten Krogh, the play's actors lived inside their roles so fully it wasn't hard to imagine them as three year olds all the way to high school students, even though all were adults. What made the stories so believable (and laugh-out-loud funny) was the fact that they had been drawn from the actors themselves. The director had worked with the actors to come up with the script. They had improvised the entire play over a few weeks of rehearsal. At the expense of

Ibsen and other classic playwrights, I have to say that the story spun collaboratively by a few dozen creative, bright Nepali actors trumped all other scripts I have seen on the Nepali stage. Director Sunil Pokhrel, it appears, seems to have listened to the rave reviews. In *Karnali Moves Southward*, the actors from Mugu came up with the script in the same improvisational manner. And the results show. "We have never had a showing like this for any other play," says an Aarohan actor. "We've had to turn away more than fifty people every evening." The play has been extended and is now in its third week. The mass response is not just to the simple vignettes of everyday life in Karnali, but also to the powerful performance from the actors. "We've had people break out in tears and walk out," said one of the Aarohan troupe members. The performers live so fully in their role it is hard to imagine them as anything other than their characters—indeed, at the denouement, which ends in a sorrowful note, the actors appear as moved as the rest of the audience. What touches us about the play is also the inequalities it displays, and the appalling obstacles people in Karnali have to face everyday. An element of propaganda appears at the ending narration, and could



Sushma Joshi  
sushma@alumni.brown.edu

have been left out—although if the aim is to change policy, then didactic commentary becomes necessary. As an observer who has seen the power of theatre to change society, I hope the Karnali theatre group of Mugu will receive the support it deserves for building not just a new theatre but also for the solar power system and the audio-visual equipment it so desperately needs. When faced with food shortage, corrupt bureaucrats, the cruelty of a natural landscape without respite, empty health posts, and overcrowded planes, the least people can expect is good theatre. And who knows—perhaps the art of theatre will be the catalyst needed for people to act, perform and together rewrite a new script for the system. To support the Karnali theatre troupe of Mugu, call Suman Malla of Karnali Theatre, Mugu. Phone: 087-460029; cell 9841659338.

## India Launches First Unmanned Mission To Moon

- By Anjana Pasricha New Delhi October 22 2008 VOA

India has launched its first unmanned mission to the Moon. The mission is a major boost to the country's space program, as India joins Asian nations China and Japan in exploring the Moon. Anjana Pasricha has a report from New Delhi.

The unmanned Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft blasted off from a launch pad in Sriharikota in southern India, shortly after dawn, Wednesday, as the nation watched on television.

Scientists applauded and hugged each other. The head of the Indian Space Research Organization, G. Madhavan Nair, calls it a perfect launch and says everything is going according to plan.

"It's a historic moment, as far as India is concerned.... We have started our journey to the Moon and the first leg of the journey has gone perfectly well," said Nair. "It's a remarkable performance by the launch

vehicle, every parameter was on the dot.... Today what we have started is a remarkable journey for the Indian spacecraft to go to the Moon and try to unravel the mysteries of the Moon."

It was clearly a moment of celebration for scientists in charge of the mission

"This is the beginning of a new era.... Words don't come, OK.... today it is a red-letter day... our baby is on the way to the moon," one scientist could be heard saying.

The Chandrayaan-1, which means Moon Vehicle, is being sent on a two-year mission to orbit the Moon and scan its chemical and mineral composition. A key objective will be to look for water. The spacecraft carries 11 instruments. Five are Indian, three are from the European Space Agency and two from the United States. A gadget from

the spacecraft will land on the Moon to pick up some dust for analysis.

This is India's first space mission beyond the Earth's orbit. If successful, the \$79 million project will be a major step forward for India's space program.

It is also being seen as an effort by India to catch up with Japan and China, which have already sent unmanned spacecraft to orbit the Moon. In particular, China has been forging ahead in space exploration, putting astronauts in space and carrying out its first spacewalk.

India, too, has drawn up ambitious programs. It plans to send an astronaut into space by 2014 and a manned mission to the Moon by 2020.

India started its first space program in 1963, developing its own satellites and launch vehicles, and has a foothold in the multibillion-dollar commercial space-launch business.

## UN Day Marked...

*Contd. from page 6...*

In a related development, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes, who today wrapped up a two-day visit to Haiti, expressed his willingness to make an additional allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund (<"http://ochaonline.un.org/cerf/CERFHome/tabid/1705/language/en-US/Default.aspx">CERF) to fund the urgent humanitarian needs of people affected by the recent hurricanes.

UN Day has been celebrated on 24 October every year since 1948, exactly three years after the <"http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/">UN Charter entered into force. In 1971, the General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending that the Day be observed as a public holiday by Member States.

## PM Vows To Infuse Child Rights In Constitution

Kathmandu, Oct. 25 (TRN/RSS): PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has vowed to establish child rights as basic rights in the new constitution to be drafted by the Constituent Assembly.

Interacting with a delegation of children at his residence at Baluwatar, the PM said he was aware of the children's voices and he would try to address child rights issues in the constitution and ensure that the government's decisions are children-friendly.

Answering to queries from the children, who came all the way from Pokhara, the PM said it was his duty as the first PM of the republic of Nepal to meet the genuine demands of the children.

The children asked the PM to ensure basic rights of children, es-

tablish child rights as fundamental human rights, declare schools as zone of peace, consider all below 18 as children and provide free health and education services to all children.

They also demanded formation of national commission on children, scrap double standards of education and begin constitution-writing process at the earliest.

On the occasion, PM Dahal released a book -- Hamro Awaj — published by CHILDREN-Nepal and a cassette. President of CHILDREN-Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel briefed the PM on the organisation's activities. The children also handed over Rs 10,200 they had collected for the relief of Koshi flood victims to the PM.

The delegation had children from Paschimanchal Bal

Swabalamban Samuha and office-bearers of CHILDREN-Nepal. They are also scheduled to meet President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.

The Prime Minister has said taking the peace process to conclusion, writing the Constitution on time in favour of the people and prosperous economic development of the country are the main responsibilities of the present government.

Speaking at a tea reception organized in his honour by the CPN-Maoist Kathmandu Area No. 10 Regional Committee here today, he said the government has taken the above-mentioned three responsibilities as its first priority for giving the people a feel of change in the real sense of the term.

The Prime Minister said the government is moving ahead with

new forward-looking thinking for the prosperity and development of Nepal. He also stressed that the government would work with sincerity and responsibility on the path towards resolving the problems of the people.

Stating various vicissitudes were encountered in course of forming the government, the Prime Minister said although many efforts were made to prevent and delay the government-formation, the people's government was ultimately formed through massive public pressure.

At the function, in-charge of the CPN-Maoist Kathmandu Area No. 10, Karan briefed the Prime Minister about the problems of the constituency and urged him to take initiatives for resolving the problems.

## IRS Seeks to Return \$266 Million in Undeliverable Refunds And Economic Stimulus Payments to Taxpayers

Washington October 23 (IRS): The Internal Revenue Service is looking for taxpayers who are missing more than 279,000 economic stimulus checks totaling about \$163 million and more than 104,000 regular refund checks totaling about \$103 million that were returned by the U.S. Postal Service due to mailing address errors.

"People across the country are missing tax refunds and stimulus checks. We want to get this money into the hands of taxpayers where it belongs," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "We are committed to making the process as easy as possible for taxpayers to update their addresses with the IRS and get their checks."

All a taxpayer has to do is update his or her address once. The IRS will then send out all checks due.

### Stimulus Checks

It is crucial that taxpayers who may be due a stimulus check update their addresses with the IRS by Nov. 28, 2008. By law, economic stimulus checks must be sent out by Dec. 31 of this year. The undeliver-

able economic stimulus checks average \$583.

The "Where's My Stimulus Payment?" tool on this Web site is the quickest and easiest way for a taxpayer to check the status of a stimulus check and receive instructions on how to update his or her address. Taxpayers without internet access should call 1-866-234-2942.

### Regular Refunds

The regular refund checks that were returned to the IRS average \$988. These checks are resent as soon as taxpayers update their address.

Taxpayers can update their addresses with the "Where's My Refund?" tool on this Web site. It enables taxpayers to check the status of their refunds. A taxpayer must submit his or her social security number, filing status and amount of refund shown on their 2007 return. The tool will provide the status of their refund and in some cases provide instructions on how to resolve delivery problems.

Taxpayers checking on a refund over the phone will be

given instructions on how to update their addresses. Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

### Unsure?

Taxpayers not sure of which type of check they may be due should check on a potential economic stimulus check first because of the looming deadline. See instructions above.

### For Most People

The vast majority of checks mailed out by the IRS reach their rightful owner every year. Only a very small percent are returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable.

Through September 2008, the government distributed 116 million economic stimulus payments with only about 279,000 checks being undeliverable. Meanwhile, the IRS has distributed more than 105 million regular refunds this year with only about 104,000 being undeliverable. In both cases, well under one percent of refunds or stimulus checks were undeliverable.

### Avoiding Future Problems

The IRS encourages taxpayers to choose direct deposit when they file their return because it puts an end to lost, stolen or undeliverable checks. Taxpayers can receive refunds directly into personal checking or savings accounts. Direct deposit is available for filers of both paper and electronic returns.

The IRS also encourages taxpayers to file their tax returns electronically because e-file eliminates the risk of lost paper returns. E-file also reduces errors and speeds up refunds.

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## Nepal Doing Its Best To Meet Millennium Development Goal

Kathmandu, Oct. 24 (TRN):Nepal was doing its best to meet the development targets set under Millennium Development Goals, Minister for Foreign Affairs Upendra Yadav, said at a UN-Day function Friday.

"The world has changed much in the last six decades of UN's existence," he said, while lauding the role played by the world body in this transformation. "For the least developed countries like Nepal, the UN stands as a constant source of inspiration and reassurance in many ways.

Yadav reiterated Nepal's commitment to continue supporting the UN in its noble deeds in the days ahead.

Special representative of the secretary general in Nepal and UNMIN chief Ian Martin said, "Today, among the many continuing conflicts and failing peace processes

around the world, the major steps that Nepal has taken in its peace process deserve to be recognised. For fifty years Nepalese have served in United Nations' peace operations around the world, and now the UN has responded to Nepal's request for support to its own peace process."

While the historic election and the formation of an inclusive Constituent Assembly were indeed landmark achievements, there were major challenges still ahead for the successful conclusion of the peace process, he said. "I hope that the efforts now being made to establish the special committee responsible for the integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army combatants on a multiparty basis, as agreed, will soon be successful."

"The UN Country Team in Nepal continues to grow, as Nepal's

expectations of us grow," Robert Piper, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal said.

"With peace as the highest priority at this time, we know it is especially important that all the UN's best assets are brought to bear – coherently – to support Nepal's quest for lasting peace," he said.

"Nepal's external environment is a concern of course. Food and fuel prices have been an unwelcome surprise over the last 12 months, particularly for the poorest families who spend 85 per cent of their income on putting food on their tables. The UN is committed to walking alongside Nepal at every step on this journey."

Secretary -General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, in his message on the occasion, of the 63rd UN Day Friday said, many countries were still not on track to reach the

Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015. "I am also deeply concerned about the impact of the global financial crisis. Never has leadership and partnership been more important."

"Partnership is the way of the future. Just look at the advances on malaria. Our global malaria effort has brought us within range of containing a disease that kills a child every 30 seconds. It is doing so through focused country planning. Greater funding. Coordinated global management. Top-notch science and technology," the UN chief said.

"Let us keep building on this as a way forward. There is no time to lose. The United Nations must deliver results for a safer, healthier, more prosperous world. On this UN Day, I call on all partners and leaders to do their part and keep the promise."

## UN Day Marked Around The Globe With Array Of Events And Festivities

New York, Oct 24 2008 (UN): From a concert in New York by world renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma to a tree-planting ceremony in strife-torn Darfur to a blood donation drive in Namibia, celebrations were held across the globe today to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

To mark United Nations Day, virtuoso cellist and UN Messenger of Peace Yo-Yo Ma performed tonight with the Silk Road Ensemble in the annual UN Day Concert in New York.

"This is a very special way to celebrate the day that the Charter of the United Nations came into force," General Assembly President Miguel D'Escoto told those gathered for the concert.

"He is a man who, through his wonderful music, is able to convey to us the values of the United Nations and inspire our commitment to them. Compassion, cooperation and communication, strength through diversity – these are some of the values that seem to be absent or inconsequential in international relations, yet these values should underpin all the undertakings of our great Organization."

Also in New York, UN staff and senior officials visited schools across the city to provide an overview of the Organization's work, share their own experiences and interact with students in a campaign called UN4U, orchestrated by the Department of Public Information (DPI).

Some 3,500 students heard from UN officials such as Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyoo Akasaka; the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy; Executive Director of the Capital Master Plan Michael Adlerstein; and the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Rachel Mayanja.

The UN has also launched a newly redesigned website (unic.un.org) that serves as a portal to the network of 63 UN Information Centres (UNICs) around the world, whose efforts are crucial to telling the UN story to people in their own languages.

Among the many events held worldwide was a ceremony in Moscow to mark UN Day as well as the 60th anniversary of the UN pres-

ence in that country. In a <"http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sgsm11857.doc.htm">message to the event, Mr. Ban noted that "60 years on, our world and our Organization have changed beyond recognition. The problems we face have grown much more complex, impacting all of us around the globe."

In Addis Ababa, the celebration at the Economic Commission for Africa marks not only UN Day, but also the 50th anniversary of the Commission. It includes the launching of the ECA Jubilee Book, which chronicles the Commission's main contributions to African development over the past five decades.

Meanwhile, week-long events in Colombia include a seminar by the UN refugee agency for refugees, a forum on avian influenza, and a photographic exhibition on UN activities in the South American country. In Windhoek, Namibia, UN staff participated in a blood drive, organized in part by the World Health Organization (<"http://www.who.int/en/">WHO).

The joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force in the Sudanese region of Darfur – known as <"http://www.un.org/depts/dpko/

missions/unamid/">UNAMID – marked the Day with a tree-planting ceremony, as well as music and dance, while the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (<"http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/unifil/">UNIFIL) honoured Lebanese staff who have served with the mission for more than 25 years.

In Haiti, there was no celebration of UN Day as the occasion comes at a very difficult time for the island, as noted by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the country, Hédi Annabi.

Mr. Annabi said that Haiti has suffered a crushing loss of lives and property during this year's hurricane season, with the overall material damage estimated at over \$1 billion by the <"http://www.worldbank.org/">World Bank. All efforts are now geared toward finding urgent humanitarian assistance for millions of suffering Haitians.

The Special Representative urged UN staff in the country to take part in conferences, television and radio programmes and other public forums to advocate for greater humanitarian assistance to Haiti.

## Schools Cry For Rollback Of Education Service Tax

Kathmandu, October 22 (THT):The Institutional Schools' Association Nepal (ISAN) today submitted a seven-point memorandum to the Ministry of Education, demanding the government to roll back the decision to impose five per cent education service tax (EST) on schools.

The ISAN said that the provision of education service tax was against the 'Education For All' slogan of the government and Interim Constitution-2006, which advocates free education as the fundamental right of all Nepali citizens.

"By introducing EST, the government is legalising the commercialisation of education sector, which means that the government is trying to escape from its responsibility of providing education to its citizens," the memorandum stated.

It also noted that the imple-

mentation of EST would lead to the closure of schools that have been imparting education to many students.

"The decision to impose the tax on the private sector, which is providing education to more than fifteen lakhs students and employing some 1.5 lakhs teachers without any government investment, cannot be justified," the memorandum stated.

The institutional schools' association also objected the government decision to compel the institutional schools to pay tax in the middle of the academic session.

It has also urged the government to provide grants for the institutional schools, equal to that of the government's investment on each student in the government schools, to make education free of cost and maintain quality of education.

## "Fake Victims" Undermine...

*Contd. from page 3...*

"This trend of false identity as victims is growing and has affected aid delivery in some camps," said Amar Nath Mandal, editor of a local daily, Krishna Dainik of Saptari district, which is investigating the issue and exposing the culprits.

"The real displaced people will be deprived of humanitarian assistance if this trend is allowed to continue," said Dipak Kumar Jha, chairperson of Sabal, a local NGO supported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), promoting sanitation and hygiene in the camps.

This issue is already hampering the process of rehabilitation of the flood-affected population, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). Among the individuals making fake claims are landless squatters who live near the riverbanks.

But for the government, the verification work is becoming difficult as the displaced are moving in and out of the camps, making regular visits to their home areas. In addition, many are staying with host families rather than in the camps.

### Shelter plans

Government officials said assisted resettlement would be provided to families willing to return to

their homes since much of the flood water has receded. Most of the displaced are living in temporary camps under tarpaulins, which are not appropriate for families, especially children, who will have to face chilly weather conditions very soon.

In Saptari district, the government-led District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), comprising key international aid agencies and NGOs, is planning to request agencies assist in rebuilding projects.

In addition, the government, with the help of the NRCS, has started constructing huts for the relocation site in Laukahi Village Development Committee, Sunsari district, providing 15sqm per person.

"We have all the kits ready to build more shelters but we need to know the accurate number of displaced families," said Pandey from NRCS, which has more than 7,000 shelter kits to build more huts on government land for the flood victims.

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## Closely-Watched US Stock Market Index Slumps to Five-Year Low

By Barry Wood Washington October 22 2008 VOA

It was another down day on Wall Street Wednesday as the Dow Jones Industrials lost 514 points amid growing worries of world recession. VOA's Barry Wood has more.

In addition to the Dow Industrials being down, the broader Standard and Poor's index of 500 stocks fell six percent to 897. That is the lowest close in the S & P since April 2003. The slump in equity prices was global as the market index in London was off 4.5 percent and Tokyo was down nearly seven percent.

In Latin America markets were unsettled by a move by Argentina's government to nationalize the privately run pension funds. The Buenos Aires stock index was off ten percent, while Chile's index fell six percent and Brazil's ten percent.

The weakness in the U.S. economy was reflected in a 70 percent jump in home foreclosures in the third quarter. Data from RealtyTrac says three quarters of a million homes re-

ceived foreclosure notices in the July to September period. About three million homes are expected to be in foreclosure this year.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's economy.com, says the deepening U.S. recession already is impacting 28 of the 50 US states, making it problematic for workers to move from a depressed area to one where conditions are better. "People can't move. They don't know where to go. In the last recession California got creamed and everybody moved to Las Vegas (Nevada) or Phoenix (Arizona) or Seattle (Washington). But in this recession it's not clear where you would go, except maybe to Texas (which is doing better)"

Oil was down again Wednesday, falling \$5 to under \$67 a barrel. Oil has fallen by 50 percent in just three months. Gold lost \$35 to \$733 an ounce. The dollar continued to rally and closed at \$1.28 against the euro while the British pound fell to a five-year low of \$1.63.

## Maoists Have Forgotten...

*Contd. from page 3...*

is a leader in Congress, everyone is a cadre, including myself."

Senior leader Sher Bahadur Deuba blamed CPN-Maoist, which rose to power on the planks of the peace agreement, was fanning anarchy and violence. "The Maoist party has adopted the policy of tormenting the people and nourishing its cadres," Deuba said.

Acting president of the party Sushil Koirala said there was no basis to trust the Maoists because they had not "returned land, houses and prop-

erty" they captured.

Vice-president Ram Chandra Poudel urged the Maoists to abide by the peace agreement.

Leaders, including Mahesh Acharya, Krishna Prasad Sitaula, Tirtha Ram Dangol, Gyanendra Karki, Dr. Minendra Rijal, Dr. Shekhar Koirala, Gagan Thapa, and Sujata Koirala, spoke at the function chaired by NC Morang president Amrit Aryal.

### Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	79.40	80.00
Canadian \$1	63.15	63.63
Euro 1	101.70	102.47
Pound Sterling 1	129.38	130.36
Australian \$1	53.33	53.74
Swiss Franc 1	67.97	68.49
Singapore Dollar	52.86	53.26
Japanese Yen 10	8.10	8.16
Chinese Yuan 1	11.62	11.71
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	10.13	---
Danish Kroner 1	13.64	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	10.24	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	21.17	---
Qatari Riyal 1	21.80	---
Thai Bhat 1	2.29	---
UAE Dirham 1	21.61	---
Malaysian Ringgit 1	22.24	---

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, October 24 '08]

## Classifieds

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## The Jet Airways' Fire and Rehire Histrionics: Is There A Lesson To Be Learned?

Sharmistha Barat, VA, USA,

The termination of the services of hundreds of Jet Airways employees and their subsequent reinstatement has left a bitter-sweet aftertaste in everybody's mouth. There is a sense of relief at having avoided the impending doom, but for how long? The effects of escalating costs and the sluggish economy which has affected Jet Airways and the aviation industry in India in general, has given us a lot of food for thought.

In spite of Jet Airways' Chairman Mr. Naresh Goyal's apology and assurance to his employees to build a stronger company, drastic measures such as these in the name of 'cost cuts' has left the recruits as well as the nation wondering where the economy is headed. But Goyals' sudden volte-face within 24 hours of the sacking saga and taking back the retrenched employees has raised even more eyebrows and questions than it answers. Is there a lesson to be learned? You bet there is!

The myopic executives, who constantly harp on expansion and globalization, do not necessarily exercise caution in their actions. They ought to have more transparency in their recruitment and retrenchment processes. They also

need to focus on the general health of the company at the cost of exorbitant executive salaries -- a vice that is all too prevalent here in America. The employees and prospective recruits might also learn a lesson or two from this episode. Thanks to the lure of a booming aviation industry, many quit their academic fields and spent lakhs of rupees to pursue what is arguably a glamorous and high-paying career in the aviation industry. However, that 'career' not only turned out to be elusive but also perilous. Probably these aspirants need to be reminded of the proverbial folly of 'do not put all your eggs in one basket'.

At the same time, the political parties rushed to claim responsibility for Jet Airways' sudden change in heart, especially when elections are right around the corner. Whether Mr. Goyal acted under political pressure or out of genuine concern for the sacked employees is a moot point, but what remains to be seen in the long run is, if he can create a stable company that will instill the confidence of the employees, job aspirants and of the nation at large.

Here in America, we have only seen the glitz and glamour of a capitalist economy. However, such 'capitalist virtues' put on an eyeshade on the common man, who failed to see the potential negative aspects of such a system, which only recently raised its ugly head like a festering sore. Today, thousands struggle to cope with bad credit, foreclosed properties and job losses. In India, just when people had started believing in a thriving free market and looking towards economic stability, the magnificent failure of the so-called 'free-market' in the West has given them a knee-jolt. The bottom line is that, if India does not mend its ways, the economic slowdown might rapidly snowball into a major financial crisis.

The current economic meltdown should also serve as a warning signal for the common man, who is all too eager to cash in on the stock market at the slightest hint of a financial windfall. Unfortunately, as we have learnt the hard way, such optimistic expectations are often fueled more by hype and less by substance.

## President ...

*Contd. from page 1...*

governance system from the past is responsible for a majority of the people of the country of the Buddha who spread the light of knowledge to the world. He reiterated that only a democratic system of governance can resolve the burning problems of the country.

On the occasion, President Dr. Yadav honoured 22 individuals making outstanding contribution to the development and promotion of education in the country with shawls and Letter of Commendation.

The educationists honoured on the occasion are Prof. Dr. Bidyanath Koirala, Arjun Bahadur Bhandari, Rajesh Khadka, Yashodhara Panta, Prof. Dr. Subodh Sharma, Stella Tamang, Madhav Prasad Marahattha, Hari Narayan Upadhyaya, Tarka Raj Joshi, Bishnu Prasad Paneru, Krishna Bhakta Shrestha, Father Lawrence Maniyar and Chhiing Topgyal.

Similarly, Sabina Thapa, Gauri Shankar Chaudhari, Radhakrishna Sharma Parajuli, Lalbabu Hathi, Kul Bahadur Subedi, Bhimsen Khatri, Gita Kharel, Achyut Prasad Pudasaini and Balbhadra Bharati were also honoured.

At the programme presided over by president of the National Development and Honour Centre Kamal Prasad Dahal, Centre advisor Shankar Pandey, Prof. Dr. Bidyanath Koirala and Dr. Tulasi Prasad Bhattarai spoke on the topic of problems of the present education system and ways of their resolution. (TRN/RSS)

## A Phsyic Wears GAP

*Contd. from the previous week...*

"are you flirting" she asked, still smiling "...and by the way, this stole is from GAP, I lost the matching dupatta".

"Hell gosh no", I was suddenly nervous, I am married." I could not believe the dupatta looking stole was from GAP.

"Are you?" she asked, not surprised, still keeping her smile. "I now should call Washington a heartbreakville."

"Uhwhy", I was a little confused. "Cos you broke my heart damn it". She burst out laughing.

I joined her.

What I thought vodka was actually sprite. Miss heartbreakville took a little sip of my Malibu as a gesture of friendship and fondness and leaned towards me.

"I can tell your past reading

your palms". She whispered.

"Why past?" I asked.

"So you could believe I am actually a psychic", she whispered again.

I spread my both palms for her to read. She ran her fingers through all the lines and wrinkles mumbling something inaudible. Then there was silence, complete silence for almost a minute.

"Okay, here I go", she started off as if she were reading the verdict. It included complete truths about my teenage, my education, my girlfriends, my health, my wedding year and month and surprisingly, even my wife's arrival to United States. My wife was arriving next month.

I watched her open mouthed, wondering who she was, a female version of Sai Baba? I could not think names of other psychics.



Anurag Sharma - Boston, MA  
bobby\_eiu@yahoo.com

"Who are you?" I asked her as my face turned white.

She laughed, a soft giggle which now never seemed to stop.

"Bobbyda, I am Preeti, remember me, both our mothers teach in the same school, I even danced on your wedding party".

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