

The Nepal Digest

The First Nepali e-Magazine

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About The Nepal Digest

The Nepal Digest (TND) is a publication of TND Foundation, global not-for-profit information and resource center (registered in New York, USA) committed to promoting issues concerning Nepal. All members of TheNepalDigest.org will get copy of [The Nepal Digest \(TND\)](http://TheNepalDigest.org). Membership is free of charge and is open to all.

The Nepal Digest is the first Nepali electronic e-magazine in the Internet. The Nepal Digest hopes to create a free and democratic electronic platform -- free of all political views, free of cultural biasness, against prejudices and unjustness of all kinds.

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<http://theNepalDigest.org/submit.htm> or via email contact@theNepalDigest.org. The TND team appreciates your support.

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Editorial: "Samrita Lohani Health Fund"

By Ujjwal Bhattarai

Samrita, graduate student at University of New Haven, CT, was planning to graduate in the summer of 2004 until she was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). The course of treatment for samrita, according to the doctors, is to accomplish kidney transplant and until then dialysis. As suggested by experts, such transplant and post medication requires anywhere from \$75,000 to \$150,000.

Samrita had limited insurance coverage through her school, payout from which was exhausted during first three months of her hospital stay. Same was the case with the funding that social service could provide. So she is counting on all of us to support her to fight against the death.

It is quite likely that you already have received appeals to support her and many of you already might have sent your contributions. It is quite amazing how quickly the information was passed between individuals and groups and how they have all worked together to raise funds for her. Some of the individuals who started this effort were Dr. Prahlad Pant, who is also Nepalese American Council Help for Samrita Lohani Co-ordinating chairperson, Bidya Ranjit, Shyam Karki, Binod Roka, Dr. Gauri Adhikary, Robin Pandey, Anand Bista and many more. The Nepal Digest is also helping to broaden the horizon of supporters and once again requests to all individuals to support Samrita for such an extreme cause.

If you would like to make a contribution, please visit <http://samritahealthfund.org/> or through check/money order at

Samrita Lohani Health Fund
c/o Samrita Lohani
21 Park Place
Ansonia, CT 06401

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On a separate note, I would like to thank Mr. Bindesh Shrestha, Editor of NepalNet.Net for the opportunity he provided to help spread good words about TND. Please visit http://nepalnet.net/article/1021_1040/article1026.htm to read the complete interview.

Thank you.

Ujjwal Bhattarai
Editor/Coordinator
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Who said what?

"I am urging political activists to work for the interest of the people and country, and to protect democracy,"

- King Gyanendra

.....

"We will welcome any mediation and monitoring by the United Nations to resolve the eight-year old conflict."

- The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)

.....

"The king who is active in politics and would like to be known as Hindu emperor could never be a symbol of unity."

- G. P. Koirala

.....

Summary of Key Findings: WMD in Iraq, Evidence and Implications

1. Iraq WMD Was Not An Immediate Threat
2. Inspections Were Working
3. Intelligence Failed and Was Misrepresented
4. Terrorist Connection Missing
5. Post-War WMD Search Ignored Key Resources
6. War Was Not the Best-Or Only-Option

Carnegie Endowment for Intenational Peace

<http://www.ceip.org/files/Publications/IraqSummary.asp?from=pubdate>

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Immigration Q&A

By Ramesh Shrestha, Attorney-at-law

(Ramesh K. Shrestha is a practicing attorney in New York City. His office is located at 377 Broadway, Suite 801, New York, NY 10013. Tel: (212) 625-3394, Fax: (212) 431-4460, Email: Rshresthalaw@aol.com. His practice concentrates on Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Visas, Business Immigration, Extraordinary Ability, National Interest Waivers, Labor Certification/Permanent Residency, Detention/Bond, Removal/Deportation Defense before Immigration Courts/Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice.)

He will answer TND reader's immigration related questions. Questions can be asked by visiting our [submit](#) page or simply by emailing at contact@theNepalDigest.org. TND sincerely thanks and appreciates Mr. Shrestha's contribution. - Editor)

There are 2 questions and answers at this issue.

Question #1

Rakesh Shrestha from United States

Dear Ramesh dai:

I came to US as student, finished my studies and now in H1. I want to have my visa to US stamped on my passport by sending it to St. Louis. My H1 is close to expire and the company is going to renew it. When is the good time to start working on getting visa stamped on my passport?

Thanks

Rakesh Bhai:

If your H-1B visa is going to expire in near future, it is better to renew it first and go for visa sticker on you passport. Because if you apply now for a visa sticker, the validity date on the visa sticker will be until the visa is valid on your I-94.

.....

Question #2

Praneeta khadka from United States

Does 65,000 cap on H1B is only for new H1s or is it applicable for transfer from H4 to H1 visa. Thanks.

Dear Khadka ji:

An H-4 visa is issued to spouse and children of an H-1B. It is a derivative status contingent upon the status of an H-1B. An H-4 visa is not subject to cap because it is never counted against the cap. An H-1B transfer or extension is not subject to cap because it is already counted against the cap. In your case, the H-4 is seeking a new H-1B, there is a "new employment" situation. We don't have a "transfer" situation here like an H-1B changes its employer from an old one to a new one. More importantly, we do not have a transfer situation here rather we are asking for a change of status from H-4 to H-1B in order to work for a new employer. It appears the H-4 is subject to cap unless the

petitioning company is institutions of higher education, nonprofit research organizations, or governmental research organizations.

Regards,

Ramesh Shrestha, Attorney-at-law

(Disclaimer Notice: Legal answer provided must not be construed as a legal advice rather it is an answer general in nature. One must seek legal advice from an immigration attorney for his or her particular legal matter.)

Politics: "Remembering Mahabharat"

By Surendra R. Devkota

After the present King of Nepal accepted a "Hindu Samrat" feather on his cap, pros and cons of His Majesty's desire are emerging. Desire has a very complicated virtue. We experience the flow of desire by our activity. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi describes that desire arises due to a combined communication between mind and heart, and is also supported by invisible influences. According to Gita, the three qualities of nature (sattva, rajas, and tamas): sattva manifests itself through the aspiring light, rajas manifests itself through the desiring might, and tamas manifests itself through the darkening night. Further, the entire episodes of Mahabharat emerged due to clashes of desire of different stakeholders.

Contemporary socio-political situation in Nepal coincides with the some Mahabharat events. It is a not Herculean task to assign different character roles, though Yudhishtira, Arjuna, Bhim, are far from sight. I believe people should be the Pandavas. We have a crowd of Kaurabas that surrounds Dhristarashtra. You may know Dhristarashtra as well. Had Dhristarashtra controlled his desire that war would have been avoided.

We do not need to read entire 700 verses of Gita to understand its essence. The first chapter could be enough. Since Dhristarashtra had authority to intervene and stop the war, he simply overruled the Truth by his desire. The first chapter of Gita enlightens us that Dhristarashtra is influenced by his evil minded sons, alias Kaurabas, and is responsible for the destructions of the whole community.

Gist of the first chapter continues " When the collective action (*karma*) threatens national destruction, it is beyond the power of the individual to check it. This is even more true when it has reached the ultimate limit and is about to break into catastrophe. Therefore it is wise for people of every generation to be cautious and not to tolerate an increase of wrong doings in their surroundings. It is the cumulative influences of wrongs done by individuals that produces tensions and catastrophe....".

Lord Krishna says, "Problems are not solved on the levels of problems. All problems arise due to weakness of mind, and all weakness of mind is owing to ignorance of its own essential nature.... The answer to every problem is there is no problem."

Let's hope that our newly incarnated Hindu Samrat is fully aware of the teachings of Gita.

Politics: "Path to Constitutional Solution"

By Dr. Upendra Gautam

सम्बैधानिक विकल्पमा पुग्ने बाटो

डा. उपेन्द्र गौतम

देशमा प्रजातन्त्र, स्थिरता र विकासलाई संगसंगै दरिलोसँग अघि बढाउन राष्ट्र र जनताको वृहत्तर हितमा समर्पित एउटा दीर्घकालिन मार्ग-नक्साप्रति सबै राजनीतिक र सम्बैधानिक शक्तिहरु सहमत हुनु पर्छ । यो मार्ग-नक्सा १० वा १२ वर्षे हुन सक्छ ।

यस्तो मार्ग-नक्साले संविधान सभा, गणतन्त्र, सम्बैधानिक राजतन्त्रको सक्रिय भूमिका, २०४६ सालको जन-आन्दोलनको उपलब्धि जोगी गर्न जस्ता विषम र बहुमुखी राजनीतिक मागहरुलाई सम्बोधन गर्न सक्नुपर्छ ।

अहिलेको अवस्थामा सोभ्रै संविधान सभामा जानु भनेको भारतीय शासनको पोल्तामा नेपाललाई लैजानु हो । त्यस्तै सोभ्रै गणतन्त्र घोषणा गर्ने तिर लाग्नु भनेको हामीले एकले अर्कालाई मार्ने लाईसेन्स लिनु हो । त्यस्तै ठाउँ सम्बैधानिक राजतन्त्रको सक्रिय भूमिका स्थापित गर्न खोज्नु भनेको श्री ५ वीरेन्द्र आफैले कायम गरेको तर धान्न नसकिबस्सेको आदर्श नजिरलाई लत्याउनु हो । त्यस्तै २०४६ सालको जनआन्दोलनको उपलब्धिलाई जर्गना गर्ने नाउँमा आन्दोलन गरिरहनु भनेको हवा खुला रहेको दैलोलाई खोल्न चर्कोसँग ढकढकाउनु सरह हो । त्यसैले राष्ट्र र जनताको हित गर्ने एउटा संगतिपूर्ण मार्ग-नक्सा आजको खाँचो हो ।

सीमा-व्यवस्थापन

यस मार्ग-नक्सामा प्राथमिकता क्रममा लक्षित कामहरू तोकिएको पछि । मार्ग-नक्साको पहिलो लक्ष्य भारतसँग सीमा नियमित गर्ने हुनुपर्छ । यसको लागि आवश्यक परेमा भारतले नेपालसँग गरेको सन् १९५० को सन्धिलाई खारेज गर्ने सूचना नेपालले दिनु पर्नेछ । नेपालको अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सीमा नियमित गर्न सीमा व्यवस्थापन, सुरक्षा, अध्यागमन, स्वास्थ्य, भन्सार र पारवहन जस्ता विषयहरूलाई एकीकृत रूपमा भरपर्दो, सक्षम र गतिशील बनाउन नीतिगत, संस्थागत, कानूनी, सूचना-संचार र पूर्वाधारमा सुधार र विकास गरिनुपर्छ ।

नेपालको अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय सीमा नियमित गर्नुसँगसँगै देशभरी बसोबास गर्ने १४ वर्ष माथिका कूटनीतिक व्यक्ति, पर्यटक बाहेक सबैलाई परिचयपत्रको व्यवस्था हुनुपर्छ । यो परिचयपत्र नेपाली र अंग्रेजी दुवैमा हुनुपर्छ र यसलाई गुणस्तरीयरूपमा तयार र वितरण गर्न नर्वे वा फिनल्याण्ड जस्ता तटस्थ राष्ट्रको सहयोग लिइनु पर्छ । यो परिचयपत्रलाई कुनै पनि सांगठनिक र सार्वजनिक (जस्तै: बिजुली, संचार, यातायात) सेवा लिन र चालु पूँजी किनबेच गर्न प्रस्तुत गर्नु अनिवार्य हुनुपर्छ । परिचयपत्रमा व्यक्तिको नाम थर, उसको बाबु-आमाको नाम थर र राष्ट्रियता, स्थायी र अस्थायी ठेगाना, जन्ममिति अनिवार्य रूपमा रहनुपर्छ । परिचयपत्रको तथ्यांक कम्प्युटरमा राखी यो सबै जिल्ला प्रशासन कार्यालयमा अन-लाइन नै अद्यावधिक गर्न मिल्ने गरी राखिनुपर्छ । परिचयपत्र सम्बन्धी सूचना निर्वाचन आयोग, गृह मन्त्रालय, परराष्ट्र मन्त्रालय, योजना आयोगमा अद्यावधिक भई रहने व्यवस्था मिलाइनुपर्छ । निर्वाचन प्रयोजनको लागि पनि यही परिचयपत्रले वास्तविक मतदाताको परिचयलाई कायम गर्नेछ । परिचय पत्रको व्यवस्था पछि वितरण भएका सबै नेपाली नागरिकताका प्रमाणपत्रहरूलाई राज्यले प्रतिसंहरण गर्ने वा फिर्ता लिनु पर्नेछ ।

आर्थिक-सामाजिक विकास

राष्ट्रलाई सात प्रशासनिक/विकास क्षेत्रमा विभाजन गरिनेछ र हरेक विकास क्षेत्र चीनको स्वशासित प्रदेश तिब्बतसँग सडक, संचार र हवाईमार्गद्वारा जोडिनेछ । पूर्वमा ईलाम, पश्चिममा पाल्पा र मध्य पश्चिममा सुर्खेतलाई शैक्षिक विकास विन्दु मानेर अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा शिक्षालयहरू यी ठाउँमा खोल्नेछन् । यसैगरी हरेक प्रशासनिक/विकास क्षेत्रमा दशलाखसम्म जनतालाई व्यवस्थित र पुर्नस्थापित समेत गरी सेवा पुऱ्याउने हिसाबबाट एक/एक वटा आधुनिक सहर विकास गरिनेछ ।

हरेक सात विकास क्षेत्रमा एक/एक वटा राजकीय विश्वविद्यालय रहनेछन् र सम्बद्ध विकास क्षेत्रका शैक्षिक संस्थाहरू आ-आगो क्षेत्रीय विश्व विद्यालयसँग आवद्ध रहनेछन् । निजी र सामुदायिक क्षेत्रमा अरु कलेज विश्वविद्यालय रहन सक्नेछन् । हरेक शैक्षिक संस्था वा विश्वविद्यालय शैक्षिक शुल्क निर्धारण गर्न स्वतन्त्र रहनेछन् । तर हरेक शैक्षिक संस्था र विश्व विद्यालयले आर्थिकरूपले शुल्क बहन गर्न नसक्ने ३० प्रतिशत छात्रछात्राहरूलाई निशुल्क पढाउन छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान गर्ने व्यवस्था गर्नु पर्नेछ । कुनै पनि जेहेन्दार छात्र छात्रा आर्थिक कारणबाटै वाञ्छित शिक्षाबाट वञ्चित हुनु पर्नेछैन ।

राष्ट्रमा खपत हुने यातायात तेल, बिजुली, चुरोट र रक्सीका प्रत्येक ईकाइमा विकास कर लगाइनेछ । यस करबाट प्राप्त रकमबाट देशको उत्तर भेगमा सडक सेवाको विस्तार र गुण वृद्धि, विमान स्थलको गुण वृद्धि र विस्तार, एवं दुर्गम क्षेत्रहरूमा स्थानीय रूपमा पाइने श्रोत र साधनमा आधारित उच्च स्थापना र प्रवर्द्धन गर्न लगाइनेछ । सरकारले रुपन्देहीमा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विमान स्थल, भ्रुटान, बाग्लादेश, पूर्वोत्तर भारतलाई र चीनको यूनान प्रान्तलाई लक्षित गरी क्षेत्रीय विमान स्थल निजी क्षेत्रको सहभागितामा विकास गर्नेछ । नेपालले विभिन्न उपक्षेत्रीय बन्दोवस्तमा सक्रियतापूर्वक प्रवेश गर्नेछ । पहाडी क्षेत्रको मौसम परिवर्तन र श्रोत विकास र व्यवस्थापनबारे नेपालले अफगानिस्तान, पाकिस्तान, चीन र भारतसँग घनिष्ठरूपले सहयोग गर्नेछ भने बुद्ध धर्मबारे थाईल्याण्ड, श्रीलंका, चीनको स्वशासित क्षेत्र तिब्बत र सिच्वान प्रान्त, भ्रुटान, भारत र म्यानमारसँग कार्यहरूलाई धार्मिक पर्यटनको दृष्टिकोणले छुट्टाछुट्टै वा विभिन्न उपक्षेत्रीय ढाँचामा समायोजन गरिनेछ ।

बुद्ध धर्मको आध्यात्मिकतालाई अन्तर-सभ्यता सम्वादलाई समेत उपयुक्त किसिमबाट बढाउने गरी र जलश्रोतको उपयोगलाई औद्योगिकरणमा लगाई गरिवी घटाउने लक्ष्य लिई संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका र चीनको संयुक्त सहयोगमा साधिकार अभिवृद्धि गरिनेछ । नेपालमा कम्तिमा अमेरिकाली डलर तीन लाख हाली उच्चमा लगाउने र आ-आगो जीवनको पछिल्ला क्षणहरू प्रति महिना कम्तिमा तीन हजार अमेरिकाली डलर खर्च गरी नेपालमा शान्तसंग बिताउन चाहने औद्योगिक मुलुकका नागरिकहरूलाई एक पटकमा १५ वर्षको आवासीय भिसा प्रदान गर्ने व्यवस्था मिलाइनेछ । राष्ट्रको सामाजिक आर्थिकविकासबाट मात्र सकारात्मक राजनीतिक परिवर्तन गर्न सकिन्छ भन्ने मान्यता राखेर मार्ग-नक्सामा आयोजनाहरू प्रस्तावित र कार्यान्वयन गरिनेछ ।

सम्बैधानिक विकल्प

यसरी थिति बसेर अधि बढेपछि राजालाई सम्बैधानिक राजतन्त्र र गणतन्त्रबारेमा जनमत संग्रह वा संविधानसभाबारे निर्वाचन आजको १० वर्षपछि गराउन कुनै आपत्ति होला जस्तो लाग्दैन । कुनै थिति नबसी कसले कसैलाई किन मान्ने ? राजनीतिक पार्टीहरू जनतामा स्थापित हुन सकेनन्, राजाले त्यसकारण उनीहरूलाई यथावत अवस्थामा अस्वीकार गरेका छन् । राजनीतिक पार्टीहरूले राजालाई यथावत अवस्थामा स्वीकार गर्न मानेका छैनन् किनभने वर्तमान राजा वंशानुगत हिसावले उत्तराधिकारका हकवाला होइनन् । आतंकवादी घोषित माओवादीले ...संविधानसभा खोजेकोछ किनभने उसले पार्टी र राजा दुवैको वैधानिकताको डिग्री आफूले नाप्न सकेको भन्ठानेकोछ । तर यी खण्डीकृत स्वार्थबाट उठेर हेर्ने हो भने नेपालको कथित खुला सीमाको दुष्चक्रले नेपालको स्वतन्त्रता र सार्वभौमिकतामा असर पारिरहेको छ । यस्तो कथित खुला सीमा रहँदा रहँदै देशलाई आमूल प्रभाव पार्ने निर्णयतिर धकेल्नु भनेको अर्को प्रकारको ...सिक्किमेलीकरण हो । यसर्थ यस्तो सिक्किमेलीकरणतिर माओवादी अधि बढ्न खोजे भने राजाले ...भुटानियाँकरणको विकल्प रोज्न सक्छन् । श्री ५ वीरेन्द्रको नेपाली राष्ट्रिय हित अनुकुल र सारै औचित्यपूर्ण भएको नेपाललाई शान्ति क्षेत्र घोषित गर्ने प्रस्तावलाई लत्याउन सक्ने भारत सरकारको रणनीतिक नियत सबै ...माओवादी विद्रोहीहरूले नबुझेका होलान् भन्न गाह्रो छ । यसर्थ आगामि १० वर्षमा माथिका कामहरू गर्न एउटा छरितो सर्वपक्षीय सरकार गठन हुनु सबभन्दा उपयुक्त हुनेछ । पहिलेका अनुभवले निर्वाचन भएरै केही हुने देखिदैन । एउटा १० वर्षे मार्ग-नक्सा सबभन्दा पहिले राष्ट्र र यसका जनतालाई आधारभूतरूपमा दरिलो बनाउनु पर्छ । १० वर्षपछि राजतन्त्र र गणतन्त्रबारेमा जनमत संग्रह वा संविधानसभाबारे निर्वाचन भएपछि यस राष्ट्रले अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय र छरछिमेकका सम्बन्धबारे अखण्डित दृष्टि राख्दै घरभित्र प्रतिष्पर्धात्मक राजनीतिमा प्रवेश गर्न सक्छ । यस्तो सर्वसम्मत मार्ग-नक्सा हाम्रो राष्ट्रको स्वतन्त्र अस्तित्वको पहिलो शर्त हो । श्री ५ ज्ञानेन्द्र, जसलाई अहिले पार्टीहरूले अहंवादी र ढिपाहा मानिरहेका छन्, यस्तो मार्ग-नक्साको बलियो समर्थक हुने ठूलो सम्भावना किन छ भने मौसूफ राजा भएको कुनै उत्तराधिकारी भएर होइन, एउटा ...वारिस भएर हो । यसर्थ नेपालीहरूले अाँनै सन्दर्भ र अाँनै हितलाई सबभन्दा राम्ररी बुझेर आफू प्रति इमान्दार हुनु आजको सबभन्दा ठूलो खाँचो हुन पुगेको छ ।

नेपाल समाचारपत्र, माघ १, २०६० (१५ जनवरी, २००४) मा प्रकाशित लेख ।

Politics: "Conflict Reduction Strategies"

By Kamala Sarup

Nepalese people cannot forget how violent conflict disrupts lives and reduces people's access to basic services. They know the risks of conflict are higher when people live in poverty where they are marginalised economically and it affects business' operational and investment interests and the Nepalese people themselves feel they have no political voice. Political stability is essential to effectively implement poverty related programs in Nepal.

The present crises of Nepal is gradually pushing Nepal's political future into uncertainty. Political uncertainty has made it all the more difficult to put to an end the excruciating problems created by the Maoist forces. A resolution about the ongoing conflict and economic infrastructure are the most critical requirements for reducing poverty and improving the lives of all people in Nepal. Now that such a resolution has passed, Nepalese people would like to know; are we doing enough in the various organizations to bring about peaceful solutions to these conflict situations? Poverty is a cause and a consequence of conflict in Nepal.

Nepalese political parties should seek to help to defuse tensions and build sustainable peace through promoting the targeted conflict reduction strategies like through good governance programmes, encouraging protection of the rights of minority groups.

Expanding the use of the media to provide objective information, promoting international co-operation to curb illicit trafficking in small arms. Nepalese leaders should have a responsibility to help reduce human suffering and they should work closely with humanitarian organisations should seek to rebuild livelihoods and communities, and build capacity so that communities will be less vulnerable to future crises. It is sad to know that the major political parties cannot find any political solution.

Conflict is a major constraint to development with critical impact on physical, economic, and social. Poverty in Nepal largely means rural poverty because in rural areas most vulnerable of the rural poor because as rural economic conditions worsen. The causes of our poverty are clear. There is not enough land to absorb the available village labor force in agriculture. Violent conflict is as bad for business as it is for development. Community development can play a positive and crucial role in reducing conflict in Nepal.

Nepalese leaders are fighting for the sake of power and Nepalese leaders are not is in a mood to correct mistakes. Nepalese people cannot forget when Nepal has been passing through a very difficult phase of violent, the insensitivity shown by political forces is pushing the country into deeper bankruptcy. Since major political forces are fighting each other Nepalese people would like to know whether the political forces should come out with an agenda to bring the country into the right track. A country requires political stability because the clash among political forces is placing the country on a difficult situation. Nepalese leaders are wasting valuable time skirmishing over constitutional and political issues. Nepalese leaders should know after the destruction of infrastructure worth billions of rupees and the killing of thousands people, the government and rebels signed a cease-fire.

Nepalese leaders should know, the economic growth rate has fallen from an average 5 percent to 0.8 percent in fiscal year 2001/02 and they should know many rural areas have no electrical power, roads had schools. Nepalese leaders should not forget living Standard Survey of Nepal conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics in 1996 showed that the size of population below poverty line was 42 percent of which 24 percent as poor and 17.1 percent as to be ultra-poor. According to latest studies, the share of total income of the bottom 40 percent of the population decreased from 23 per cent in 1984/85 to 11 percent in 1995/96 while the share in total income of the wealthiest 10 percent of the population increased from 23 percent to 52 percent during the same period, indicating the worsening situation of the income distribution situation in Nepal. In 1995/96 average annual per capita consumption was about US\$130 using the same exchange rates as for the GNP per capita figures. So we know the Nepalese people have been familiar with Poverty reduction programme since 1977.

Nepal is the 12th poorest country in the world and the poorest in South Asia. Poverty reduction in Nepal has been slow . In the absence of accountable government, the country has suffered a serious setback. Conflict is a major cause of poverty and human rights abuses, and destroys the lives of thousands of Nepalese people. Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. It is sad to know that a sixth of the world's population receive nearly 80 percent of world income. There are still 120 million primary-school-age children not in school, nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names. 1.3 billion people live on fragile lands-arid zones, slopes, wetlands, and forests-that cannot sustain them.

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Politics: Restoration of Democracy in Nepal

By Somnath Ghimire

Right after the Royal take over in October 4th 2002, burdens grew and became worse, but the catastrophic deterioration occurred under the present regime. Nepal is now considered as an Undemocratic Country with unconstitutional government.

Reformation and democratization of Nepal is possible when the people of Nepal and the world democracies unite their efforts to facilitate this reformation and democratization. Dictatorship cannot bring stability in Nepal. Recognition of people's rights is an essential ingredient in bringing stability, peace and prosperity in our country Nepal.

It is to be warned that plots against hard earned democracy are on to lead the country towards party less autocratic system again in the country and our leaders should know by now. The "regression" will not last any longer in our country.

We all need to be aimed at positive, constructive debate and an honest and frank exchange of views, so that our conclusions are in-line with the challenges of our times and expectations of our people. I am sure you are all looking forward in participating in the campaign for the restoration of Democracy in Nepal without any conditions.

Present day, Nepal, resembles a sick person so fallen, it cannot fall any further. Collectively, we must help Nepal recover, for its health concerns the rest of the world as well. It is time for us to build a new, reformed, open, reconciled and integrated Nepal, which will take its rightful place as a democratic country and a responsible member of the international community. Let us urge Bush Administration, United Nations and our neighboring countries to give pressure to our king for the immediate restoration of Democracy in Nepal.

The present dictatorship has brought destruction upon our country. It is the time for freedom. However, yesterday is already history. The present is important. Now is the time for all of us to unite and be ready to deliver this positive change for our own sake, and that of the people of our country,

Nepal. Let us not shy away from this awesome challenge. Let us die for Democracy & Peace in Nepal.

In the twenty first century every one wants to live in democracy. It is our duty to foil the attempt of the non-democratic forces and make the foundation of democratic Nepal much stronger.

The royal move of October 4, 2002 in Nepal has posed a serious threat against the democratic order and the constitution of 1990. Democracy is in jeopardy and human rights are at stake. The king's Nepalgunj speech and the interview in the TIME magazine clearly prove us that he wants to be an autocratic monarch, which is unacceptable in 21st Century. Let me tell you this, our king should look forward not backward. Instead of looking his past generation, he should think about our generation. Our King should understand that what the present generation wants. We demand an immediate resignation of current Prime minister. We urge our king to form an all party government.

Let us all support the agitating five party's and the student union's various protest programs to be carried out in the future and work together towards an immediate restoration of democracy in Nepal.

(Author is the General Secretary of NDYC USA. -Ed)



US-Nepal: "Why South Asia Matters"

By Christina B. Rocca

The war on terrorism remains our principal foreign policy priority. As President Bush has repeatedly reminded us, this will be a long and difficult struggle from which we will not shrink. In our region, we are building a network of partnerships – based on national interests and shared values – to achieve our goals of spreading freedom and democracy, development and human dignity. Meeting these goals in South Asia is not incidental to U.S. foreign policy, it is essential for the free and prosperous world we all hope to see.

Nepal (*see note below)

The United States has had a close relationship with Nepal for over 50 years. During this period, Nepal has evolved from a closed, monarchy-dominated society into an emerging democracy with growing economic opportunity. We have contributed more than \$1 billion to improve the lives of the Nepalese people. Unfortunately, the Maoist insurgency that has left more than 8,700 people dead since 1996 threatens to destroy so much of this progress.

The Maoist insurgents, in their attempt to overthrow the government and replace it with an autocratic communist state, have destroyed schools and infrastructure, tortured and killed civilians, looted food from humanitarian aid projects, forcibly conscripted children, and assassinated government officials. In August, 2003 the Maoists unilaterally withdrew from a seven-month ceasefire previously negotiated with the government and immediately engaged once more in terrorist actions against the people and government of Nepal. In October, the U.S. designated the Maoists as terrorists under an executive order, subjecting them to financial sanctions.

During my visit to Kathmandu two months ago, I strongly urged the King and the Nepalese political parties to work together to face the threat to Nepal. The preservation of Nepal's system of constitutional monarchy and multi-party democracy is crucial to meeting the Maoist challenge.

The Maoists are the perpetrators of this conflict. They are conducting a war against the people of Nepal without respect for human rights. Yet in its response, the Government of Nepal's security forces must be above reproach. Without a focus on maintaining human rights, the Government could lose the support of the very people it seeks to save from the Maoist insurgents.

The United States policy in Nepal is very clear. Along with India, the UK, and others in the international community, we stand with the Government of Nepal in its continuing struggle against the brutal Maoist insurgency. But there can be no successful military solution to this conflict. The government must unify under multi-party democracy, maintain a spotless human rights record, and reach a political solution with the Maoists for the benefit of all Nepalis.

Summary

I have shared with you today some of the principal foreign policy challenges associated with nation-states in South Asia – including bilateral as well as regional and international security concerns.

So why does South Asia matter for Americans? Let us review:

South Asia is a region of both enormous danger and dazzling opportunity. It is a region struggling against international terrorism, regional nuclear confrontation and proliferation, social instability and humanitarian crises; and yet

It is a region that is home to nearly a fifth of the world's people, a huge and growing market whose industrious citizens are keen to build better futures for themselves and their families. As Secretary Powell wrote in the New York Times:

"We fight terrorism because we must, but we seek a better world because we can...This is why we commit ourselves to democracy, development, global public health, and human rights, as well as to the prerequisite of a solid structure for global peace."

The interests of the United States and the challenges faced by the people of South Asia have fully converged. This region is now, and will long remain, at the forefront of America's foreign policy concerns.

(Christina B. Rocca is Assistant Secretary for South Asia Affairs. This article comes as remarks at the Asia Society New York, New York February 3, 2004. Her remarks have separate sections for various countries of South Asia.

* Read the complete article at <http://www.state.gov/p/sa/rls/rm/28961.htm>



Opinion: "How Much Is Too Much?"

By Nav Raj Pokharel

"What next?" It is more predictable question among the people of Nepal these day.

One after another, the easy lives of civilians have been affected by various reasons imposed by the authority. The two-wheelers in Katmandu Valley are besieged with new rule this time. When bikers were on the street, on the second week of February, they knew that the government had imposed a ban on the use of visor, the part of helmet, and mask on their nose.

Kathmandu is known as one of the most polluted city in the world. The anguish naturally increased. However, the situation remains the same. The poor and meek public exhaust a big sigh and hand over their licenses at every nook and corner in the city. Pedestrians like me have watched their faces at the point of time when they were reluctantly handing over their licenses to the police. At that point, they seemed to ask themselves what next catastrophes would fall upon them when they were on the road the next day.

Not only that, the new rule imposed also approximates an imminent panic even to the owners of four wheelers. Who knows! What comes in the wild mind of those authorities and may ban the windscreen and window glasses from the cars and public busses in the name of strengthening the security in the capital next day.

The gradual curtailing in the free movement began few months ago. No more than three persons could walk together in a group. It was further controlled by banning pillion riders in some districts like Chitwan, some one hundred K.M. from Kathmandu. The restriction is still effective there.

In the name of security, the authority is denying people their basic rights one after another. Issuing yet another notice to search civilians home and bedrooms in the night is frightening indication to all law-abiding citizens. Security personals misdeeds and atrocities from different parts of the country have been reported in the papers now and then. "...people have been mistakenly shot dead...a group of search force have been reportedly raped a women after they knocked her husband out of home in the middle of night" in so and so villages... are the news of the dailies almost everyday.

Are such rules that impede freedom of the citizens indispensable to checkmate the terrorists? if yes, peace-loving people of Nepal were, are and will always be cooperative. On the other hand, has the authority cautious in maintaining whether or not the people who have been given the power to use it are indeed using it right ? Is not it worthless to impose new rules and to ignore its adverse consequences that suffocate the people and their basic Rights? Is it fair to let the 90 percent of population suffer to have control over the few?

How much is too much? I, an ignorant citizen of this ill-fated country, don't know it. Even worse, at present I feel that nobody seems to know the answer to this important question.

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Economy: "Legal Reforms in Banking Sector"

By Bashu Dev Phulara

The banking sector is the dominant pillar of the financial system. Particularly in Nepal, the health of the banking sector is very important because the financial market is not highly-developed here. In the same vein, Banking and other financial issues have now become one of the major concerns of Nepal's ratification to WTO agreements. So, legal reforms are quickly taking place in Nepalese banking sector. These legal reforms are welcome in some respect and worrying in the others. All the same, the present poor health of the Nepalese banks demands the apposite legal change near by them in the years to come.

Poor Health of Banking Sector

It has been known for long that the banking sector on the whole in Nepal is not in good health. The ill health of the banking system is seen in its worst form in the nationalized and specialized public sectors Banks. Public sector Banks continue to dominate the commercial banking system. Further, a number of private sector Banks have been successful in the retail and consumer segments, but are yet to deliver in important areas such as industrial finance, retail trade, small business and agricultural finance. With foreign Banks facing the constraint of limited number of branches, the Public Sector Banks will continue to be the critical element in this industry for some time. Only a few of the existing Commercial Banks have the managerial capability and financial strength to expand rapidly.

Restructuring plans for the two government-owned Banks in Nepal were formulated in 1992. The government recapitalized both Banks in 1992/93 but by 1996 only the Nepal Bank (NBL), a joint venture had made any progress in implementing the restructuring plans. It had cut staff and improved credit policies, but its true financial condition could not be assessed because it did not publish up-to-date accounts. The other bank, the Rastriya Banijya Bank (RBB), had made few efforts to implement reforms. There appeared to be a lack of political will to tackle the very severe managerial and operational problems afflicting this bank.

As confirmed, two largest commercial Banks NBL and RBB were dubbed financially toward bankrupt .So, their management has handed over to the foreign experts, in a bid to curb the present crisis of the Banks. So, it is being heard over the months that with the efforts of new management, they could reacquire their lost image to be the mainstream Banks in the commercial banking sector. The Agriculture Development Bank in other side is not portraying any sign of huge troubles; rather it is right now in better form than before.

In Nepal, two distinct types of financial distress have afflicted the banking sector. The most important in terms of the scale of losses and the fact that it is common to Nepal, entailed endemic distress in government commercial Banks. Non-performing loans are the core of both types of distress, but the causes of poor loan quality are different. Political pressure to lend to uncreditworthy borrowers is the main reason why the government-owned Banks have incurred substantial levels of non-performing loans.

Further, the financial distresses in these Banks are concealed by poor accounting practices. Also, Willful default by some borrowers because of political interference, or simply weak bank management are major contributors to financial distress in both government-owned and private sector Banks. It is often difficult, if not contradictory, for commercial Banks to attain social objectives, as well as operate profitably, or along commercial principles.

In due course, it is understood that the kingdom might encounter alike economic crisis as that of East Asia during the mid-nineties, if banking sector delays to bring consecutive change as this is relatively weaker at the moment than earlier. The climax of Nepalese Banks as comparable to that of common problems faced by Japanese and Chinese Banks. Despite being financial liberalization and increased competition in financial markets, interest rates are still prohibitively high because of the large domestic borrowing requirements of government. While this has encouraged financial institutions to finance commercial activities with quick and assured returns, it has deterred them from providing long term capital to finance the fixed investment necessary for the development of financial market.

Recently, the World Bank made it clear that promises of reform were no longer sufficient. Experience has taught us that until reforms are actually implemented, it is very difficult to be sure that reforms will happen. The regulations are well intentioned but not very practical. Take for instance, near about one dozens of directives have been issued by the Nepal Rastra Bank to govern the industry and trade but they have introduced at a time when the economy isn't doing well. In this juncture, we require more elasticity in the accomplishment of the NRB directives. The economy of the state should be used to assess whether the timing of the directives was appropriate. Further, the Banking sector reforms should be judged by actions, not by promises.

Efforts to Bolster

In the changing context of globalization, every corporate entity demands legal guarantee and predictability in the legal system before making any investment in Banking and financial sector. Hence, Strong and capable legal institutions are indispensable to attract internal and external investment in financial marketplace. For that reason, Nepal's legal, judicial, and accounting professions are facing a time of rapid change. All the same, From the process of making the law to its implementation, one can see many hindrances in Nepalese legal system. So, there is urgent need to reform commercial laws and the efficiency of the present dispute resolution system for commercial matters must be improved to expedite development of both the public and private sectors.

(This article was originally published on The Rising Nepal dated 2/10/2004. -Ed.)

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Essay: "NEPAL: DANGEROUS PLANS FOR VILLAGE MILITIAS"

By ICG (International Crisis Group)

The Government of Nepal is creating local civilian militias - known as Rural Volunteer Security Groups and Peace Committees - in what risks becoming an alarming escalation of its conflict with Maoist rebels. Civilian militias are likely to become an untrained, unaccountable and undisciplined armed force that worsens a conflict that has already taken almost 9,000 lives. The scheme is controversial, and the government has publicly denied that it has already started distributing weapons despite evidence that it is indeed going ahead. If implemented, village militias are likely to have serious and long-term consequences:

- Their creation would force many villagers to take sides in the conflict - something most wish to avoid since it makes them targets for violence from both sides and tears the already worn social fabric, leaving lasting damage.
- Militias are likely to receive only minimal training, have little oversight and few controls, thus leading to a worsening of human rights problems. Massacres, abductions and illegal imprisonments are already rife in Nepal, and these problems will get worse.
- Arming untrained villagers when regular police forces are often under-armed and under-trained is counter-productive.
- Disarming and demobilising militias after conflicts is extremely difficult. Eight years after such forces were demobilised in Guatemala, many are still active as criminal groups.
- Militias tend to mutate. A number of terrorist networks have their origins in government-linked militias or underground groups including al-Qaeda, Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia and Turkish Hizbollah. Given Nepal's complex ethnic and social landscape, creating new armed movements is particularly ill-advised.

On 4 February 2004 one of the villages where local people had been armed, Sudama, was attacked by a large number of Maoists. ICG visited the village while researching this briefing, and a detailed description of its situation is given below. Although the attack was repelled without any reported injuries to civilians, it appears that the village was targeted because of its reputation as a pilot location for the militia program. This emphasises concerns that arming civilians is likely to lead to increased violence.

Kathmandu/Brussels, 17 February 2004

(Read complete report at www.crisisweb.org)

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Social: "The Cry for Peace"

By Ruchi Ahuja

These days the cry for "peace" has become a craze in this world. But can anything be achieved by such cries? There is no way for establishing peace other than waging a war against the very causes by which peace is disturbed.

In the personal life of every human being, there is a constant conflict between the benevolent and the malevolent intellect; between spiritual force and material force. Sometimes it is good tendencies that triumph and sometimes bad tendencies are victorious.

In social life too, a similar fight between (these two tendencies) is going on. Benevolent forces have to fight malevolent forces, and in this fight, as long as spiritual force remains triumphant there is a particular type of peace, which can be called sentient peace (white peace). Likewise, as long as material force remains victorious in this fight, there is also a particular type of peace that gets expressed, which may be called static peace (black peace).

Thus, we find that peace is a relative factor. Supreme peace and external peace cannot be established in collective life, as the extroverts activities which this created world consists of have two functions - the first one is dominated by materiality and the second one by spirituality. If the existence of this world consists of the existence of these two, then permanent peace (permanent sentient or permanent static as the case may be), will mean either the cessation of the activities of either (one or the other force) or both. That is why collective peace cannot exist except in total annihilation, and this very concept is illogical. However, an individual can certainly achieve supreme peace by means of spiritual practices?

So long as government servants have strong nerves, antisocial, static elements remain suppressed. During this period, a country experiences a special kind of peace known as sentient peace. Where government servants are weak, static people are predominant, and honest people are forced to keep a low profile. This is also a kind of peace, which can be called static peace.

This static peace is of course not desirable. If a particular social group of a particular region attacks another social group of the same region or of some other region, and under such circumstances all other social groups simply remain mute spectators or advocate the path of negotiation or compromise as the only solution, then it should be understood that they are encouraging nothing but static peace.

Even if there is a good formal relation with a neighbor, but it becomes apparent that he intends to murder his wife, in that case what should be the duty of the other neighbors? Will they keep their mouths shut or sit back considering the situation a purely domestic affair? Will they assist in the establishment of static peace by not obstructing the murder of that woman?

No, humanity does not permit this. It is desirable for them to break open the door, enter the house and give protection to the woman in question. Thus, they should help to establish sentient peace by taking necessary action against the oppressor. If any country perpetrates atrocities on its minorities or attacks any weak neighbor, then the other neighbors should take up arms, and by mobilizing the required force, they should restrain the tyrant in order to establish sentient peace.

This is why people who want to restore sentient peace will have to make continual efforts to acquire strength. It is impossible for goats to establish sentient peace in the society of tigers. Those who hold the view that non-violence is non-use of force sadly can neither establish sentient peace nor can they defend hard-earned freedom. There may be deceit in their non-violence and there may also be diplomatic attempts to conceal their weaknesses, but I am sorry to say that it is never possible for them to establish sentient peace.

(The author, a student of journalism in Delhi, can be reached at ruchisjournal2003@yahoo.com -Ed.)



Education: "Hindu Vidyapeeth-Nepal (HVP)"

By Chintamani Yogi

"Arise, awake, stop not till the goal is reached"

Hindu Vidyapeeth-Nepal (HVP)

(A Charity - Based School for Holistic Education)

HVP is an educational institute run on a non-profit basis by Matribhoomi Sevak Sangh (MSS). MSS is a socio-cultural organization devoted to the development of society through disciplined, responsible and well-cultured individuals. In an age of growing materialism, fundamentalism and intolerance, HVP is working to bring up a generation of people who have holistic leadership qualities and clear visions and who can maintain and develop human virtues within and around them such as peace, harmony, and love in the form of international brotherhood and coexistence.

HVP believes that an education which promotes both academic excellence and training in spiritual, cultural and moral values will equip a child to face life's challenges and serve humankind. Through its holistic education, HVP promotes the values of love, peace and non-violence. Simultaneously, an HVP education provides a child with knowledge about his/her own culture and encourages him/her to respect and love culture.

Furthermore, HVP Schools, with their special philosophy, believe in the equality of all human beings and are open to children from all social/cultural backgrounds. Through integration at the level of the classroom, social harmony at other levels of society can be achieved.

Aims:

- To provide peace and value-based education.
- To provide a good academic foundation.
- To provide spiritual, cultural and moral awareness.
- To promote a sense of national and global values.
- To promote a sense of responsibility towards others through an emphasis on civic education.
- To give equal opportunities to all students, regardless of their cultural and ethnic background.
- To create a whole human for betterment of society.
- To provide more scholarship to the children from untouchable castes and communities.

Salient features:

- Run with a non-profit motive to promote the ideal of selfless service.
- Run under guidance and supervision of eminent social workers and educationists.
- Scholarships/sponsorship for children from the less privileged parts of society.
- Free education for war victim children as well as for the children from the so-called untouchable castes.
- Greater student-teacher interaction.
- Extra help in English from British volunteers from the UK-based GAP organization.
- Educational tours to places of cultural significance.
- Special classes on moral values.
- Regular dance, music, drama, speech and talent programmes and contests.
- Programmes and clubs to promote environmental awareness.
- Equal respect towards all the faiths and religions.
- Family environment and close relationship between the students, parents and teachers.
- Regular classes on Yoga and Naturopathy.
- Residential facilities.
- Children Camps in the different places to make the students all-rounded individuals.
- Peace and value-based education.

How HVP is Unique?

- It's not just a school; rather it is an educational movement in Nepal with a vision of developing mentally, physically, intellectually, spiritually and socially sound individuals.
- It primarily focuses on creating goodwill and peace in the young generation in order that the world will experience the true peace.
- It has been building contacts and friendly relationships with the like-minded international educational, social, and spiritual organizations.

- It has set up an example of universal brotherhood as many friends even outside Nepal has been working to spread out the messages and ideals of HVP movement through establishing different organizations such as HVP-UK (a charity organization) and HVP Support Group USA.
- Children from all the religions, ethnic groups and castes do study at HVP Schools, developing equal respect in all religions and faiths with a sense of true brotherhood and sisterhood.
- In Nepal are mainly two types of school - state run schools (government funded school) and privately run school. Unfortunately, the state schools have failed to provide the children with quality and value-based education. So much politicization in such schools is the main cause of the fall of the standard of education. This is the reason why the private run schools are mushrooming all over the country. But, the private schools are not within the reach of the most of the common Nepalese people. Only a few rich families can afford their children to go to such expensive schools which are creating a big gap between the haves and have-nots. Beside this the private schools are based on materialistic ideology and the students educated at such schools are misguided due to the visionless education. But, HVP belongs to a next category - Public Trust. It is run by a trust, which is neither run by the Government nor by the private sector (which have business motive and are, therefore, recently registered under the company act). Therefore, the HVP is a public educational institution run by very reputed social workers and educationists and thus it is a CHARITY-BASED SCHOOL FOR HOLISTIC EDUCATION.

How HVP has Kept Developing?

As HVP believes in sustainable development based on spirituality. Spirituality is regarded as a binding element that joins the hearts of the people belonging to different religions and ethnic groups. In the beginning HVP experienced hardships and struggled a lot to overcome so many difficulties - financial and material. It was rather difficult to convince the people who were very much influenced with materialistic education system.

It took HVP a few years to make people believe that there is something more precious and important in life than the material development. Material development and Spiritual development should go side-by-side keeping a balance. Gradually, HVP brought many people under its influence with its unique features and thus the philosophy and the ideals of the HVP movement are now greatly realized by the people. Now the school has gained reputation at national and international level.

Due to the lack of financial and material resources HVP kept moving from place to place for many years and couldn't receive enough students due to this frequent movement. If we now think of the past history of HVP, we really feel so difficult to believe the wonderful achievements and success HVP has made so far. It is because of its value-based education and the continuous support of nationally acclaimed social workers and the friends inside and outside the country who have strong believe in the deeds and ideals of HVP.

We are now very happy to state that an educational institution started with only 15 small children in a tiny rented building in 1985 has now three HVP Schools with more than one thousand students as well as well wishers and supporters inside and outside the country.

Yet, HVP has to go long way in many sectors it has envisioned or dreamt of. Therefore, generous support in any form from selfless people and organizations are yet to be hoped and are always most welcome. What is universally true is that any selfless work started from any part of the world benefits not only that particular part, but also the world at large.

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Activities: "Celebration of 54th National Democracy Day of Nepal"

By Anand Bist

The Nepalese Democratic Youth Council in USA organized the program to mark the celebration of 54th National Democracy Day on Saturday, February 21, 2004.

The program was held a few days later to the real anniversary. Around 150 Nepalese living in and around New York City and our American friends attended the program. The program was presided by Anand Bist. The Chief Guest of the function was Murari Raj Sharma, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Nepal to the United Nations.

Shailesh Shrestha, an adviser of NDYCUSA started the program by welcoming the moderator Dr. Tara Niraula, a researcher of Stanford University.

Somnath Ghimire, General Secretary of NDYCUSA made a welcome speech by stressing on the restoration of democracy in Nepal without any conditions. He also demanded an immediate resignation of current Prime Minister and urges King to form an all party government. Mr. Ghimire told the gathering that the King's Nepalgunj speech and the interview in the TIME magazine clearly prove that he wanted to be an autocratic monarch, which is unacceptable in 21st Century. He also stresses that our King should look forward not backward, instead of looking his past generation he should think about our generation. Our King should understand that what the present generation wants.

In the process of celebration, Tsewang Sherpa Lama, a well-known social worker read his poem about Democracy in Nepal. In the process of celebration, a young speaker, Miss Rakshita Koirala spoke about the values and the importance of democracy. L G Khembochhe, President of United Sherpa Association said that Democracy is needed in Nepal. Our America friends, Mr. Brian Anderson and Jack Sachs also spoke on the occasion about the goodwill of democracy. They said that Democracy is needed for the development of the country.

The prominent leader and Adviser of NDYCUSA Mr. Shailesh Shrestha said that the REAL DEMOCRACY will prevail in Nepal with a republican set up only. In the program Kamal Karki, president of America-Nepal Friendship Association said that History is a powerful testimonial that freedom is never granted voluntarily. He stresses that democracy in Nepal got a second cruel blow in the history of Nepal. Mr. Karki said that we all must work very hard to make democracy a reality in Nepal. President of Alliance for Democracy and Human Rights in Nepal, USA, Mr. Binod Rokha said that we all have the same mission and work together towards the restoration of democracy in Nepal.

The chief guest HE Murari Raj Sharma expressed his views about the current situation saying that democracy will be restored if we all work together looking forward. President of the Council, Anand Bista gave the Vote of Thanks and he questioned the gathering that how long could our King fool us. He said that our king should know the feelings of the people of Nepal. He urges all the Democratic forces to be united and work together to bring back our hard earned Democracy in Nepal. He warns that plots against hard earned democracy are on to lead our country, Nepal towards party less autocratic system again in Nepal, so we all lover of Democracy need to be ready to fight against regression.

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Honor: "Dr. T. Joshi Honored"

By Amy Baker

DR. JOSHI HONORED WITH A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD IN WEST VIRGINIA, USA



Dr. Tulasi Joshi, Professor of Geography at Fairmont State College (FSC), and a native of Nepal, was presented with the Cyrus R. Vance Award for International Education in West Virginia, USA during a ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2003 at the West Virginia Cultural Center in Charleston by Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary of Education and the Arts. He was one of the 20 educators and educational organizations nominated for the award representing K-12 and postsecondary education from all parts of the state. The award includes a unique Blenko-designed hand blown glass decanter and a \$5,000 prize that Dr. Joshi will use for the Nepal scholarship program and other international education activities of FSC.

"I am really overwhelmed. It was a total surprise," Joshi said. "Receiving this honor makes me feel good about Fairmont State because it was the work of the institution that made this possible. This is a win for the entire institution and others who helped me work for international education in West Virginia. Without their help, it would not have been possible."

The Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts of West Virginia created the Cyrus R. Vance Award in 2001 to recognize exemplary educators and educational organizations in the field of international education and to honor the life of Vance, a Clarksburg native and former U.S. Secretary of State whose extraordinary career in diplomacy and public service spanned six decades. The 2001 winner of the Vance Award was the FACDIS (Faculty and Course Development in International

Studies) Program, a consortium of 400 faculty at 20 West Virginia colleges and universities. The 2002 winner was the Center for International Understanding at Bluefield State College, directed by Dr. Sudhakar Jamkhandi.

In presenting the award, Goodwin observed, "Dr. Joshi is being honored for his 30 years of teaching geography to an estimated 10,000 students, his integral role as a member of Fairmont State's International Education Committee since 1973, his leadership in establishing International Week at Fairmont State and creating scholarships for international students-particularly students from Nepal-to Fairmont State, and his active international outreach efforts to schools, civic clubs, and religious organizations in the Fairmont area. We are fortunate to have someone of Dr. Joshi's dedication and global vision working and living in West Virginia."

"We at Fairmont State are very proud of Dr. Tulasi Joshi's efforts to further international education," said Dr. Daniel J. Bradley, Fairmont State President. "We are glad to see him recognized by the state for his hard work and tireless dedication."

Joshi has been a professor at Fairmont State for more than 30 years, covering a variety of international topics. He is a member of the West Virginia Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies (FACDIS), National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, Association of Nepal in the Americas (ANA), and Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA). He was selected to participate in the Scholar-Diplomat Program of FACDIS and the Malone-Fellows program of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.

He has served as a member of the FSC International Education Committee since 1973; for some of those years he was chairman. He was instrumental in the establishment of the international student scholarship program, Nepal scholarship program and International Week observed on campus every year.

He received his Master's degrees from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and the University of Hawaii, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1989, Joshi, helped establish the Nepal Scholarship Program at Fairmont State. In 1991, Joshi arranged the annual international convention of the Association of Nepal in America (ANA) at Fairmont State attended by more than 300 participants including Nepal 's Ambassador to the U.S. Nepali communities and friends of Nepal in America including ANA have supported the Nepal Scholarship Program. Currently, there are 22 Nepali students attending Fairmont State. Currently, he is the chairperson of ANA's scholarship committee and the coordinator of the Nepal scholarship program at Fairmont State.

For information on the Nepal scholarship program, Fairmont State College and ANA, visit their websites www.fscwv.edu/ie/nepal/scl.htm , www.fscwv.edu and www.ana-home.org respectively.

Joshi has enhanced the international education experience of his students with firsthand knowledge by traveling to other countries and interacting with other scholars and professionals there. His efforts have brought international awareness to the Fairmont, Morgantown and Clarksburg areas through public speaking, fund-raising events and more.

The Rev. Richard Bowyer, Campus Minister, and Jim Young, Associate Professor of Geography, nominated Joshi for the award and wrote letters of support for him.

"Dr. Joshi has influenced the lives of many students and faculty," Bowyer wrote. "In the span of 30 years, he has taught 9,000 to 10,000 students. Many of those would have had even more benefit from him as he has worked with international students on an individual basis and with student organizations, special programs, etc. His professional associations and commitment to updating his teaching material has made his influence even more positive."

(Amy Baker, Director of Public Relations for Fairmont State College can be reached at abaker3@mail.fscwv.edu. Via Phone: Office: (304) 367-4135, Cell: (304) 288-9540 Fax: (304) 367-4580 -Ed.)



Giving Back: "Supporting a Village School for Dalits"



स्कूल त बन्यो , वेन्च किन्न नसक्दा भुइमा

मदरल्यान्ड अफ नेपाल का वारेमा यहा हरुलाइ भनी राख्नु त पर्देन होला । यो संस्था अन्य कुनै मनसायले खोलिएको होइन र यो संस्था कुनै घृणित राजनीतिक खेल खेल्नको लागि पनि खोलिएको होइन । यसको मुख्य उद्देश्य हामी मातृभुमी नेपाल वाट टाढा जुन सुकै ठाउमा भए पनि नेपालमा भएका गलत गतिविधिको आलोचना र सही कार्यको प्रशंसा गर्दै आफ्नो गक्ष्यअनुसारको सहयोग पुर्याउनु मात्र यस संस्थाको उद्देश्य हो। नेपालमा भएको द्वन्द्वबाट पीडित समूहलाई यस संस्थाकै पहलमा केही आर्थिक संकलन गरी पठाउने गरिएकोकुरा यहा हरु समक्ष अवगत नै छ । र यसको अर्कोउद्देश्य विदेशमा छरिएर वसेका देशभक्त राष्ट्र प्रेमि हरुलाई एउटै माला मा गासी सो माला नेपालमा पठाउनु हो। र यस पटक फेरी पनि यहाहरु समक्ष निवेदन गर्दछु आसा छ मेरो होस्तेमा यहाहरुले हैसे सदा भै गनभनेर ।

यस पटक वाग्लुगं को भकुण्डेमा त्याहाका स्थानिय वासिन्दा हरु ले देउसी भैली खेली र स्थानीय जनश्रमदानका साथै विभिन्न तरीका वाट रकम संकलन गरी स्कूल भवन तयार पारे तर वेन्च किन्न नसक्दा उक्त स्कूलका सम्पूर्ण एकसय पैतिस जना कक्षा पाच सम्मनका विद्यार्थीहरु भुइमा वस्न बाध्य भए । उक्त दलित वस्ती कोवीचमा स्थापना गरिएको विद्यालय मा पचहत्तर प्रतिशत दलित विद्यार्थी हरु पढ्दछन्। तसर्थयहाहरु वाट यथासक्य सहयोग भएमा उक्त विद्यार्थी हरु वेन्चमा वसी पढ्न पाउने थिए । तसर्थ वेन्च किन्न को लागि यहाहरु समक्ष आर्थिक सहयोग को अपेक्षा को लागी यस मदर ल्याण्ड अफ नेपाल का प्रेसीडेन्ट अनिल को हार्दिक विनम्र अनुरोध छ । अन्तमा , विगतमा मदर ल्याण्ड अफ नेपाल का तर्फवाट आर्थिक सहयोग गरी आउनु भएका सम्पुण लाइ धन्यवाद टक्राउछु ।

Diaspora: "Saraswati Puja in Denver"

By Gyanendra Gadal

डेन्भरमा सरस्वती पूजा सम्पन्न संगीतकार तथा लेखक बुलु मुकारुं सम्मानित ।

यही जनवरी २६, २००४ का दिन अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय नेपाली साहित्य समाज, कोलोराडो शाखाको आयोजनामा वि.सं. २०६० सालको सरस्वती पूजा भव्य रुपमा मनाइयो । डेन्भर स्थित गोविन्दाज रेष्टरामा सम्पन्न उक्त कार्यक्रममा नेपाली समुदायको उल्लेखनीय उपस्थिति रहेको थियो । हिन्दू धार्मिक मान्यता अनुसार माघ शुक्ल पञ्चमीका दिन ज्ञान, बुद्धि र विद्याकी देवी सरस्वती माताको पूजा आराधना गर्ने गरिन्छ ।

सो अवसरमा हाल अमेरिकामा रहनु भएका नेपाली संगीत फांटका ख्यातिप्राप्त संगीतकार एवं लेखक बुलु मुकारुंलाई अनेसास, कोलोराडो शाखाले सम्मान समेत गर्‍यो । श्री मुकारुंलाई समाजद्वारा प्रदान गरिएको सम्मानपत्रमा भनिएको छ, "लामो समयदेखि नेपाली संगीत तथा साहित्यको क्षेत्रमा पुर्याउनुभएको योगदानको कदरस्वरुप नेपालका ख्यातिप्राप्त संगीतकार एवं लेखक श्री बुलु मुकारुंलाई यो सम्मान पत्र प्रदान गरिएको छ" समाजका अध्यक्ष श्री ज्ञानेन्द्र गदालको सभापतित्वमा सम्पन्न उक्त श्रष्टा सम्मान कार्यक्रममा सरस्वती पूजाको धार्मिक तथा सांस्कृतिक महत्वका बारेमा डा. विजयराज शर्माले चर्चा गर्नुभएको थियो भने सम्मानित श्रष्टा श्री मुकारुंको व्यक्तित्व र कृतित्वका बारेमा चर्चा गर्दै वहांको परिचय श्री गंगा चौलागाईंले गराउनुभयो । समारोहका सभापति ज्ञानेन्द्र गदालले श्री मुकारुंलाई सम्मानपत्र सबैका सामू पढेर प्रदान गर्नुभयो । कार्यक्रममा बोल्दै सम्मानित श्रष्टा श्री मुकारुंले आफुले संगीत र साहित्यको क्षेत्रमा जानी नजानी गरेका कामहरु निस्काम खेर गएनछन् भन्ने महशुस यस सम्मान कार्यक्रमले गराएको र मुलुकदेखि यति टाढा रहंदा पनि नेपाली भाषा, साहित्य एवं संस्कृतिको संरक्षण प्रति कमि नदेखिएकोमा आफु ज्यादै प्रभावित भएको र यो सुखद समाचारको दुत बनेर

म नेपाल जानेछु र सबैलाई भन्नेछु भन्ने बचन बद्धता व्यक्त गर्नुभयो । उक्त कार्यक्रम समाजका सचिव श्री सुदेश शर्माले सञ्चालन गर्नुभएको थियो ।

ज्ञानेन्द्र गदाल
अध्यक्ष
अनेसास, कोलोराडो शाखा
जनवरी २६, २००४

Reflections from a decade back: "Myth or Reality?"

("Reflections from a decade back" is a regular feature of rejuvenated TND. Pramod Pandey compiles this section from materials published approximately 10 years ago. - Ed)

Compiled by: Pramod Pandey
Originally from: ATULADHAR@vax.clarku.edu
Date: July 6, 1994
Source: The Independent, May 18th

Here are some quotations from articles that appeared in The Independent, June 8 and the kantipur daily:

- * Nepalese who go to America are implicitly rootless, restricted immigrants in a country that is not their own.
- * Nepalese in America ignore the possibility of being the target of skinheads, racial hatred or welfare, to be part of the slave labor doing the 3-D jobs, the dirty, the difficult and dangerous when they leave Nepal for the unlimited opportunity of America.
- * Nepalese in American are choosing the land of of the highest crime rate of the world when living on standards higher than high class Nepalese, iel owning a car that is newer than our Nepal taxies, and eating junk food out of refridgerator that actually has cooled from uninterrupted supply of electricity.
- * Nepalese remittance to folks back home is a pittance than those who go to japan or to British Gurkhas, in fact Nepalese students in America is a net drain on Nepal's resources tapping thousands of dollars per each student every year from the world poorest nation to the richest nation on earth.
- * Only the rich and ambitious Nepalese go to America.
- * Nepalese who go to America are simply deserters, pure and simple.
- * Nepalese in American exert no influence on democracy or development and America has gone down in rank as a donor nation.
- * Nepalese in America are curious but naive about situations in Nepal

Poem (In Nepali) "Anubhav Gara Saytako"

अनुभव गर सत्यको

- सोमकान्त भट्टराई

तिमीलाई थाहा छ, सत्य कहाँ छ ?
तिम्रा धर्म ग्रन्थमा कि
आधुनिक उपान्यासमा ?
कि हिन्दी सिनेमामा ?
गीता, कुरान कि बाइबलमा ?
यी सब सुगाका बाणी हुन
मनिषिका कथा कुथुंग्री
पण्डितका भड्याई ।

हाम्रा गुरुवा भन्ने गर्छन
गीता सत्य, पुराण पवित्र
माष्टरजी लेखे गर्छन
आचारण सत्य, सेवा पवित्र
अनि रामे कुर्लन्छ
दुःख सत्य, मदिरा पवित्र
धेरै पढे पछि मान्छे, बौलाउंछ,
सत्यको बखान गर्छ ।

सबका आफ्ना आफ्नै सत्य छन्
आफ्ना आफ्नै पवित्रता छन्

सत्यसंग कसैलाई मतलब छैन
आफ्ना आफ्नै तर्क हुन सक्छन
आफ्ना आफ्नै सत्य हुन सक्दैनन
सत्य पुराण बन्न सक्दैन
प्लाष्टिकको फूलमा
कस्तुरीको सुगन्ध हुँदैन ।

सत्यको सिमा हुँदैन
सत्यले सापेक्षतावाद पढेको छैन
सत्य साश्वत छ,
तिमी सत्यलाई शब्दमा लेख्छौ
सत्यले शब्दको ऋण खाएको छैन

सत्य तिम्रो अतिथि हैन
सत्यको निमन्त्रणा पत्रसंग
मित्रता पनि छैन ।

सत्य आख्यान र आचार हुन सक्दैन
सत्य व्याख्यान र विचार हुन सक्दैन
सत्य तिम्रो भाषाभित्र अटाउन सक्दैन
सत्य अनुभव गर्नुपर्छ, बोल्न सकिन्न
सत्यलाई बुद्धिले नाप्न सकिन्न
सत्य बुद्धिभन्दा पर छ,
सत्य विचारभन्दा पनि पर छ,
त्यसैले अनुभव गर सत्यको, व्याख्या होइन ।

Poem (In Nepali) "Sukhko Anubhuti"

सुखको अनुभूति

- दीपक राज भट्टराई

स्नेहमयी हेराइले मुद् मुस्कान छर्दै
अमृत तुल्य मधुर वाणी बोल्दै
अत्यन्त हर्ष विभोर भएर
जब मेरो सानो नाती मलाई
हबु हबु भनी बोलाउँछ,
भव्य सुन्दरताको निवास भित्र
मानौँ उज्वल एकाग्रताको प्रतिक

निर्मल, शान्त, चरीत्रको सौन्द्र भएर
तिमी मेरो मनको गद्दीमा अनन्तलीन हुन्छौ
आल्मारी माथीको फोटो नियाल्दा
सम्पूर्ण आकांक्षाहरु परिपूर्ण भएजस्तै
म स्वर्गीय सुखको अनुभूति गर्छु

Announcement: "School of Languages and Cultures of Nepal"

By Bhim Karki

"School of Languages and Cultures of Nepal" (Nepali Bhasa tatha Sanskriti Vidhyalaya) was inaugurated in Dallas Texas, USA on 22nd February 2004. This is a goodwill community collaboration of International Nepali Literary Society (INLS) and Nepal Society of Texas (NST). The objective of this school is to teach, promote and preserve Nepali language and cultures in young Nepali children. This initiative received overwhelming community response and parents expressed their satisfaction.

There were five speakers in the event, including NST president Baikuntha Thapa, school Registrar Anjan Shrestha, Teacher Binni Rajbhandari, Parent Binay Manandhar and INLS Texas Chapter President Bhim Karki. Every speaker emphasized on the importance of this school and all community members pledged their support for the school.

Temple Priest and INLS Vice President Basu Dev Bhandari conducted Saraswati puja and Saraswati Bandana. Youngest students Anusha Rajbhandari and Suyash Dhital lit Panas to inaugurate the school. The ceremony took place in a conference hall in Hindu Temple; Nepali refreshment was also provided. A nine-member education committee and a team of five teachers were announced and introduced by INLS Texas Chapter President. INLS/NST secretary Gouri Joshi hosted program. Thirty-five students started their classes.

The community School project is part of INLS Worldwide Nepali Education Program. For more information about the program, please visit: <http://www.inls.org/nepali>

Bhim Karki,
President,
INLS Texas Chapter
texas@inls.org

Announcement: "JOJALAPPA!"

By T. Tuladhar

Friends and well-wishers,

Still one more year has turned in the life of NOA. An Annual Event is in order!

The Third NOA Convention is in the making and all are invited to take part in this Annual Event. Here are the first set of information. More information will follow as the program develops.

Day and Date: May 30 Sunday 2004
Memorial Day Weekend 2004 (Sat May 29 - Monday May 31)
Place: Potomac Community Center (Metropolitan Washington)
Time: A Full day event
Program of the Day: To Come Shortly

In the Meantime:

Please mark your calendar and make it a point to come to this event and make it success. It is but appropriate that at this time we get your input, suggestions, and ideas so that we can make the event as interesting and as fun experience for all of us.

Various program are being developed, as we speak, but we always want to include people and subject matter that are vital for the development of our community.

Panel discussion, Exhibition, Trade shows on Culture, Art, Language, pertinent activities of the community like Business, Trade, Education and advancement opportunities and other topics are being planned.

For those of you who would like to make any presentation or speak on subject matter of your choice, please let us know in advance and send us a short description of the subject matter, time needed and other requirements so that we can make appropriate preparation and get it into the program.

A Grand Cultural Show with music and dances, Short films, slide presentation, Award presentation, Lottery, are some of the programs that will happen with your participation.

Sport for the young and Learning Activities for kids will come alive with the full participation of our younger and vital generation of our community.

Those of you who want to sing and dance or recite a poem, or show us some of your hidden talent, we encourage you to come forwards, or let us know through somebody, and we will contact you and try to provide you with all amenities necessary to make your effort worthwhile and enjoyable.

At this early stage, your Suggestions on Programs events and other ideas will be most helpful, so that you could see the program you like to happen at the convention. Sent us your request to us so that our Program development team can consider them and make it happen.

By the Way! It is great time to visit Washington - meet Family and Friends, if you have not done so lately.

.....

Did you know that?

Popular Phrase: "Catch-22"

"Catch-22" means a trap created by mutually frustrating regulations. It was coined by Joseph Heller in his 1961 novel Catch-22, which satirized military illogic. From the novel:

Later in the novel, Yossarian visits a former brothel from which soldiers have chased away all the prostitutes. Yossarian asks why.

"No reason," wailed the old woman. "No reason."
"What right did they have?"

"Catch-22. [...] Catch-22 says they have a right to do anything we can't stop them from doing. [...] What does it mean, Catch-22? What is Catch-22?"

"Didn't they show it to you?" Yossarian demanded, stamping about in anger and distress. "Didn't you even make them read it?"

"They don't have to show us Catch-22," the old woman answered. "The law says they don't have to."

"What law says they don't have to?"

"Catch-22." [...]

Yossarian [...] strode out of the apartment, cursing Catch-22 vehemently as he descended the stairs, even though he knew there was no such thing. Catch-22 did not exist, he was positive of that, but it made no difference. What did matter was that everyone thought it existed, and that was much worse, for there was no object or text to ridicule or refute [...].

It is not logical for "Catch-22" to be hyphenated; other such expressions in English normally are not. But that's the way Heller did it.

(Read more at <http://alt-usage-english.org/excerpts/fxcatch2.html>)
