

Nepal Abroad

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US Under Secretary Fore Visits Nepal



Photo: Nepal News

Henrietta H. Fore, Under Secretary of State for Management meeting with the Prime Minister Girija P Koirala at his residence in Baluwatar on Saturday March 10, 2007. During her stay she reviewed developments in Nepal and met Nepali politicians, officials, business executives, and women alumni of US exchange programs.

US Prepares for Possible Flow of Caribbean Immigrants

Miami, March 9: U.S. officials have wrapped up an exercise to prepare for the possible mass flow of migrants arriving by boat from Cuba or another Caribbean nation. From Miami, VOA's Brian Wagner reports that the drill was intended to test existing U.S. resources to combat illegal migration, as well as drug and people smuggling.

U.S. officials said the scenario called for scores of boats from Cuba arriving on the shores of Florida after the fall of the Communist regime in Havana. Actors playing the role of Cuban migrants piloted vessels off the shore of Miami as part of the two-day exercise. In response, U.S. authorities deployed a dozen helicopters and 20 boats,

including personnel from 50 agencies including the Coast Guard, and local rescue and police departments.

Officials said the exercise imagined the possible collapse of the Communist government in Cuba, but they said a mass migration also could come from Haiti, Dominican Republic or another Caribbean nation. The head of the operation, Coast Guard Rear Admiral David Kunkel said the goal of the drill was to ensure security forces are prepared for any event.

"I can promise you, the citizens of south Florida, that I will devote every waking moment to preparing and ensuring we are doing

...Contd. on pg 4

Nepalese Doctor conferred 'Asian of the Year' Award

New Delhi March 5 (IANS): Sanduk Ruit, a Nepalese eye surgeon educated in India, was Monday conferred with the first Reader's Digest Asian of the Year award.

Ruit has conducted over 70,000 surgeries for cataract, considered to be the main reason of blindness in the subcontinent.

'It is an apt award for a man of his stature. India and the Indian subcontinent need his service,' Indian Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss said about the 54-year-old surgeon at the award ceremony here.



Dr. Sanduk Ruit

Ruit has been working for the cause of eliminating ...Contd. on pg 4

India Agrees to Inter-State Railway

New Delhi, March 9: India yesterday agreed to expand inter-state railway services linking Asia with Europe.

A press release issued by the Union Communications Ministry today stated that the cabinet meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh made the decision in this regard.

Earlier, the Nepal government had given its consent. 18 nations would join hands to build railway network in this intra-bor-

der project. UNESCO in its 62nd inter-governmental meeting on 12 April had decided to launch this ambitious project.

"This railway network would be significant for promoting trade and tourism in the region," Indian Union Communications Minister Priyaranjandas Muni said after the cabinet meeting.

Eighteen nations, including Nepal, Russia, China, Iran, Korea, Mongolia, Turkey, ...Contd. on pg 4

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Children In Armed Conflict: Need For Social Reintegration

By Rabin Ghimire, TRN

The decade-long armed insurgency and internal violence in Nepal have ended formally with the signing of the peace accord by both the government and the CPN-Maoists. Thousands of people across the country were killed, and many more were displaced during the violence, leaving many open wounds, emotional as well as physical.

Child soldiers

Like other people, children across the country have also suffered from the conflict in high numbers. Many schools were converted into barracks and shelters for both the forces of the conflict, which drove the children out of their places of learning. The Maoists continue to use children in their armed forces or armed groups directly or indirectly, violating the international Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other humanitarian laws.

The activities of the forces have had severe consequences for the children. They include loss of parents, involuntary separation from the family and community and involuntary recruitment as soldiers and spies of the Maoists, among others. A significant number of children have been forcefully separated from their family during the period of internal violence, which violates the internationally accepted UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It is unfortunate that the Maoists are not ready to admit that they have a significant number of child soldiers, voluntary or involuntary. With the commencement of the reg-

istration and monitoring of the arms and armies of the CPN-M by the UN mission, everyone is waiting for the release of the children so that they can be reintegrated with their families or community. As children under 18 years are not supposed to be inside the cantonment of CPN-M, they must be released after the necessary verification process.

Any person under 18 years of age associated with an armed group, as part of any regular or irregular activity of such a group as cooks, porters, messengers or anyone accompanying such a group other than purely as family members is termed a child soldier. Child soldiers could mean boys and girls recruited for sexual purposes or given into forced marriage. Therefore, it does not only refer to a child who is carrying or has carried weapons.

Reintegration of separated children with their families should be a top priority because it secures the right of every child to be raised in its own family and culture, which is crucial for the overall development of children, especially in a collectivist society that emphasises societal over individual needs, and provides a social support system through the community as well as the family.

Reintegration not only refers to the reunion of separated children with their family. It is a holistic approach in which the children are provided with their basic needs including educational support, vocational training and health facilities among others.

This may be achieved through income generation support for the child's family that improves the well-being of all.

Basically, any governmental or non-governmental agency working for the reintegration of children should consider two major things before the reintegration of any child with its family, among others. One is the economic condition of the family, its ability to take care of their child, and the other is social response regarding the returned children. The society may not accept all children who have been involved in armed groups for a long time. This creates a threat to the security of the children who return to the society.

Moreover, there is always the possibility of children being victimised in revenge for what they did in the past. So it is necessary to prepare everyone in the society to accept the children through awareness on child rights issues and creating a culture of tolerance and brotherhood. Basically the children who have been reintegrated with their families need special attention for a certain period because they need time to adjust to their community. Counseling for these children and their families is critical for respectful reintegration.

Way Forward

Despite being a signatory of various international human rights documents and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the government seems incapable of fulfilling its commitment. As article 39 of

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Sun Mar 11 / Falgun 27'63
Saptami
Mon Mar 12 / Falgun 28'63
Astami
Tue Mar 13 / Falgun 29'63
Nawami
Wed Mar 14 / Falgun 30'63
Dashami
Thu Mar 15 / Chaitra 01'63
Ekadashi
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A brief Introduction: Ms. Buna Dahal, CO



- By Sabina Aryal

Photo: Nepal Abroad

Father Bhawani Shankar Dahal and Mother Menuka Dahal were then very reluctant to make an uncomfortable decision to send their blind young daughter Buna Dahal to the US in September 1990 to participate in the Overbrook International program. The departing day, recalls Buna, saw their parents' unabated flow of tears followed by several sleepless nights wandering about the condition of their blind daughter in a foreign country.

Buna Dahal was born as a precious child of her parents in Biratnagar, Nepal. But the parents realized later when she was around 3-year-old that she had *Congenital Glaucoma*, a rare but potentially blinding eye disorders. Ever since, her life has been a real struggle.

She started her academic years from Janpath Madhyamik Vidhalaya in Biratnagar, Purwanchal Gyan Chakchu Vidhyalaya in Dharan and Laboratory High School Kirtipur where she completed her 10th grade. When she was on her second year of college in Padma Kanya Campus in Kathmandu, she got a wonderful opportunity to participate in the Overbrook International Program of the Overbrook

School for the Blind in Philadelphia PA. Started in 1985, this program provides training in the areas of access technology, written and spoken English, orientation and mobility and leadership development to young blind and low vision students between 16 and 20 years of age from around the world.

She then moved to College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn IL and later transferred to the Columbia College in Chicago IL, and completed her Bachelor's degree in Journalism in June 1998. Here she worked as an assistant to the Director of Career Planning and Placement Office at the Columbia College.

'During my initial years in the US, I remember calling my parents in Biratnagar (Nepal) and they would hardly believe what I was doing here. This country has given me more opportunities – a chance to explore myself and to realize my talents', says Buna Dahal.

For the last several years, she's been living in Littleton CO in her own house. She works as an Employment Specialist at the Colorado Center for the Blind.

...Contd. on pg 5

Community Events

March 17, 2007: The Newah Organization of America presents 'NepalFest '07 Live in Concert in DC' on Saturday Mar 17 at NVCC ERNST Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annadale VA 22003 from 7:30pm to 10:30pm. Visit Nepalhorizons.com for details.

March 19, 2007: Nepalese food would be served on Monday Mar 19 as part of the 2007 International Dinner series at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) beginning 6pm CT. Kishor Regmi, Sanu Lama and Amit Tajhya would be preparing the food for the event. For details, contact the office of the International Programs at the UMC (umcrookston.edu).

April 7, 2007: The Nepalese Students Association at St. Cloud State University MN are all set for this years Nepal Night 2007 with the theme 'Adhyaya...A New Beginning' scheduled for Saturday Apr 7 at Ball Room of SCSU. For details contact members at nsastcloud.org

April 14, 2007: Nepalese Society Texas has earmarked Saturday Apr 14 to celebrate Nepalese New Year 2064 BS. Details to be updated at nepalesesociety.org or contact Sushil Chettri at sushilchhetri@msn.com

April 14, 2007: The Association of Nepalalis in Minnesota (ANMN) has earmarked Saturday Apr 14 to celebrate Nepali New Year 2064 BS. Also on that day, there would be an election for ANMN's board members, and invites all the members to participate. For more information visit anmn.org

April 14, 2007: Every body is invited to celebrate 'New Year 2064 BS' at Club DC9 1940 9th Street NW Washington DC on April 14 from 8pm to 4am. For details visit nepalhorizons.com.

April 21, 2007: Nepal Seattle Society has scheduled Saturday April 21 to celebrate Nepali New Year 2064 BS. For more updates visit nepalseattle.org

April 21, 2007: RP Entertainment presents 'Nepali New Year 2064 BS' Celebration with variety of cultural programs and live concert on April 4 from 7pm to 1am. The venue is yet to be decided.

'**Eklo Tara**': Nepalese Society Texas (NST) is publishing its bi-annual newsletter '*Eklo Tara*' on the occasion of Nepalese New Year 2064 BS. Therefore, it requests all those interested to send poems, articles, essays, stories and writings by March 15. NST also seeks advertisements and commercials from businesses across the United States to cover the cost of the publication. For more details please contact Bhim Karki at uniquemartusa@hotmail.com or 972-257-0119.

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Nepalese Doctor conferred...

blindness for 20 years and has been active in the northeastern states of India and northern Bihar. He has also been working in his homeland Nepal, Thailand, China and many other countries of Asia.

The eye surgeon did his graduate studies at Lucknow's King George Medical College and postgraduate studies at the All

India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

Said Jim Plouffe, the Asia Editor of the 85-year-old magazine Reader's Digest: 'Ruit is such an amazing personality about whom the whole subcontinent can feel proud of.'

Ruit was chosen for the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding last year.

Continued from page 2

Children In Armed ...

the CRC clearly mandates that the state party take all appropriate measures on social reintegration of separated children with self-respect and dignity, the government should have taken the lead and formulated appropriate policies in which the combined effort of the state and civil society organisations could be integrated. But it has not done so.

And with continued focus on establishing a new constitution and government, as well as dealing with the ongoing conflict, it seems unlikely

that it will do so. Across most of the countries of the world, it is an established fact that institutional care should be only the last resort for caring for children. So the efforts should be concentrated on the social reintegration of separated children rather than institutional care in such a way that the activities could be performed in an effective and coordinated way, which is the need of the hour.

(Ghimire is associated with the SAHARA Group)

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India Agrees...

Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Armenia, Cambodia, have given their consent for construction of the railway network. End of 2008 is the deadline for receiving the agreements on the plan.[HNS]

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US Prepares for Possible...

everything possible to protect our borders and our people, whether from drug smugglers, terrorists, or illegal migration," said Admiral Kunkel.

Illegal migrations are not uncommon in south Florida. During an economic crisis in 1980, scores of Cubans fled the island by boat after Cuban leader Fidel Castro said those who wanted to leave were free to do so. More than 100,000 Cubans made the 170-kilometer trip, prompting Cuban officials to again close the doors to emigrants. Over the years, thousands of Haitians also have tried to make the trip to Florida to escape poverty or alleged political persecution.

And early Thursday, police said 40 Cubans reportedly arrived on the shores of Miami Beach, even as

officials were conducting the two-day exercise in the area.

Rear Admiral Kunkel said officials were investigating the case of the Cubans. And he said the reported incident shows the continued threat facing U.S. borders.

"What we want to do is investigate," he said. "We want to stop the smuggling, stop the landings, we want to stop what is illegal, and keep people safe on the seas. That's the message. Don't take to the seas."

Officials also have warned they may restrict the activity of U.S. boats in the event of a mass migration in the Caribbean. Some Cuban-Americans say they are prepared to pilot vessels toward Cuba in search of family members or others in the event of a mass exodus from the island.[By Brian Wagner]

Nepal's Oscar phenomenon grappling with cancer

Kathmandu, March 9: While Australian diva Kylie Minogue's battle with cancer made the headlines, few know about the fight against the dreaded disease being waged by Nepal's Oscar phenomenon, a yak herder who has provided the plot for the only Nepali film to have been nominated for an Academy Award.

All his life Thinley Lundup Lama struggled in Dolpo district's Saldang village in the mountainous north to eke out a precarious living trading salt laden on yak back for corn and other crops.

A tiny break occurred in the 1990s when French photographer Eric Valli made a film in Nepali, capturing the life of the yak caravan traders pitted against the harsh mountains, nature and their culture.

From tending yaks, Thinley was catapulted into the tinsel world, playing the lead in Valli's 'Caravan'. The film, that resembles more a documentary than a feature, was an eight-day wonder, shot with a cast who were all first-time actors playing their own lives.

In 1999, 'Caravan' was nominated in the best foreign film category, a feat that no Nepali film has been able to repeat since.

The craggy, white-haired Thinley became a celebrity in Nepal almost overnight. Recently, a maverick music band sought him out for their music video, 'Sa Karnali', where he briefly plays a trader once again in a single song.

...Contd. on pg 6

NepalFest '07, Live in Concert
in Metropolitan Washington
Saturday March 17, 2007



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For details, nepalhorizons.com

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Ms. Buna Dahal: A brief...

Today she's the first Vice-President of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Denver Chapter. Founded in 1940, the NFB's purpose is to help blind people achieve self-confidence, self-respect, and self-determination, and today it is the largest organization of the blind in the world with more than 50,000 members. Ms Dahal is also the Chair-Person of the NFB Employment Committee.

She often moves across the US giving presentation, attends seminars and conferences of regional and national levels. On February 22, 2007 she was in Baltimore to participate in the NFB:

Transition to Independence Career Fair, followed by her trip to similar conference in NY. While I'm writing this brief introductory, I get a call from her saying that she's attending 'Business Leaders and Superior Training' (March 7-10, 07) organized by the National Association of Blind Merchants, a membership organization of blind persons employed in either self-employment work or the Randolph-Sheppard vending program.

Some of her remarkable events / achievements are:

- Transfer Student Scholarship Award, Columbia College 1996

- Herman Conaway Scholarship, Columbia College 1997
- Phi Theta Kappa International Society member 1994-present
- 1995 Elected to Who's Who in the leadership program of the American Junior College
- Winner of the National Scholarship of the National Federation of the Blind 1995
- Interviewed by MSNBC as a young inspirational leader 2000
- 2004 Community Leader, National Library of the Month to promote literacy
- Interviewed by NTV, KTV and several other newspaper and media in Nepal during her trip to Nepal last year.

USCIS Announces Direct Filing Instructions for Forms I-129 and I-539

Under the Bi-Specialization Initiative

Washington March 5: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today announced new Direct Filing instructions for a variety of immigration forms that were transitioned into the Bi-Specialization initiative.

This Update addresses Direct Filing instructions for Forms I-129 (Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker) and I-539 (Application to Change/Extend Nonimmigrant Status). Direct filing will be implemented incrementally for all remaining petition and application forms transitioned into the Bi-Specialization initiative.

Under this new process, USCIS is requiring that customers "Direct File" their petitions and applications directly with the service center that will process the filings, based on the place of temporary employment or place of residence. Customers can expect that the center where they file will also be the center that generates the receipt notice

and completes the adjudication. This is a streamlining of the Bi-Specialization process which previously required that applications and petitions be filed at one centralized location and subsequently distributed to another service center for issuance of a receipt notice and final case processing.

Effective April 2, 2007, all Forms I-129 and I-539 are to be filed directly with the California Service Center or the Vermont Service Center, whichever is applicable. Customers are responsible for filing the forms with the correct Service Center and should verify that they use the correct filing address by referring to the instructions on the relevant form. To reduce the burden on customers that may have prepared their filings ahead of issuance of this Update, USCIS clarifies that customers do not need to change Service Center addresses on letterhead or supporting documents.

USCIS released two separate filing charts for Form I-129 and Form I-539 to assist customers in determining the direct filing location for their petition or application.

Employers requesting Premium Processing Services on Form I-129 must also file a Request for Premium Processing Services (Form I-907). Please visit the Premium Processing page on the USCIS Web site to ensure that the requested classification is eligible.

USCIS will accept Forms I-129 and I-539 filed in accordance with the old filing instructions during the first 15 days of implementation of Direct Filing (from April 2 – 16). However, if a Form I-129 or I-539 is filed on or after April 17, 2007, and is not submitted to the correct filing location, it will be rejected and returned to the petitioner/applicant with fee and instructions for proper filing. [USCIS]

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Women Trafficking: True Story...

had to sell my body. (While she was talking, crying and talking) "When I came to Kathmandu, I had a great imagination. I had fancied a separate sky. My life, in fact, was quite terrible and horrible as I had to live surrounded twenty four hours by agents and customers. At the gates of every building there were agents busy haggling for our bodies as if we were beasts kept for auction. And we waited for the customers inside a very dark and foul smelling room.

Who was there to love me in that world of money? Everywhere there were alcoholic drinks, money and only customers. At that time, I was completely robbed. The value of my body and of my soul was completely depleted. But now, I have returned to my own country with the germs of AIDS in with me. Although I served the brothel for so many years, I have gone empty now. When I have come back, I am here with empty mind and carrying a terrible disease with me. She said.

I asked her a lot of questions, only some of which she could answer. She spent the time talking with me and said "After my arrival here, I have met the man without name. I found out that he hadn't got married yet. Really, I didn't see any difference between the man without name in the past and at the present time. He showed the same attraction, the same love

and the same restlessness to see me. At this moment, he is closer to me and I am crying to open up some thing of life to him with some shyness. To be closer to each other is a pleasant moment. "It's definitely not easy to be alive. In fact, life is a difficult, dangerous and unpleasant journey". The man without name is trying to make me understand", she said.

I am outside of my apartment. I am now looking at my diary. A Street! When you refer to a street you have to associate it with the crowds of people. With the street comes the question of crowds and noise they make. There used to be the same crowd in the street at that time and even today. There is no decrease in the throngs of people. At this moment I too am in the crowd of people.

But, the special quality of the street has been to remain alone. Even in the crowd except one or two faces known sometimes remain mostly unacquainted. I am walking on the side of this crowd without stopping. But the crowd is increasing all the more. "Even at this moment in this place, the crowd has been large as at the Asan market," an old women near me shouts. "These people are tremendously increasing in number. Every time I am afraid that there would be some accident. It is not safe to send children to school", she prattles on for a long time. She

pulls a small child walking beside her and holds its friendly arm.

Everybody has his own problem. Perhaps no person is free from his or her problem. Oh! Should I have an ideal thought like this? I am startled in my walk and unknowingly my steps turn toward the residence of my friend again. She was found all alone in her room. She shows her formality, "Come in Kamala".

I go close to her and sit down.

"I have arranged a job for you in an office. After all who do you have as your own here in Kathmandu? You must forget your past. Whatever may be, the criminal has been punished. Now you shouldn't continue worrying", I told her everything in a breath.

She cried in response and said "My mind feels an acute pinch. My past has gone through such a hot torture that the criminal's getting even a capital punishment would not heal my wound nor the stain in my character erase, because of which today I am suffering from AIDS. He deserves to die for the shame he brought to my life. Kamala, did you know that the man who had sold me had been released from the prison?"

When I hear what she told me I felt that I was sinking where I stood. I am frightened. I am choked. No law is made in my country for a man who sold me. I move away from the place. I don't even like to look back. I don't know where I am going now.

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Nepal's Oscar phenomenon...

Two years after the film, a local daily reported how he struggled to raise money for the treatment of his son, who was suffering from chest and back pain.

Now the patriarch himself is in Kathmandu's B and B Hospital, fighting stomach cancer, local daily Kantipur reported Friday.

Diagnosed with stomach cancer, Thinley is undergoing chemotherapy. He felt the first pains about three months ago and like the people in his part of the world, tried traditional herbs and medicines.

However, there was no cure and he went to Mumbai's Tata Hospital. There his disease was diagnosed and after a week,

he was referred to Nepal for treatment.

Therapy has changed Thinley beyond description. Gone are his trademark flowing locks and long moustache.

"It was chhang (a strong traditional brew drunk in the mountains) that caused my affliction," the patriarch rued in the hospital.[ET]

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Microsoft's Gates...

people are here in the United States, and that is why I believe it is important to maximize that number [of high-skilled foreign workers]," he added.

Gates urged lawmakers to find ways to keep foreign students in the United States, saying if the country is going to invest in educating them, it should also benefit from that investment by encouraging them to work here.

He urged the federal government to invest more money in education and training, and in research and development (R&D).

"Federal research funding is vital," he explained. "Unfortunately, while other countries and regions, such as China and the European Union, are increasing their public investment in R & D, federal research spending in the United States is not keeping pace."

Gates suggested an increase of 10 percent annually in U.S. funding for research for the next seven years.

He also urged more teacher training and higher math curriculum standards. He said the nation should set a goal of doubling the number of science, technology and math graduates by 2015. [VOA 3/7/07]

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Fraudulent Telephone Tax Refunds, Abusive Roth IRAs Top Off 2007 'Dirty Dozen' Tax Scams

... continued from the previous week. (IRS)

9. Structured Entity Credits: Promoters of this newly identified scheme are setting up partnerships to own and sell state conservation easement credits, federal rehabilitation credits and other credits. The purported credits are the only assets owned by the partnership and once the credits are fully used, an investor receives a K-1 indicating the initial investment is a total loss, which is then deducted on the investor's individual tax return. Forming such an entity is not a viable business purpose. In other words, the investments are not valid, and the losses are not deductible.

10. Abuse of Charitable Organizations and Deductions: The IRS continues to observe the use of tax-exempt organizations to improperly shield income or assets from taxation. This can occur when a taxpayer moves assets or income to a tax-exempt supporting organization or donor-advised fund but maintains control over the assets or income. Contributions of non-cash assets continue to be an area of abuse, especially with regard to overvaluation of contributed property. In addition, the IRS is noticing the return of private tuition payments being disguised as charitable contributions to religious organizations.

11. Form 843 Tax Abatement: This scam rests on faulty interpretation of the Internal Revenue Code. It involves the filer requesting abatement of previously assessed tax using Form 843. Many using this scam have not previously filed tax returns and the tax they are trying to have abated has been assessed by the IRS through the Substitute for Return Program. The filer uses the Form 843 to list reasons for the request. Often, one of the reasons is: "Failed to properly compute and/or calculate IRC Sec 83-Property Transferred in Connection with Performance of Service."

12. Frivolous Arguments: Promoters have been known to make the following outlandish claims: the Sixteenth Amendment concerning congressional power to lay and collect income taxes was never ratified; wages are not income; filing a return and paying taxes are merely voluntary; and being required to file Form 1040 violates the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination or the Fourth Amendment right to privacy. Don't believe these or other similar claims. These arguments are false and have been thrown out of court. While taxpayers have the right to contest their tax liabilities in court, no one has the right to disobey the law.

IRS Still Watches Scams That Fall Off the List

Five of last year's Dirty Dozen tax scams rotated off the list for 2007. While the IRS has seen a decline in the occurrence of some of these scams — abusive credit counseling agencies, for example — other problems, such as offshore abusive transactions continue to be an area of particular concern for the agency. The absence of a particular scheme from the Dirty Dozen should not be taken as an indication that the IRS is unaware of it or not taking steps to counter it.

How to Report Suspected Tax Fraud Activity

Suspected tax fraud can be reported to the IRS using IRS Form 3949-A, Information Referral. Form 3949-A is available for download from the IRS Web site at IRS.gov, or by mail by calling 1-800-829-3676. The completed form or a letter detailing the alleged fraudulent activity should be addressed to the

Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. The mailing should include specific information about who is being reported, the activity being reported, how the activity became known, when the alleged violation took place, the amount of money involved and any other information that might be helpful in an investigation. The person filing the report is not required to self-identify, although it is helpful to do so. The identity of the person filing the report can be kept confidential. The person may also be entitled to a reward.

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Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	70.84	71.44
Canadian \$1	60.14	60.65
Euro 1	93.30	94.09
Pound Sterling 1	136.94	138.10
Australian \$1	55.09	55.55
Swiss Franc 1	58.09	58.59
Singapore Dollar	46.37	46.76
Japanese Yen 10	6.07	6.13
Chinese Yuan 1	9.16	9.24
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	10.05	----
Danish Kroner 1	12.53	----
Hong Kong Dollar 1	9.06	----
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	18.89	----
Qatari Riyal 1	19.46	----
Thai Bhat 1	2.02	----
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[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, 03.09.07]

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Women Trafficking: True Story Of My Friend

By Kamala Sarup

I wrote this diary about my friend. Actually after returning from Prostitute Brothel, my first meeting with her began the strange day for me. In a way, every day I have been meeting a person or the other. Whatever it may be, among those I met at this moment she is a bit different from other and, in fact, this is an important in our friendship. It's not that I am trying to keep this day separate from others from the expected thought of other things. I am not trying either to interpret the concept of the philosopher that people live in their own ways. Whatever it may be, in this situation of tension I am delighted to have met this friend.

She told me "My daily life's routine has started. The large city of prostitute brothel which is terrifying to look at with its tall buildings, I felt as if everyone who lived inside felt satisfied and they quenched their hunger. I don't like even to remember. I was buried in my mind's inner conflict of that really.

Due to the compulsion to sell my body every evening, all the time within me an unknown fear, terror and fright created an empire of its own. I felt restless at my living; I was disgusted every moment with that kind of life.

The notorious brothel where I was living was a place where thousands of girls like me had to sell their bodies for cheap prices. Alas! How hard and full of terror was to live in that environment! When I think of it, my heart trembles even today. Although the pain within me had another chief reason and that was the memory never left me. Almost always I remembered my village. The mountains, the waterfalls and the forests that extended far and wide looked as hard as life itself with them uphill and downhill filled with the crowds.

She further added "When I went to the market with my mother we had to cross through the dangerous wild forests. My mother had a dream exactly like mine that her daughter

would get some education by going to the city and could stand on her own to make her living. But I was brought to this terrible brothel and was sold by my own uncle's son. I was sold just for twenty thousand rupees, and I came to know later that it was a brothel where thousands of girls were sold and they were forced to sell their bodies for a small amount of money.

In a place where the human vultures spend money to play foul with raw flesh and the prestige of one was ruined just for a handful of coins, how could I survive in a place such as that? My heart was filled with depression and anguish, but I was unable to express any of my feelings to anybody because the trade of female bodies was found from big lodges to hotels and yellow mansions of that city .

In that place bargain of girls, selling them and turning them into prostitutes by force inflicting untold tortures on them were just a common incident in

that environment. The sexually lure rich men filled their thirst with me everyday.

She was obviously scared. She cried "It was a great joke that my right over my own body was snatched away from me. Often a question tormented me from time to time. After all, what was the real meaning of a person to live as a woman? Was it just a means of providing cheap enjoyment which one could have by paying money?"

I hated my existence as a woman in thousands of questions. What a pity! My body was torn and snatched out by hundreds everyday. When I saw the mistresses of brothels surrounding me, every time I felt inferiority complex. All the males were hungry for fulfilling their sexual passion. I felt a strong hatred towards men. But despite the fact I

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Microsoft's Gates Urges US to Seek More High-Skilled Foreign Workers

By Deborah Tate, Capitol Hill

The chairman of the giant U.S. software company Microsoft is calling on the U.S. government to attract more high-skilled foreign workers to the United States to keep the country competitive in a global economy. Bill Gates made his comments in testimony before a Senate panel Wednesday, as VOA's Deborah Tate reports from Capitol Hill.

Bill Gates expressed concern about the U.S. immigration system, saying limits on the number of visas for high-skilled workers, bureaucratic delays in processing them and exhaustive security checks following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks are deterring talented foreign workers from seeking jobs in the United States.

In testimony before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Gates warned that the United States could risk losing its competitive edge to other countries if Congress does not reform the immigration system.

"Countries like Canada and Australia have been beneficiaries of our system, which discourages these people [high skilled foreign workers] with both the limits and the long waits, and what the process feels like as they go through the security checks," he said.

In the coming weeks, Congress is expected to consider immigration reform legislation, including efforts to attract more high-skilled workers and

streamline the visa application process.

Gates said he believes it is possible to do background security checks without having the process become too burdensome.

He also called for ways to make it easier for more high-

skilled workers to become permanent residents to help retain talent, particularly in the information technology, or IT, field.

"The IT industry I guarantee will be in the United States to the degree that smart

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