



# The Viewpoints

Newsletter of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America

No.26

Bimonthly

August 27, 1988

## SPECIAL ISSUE

**PLEASE HELP THE EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN PEOPLE IN NEPAL**

**SEND DONATIONS TO THE ANMA RELIEF FUND**

Dear Nepalese and Friends of Nepal:

This special issue of "The Viewpoints" comes to you at a tragic time for all Nepalese and friends of Nepal in the world. As you are aware, a major earthquake, the most powerful since the earthquake of 1934 (Bikram Sambat 1990), struck Nepal before dawn on August 21, 1988 killing hundreds of people, injuring thousands, and damaging properties worth millions of dollars. The quake, which registered 6.5 on the Richter scale, struck the region soon after 4 A.M. and lasted nearly 45 seconds. Many of the victims were asleep when the quake struck. The massive landslides blocked roads and isolated towns and villages. United Press International quoted residents of Lahan as saying that wells had dried up and the main highway had been riven by six-foot-wide fissures.

According to a report published in The New York Times on August 27, the Home Ministry in Kathmandu has announced that the number of deaths attributed to the quake is 704.

The casualty figure is expected to rise as rescue workers clear more debris and trek to remote villages cut off by landslides. Rescue workers and doctors also pointed out that the official tally was only of victims brought to Government hospitals. They said many bodies were not brought to hospitals at all and were probably cremated or buried quietly by relatives. There are no estimates of property loss, but losses are expected to run in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The New York Times reported on August 26 that 131 people were killed in Dharan. The total was the highest of any locality in the quake zone, which includes areas of eastern and central Nepal and Bihar state in northern India. Mild tremors have continued over the last several days in Dharan Bazar. "Nobody sleeps at night," said a local resident. "We are all very afraid that there will be another earthquake that will wipe us all out."

The report said that Dharan Bazar is reminiscent of a war zone. A large arch that welcomed visitors at the main entrance to the city is now a heap of rubble; crumpled buildings, walls with gaping holes and mudslides everywhere. As engineers

sought to restore power to parts of the city, doctors expressed concern about a possible epidemic of gastroenteritis, a debilitating stomach ailment caused by contaminated food. "We have already had several cases of gastroenteritis," said the chief medical officer at the 65-bed local hospital that has treated more than 2,500 people in the last five days. "No matter how hard we try, such an outbreak is likely to happen in the aftermath of a disaster. The conditions are right for it: dust, scarcity of water."

Because of the moral obligation and our commitment to help alleviate human sufferings, the Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA) has already sent Rs. 10,000 (\$400) to the most harshly affected region of Nepal. Our Secretary Raj's father, Mr. Ram Niwas Rathi, a social worker who lives in Biratnagar, is representing ANMA in Nepal for this worthy cause. He has personally taken the responsibility and is managing the distribution of food and clothing and providing shelter to the families in Dharan who have suffered due to the quake. Thus there are no overhead costs or bureaucracy involved in the distribution of the fund to the neediest.

This monetary donation by ANMA is not the end to the needs of the people, but is only a drop in the bucket. We are hoping to send additional donations to the quake-stricken people in the near future. As you may be aware, ANMA typically operates on a very low budget. Hence we have no way of supporting the people in Nepal without your help.

At this tragic time, therefore, we must request you to open your heart for the needy and generously donate to the "ANMA Relief Fund" with a contribution of \$200, \$100, \$50, or any amount. The ANMA is a non-profit organization and all proceeds (100%) received for the Relief Fund are utilized to help charitable works in Nepal. It is a time of "great emergency" and we have no option but to turn to you for help.

We need your help to make the fund-raising endeavor successful. We ask you to make copies of this issue of "The Viewpoints" and distribute them among your friends who may not have received this request for donation to the ANMA Relief Fund.

Most importantly, we request you to fill out the attached form and mail it along with your check to the address shown in the form. We will keep you informed about the status of the Relief Fund in the future issues of "The Viewpoints". If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the Relief Fund, please contact one of the following individuals.

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ASSOCIATION OF NEPALESE IN MIDWEST AMERICA

RELIEF FUND

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed (please check one of the following amount.)

\$200 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Please mail this form and check for the above amount to:

Dr. Jagdishwar Devkota  
Treasurer, ANMA  
3212 Shore Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

ANMA is a non-profit organization. We appreciate your contribution to the earthquake-stricken people of Nepal. Thank you very much.