

# Nepal Abroad

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## Obama Refocuses on Economy After Foreign Trip

- By Jim Malone Washington April 09 2009 VOA

After a whirlwind international trip that included three summits, President Obama was back at work at the White House Thursday.

"It is good to be back. We have had a productive week working to advance America's interests around the world," he said.

The president quickly refocused on the economy, urging Americans to take advantage of low interest rates to refinance their home mortgages.

Mr. Obama also announced new steps to improve health care for military veterans and to address the growing number of vets who are homeless.

"And we will not rest until we reach a day when not one single veteran falls into homelessness," he said.

Many of the president's priorities are contained in a budget plan recently approved by both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

But Mr. Obama's return to his domestic agenda also brings a reminder that not a single Republican supported his budget largely because of fears that the plan spends too much, taxes too much and will lead to a much larger deficit.

Among those Republicans leading the opposition to the Obama budget is Congressman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

"America is in the midst of a fiscal and an economic crisis. And yes, the president did inherit this fis-



cal crisis," he said. "But the question is, is he fixing it or is he making it worse?"

Many Democrats are just as adamant in their support of the president, despite his promise in last year's presidential campaign to find ways to work with Republicans.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sees the budget battle as a clash of two parties with different priorities for the country's future.

"The American people want us to find our common ground where we can, but they did not send us here to split the difference. They want real change and we have come here to make a difference, and we will

do just that," she said.

The president returned from his foreign trip energized by new polls that showed a bump up in his approval ratings - up to 66 percent in two new polls.

Quinnipiac University pollster Peter Brown says so far Mr. Obama appears to have the upper hand in the budget battle.

"The Republicans have tried to make the argument that he is trying to do too many things at once. A majority of Americans don't think that. They think there are a lot of things that have to be taken care of, and they like the fact that he is attacking many problems at once," he said.

Brown says result poll results indicate most Americans are willing to give Mr. Obama some time to

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## PM Flays Bid To Block Govt

Kathmandu, April 09: Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Thursday said that the status-quoist elements blocked the government in its function and also tried to abort efforts for consensus among the political parties.

The PM made these remarks in his meeting with a delegation of Civil Society Movement for Democracy and Peace (CMDP) at his official residence in Baluwatar.

"We drew the PM's attention to our serious concerns over the growing mistrust among the political parties, ineffective government programmes, drafting of the new constitution and institutionalisation of the political achievements so far made," said Dr. Devendra Raj Pandey, coordinator of the CMDP, after the meeting.

He said that the delegation suggested PM Prachanda to initiate steps to end growing hostility among the parties, ensure that the new constitution guarantees multiparty democracy, competitive politics, human rights, press freedom, rule of law,

among other values and norms of democratic system.

"The PM responded to our concerns very positively and assured us of more efforts to lead the peace process to a logical conclusion and write the new constitution in the stipulated timeframe," Dr. Pandey said. "The PM also lamented over the relentless obstruction by the status quoists to government's efforts to make the people feel change."

Dr. Pandey said that the CMDP delegation would also meet with leaders of other parties and express their concern over the deteriorating political situation in the country.

Meanwhile, a high-level Chinese delegation led by Li Shoaxian, Vice-president of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) met with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' in his office at Singha Durbar Thursday.

At the meeting the representatives of the delegation discussed

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## SC Show Cause Notice to PM, Dr Bhattarai

Kathmandu, April 11: The Supreme Court on Friday issued show cause notices to senior Maoist leaders including Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Finance Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai on why they have expressed disrespect toward the judiciary.

A single bench of Justice Rajendra Prasad Koirala issued the order following on Friday's hearing. The bench also ordered the Maoist CA members Eak Raj Bhandari, Salikram Jamakattel and Narayan

Kaji Shrestha Prakash to submit their explanations on why they made contemptuous remarks against the court. The bench has given a 15-day time frame to the defendants to submit their explanations.

Recently, the Prime Minister and other senior Maoist politicians have charged the apex court of working to support the royalists and termed the judges 'handpicked.' Seeking the apex court's action against them, former chairman of the Press Union Murari Kumar Sharma had filed a petition. (The Himalayan Times)

### Nepal Abroad

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**Editorial:**

## Neighbor's Election

Many people and the governments around the world are actively watching India's election process, and its outcome. Sensational revelations and accusations against other political parties and candidates to win voters in their favor, floating various issues on the air to seek general response and all other tricks are being employed in a country, often identified with various awe-inspiring epithets like – the rising global power, future economic giant, and others. India is also identified as 'Worlds largest democracy', and when outsiders associate this phrase with India, it makes most of us – those in the neighboring countries in particular wonder with surprise, when they witness all unthinkable in any democratic society.

While browsing through various Indian news medium, few things that grabbed my attention in particular, was the unveiling of the election manifesto of Samajbadi Party by Mulayam S Yadav in Uttar Pradesh, India, and the nomination of brother-in-law of Lalu P Yadav, the Railway Minister in the central government of India.

Samajbadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav while unveiling his party's manifesto on Saturday April 11 said that if the government is formed with his support, his party would oppose English medium education and the use of computers, reported The Pioneer. The use of computers in offices is creating unemployment problems, and that his party feels that if work can be done by a person using his hands, there is no need to deploy machines, argued Mulayam Singh. He further stated that his party was against the use of agricultural machines and high corporate salaries, as harvesting season brings employment for the labor class for at least six months and if machine is employed for agricultural production, there'd be no jobs for the agricultural laborers. He further argues that salaries provided by private firms should be in sync with minimum wages that have been set by the government, and this is only

the way to build a strong national capital.

The manifesto also said that his party would work to abolish schools providing expensive education in English medium and provide free education till graduation, among other things.

Another instance of awkwardness while browsing the election activities in India was in Bihar, another north Indian State that abut Nepal, where Indian National Congress nominated Sadhu Yadav, 41, brother-in-law of Lalu Prasad Yadav, the incumbent Railway minister at the Center. Sadhu Yadav has several criminal cases pending against him including bribery, forgery, intimidation, assault, rape and more.

Although contesting election by those who have criminal charges are not uncommon in Nepal, politics in Nepal is certainly also influenced by those in these two states. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are two important states in India, and abut Nepal on the south, and Nepal's southern political groups often emulate those in these two states.

As a largest democracy of the world, India should have set examples by giving the actual activists of the parties to select their representatives in the Indian parliament. But things are otherwise; selection of candidates to the Parliament comes from New Delhi, and the activists volunteer to campaign the candidates nominated by couple of people far away from their constituency.

Selecting those with criminal charges have become a trend for Congress party in India, as they pose little threat to authority of medium and high profile leaders within the party, and they are good merely as a rubber stamp in the parliament in any endorsement situation.

If these states had good, informed and thoughtful representatives to the central parliament they would have at least had a real, if not a good word for Nepal. Congregation of informed and thoughtful representatives in the Parliament would also develop trust

## Why Are Butterflies Soaring Higher?

Kathmandu, April 08: Climate change comes home to roost. A research, based on Apollo butterfly and Pika hare — the harbingers of global warming — conducted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in the Langtang region of the Himalayas indicate a disturbing trend. Both the insect and mammal have migrated up to 500m in the upper reaches in the last 15 years or so due to the adverse impact of climate change.

"Usually Apollo butterflies are found at 3,000m above sea level. Over the years, it has moved 500m above. While, Pika has relocated 100m higher," Bhैया Khanal of Natural History Museum told The Himalayan Times. Khanal, an expert on butterflies, was a part of the WWF team that conducted the research. "We can find more evidence of climate changes in the Himalayan region if we conduct an extensive survey. It has been observed that some species of butterfly like Pancy and Crow, which are usually found in the Tarai, are now being sighted in the Valley these days," he explained. There has been a discernible shift in the life cycle of butterflies as well.

Earlier, it would be visible from April to October-November. Now, species like Pieris, Urema and Papillion are found in the wild in March. While, other varieties are making its presence felt in Koshi and Bardiya conservation areas in December. Pieris, which usually lives in 1,800m, has moved up to 2,200m. Of the 14 families, belonging to 650 species, 11 are found in Nepal.

Khanal felt that more pronounced changes to global warming would come to light soon. "We are

and respect for Parliamentarians among the Indians. Mistrust, disrespect and incompetency are a common perception that exists in the mass, often reflected through various forms of mass medium.

This election is another opportunity for India watchers to juxtapose the phrase "the largest democracy" with the realities in the ground, and to verify the requirements to qualify such claims.

yet to explore many parts, especially the Eastern, Mid and Far-western regions. New species and sub-species will be found in these geographically diverse areas during the course of our study," he added. At a conservative estimate, the Valley and its fringes are home to around 369 species of butterfly. Of these, around 200 can be found in Godavari and Fulchowki areas.

"IUCN has enlisted 20 species as endangered. While, the habitat of 12 is threatened in Godavari. No wonder, some of it haven't been sighted in the past 15 years. Chinese Windmill is seldom found in the Valley these days," said Khanal.

Dr Dinesh Raj Bhuju, chief, Science and Technology at Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, attributed the drastic changes to global warming.

There has been an annual rise in mercury by .06 degree Celsius. "Add to that rampant deforestation, destruction of habitat, haphazard industrialisation and unscientific use of pesticides and insecticides that have gradually sounded a death knell for the rich and diverse fauna in Nepal," he reasoned. (THH)

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### Nepalese Calendar

Sun Apr 12 / Chaitra 30'65  
Tritiya  
Mon Apr 13 / Chaitra 31'65  
Chauthee  
Tue Apr 14 / Baishak 01'66  
Baishak Sankranti  
Wed Apr 15 / Baishak 02'66  
Khashthi  
Thu Apr 16 / Baishak 03'66  
Saptami  
Fri Apr 17 / Baishak 04'66  
Astami  
Sat Apr 18 / Baishak 05'66  
Astami

## Are U.S.-Russian Relations Warming?

By Judith Latham, Washington 10 April 2009 VOA

U.S. President Barack Obama returned home earlier this week after his first – and what many analysts describe as – largely successful, international trip as head of state. One aspect of his eight-day trip that captured world attention was his meeting in London with Russian President Dmitri Medvedev (April 1) in which the two agreed on the need for a new strategic arms reduction treaty this year.

### A Russian Perspective

It is generally held that U.S.-Russian relations at the end of the George W. Bush administration had reached their lowest point since the end of the Cold War in 1991. Russian journalist Masha Lipman of the Carnegie Moscow Center describes Russian state media coverage of last week's meeting between the American and Russian presidents as benevolent when compared with attitudes just a few months earlier. Speaking with host Judith Latham of VOA's International Press Club, Lipman calls it a positive change in tone. However, she warns it remains to be seen if that tone will be translated into substantial improvement in relations.

The issue of American plans to build a missile shield in the Czech Republic and Poland remains a major bone of contention, says Lipman. "Russians have no desire to believe the plan to install elements of the American anti-missile defense is aimed against Iran." Lipman says Moscow does not trust

Washington on this point. "It is unlikely that Russia would get any guarantees that American anti-missile defense elements would not be installed in Central Europe," she adds. Furthermore, she says that would create an obstacle to any negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

Lipman says what Russia wants are "guarantees against so-called red lines," such as the anti-missile defense system in Central Europe and the enlargement of NATO to include Georgia and Ukraine. Lipman reminds VOA listeners that President Obama has ruled out the recognition of "special zones of interest," as well as American recognition of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia from Georgia.

Lipman points to Moscow's position in the U.N. Security Council regarding North Korea's recent rocket launch as an

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## Calendar of Events

**April 18:** IHI Ceremony has been scheduled to organize on Saturday April 18 2009 at ISCKON (Hare Krishna) Temple 10310 Oaklyn Drive Potomac Maryland 20854 from 12.00pm to 10.00pm. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com)

**April 18:** The Nepali American Organization of Ohio (NAOO) has scheduled to organize Nepali New Year 2066 on Saturday April 18 2009 in Cleveland at Cuisine of India 6857 130th Street Parma Heights OH 44130. For more info Contact Anand Tiwari 614 946 1906 Surya Thapa 419 957 7723 Nikesh Prajapati 440 991 7755.

**April 19:** The Community Members Interested (COMMITTED) in collaboration with Women Make Movies (WMM) has scheduled to present "SARI SOLDIERS" - a film made by Julie Bridgham on Sunday April 19, 2009 at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale VA 22003 from 4.00pm. Contact Jayjeev Hada 703 945 7258 Jahana Shah 301 273 5679 Manju Sangraula 703 356 3874. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com)

**April 19:** The Tamang Society of Greater Washington has scheduled to present "Jhankri" - a reality based Nepali movie on Sunday April 19, 2009 at Cinema Arts Theatres 9650 Main Street Fairfax VA 22031 from 6.30pm. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com)

**April 19:** The Kansas City Nepalese Society is celebrating Nepali new Year 2066 BS on Saturday April 18, 2009 from 6pm until 10 pm at Filipino Cultural Center, 9810 W 79th Street, Overland Park KS, and invites all to attend this celebration. For details visit [kcnepal.org](http://kcnepal.org)

**April 26:** The America Nepal Helping Society invites all to participate in Cultural and Picnic Program at Sunday April 26 from 11.00am at Stonewall Middle School 10100 Lomond Dr Manassas VA 20109. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com)

**May 24:** The Newah Organization of America (NOA) has announced its 8th Annual Convention and General Meeting on Sunday May 24 from 2.00 to 10.00pm. Venue yet to be decided. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com).

**June 19-21:** The America Nepal Medical Foundation has scheduled its 13th Annual Conference in Columbus Ohio from June 19 to June 21 2009 with the theme "Oral Helath in Nepal" at Hampton Inn & Suites Easton 4150 Stelzer Rd Columbus OH 43230 from 5.00am to 12.00am. For details visit [nepalhorizons.com](http://nepalhorizons.com) Contact Rupa Hamal @ [Conferenceanmf.net](mailto:Conferenceanmf.net) and Bhargab Dixit [Chairanmf.net](mailto:Chairanmf.net)

**Thursdays:** The Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi Bhajan / Kirtan is conducted at Durga Temple 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station VA every Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm. Sai Satsang in Dallas, TX: Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Satsang is held every Sunday between 4pm and 6pm CST in remembrance of Sri Sai Baba and Sri Babuji at Center for Spiritual Living, 4801 Spring Valley Road, Suite 115, Dallas TX 75244.

## NCCS Celebrates New Year 2066 BS In Toronto



Photo: Manjeet Arjyal, Toronto

The Nepalese Canadian Community Services (NCCS) on Saturday April 4, 2009 organized a program to celebrate the Nepali New Year 2066 BS with various programs at a local restaurant in Toronto, Canada. The program started with extending greetings to all participants, and was followed by the cultural performances. The program was attended by over 500 participants from around the Greater Toronto area. Details about the program is available at [khabarsampresan.com](http://khabarsampresan.com).

## China Rises Again – Part II

*By provocatively engaging the US Navy, Beijing may be trying to change the international rules*

Glenn D. Tiffert YaleGlobal, 27 March 2009

LOS ANGELES: American engagement with China is frequently described as promoting China's emergence as a "responsible stakeholder" in the international system. Often unexamined in this dignified but ambiguous formulation is that China may decide, as rising powers sometimes do, that fundamental changes to the international system might suit it better. Against this background, China's spirited intercept of the surveillance ship USNS Impeccable near Hainan Island on March 8, 2009, acquires deeper significance.

The Impeccable incident fits into a pattern of increasingly assertive attempts by China to leverage its growing resources and capabilities to shift the regional and global balance of power in its favor across a range of fronts. China has shrewdly framed these attempts in the rhetoric of international law and anti-hegemonism, with economic, military, geographic and political ramifications not just for the United States, but for China's neighbors and others farther afield.

The Impeccable was intercepted approximately 75 miles south of China's most modern submarine base. This base services a modest but growing fleet of stealthy attack and nuclear ballistic missile subs aimed at projecting Chinese power, countering US naval dominance of the Western Pacific and clouding US security guarantees for Taiwan. As the most advanced submarine detection platform in the US Navy, the presence of the Impeccable in the area no doubt irritated China.

China insists that international law bars virtually all foreign military activities, including reconnaissance, within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a band of ocean that extends 200 nautical miles out from its coast. Territorial waters extend out to 12 nautical miles from the coast. Underlying this opinion is a hermetic conception of sovereignty that rejects outside efforts to penetrate national boundaries on humanitarian intervention, human rights and non-proliferation grounds, too. However, the preponderance of opinion, rooted in more than four

centuries of treaty and customary law, state practice and theorization, soundly rejects China's position; the mainstream view by far is that the Impeccable operated legally in China's EEZ.

China's Boundary Claim and Exclusive Economic Zone. (Debbie Campoli, YaleGlobal) Enlarge image

The flaws in China's legal brief are much less interesting than the implications of its argument: 36 percent of the world's oceans and the airspace above them would be off-limits to most foreign military activities – a paradigm shift in international law. With respect to China, this would attenuate the technological advantages of the US, Russian, Taiwanese and Japanese militaries by limiting their opportunities to intercept communications and acquire up-to-date intelligence on China's rapidly improving capabilities, especially the detailed technical data required to assess vulnerabilities, prepare the battlefield, deliver precision-guided munitions and track military assets, including submarines.

Currently, the US conducts several hundred reconnaissance missions each year along China's coast to support its national security interests and defense commitments to partners such as Taiwan, Japan and Korea, some of which operate in and above these waters themselves. Prohibiting these activities would clearly advantage China and catapult its emerging position as the dominant regional power forward.

This is especially true because other nations, irrespective of their relationship with the US, depend on American power to check China's ambitions and preserve the status quo in the area. Official Chinese maps depict nearly 80 percent of the South China Sea as lying within China's maritime boundaries. Domestic Chinese legislation also asserts general territorial sovereignty over disputed and largely uninhabited islands in those waters that are claimed by at least six other countries and over similar islands claimed by Korea and Japan in the East China Sea. China's views on whether its

territorial waters extend to these disputed islands and whether the islands themselves generate additional EEZs remain ambiguous.

But evidence indicates that it understands these claims expansively, which would convert up to 3 million square kilometers of ocean – including the sea lanes through which staggering volumes of international trade flow, the fishing grounds, and the rich, untapped reserves of oil, minerals and natural gas contained within them – into a virtual Chinese lake and push foreign military activities farther out into the open ocean, largely at the expense of weaker neighbors. To be clear, China reserves the right to operate freely in these disputed waters because technically it regards them as its own. Accordingly, it has conducted military exercises in the EEZ claimed by Vietnam and sent submarines, research vessels and trawlers outfitted for espionage into the EEZ and, on occasion, even territorial waters claimed by Japan.

Guan Jianqiang, a Chinese legal scholar, notes that China has recorded more than 200 instances of US naval vessels collecting intelligence in its EEZ, and analysts assume that it has mounted many more challenges to them than the comparatively small number of publicized cases would suggest. The US can be expected to continue its policy of defying such challenges and maintaining a high level of activity in and above these waters, effectively daring China to stop it. Indeed, between 2000 and 2007, the US, under its Freedom of Navigation program, dispatched military vessels to China and 25 other countries with the express purpose of heading off creeping restrictions on the Law of the Sea, demonstrating through countervailing state practice that its own views remain the de facto and de jure standards. Not surprisingly, these operational assertions are often received as acts of gunboat diplomacy and in some cases led to bloodshed.

During the Cold War, the US and the Soviet Union concluded bilateral protocols to prevent accidents and clashes as they robustly tested each other around the world. Despite several years of negotiations,

the US and China have failed to reach similar accords and, given China's basic position on its EEZ, the prospects are discouraging. The current battle of wills, as evidenced by the Impeccable incident, the fatal 2001 mid-air collision in the same area between a Chinese fighter and a US Navy EP-3 surveillance plane, and China's 2002 dispatch of warships to surround the oceanographic survey ship USNS Bowditch in the Yellow Sea, invites miscalculation, confrontation and casualties on both sides.

By regularly using civilian proxies in these encounters, China courts tragedy. Only one of the five Chinese vessels sent to intercept the Impeccable was military. Chinese trawlers approached within 25 feet of the Impeccable and risked collision by stopping abruptly in its path. They provocatively attempted to snag and recover its state-of-the-art sonar array, while the sole Chinese naval vessel on the scene observed at a safe distance. The theatrics of flag-waving trawlers and the distasteful possibilities of Chinese civilian casualties at the hands of the US military raise uncomfortable questions about China's methods and motives.

It's natural for China to flex its growing muscles and vigorously pursue its national interests, and the international system should accommodate these developments. But the questions are – how and to what ends? China claims its rise is a peaceful one while the US calls upon to China to become a "responsible stakeholder." The Impeccable incident highlights the gaps between their positions.

Under the cover of tendentious, even plainly wrong, readings of international law, China is signaling across a range of issues, at times truculently, an intention to press its new power to reshape the international system. Rising China wants to change the rules of the game.

*Glenn D. Tiffert is a PhD candidate in Chinese history at the University of California at Berkeley, and previously worked at the United Nations International Law Commission.*

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## SCSU, St. Cloud MN Celebrates Nepal Night 2009 "Yatra- A Journey Towards New Nepal"



Photo:sarobar.com

The Nepalese students at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud MN organized 'Nepal Night 2009' on Saturday April 4, 2009 at Steward Hall Ritsche Auditorium of the SCSU that started after 5 pm. Nepal Night is organized every year in the Spring semester by the Nepalese Students Association (NSA) to share the Nepalese culture and food with local, as well as outside community. This year's theme was "Yatra- A Journey Towards New Nepal". The program had various performances that included dances, songs, skits and fashion shows, designed to reflect Nepalese culture and tradition. The program was followed by dinner buffet featuring delicious authentic Nepalese cuisine. There were over 900 participants, said Bipin Karmacharya, graduate of SCSU. Sweta Bhandari is the president of NSA.

## Immigration in American History

- Sirjana Sharma(Pokhrel) LL.M, Southern Methodist University Dallas,Texas Email: creative\_law2005@yahoo.com

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After certain states passed immigration laws following the Civil War, the Supreme Court in 1875 declared the regulation of immigration a federal responsibility. The Immigration Service was established in 1891 to deal with the big increase in immigration which started in 1880.

From 1900 to 1920, nearly 24 million immigrants arrived during what is known as the "Great Wave". The outbreak of World War I reduced immigration from Europe, but mass immigration resumed upon the war's conclusion, and Congress responded with a new immigration policy: the national-origins quota system passed in 1921 and revised in 1924. Immigration was limited by assigning each nationality a quota based on its representation in past U.S. census figures. Also in 1924, Congress created the U.S. Border Patrol within the Immigration Service.

There was very little immigration over the next 20 years, with net immigration actually dropping below zero for several years during the Depression. Immigration remained relatively low during the 20 years following World War II, because the 1920s national-origins system remained in place after Congress

re-codified and combined all previous immigration and naturalization law into the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. American agriculture continued to import seasonal labor from Mexico, as they had during the war, under a 1951 formal agreement between the United States and Mexico that made the Bracero Program permanent.

In 1965, Congress replaced the national origins system with a preference system designed to unite immigrant families and attract skilled immigrants to the United States. This change to national policy responded to changes in the sources of immigration since 1924.

The majority of applicants for immigration visas now came from Asia and Latin America rather than Europe. The preference system continued to limit the number of immigration visas available each year, however, and Congress still responded to refugees with special legislation. Not until the Refugee Act of 1980 did the United States have a general policy governing the admission of refugees.

In 1986, Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). This legislation had two major facets: amnesty and en-

forcement. IRCA provided amnesty to aliens who had completed one of two stipulations: they had resided continually in the U.S. since January 1982 or they had completed 90 days of agricultural work between May 1985 and May 1986. The acceptance rate for amnesty applications was about 94 percent, eventually giving legal status to approximately 3 million. It is estimated that one-fourth of the cases accepted were fraudulent. In 2000, IRCA was extended through Late Amnesty, which allowed those fighting their original denial to reapply. As of June 2007, 15,000 Late Amnesty cases are still pending from IRCA. The 1986 legislation also contained enforcement provisions to prevent future illegal entry. The provisions prohibited the hiring and harboring of illegal aliens, but few resources were allocated to enforce these laws. Poor funding essentially tied the hands of enforcement officials. This created a lopsided 'grand compromise' that fueled later generations of illegal aliens.

In 1990, Congress again reformed immigration statutes. The 1990 Immigration Act modified and expanded the 1965 act; it significantly increased the total level of immigra-

tion to 700,000, increasing available visas 40 percent. The act retained family reunification as the major entry path, while more than doubling employment-related immigration. The law also provided for the admission of immigrants from "underrepresented" countries to increase the diversity of the immigrant flow by creating a lottery system. The 1990 Act also mandated a study of immigration, later known as the Jordan Commission.

The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, named after its Chairwoman, former Rep. Barbra Jordan, ran from 1990 to 1997. The Commission covered many facets of immigration policy, but started from the perception that the "credibility of immigration policy can be measured by a simple yardstick: people who should get in, do get in; people who should not get in, are kept out; and people who are judged deportable are required to leave." From there, in a series of four reports, the commission looked at all aspects of immigration policy. In the first, it found that enforcement was lax and needed improvement on the border and internally. For internal enforcement, it recommended that an automated employment verification system be created to enable workers to distinguish between legal and illegal workers.

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## International Nepali Athletes In ...

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Taekwondo Championship in Daegu, Korea and Valencia, Spain respectively. Though he has put himself on the pedestal he continues to strive for greater success.

Also chief masters Diwakar Maharjan and Shuddhodan Ranjit associated with the US West Coast Taekwondo Association in Hollywood and Beaverton respectively have been able to work themselves up the ladder.

Maharjan a 6th dan is a certified master instructor and international referee, and also the vice president of the US West Coast Taekwondo Association.

So is 5th dan Ranjit a certified master instructor and international referee. Former Olympian Sita Rai (5th dan) is a master instructor at the same association.

Achyut Baskota another Oregon resident is instructor cum international referee. Supid Shakya of Oregon is the first Nepali to get the black belt from the US West Coast Taekwondo Association. Not to forget the talented international Shrestha

brothers Nirmal and Niranjana who are part time instructors.

6th dan Shuny Bee, founder and owner of "Bee Martial Arts Academy" in Milwaukie, Oregon is a well known name. The chief master instructor is president of the World United Taekwondo Association.

His association with celebrities in the likes of Bollywood star Mithun Chakraborty, Van Damne (Hollywood), Ted Yong and Don the Dragon is one of the highlights of his career. He has penned a book titled "The way of the Nunchaku" and made two DVDs "Dynamic Nunchaku" and "WTF Standard Poomsal."

He also wrote an article "The Gorkha Fighting Style" for the widely read "Black Belt Magazine". Apart from that he has ventured into the celluloid world. He has written and produced a Nepali feature film "Gorkha Rakshyak" in which he stars as well.

The elite list (taekwondo) also includes Pramila Thapa (California), Renuka Thapa Magar (Oregon), Bipin Shrestha (Michigan), and Lava Garhwali (Michigan).

Very few can match Sujya

Lama's accomplishments in tennis. He is the head coach of the University of Illinois women's team program since 1998.

Prior to this he was assistant coach (1994/1998) of the University of Florida women team. He was with the prestigious Van Der Meer Tennis Center as a senior staff professional (1992/1995).

He also worked as a traveling coach to professionals in the likes of Amanda Coetzer, Mariaan De Swardt, Nako Sawamtsu, Christino Papadaki and Mercedes Pez.

Amongst former international footballers there are a handful who are involved in coaching. They are Deepak Rana Magar (Baltimore), Suraj Thapa (Alexandria) and Umesh Pradhan (California). Dipak Amatya, Puspa Pradhan and Dev Narayan Chaudhary are in the US as well.

Former international and skipper of the national volleyball team Sunil Chaudhary (Maryland) finds time to train youngsters. International Prakash Tuladhar, Manoj Shrestha and Sushil Pokhrel big names in Nepali boxing fraternity are here.

Nepali international

karatekas also have a fair share of representation in the US. A few of them are already working as instructors. The biggest name is former chief instructor Thaneswore Rai (New York). Mukti Sangram Bista, Makendra Singh, Saroj Bhattari, Summer Gole and Anandu Lama complete the list.

Former number one shuttler Pasupati Paneru, international judo coach Devendra Rawal, Ritesh Shrestha (basketball), Raj K Thapa (ITF taekwondo), Santosh Pradhan (taekwondo), Olympian Chitra B Gurung (swimming), Rajesh Lama (wushu), Shree Krishna Lama (wushu), Kamala Lopchan (wushu), Chiranjeevi Sapkota (wushu), Sonam Lama (wushu), Nima Dhamala (wushu), Sunil Shakya (wushu), Asu Raj Shrestha (wushu) and Pradip Lama (wushu) are all part of the growing Nepali sports community in the US.

Surely more are on their way to the US and other parts of the world in pursuit of a better and secure future. Long as the sports sector continues to languish, athletes will be tempted to make a move that best guarantees their future.

## Obama Refocuses on...

cont'd from pg 1...

turn the economy around.

"If people think the economy is better and they think their lives are better, then President Obama will be in very good shape. If after a period of time, whatever it is, six months, a year, two years, they judge that he has not been able to turn things around, then one would likely see that his approval numbers will come down," said Brown.

Former journalist turned political analyst Richard Wolffe predicts the president has about a year to show progress on the economy before the public might turn on him.

"If the economy doesn't show signs of life, I would say by the spring of next year at the latest, this administration's going to be in serious trouble," said Wolffe.

Mr. Obama wants Congress to deal with health care and education reform in the months ahead, as well as the need to make the United States more energy independent.

The New York Times reports the administration will also address the divisive issue of illegal immigration in the weeks ahead, further complicating the president's congressional agenda.

## PM Flays Bid To...

cont'd from pg 1...

matters on bilateral relationship, mutual understanding and cooperation with Prime Minister Prachanda. During the meeting, PM Prachanda reiterated Nepal's stance on one-China policy and expressed his commitment to curb anti-China activities in Nepal.

"The meeting also discussed the peace process and development activities," said Om Sharma, PM's press advisor.

They also discussed PM Prachanda's forthcoming visit to China.

Qiu Guohong, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal, was also present at the meeting. The delegation that arrived here at the invitation of Nepal-

China Study Centre met with CPN-UML Chairman Jhalanath Khanal and senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal Wednesday evening and discussed the peace process in Nepal. (the Rising nepal)

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# Are U.S.-Russian Relations...

cont'd from pg 2 ...

illustration of the continuing gulf between Russia and the Western powers. "It demonstrates that the actual relationship between Russia and the United States has not changed and that the same issues they could not agree on [before], they still cannot agree on." The Security Council is the venue where they disagree, says Lipman. "Russia's veto power there is practically the only thing Russia has left" of its former role as a superpower.

### An American Perspective

American analyst Paul Goble, author of many books and articles on Eurasia, says the issue of nuclear nonproliferation is the only area where Washington and the Kremlin share common goals. "For the past 40 years, Americans have defined their relationship with Moscow in terms of arms control and restricting nuclear weapons." Consequently, he says, that's where a deal is most likely to be reached. Goble says it is "almost certain that Iran will acquire a nuclear weapons capacity before the end of this year." And when that happens, Goble says Russia might become more interested in the protection that a missile shield might offer. On virtually every other issue – Georgia, North Korea, and monetary policy – Goble says the United States and the Russian Federation remain at odds.

### A German Perspective

Journalist Christian Wernicke of Munich's daily newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung describes Germany's reaction to the recent meeting between the U.S. and Russian presidents as "quite positive," especially on the question of nuclear weapons.

Wernicke says high-ranking German diplomats began approaching President Obama's advisers even before he was elected, urging them to "make bold moves on the nuclear issue." Of special concern was the failure of the United States to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which is to expire by the end of 2009.

### The Political Challenge

The treaty was rejected by a Republican-controlled Senate in 1999. But if the U.S. Senate were to ratify it now, supporters say U.S. leadership could inspire similar action by Iran, North Korea, China, and five other nations that are currently blocking its implementation. Moves toward ratification are now underway in the U.S. Senate, and if successful, they might prove to be the key step toward nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

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# ANA Convention 2009 Oakland, CA

The 27th annual convention for the Association of Nepalese in America (ANA) is to be held from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup> at the Convention Center in the city of Oakland, California. ANA is an organization formed to preserve the Nepalese culture and an Identity here in America. ANA was officially established in 1983 and ever since, ANA has been organizing the annual convention in the different states. This time the Nepalese from the Bay Area have been lucky and are feeling proud to host the convention here in Oakland. The geophysical of Bay area is very much similar to Nepal so it can remind us of our motherland Nepal to some extent.

The purpose of this convention is to foster cordial relations among the Nepalese and American friends, while preserving the identity and culture of Nepal and promoting the cultural, linguistic, historical, and educational heritage of the country. Various cultural and entertainment events along with sports activities will be held during the convention. Vendor expos, seminars, workshops as well as exhibition shows and discussion forums also will be organized.

Regardless of the fact that Nepal is a really small country and has a really small population, the rate of Nepalese people in America is growing everyday. Hence, The ANA 2009 Convention will provide an opportunity to all Nepalese living in the United States of America and Canada to show their talents and creativity while making new friends. It will also provide the various plat forms for new talents and discussion forums, for the various problems and issues, Regarding Nepalese community in the USA and Canada.

A Convening Council was recently formed to oversee the smooth operation of the event. The Council hopes to receive all the support and encouragement from all the Nepalese living in the Americas to make the ANA 2009 Convention in Oakland a grand and spectacular success and an event to remember. It is expected of atleast 10,000 visitors from all over USA and Canada during this occasion. And as I happen to be the president of Motherland Nepal, a nonprofit organization, I must say that I am really honored to be coordinating media for ANA 2009.

Once again thanks for your time and help on ANA-2009

- Anil Pandey – Co-coordinator ANA 2009, Public Relations Committee

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### Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	79.65	80.25
Canadian \$1	64.43	65.12
Euro 1	106.06	106.86
Pound Sterling 1	117.48	118.37
Australian \$1	56.85	57.27
Swiss Franc 1	69.61	70.13
Singapore Dollar	52.64	53.03
Japanese Yen 10	7.95	8.01
Chinese Yuan 1	11.65	11.74
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.72	---
Danish Kroner 1	14.24	---
Hong Kong Dollar 1	10.28	---
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	21.24	21.40
Qatari Riyal 1	21.88	22.04
Thai Bhat 1	2.25	2.27
UAE Dirham 1	21.68	21.85
Malaysian Ringgit 1	22.06	22.23

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, for April 10 '09]

## International Nepali Athletes In United States

- By Sushil Thapa Fairfax VA [sushilthapa@verizon.net](mailto:sushilthapa@verizon.net)

The United States is home to a record number of yesteryear and present athletes from across the globe. A large number of them have settled permanently, making the US their new found home. And dime-a-dozen or more are actively leading a lucrative professional career.

The flow of foreign athletes into the land of opportunities continues unabated to this day. It is not unusual for them to carry the American dream. The great land offers every thing ranging from infrastructures to professional career he/she can hope for. With so much at stake they do want a share of the big pie.

Apparently, for internationally recognized athletes of less developed countries where sport is secondary the desire to become a member of the world's best sporting system is overwhelming.

Undoubtedly, the US is a paradise for athletes blessed with outstanding skills and potential. More importantly, one has to prove his/her caliber against the best of the best to make a lasting impact. Of course, the challenge, especially for outsiders is stupendous but achievable.

Working towards a successful professional career is something every athlete cherishes. To achieve the goal it is all about justifying one's talent, coupled with devotion and the ability to grab opportunities that come by.

Over the years, we have witnessed hordes of athletes from the African continent, East Europe, S America, Cuba, China, South and North Korea and break away states of the former Soviet Union establish themselves successfully in the US in terms of career.

Their entry into the US sports, be it the National Basketball Association or Major League Soccer or Major League Baseball or National Hockey League, is significant in terms of number. The number is on the rise.

Thanks largely to the US immigration policies, past and present foreign athletes with international recognition can apply for permanent residency and ultimately citizenship during their stay in the US.

There are thousands of permanent residents and naturalized Americans actively involved in sports, thus making important contribution. Many are working as instructors and

coaches for clubs, schools, colleges and universities.

In the crowd are 100 or more Nepali international athletes in the US. They are from various disciplines: taekwondo, football, wushu, karate, badminton, volleyball, judo, tennis, boxing and many more, according to Wushu instructor Chandra Lama, resident of Vienna, VA.

"Some are here for well over a decade, whereas, others are relatively new. Since our forte is sport, it is natural for us to look for a work in the same field, even if it means part time," he adds.

In Nepal Lama was one of the senior wushu instructors. He and his wife Bina Khadka Lama continue to associate themselves with wushu in the US as well. They are instructors at the "Chinese Martial Arts Institute" located in Fairfax, VA.

"We work six to seven days. Our love and passion for wushu keeps us going. The institute is a great place to work, especially with youngsters," says Bina, a familiar name in Nepali sports circle.

The International Wushu Championship gold medalist has the

distinction of becoming the grand champion at the 5th Annual Virginia State Championship in 2003.

Switching gear to taekwondo, Yam B Pun, founder of "World Taekwondo and Fitness Center" in Portland stands out. The 6th dan martial artist has been practicing martial arts for almost three decades. His recent accomplishment is in the form of a book titled "The Art of Kicking".

The 1988 Olympics taekwondo bronze medalist (exhibition event) Bidhan Lama needs no introduction. In his prime he was a household name. Today the owner of "World Taekwondo and Fitness Center" in Portland is a highly successful instructor.

There are very few who can match Master Narayan Gurung's achievements in taekwondo professionally. The former Olympian is a well recognized figure in the US taekwondo circle. The director of 4 dojangs in Oregon is coach of the Oregon state taekwondo since 1995.

Further more he made history by becoming the coach of the US National Taekwondo team in 2003 and 2006 for the World University

...Contd. on pg 6

## Car Buyers In India Lining Up For World's Cheapest Car

New Delhi April 10: In India, customers are lining up to buy the world's least expensive car, the Nano, which went on sale this week. The impact the Nano is expected to have a positive effect on the auto industry, which is facing a worldwide slump in sales.

Forty-year-old bus driver Ram Nath in New Delhi never dreamed of owning a car on his \$300 a month salary. But he was among the first in line at a dealership when orders for the Nano opened.

After taxes, the base model of the car will cost about \$2,200 - making it the least expensive automobile in the world.

Ram Nath says he is happy that a car he can afford is now on the market. He says he too, like richer people, can take his family out in a car on holidays.

The Nano, produced by Tata Motors, is entering the market at a time when the auto industry is facing a worldwide slump in sales. But demand for the "People's Car" as it has been billed, is expected to be

strong in a country where cars are out of reach for most of the billion plus population.

The head of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, Dilip Chenoy, says the Nano will have a positive impact on the auto industry by creating many first-time car owners.

"It's created an excitement in the market. The auto market was really till now just under a lot of negative influence, and a lot of negativism in the market," said Chenoy. "The first impact Nano has had is create a lot of enthusiasm for the purchase of a car. The second is, it is going to create a new segment ... it is going to get a whole new type of customer added to the market."

Orders for the car close on April 25. Not all those purchasing the Nano are first-time car buyers. Many are buying it as a second car. Some want it because it is inexpensive, others want it because it will be easily maneuverable on India's crowded roads.

The first cars are scheduled to roll out in July, but only 50,000 cars will be manufactured in the first year. As demand is expected to outstrip production, the company says it will pick the first 100,000 owners by lottery.

After about two years, when production increases, the company plans to export the car to other developing countries, as well as the United States and Europe.

Chenoy says the Nano's impact will not be restricted to just creating new buyers. He says automakers worldwide are closely watching the engineering skills that went into creating a vehicle at this price.

"The whole process of manufacturing, designing, and the concept of a cost of a vehicle has been redefined and that would actually have a longer lasting impact across different segments and different countries going forward," said Chenoy.

The no-frills Nano is a little over three meters in length and runs on a 623 cc engine. It has a top speed of 105 kilometers per hour. (VOA)

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