

# Nepal Abroad

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Nepal Abroad

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## US Greencards Available to Investors

By Steve Mort Orlando, Florida June 12 2009 VOA

Some American companies are trying to attract overseas investment by offering US greencards to wealthy foreigners as an incentive. As part of a pilot program, US Immigration authorities have approved several 'regional centers' - made up of corporations, organizations or agencies - that can offer EB5 immigrant visas to foreign nationals who are willing to invest their money in a development. VOA reports from Orlando, Florida, where managers of a resort complex near Disney World say they have received interest from potential investors around the world.

Promotional aids are being used to attract international investors to put money into a Florida resort near Disney World.

The Lake Buena Vista Resort and Spa is one of 45 entities to be named a 'regional center' by the US government.

The designation means it has more than 100 greencards available to attract wealthy foreigners to invest \$1 million each in the development.

Developer Larry Cohen says domestic economic conditions prompted him to look for money from overseas. "We've had the buyers that have wanted to buy the units, had the desire and the money to do so, but there are no loans available," he said. "And that's where the real crunch came."

Each investor gets two residential units at the resort, each priced at around \$400,000, and receives a

share of the income generated by tourists staying in them.

The government requires each foreign investment to create at least 10 jobs, directly or indirectly.

Out of 10,000 EB5 greencards made available annually, 3,000 are allocated to the national 'regional center' pilot program.

Ofer Fridfertig oversees this resort's operations. He says he has received thousands of inquiries. "At least 45 percent of our Internet hits are coming from China," he said. "And we've gotten a lot of questions and requests for information from China."

Fridfertig recently traveled to China to try to attract investors interested in US residency. Applications for investment-based greencards

shot up in 2008, according to the US Department of Homeland Security.

A greencard holder can travel freely to and from the United States, and reside in America permanently.

But immigration lawyer Ramachandran Balaraman says interest in EB5 greencards has declined recently due to the global economic slowdown and strength in the US dollar.

And he says would-be investors must face scrutiny by US authorities. "The government wants to make sure that whatever you are investing comes from a legal source of funds," Balaraman said. "So it cannot be bad money, it has to be clean money."

## Obama Announces Medicare, Medicaid Savings Proposals

By Jeff Seldin, Washington, 13 June 2009 VOA

U.S. President Barack Obama and Republican lawmakers are turning their attention to the economy. And they used their weekly radio and video addresses to focus on two issues of huge importance to many Americans: health care and energy costs.

Top U.S. officials have been spending much of their time trying to revive the country's economic health by targeting aid at failing banks and ailing auto companies. But President Barack Obama says a big part of the problem is soaring costs for health care. "This much is clear: the status quo is unsustainable for families, businesses, and government. America spends nearly 50 percent more per person on health care than any other country," he said.

And the president Saturday has this message for his critics. "I know some question whether we can afford to act this year. But the unmistakable truth is that it would be irresponsible to not act. We can't keep shifting a growing burden to

future generations. With each passing year, health care costs consume a larger share of our nation's spending, and contribute to yawning deficits that we cannot control," he said.

Mr. Obama is proposing reforms to the U.S. health care system (Medicare and Medicaid) that would cut the costs of key programs by an estimated \$313 billion.

The cost of health care is especially important to these Americans, who visited a free health care clinic earlier this month in a remote area of the eastern U.S. state of Tennessee.

Bob Thompson says the free clinic was the only way he could get help for his teeth, which were damaged in an accident. "Our healthcare system is hemorrhaging at every seam right now. To put it mildly, the group of friends I've had over the years and ran around together with, it was originally seven of us and the healthcare system in the United States has killed us all but two," he said.

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## Indian Forces shift Border Pillars deep inside Nepal: Reports

-Niraj Aryal, Kathmandu

Kathmandu June 13: "These are the fake pillars...real pillars are embossed on both sides" says Amik Serchan - a Maoists senior leader who is currently leading a delegation comprising of eighteen political parties and some human rights activists on a filed visit to observe the illegal land occupation by India in the district of Dang, Nepal.

Currently, the thirty three member delegation is on a five day field visit to the bordering areas of Dang wherein Indian Security Forces have been illegally occupying Nepali lands.

The Indian security Forces have dug holes in some 28 check points along the border and all the border pillars are fake, say reports.

Another Constituent Assembly eighteen member delegations representing the National Interest Preservation committee led by Padma Lal Biswokarma however, returned to the capital without observing the occupied territories.

"The new border pillars have been placed in the mid of Jungles

well inside the Nepali territory and in some places they are placed right in the courtyards of some houses", reports further reveal.

"There is no presence of Nepal Government in Rajpur VDC...there is no Jungey Border Pillars in the area" says Serchan adding "all the border pillars have freshly been placed".

"Not only that the Indian security forces are day in day out occupying Nepali territories...they come here quite often and threaten us to quit the area...they claim that this is their land", say scared local residents talking to journalists.

Similarly, says Ajay Deep Sharma, the vice-president of the

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*Whether at home,  
or at work*

**Telegraph Nepal**  
[telegraphnepal.com](http://telegraphnepal.com)

**Editorial:****Sood mocks self, India**

On the first week of June 09, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Rakesh Sood refuted all news stories published in the Nepalese media about India encroaching Nepalese lands, and accused them as false and politically motivated, and that such stories were aimed at damaging the cordial relations between the two countries. With such expressions, Sood not only insulted media institution in Nepal, but also made a mockery of his position, and the country he represents. Several mass media had published news stories supported by the images of those displayed by the Indian security forces, yet to accuse such stories as baseless by a senior representative of a neighboring country is but a total display of arrogance and a complete bullying to a decent neighbor.

Territory is a constituent for a sovereign state, and therefore, to encroach upon others territory is to challenge their sovereignty. India has a history of troop's deployment across the borders with Pakistan, China and Bangladesh, and the news about the confrontation in those areas are not uncommon to read every now and then. Uprooting the existing Indo-Nepal border pillars and

redeploying them without the knowledge of Nepal's government is a clear violation of territorial norms, and an invitation to a new conflicts and instability in the region.

If those reports on encroachment were baseless, then the Indian Ambassador should answer—who were those people in uniform that came from the south and forcibly displaced the local inhabitants? Nepal's territory continues to remain inundated with the construction of dams in India along the border side, without consideration for internationally accepted norms and values. Are these inundation unreal, caused by the flowing Nepalese rivers to damage the Indo-Nepal relations?

Sood needs a reminder that in the last two decades, among other things, media has advanced very much in the country. All his unwarranted movements, including the meetings and his undiplomatic conversation with the Nepalese leaders are reproduced in media. Hence his response stated above has no value to the readers. His activities have made many thinking people conclude that he's a failure as ambassador, and that New Delhi needs a real change in policy makers.

**Democracy fighter Shailaja Acharya passes away**

Kathmandu, June 12 -Noted democratic fighter and Nepali Congress leader Shailaja Acharya passed away this morning. She was 67.

Her last rites were performed at Pashupati Aryaghat today. Her brother Pradeep Acharya lit the funeral pyre. Nepal police presented eight-gun condolence salute to her body. NC president Girija Prasad Koirala wrapped the party's flag on her body.

Acharya, who had been suffering from chest and pulmonary diseases, for the last three years, was kept on ventilator at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital on June 10 after she had high blood pressure, weakened pulse, heart complication and urine problem.

She was taken to Bangkok last year where she underwent treatment for six months. She was last admitted to the hospital in March and was under medication at her residence.

Her body was brought to the party central office in Sanepa where Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, NC leaders and cadres, leaders of different political parties and people of different walks of life paid their last tributes to her.

Former prime minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, Ram Chandra Paudel, CPN-UML chairman Jhalanath Khanal, Rastriya Janasakti Party chairman Surya Bahadur

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**Fruit Ripening Chemical Putting Public Health At Risk**

Kathmandu, June 12: Although the use of calcium carbide, a banned chemical agent, is widespread, the concerned government authority has failed to take any action to stop its use. Even the consumer rights groups are silent on the use of the banned chemical agent, which is highly hazardous to health.

Although banned at many parts of the world, calcium carbide is openly used in India and Nepal for ripening almost all fruits available in the market of Kathmandu,

Fruits suppliers accept that they use the chemical for making fruits mature faster. Artificial ripening is done to achieve faster and more uniform ripening.

Doctors say that chemical is highly hazardous for human health. But neither the government authorities nor the concerned people are giving attention towards the truth as fruits ripened with the help of the chemical are openly sold in markets.

Calcium carbide is used as artificial ripening agent in fruits like mango, banana, litchi, papaya and many others fruit vegetables.

Calcium carbide is extremely hazardous compound, a food scientist Dr. Meghraj Bhandari said. According to Dr. Bhandari, some short term negative effect on health may occur immediately or shortly after the exposure to the banned chemical.

For example, irritation or burn in the eyes and skin, permanent eye damage, ulcers on skin irritation in mouth, nose and throat may occur. Throat sores cough and wheezing and shortness of breath may also occur soon after the exposure to the chemical. Higher exposure may cause a build up of fluid in the lungs, he added.

Calcium carbide contains traces of arsenic and phosphorus. Early symptoms of arsenic or phosphorus poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea with or without blood, burning sensation of the chest and abdomen, thirst, weakness and difficulty in swallowing, Dr. Bhandari stated.

Considering the possibilities of its hazardous effects, the chemical has been banned in many countries of the world. The Nepal Food Regula-

tion-2027 has strongly prohibited the use of carbide gas for the purpose of ripening fruits.

But Uttam Kumar Bhattarai, Director General of Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) accepted that they were unable to enforce the act effectively.

The Prevention of the Food Act of India (PFA India) too has strongly prohibited the use of carbide gas in ripening of fruits.

A mango wholesaler Binod Baniya of Kalimati Fruits and Vegetable Market said that he usually brings both mangos and calcium carbide from Siraha. According to Baniya, many of fruit wholesalers use calcium carbide to ripen fruits.

Jyoti Baniya, president of Forum for Protection of Consumer Rights (FPCR) said that the FPCR had found that calcium carbide commonly and openly used in Balkhu fruits market. We then forced DFTQC to implement the food regulation act properly he said adding DFTQC should force the government to take necessary step against the use of carbide gas.

The concerned authority should mention the appropriate standard of the use of the chemical in fruits and consumers should be made aware of such standard, food scientist Dr. Tika Karki said.

The naturally ripened fruits are not uniformly yellow, rather, they

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**Nepalese Calendar**

Sun June 14 / Jestha 31 '66  
Khasti  
Mon June 15 / Asar 01 '66  
Saptami  
Tue June 16 / Asar 02 '66  
Astami  
Wed June 17 / Asar 03 '66  
Nawami  
Thu June 18 / Asar 04 '66  
Dashami  
Fri June 19 / Asar 05 '66  
Ekadashin  
Sat June 20 / Asar 06 '66  
Duwadashin

## Former Finance Minister Mahat In Washington DC



Washington, DC June 13: The Nepali Congress party has a "problem of internal democracy" and needs to reform itself as it moves into the future, party leader Ram Sharan Mahat said at an interaction program on June 11 with the Washington Nepal Forum in Washington, D.C.

The stakes, he said, have never been higher. The old ways that served the party well as it championed the cause of democracy for decades no longer function as effectively in today's tempestuous Nepal, Mahat said.

The five-time finance minister decried the violence and economic paralysis of recent ethnic

agitation, which he said is handicapping the nation as it attempts to forge a sustainable democracy.

The Nepali people want peace, democracy and economic prosperity, but are getting only slogans, broken promises and more violence. Mahat called on the Maoists to commit to peace "in action, not just in words" and challenged the Maoist leadership to make public their internal resolutions.

He spoke at the Washington Nepal Forum, a nonpartisan organization that provides a space and

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## Glacial Lake Bursts May Hit Nature-based Tourism Hard

Kathmandu, June 12: "If there is nothing left of our tourism products, what are we going to market to the world?" questioned Chief Executive Officer at Nepal Tourism Board, Prachanda Man Shrestha, at a briefing on the 'Imja Tsho Action-Event 2009- Beat the GLOF Action Run and Khumbu Festival'.

The event is being organised from June 16 to demonstrate that not even the fastest runner can escape from a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).

The rate at which the ice on the mountains are melting is also causing a concern among tourism entrepreneurs in the country because, Nepal's major tourist attractions are all nature-based attractions like the mountains. So, the impacts of global warming like GLOF will affect both the local mountain communities and the tourism industry as a whole.

According to scientists, the Imja Tsho Lake is growing at the rate of 74 meters a year and it is located on the most popular trekking route to Mount Sagarmatha. If this lake breaks, it will unleash a catastrophic wall of water flooding not just villages nearby but also downstream valleys the hills and the densely populated Gangetic plains in the south.

"It has been identified as the most threatening lake that can burst just about any time. We cannot imagine the kind of destruction it will cause. A flood of this scale will displace communities including communities as far as the Terai plains and it will cause havoc until it reaches the sea. Everything in its path will be destroyed. This will create environmental refugees and destroy ecology of the region," stated

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## Calendar of Events

**June 14:** DCAC Basketball Club invites all to join free Lunch Barbeque and Fundraising event on Sunday June 14 2009 from 1.00pm at Nottoway Park 9610 Courthouse Rd Vienna VA 22181. For details visit 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 Contact Rupa Hamal @ Conferenceanmf.net and Bhargab Dixit Chairanmf.net

**July 19:** The International Literary Society (INLS) invites all to participate in 196th Bhanu Jayanthi and INLS 18th Annual General Assembly 2009 on Sunday July 19 from 2.00 pm to 10.00pm Venue yet to be confirmed. For updates keep visiting nepalhorizons.com

**Thursdays:** The Shri Sai Baba of Shirdi Bhajan / Kirtan is conducted at Durga Temple 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station VA every Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm. 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.

**Saturdays:** The Durga Temple & Chinmaya Mission welcomes everyone to **Bhagavad Gita Satsangh** every Saturday at the Durga Temple 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station VA from 10:30am to noon. For further information contact coordinators at 703 793 8855 / 703 646 5924.

## US Concerned Over Minors In Cantonment

Kathmandu, June 12: Visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert O. Blake Friday called on President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav at the latter's office at Shital Niwas.

During the meeting, Dr. Yadav and Blake held discussions on bilateral relations between Nepal and the United States.

Newly appointed U.S. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Blake, who arrived here Friday morning on his two-day visit to Nepal, also met with Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Minister for Foreign Affairs Sujata Koirala, and leader of the opposition Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

At the meeting with Prime Minister Nepal, Blake inquired about the ongoing peace process, inter-party relations and expansion of the government, said sources at the Prime Minister's Office.

The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office at Singh Durbar.

The high-level U.S. official also stressed the need for the government to prioritise the drafting of new constitution, management of the Maoist combatants and rehabilitation of minors living in the cantonments.

The issue of extending tenure of United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) was also discussed

at the meeting.

Responding to Blake's concerns, Premier Nepal said that the government would release all the child combatants from the 28 cantonments. He called for support and cooperation from national and international organizations for the rehabilitation of such minors.

Meanwhile, at the meeting with the UCPN (Maoist) chairman Prachanda, Blake suggested that the political parties should tackle misunderstandings and work together for concluding the peace process.

The U.S. official is scheduled to leave for Bangladesh on Saturday.

A career diplomat, Blake entered the Foreign Service in 1985. He has served at the American Embassies in Tunisia, Algeria, Nigeria and Egypt. Besides, he held a number of positions at the State Department in Washington, including senior desk officer for Turkey, Deputy Executive Secretary, and Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

An M.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in 1984, the U.S. envoy served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission in New Delhi, India from 2003 – 2006, as Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives from 2006 to mid-2009, and as Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs from May 2009. (TRN)

## ANA 2009 - Presidential candidate share views with Nepal Abroad

**“My decision ... to make ANA a democratic and open organization...”**

Roger Adhikari, Tracy CA, has been actively involved in the Nepali community for over two and half decade. He is currently involved in several social and political and organizations, including Himalayan Community Center LLC, a 21 board member entity, which he has founded and chairs.

He has also founded and co-founded almost half dozen non-profit organizations in Nepal and US, including, Nepali Samaj, the predecessor of Nepal's association of Northern California. He has participated as a panelist and moderator in various talk programs and has been interviewed by KPFA radio (Berkeley) on numerous occasions.

He was instrumental in organizing mass rallies in 1990 and 2006, in support of the democratic movement in Nepal and raising fund for the 1990 movement victims. In 2006, Adhikari made an unsuccessful bid for the City council from City of Tracy.

He has bachelor's degree in Engineering and Master's in Business (MBA). On Tuesday June 09 he talked with nepal abroad about his plans to run for the President of ANA. below the results:



**Q: What made you run for ANA President?**

I believe, the current leader, who is trying to reelect itself in a name of

change, has not only failed to foster ANA's core principle but also has regressed the organisation by rewriting the bylaws and changing ANA into an undemocratic entity. This change is detrimental to ANA's future. As an ANA life member and staunch supporter, I could no longer stay on sideline and let ANA go to downward path. I also believe, at the crucial juncture in Nepal's history like current moment, organizations like ANA should and must play a bigger role to promote Nepali culture and identity. As you know, ANA has failed to do so under the current leadership, which is by all practical account, lead by Simon Dhungana. My decision to contest this election is primarily driven by the idea to make ANA a democratic and open organization, create environment for new people with ideas and intelligence to take leadership challenge and play a proactive role to promote Nepali identity.

**Q: What challenges ANA faces today and how would you like to address them, if elected?**

The biggest challenge for ANA is to expand its paid membership base beyond the current five hundred or so

level, and offer more than once a year event (July fourth convention) for Nepali Diasporas in America. In another word, the question before ANA is - what must the organization do to increase it's market share and become a truly representative organization in North America?

I would put the current membership rule and fee structure on the table as a starting point to look into the membership issue and seek feedback from the representative of the local organizations to expand ANA's service offerings. As the leader of a task force during Amrit Tuladhar's Presidency, I have identified some of the ideas to make ANA more attractive. One of those ideas that came out of the task force was to redesign the ANA website. I would go back to the task force recommendation and implement ideas, which may still be relevant.

**Q: Can you identify the opportunities that ANA offers as an organization and how do you plan to translate into actions?**

ANA brand name is widely recognized, and not only by the Nepali Diasporas in America but also by Nepal's living in different parts of the world. The next leader can build upon the brand name by adding more dimensions to the existing services.

If elected, I would organize series of town hall type of meetings in different regions of the US and speak with the representatives of the various local organizations to identify is-

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**"The changes we will bring will be paradigm shifting."**

Simon Dhungana is a popular name among the expatriates also because of his association with national organization like Association of Nepalese in America (ANA), besides his area of residence in the Washington DC metro.

He holds MS in Technology Management, is engaged fulltime in Operations Management, and has lived in the area for over a decade. He's also very active socially; was a founding member of the DC Athletic Club, Secretary of ANA from 2003-2005, General Secretary 2005-2007.

Currently he's the Vice President of ANA and also the Convention Chairperson. On Wednesday June 10, 2009 he talked to Nepal Abroad about his plans to run for the President of ANA. Below the results:

**Q: What made you run for ANA President?**

Running for ANA president for me is not about me but a culmination of shared values and aspirations of many in Nepali Diaspora hold that is being channeled through the ANA leadership team we have come up with. We in the team have been serving Nepali community in various leadership roles for over a decade. It has given us unique experiences and educated us on ways to achieve the greatest result in the service of the community. The encouragement from the whole team of leaders prompted me to step up to take the lead.

Lot of friends and well wishers urged me to lead the next high level team of leaders to run ANA and I did not easily decide on it. I pondered on it for months and upon agreement from my wife Neema- because it takes toll on your family life, then systematically set up steps and plans on how best I could serve. Although at last minute, the election has given me opportunity to discuss my plans for future of ANA. It is a serious commitment that requires lot of time and effort. When you are leading a group of dedicated volunteer national community leaders you need to have gained their trust and confidence. That can only happen with proven record for a high yielding team.

It was convergence of various factors that led me to set up the team to run ANA. Encouragement from friends, well wishers, past leaders of ANA, and active supporters from young and youth community; development of the skill set necessary to be able to work effectively in the position; ability to enact change from the top to bring ANA to new level of effectiveness in carrying out its stated objectives; understanding of the prob-

lems and constraints of the organization- which is necessary if you are to propose solutions; vision developed with out of box thinking; strategy shaped with realistic boots on the ground training; timely need for taking the only national organization of Nepal's in Americas in terms of focus on community service to a new level comparable to other immigrant communities; and paradigm shifting approach to resolution of all things concerned were the factors that converged into the aspirations held by many Nepal's in Americas resulting in my candidacy for ANA president.



**Q: What challenges ANA faces today and how would you like to address them, if elected?**

ANA has storied history to build upon. It is this success in history that has saddled the high expectation from the association. There are many organizational problems, not excluding the structure that is not flexible or dynamic enough to address the challenges of time. There are personnel problems where doing anything are of itself an achievement instead of the focus that should be in the results due to dearth of active volunteers in the organization. Ability to conduct programs that would be most beneficial to the community is hamstrung by lack of funds. Enacting change has been held back by the complacency brought on by the success of the annual conventions.

There are many other challenges, which our team has been in unique position to understand first

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## Beyond The Horizon

Subha Regmi, London UK

Whenever I used to stand by the terrace and looked at the far fetched land, I used to feel the mesmerizing world embracing me. Though, going abroad is not an adventure today, but I had always the fascination towards it. I had a wish to explore the new world and even became successful to bring my dream into reality. There was a certain kind of mind set about the globe beyond my horizon. I left my land with heavy heart though to the other corner of the heart had admixture of feeling for the land I was going to. Keeping the imagination of colourful world, the land with uncountable adventures, where I would have had many wonderful things to explore upon, I set out for my journey.

Despite the fact, the reality turned out to be something incompatible. Though the land was colourful, the colour was not of love, affection, and comfort instead it was the colour of neon light. There were adventures, but the adventure was not for success, exploration and invention: in place it was the escapade of pain, suffering,

loneliness and hardship. Everyone seemed to be smiling but the smile did never come from the inner core of the heart. I wondered with a panic heart for some times but with days I learnt to comfort myself with the uncomfortable. With the time I learnt many aspects of the life. I learnt to fall and never be afraid of falling. I learnt to be strong and never to give up the strength. I learnt to be poked and never be afraid of being nudged.

Today, a kind of Diaspora rules upon me. I feel that everything has gone out of my hand. I have lost the scent of my soil, the loving and caring hands of my parents, the never ending laughter with my friends, the supportive fingers of my elders, the encouraging words of my teachers, the love and affection of my younger, everything has been finished. Yet, I live, with the memories of bygone days and smile full of tears in my eyes. People leave the land with full of hope and dreams. But very few of them do know the panic they have to undergo to meet their destiny. Only a

person being discriminated can know the pain of being beaten down from the feeling of discrimination, only the person who have worked overnight leaving his sick child alone with his tired mother knows how much his heart is shredded down, only a mother of a crying child knows how much of tears her child has roll from his/her eyes every day when she has to leave them with the person she has never recognized. Only a father who works day and night knows since how many days he has not spoken to his child. There is nothing that we gain. In spite of this unevenness, we make our very effort to create a world of our own out of this diversion and dissipation, which gives a sense of satisfaction to some extent.

The loss of our land, the loss of our relationships, the loss of our memories and the loss of love and affection reminds us of the belongingness of everything that we have left over. We don't know how old our parents have grown? We don't know how have the siblings turned

out to be? How tall they have grown and how far they have reached? Everyone's happiness remains no bound when we head towards the foreign land but none can make the

sense of the cost that we have to pay for this achievement. At last we become the person of no where land. But again it is the painful reality that we have to carry on this life with the sense of alienation swinging like a pendulum between the foreign country and our native land with full of imaginations in our mind. We live but with the imagination, with the sense of loss and with the dream to get the glimpse of our beloved. This is the bitter reality which the non native resident of each country faces every passing day, but calls to their home and comforts their beloved saying "everything is alright" though they live with most of the wrongs.



## Former Finance Minister In Washington ...

cont'd from pg 3...

platform for conversation on contemporary issues related to Nepal. It was held at the United States Institute for Peace and moderated by forum founder Homraj Acharya.

Mahat answered many questions at length from the audience. Among the highlights:

*Q: If you don't believe the Maoists have true intentions of multiparty democracy, what options are left?*

Mahat: I think the solution is to keep engaging with them; to force them, persuade them, coax them to the peace process, and build up sufficient public opinion so there is no going back. Even within the Maoist ranks, we see a conflict. A significant chunk of them want multiparty democracy. The other camp, the so-called hardliners, seems bent on going to the next stage of completing the revolution. So we must strengthen those who believe in peaceful politics and weaken those who believe in violence.

*Q: You see the rise of ethnic regionalism and communalism as the greatest danger. What is the strategy of the Congress Party to deal with this*

*issue, and where are you in addressing this issue?*

Mahat: We have accepted a federal structure, but this structure should be various provinces not along ethnic lines. It must be along the basis of geography and interlinkages. East to West does not make sense, because that is too long. The North-South proposition is much better. It will also strengthen the complementarity and interlinkages between hill, himal and tarai. We favor cultural rights and language rights; all communities must have the right to express their identity, so the new constitution must guarantee that. But division of political power along ethnic lines is wrong. It will divide the country.

*Q: Internal party politics seem to be weakening the Congress Party. What is your take on that?*

Mahat: I acknowledge we have internal weaknesses. In this time of challenges from new parties, we are still run on traditional lines. This is how Nepali Congress has been operating for decades, but to meet new challenges, the previous style is not sufficient. We must acknowledge

our problems and democratize further. We have a problem of internal democracy. There is no doubt of it.

*Q: You noted that the poison of ethnicity has been injected into the body politic. What is your antidote to that, and why do you think your strategy has a chance for success?*

Mahat: If we are able to strengthen our political parties, if we are strong about our agenda, if we are able to give the future vision clearly, then ethnic politics – it's poison, it's adverse effects – can be minimized. If we give proper ethnic representation in our party rank and file and address genuine demands, I think the resilience of Nepali society, the unity

and harmony between groups that has been subsisting for centuries, will continue. Despite all slogans of ethnic power, I think people are living in the rural areas as they have in the past. A few dozen people can create havoc, and you see unrest and lawlessness. But I think the resilience of Nepalese society will ultimately win over.

Washington-Nepal Forum is a non-partisan and not for profit organization based in Washington DC, committed to providing a space and platform for the Nepalese diasporas to facilitate conversation on contemporary issues pertaining to Nepal. More information is available at forum's website [washingtonnepalforum.org](http://washingtonnepalforum.org)

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## *"The changes we will bring will be paradigm shifting."...*

*cont'd from pg 4...*

hand, therefore more likely to be able to address them effectively.

To address the constraining organizational structure, we plan to introduce matrix management system that utilizes traditional functional management with the dynamic, responsive, and deliverable focus of project management. The functional management will cover Culture, Student Affairs, Sports, Arts and Literature, Membership, Emergency Funds, NRN, Government Relations, Issues Advocacy plus more as we go along. We will team up with other existing organizational leaders in specific areas to create synergy and achieve results. We have to be efficient; for example, instead of trying to promote Nepali literature on our own we will set up strategic relationship with INLS that will help us help them achieve their objectives. Same thing for NRN issues, we will team up with NRNA. On others we will take the lead. Being the national organization we need to create incubative environment using the ANA platform for various areas to flourish.

To address the dearth of active volunteers to enact changes needed to deliver, we will be setting up a national executive search committee immediately upon commencing our term. We will set this program up so that anyone who has any interest will be able to participate in the ANA programs. We will look into interested person's expertise, commitment, and ability to work in team in deciding to pair them up with the specific programs or projects. We will set up programs that will allow busy professionals to contribute with few hours according to their schedule. We believe that by creating new avenues to serve the community we will have adequate resources to fulfill our objectives and goals.

Similarly, we will ask people for their input and help and come up with ideas on replenishing resources needed to carry out the objectives. Our team will create a larger team of volunteers, experts, and sets of resources to address the challenges of the organization.

**Q: Can you identify the opportunities that ANA offers as an organization and how do you plan to translate into actions?**

The question is bit unclear as to identifying opportunities it offers for

whom but I will construe that to be what benefits does it bring to Nepali community here in Americas and how our team plans to achieve them.

ANA's national role in the Nepali community in the Americas is unique. Its flagship event of annual 4th of July conventions is the single most popular and highly attended program outside of Nepal. It has lot of visibility and integrity. It has many responsibilities towards the community it serves. It has myriad of expectations from people of all ages, background, and rationales. It is the platform that everyone seeks to project their understanding and purposes for the Nepali community. It is the big tent with competing interests, contradictory ideas, and differing personalities.

To fully understand ANA is to be in tune with the needs and hopes of the entire Nepali community in the Americas, and nobody is that omniscient. It takes a team of dedicated volunteers to understand and realize the opportunities ANA can offer for the community at large.

The realization starts with knowledge. The knowledge comes with understanding. The understanding is derived from education. The education is received by interacting and working with communities and individuals around the country in continuum. For all this, it takes a motivated team.

Our team plans to seek and implement ideas from anyone on where we may lack, supplement our efforts on our endeavors, create environment for fostering new ideas and ways of doing things. We believe that organic growth is the best form of developing and enlarging the circle of ideas, actionable items, and broad based results in tune with the ANA's objectives set by its founders.

**Q: As an aspirant for ANA's top post, how do you evaluate the tenure of outgoing ANA team?**

There are individual and team assessments. I look as the single biggest contribution of the outgoing team to be laying the foundation for future success. There have been successive 13 executive committees of ANA that has built upon the achievements of their predecessors, changed what they thought would work best, and initiated ideas that have become mainstay of today's ANA.

I think tenure of the outgoing president Naveen Dutta has been

very successful. The full catalog of the achievements, I'm sure are known to many and should be documented. That is not to say that there were things that could have been done differently or more effectively. Proper evaluation and constant improvements need to be done. But you also have to give credit where it is due, and Naveen Dutta has been an effective leader and successful president of the ANA.

Part of the obstacles in achieving in even greater results was caused by lack of fulfillment of commitment by many in the executive committee. The president cannot get everything done singularly; he needs to be helped by the entire executives. There were many in the outgoing executive committee who were there in name only and hadn't attended most meetings, let alone, do anything required and expected of them.

However they are quick to complain and point fingers. Yelling from sideline on who needs to get the ball and who should shoot for the goal, in soccer or Monday morning quarterbacking is akin to those who just criticize ANA and its' working without really understanding that the change in game only comes from the players in the field. To score a goal, you have to be in the field playing your best, and it takes the effort of the entire team.

**Q: If you're elected, how would your team's performance be different than theirs?**

Change and deliver. It is not just our motto but our working approach too.

Our full team is not yet complete. It will be the collection of the most motivated, committed, and effective group of community leaders. The changes we will bring will be paradigm shifting. I have outlined some of them in previous questions. What we have is innovative set of ideas to change ANA. That will inevitably lead to different performance results.

Through change we will make ANA open and inclusive; transparent and responsive; committed and accountable. We will strive to meet your expectations. We will do the best we can, continuously learn as much as we can, and make you ANA members proud. We will change ANA and deliver.

It will be evident within 100 days of the team leading ANA.

**Q: Anything you'd like to share with those who may not be able to attend the ANA Convention 2009?**

The Nepalis of Northern California have worked really hard to make this a successful grand convention. As the Convention Chair I have been involved for over a year from entertaining and evaluating hosting proposals to the current many levels deep of work breakdown structure. I have been impressed by the leaders who are working so hard on what is shaping out to be an amazing ANA convention.

This convention will be new in many fronts. The opening ceremony will have a procession; it will be done in the early evening, instead of the mornings in the past. The grand concert will feature 1974AD and Deep Shrestha. The concert hall can hold 3500 people, the biggest venue yet of the ANA conventions. Cultural programs are being done innovatively. Forums are being organized with one eye on the past experiences and how to make the topics and timings most interesting, applicable and convenient. There are two professional conferences within the convention of CANUSA and ASNEngr. Nepal Embassy will for the first time have its special program promoting tourism in Nepal. DJ program will be the ultimate entertainment. Fashion Extravaganza has raised the expectations from many after the successful launch of it last year, and poised to meet and exceed them. Sporting events will be held within short driving distance and is sure to feature the national level teams. Children will have their own special camp that has some brand new ideas. And number one is the environment of the convention, it will simply be amazing.

What I have said above doesn't adequately describe the excitement that is building up for the convention. The global Nepali spotlight will be in Oakland Convention Center in July 2-4, and the volunteers are ready to show you the ANA convention San Francisco Bay Area style. There is still much time left, so do not miss out on this historic convention.

Check out the full information on <http://www.ana-convention.org>

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## Pangs Of Nepali Football

By Sushil Thapa. Fairfax,VA sushilthapa@verizon.net

Nepal has failed miserably when it comes to football in terms of development and results. In the last ten years the state of Nepali football has gone from bad to worse. As a result we have been reduced to strugglers in world football.

We have not made the kind of progress essential to elevate football to a new level. By and large, football development has stagnated because of neglect in both infrastructure and grass roots level. Also we are sans effective policies and adequate fund to revitalize the game in the country.

All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) responsible for the over all development of football is a big joke. The people in charge of running the show have ruined the game because of bad governance and for failing to put football before their petty interests.

Instead of true professionals we have a bunch of hand picked novices at the helm who simply want to cling to their chairs irrespective of the situation They lack vision, administrative acumen and ingenuity to change the landscape of domestic football.

So politicized is ANFA that it has become increasingly challenging for any person to carry out development programs. The fight for ANFA amongst various groups backed by political parties continue to date. It is a fact that the warring factions do anything to bring down the opponents to their knees.

They are yet to bury their differences for good , as evidenced by the ongoing confrontation between ANFA and Nepal Football Association. Leave alone resolving the dispute , both National Sports Council (NSC) and Sports Ministry have failed to establish even a common ground between parties. The impact on Nepali football and footballers has been devastating.

Believe it or not the national league has not taken place for the last three years, and development activities are confined to a few select regions . Budding footballers across the country surface every year only to be dejected and rejected.

The majority of district football associations in the country are defunct. They are under funded ,

lack resources and infrastructure to carry out their responsibilities. As a result the intensity of public support for the game has dropped dramatically outside Kathmandu, which is a matter of great concern.

Under Ganesh Thapa's leadership ANFA has been controversial and tumultuous. Nonetheless, he has weathered the storm largely because of his Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA connection. To be fair Thapa started off promisingly but soon became a victim of his own success.

He had the golden opportunity to prove himself a cut above his predecessors. Unfortunately his greed for power, fame and profit saw him deviate from the objectives he had laid out at the time when he took over ANFA.

Admittedly Thapa has done a lot more than those before him but the matter of fact is that he has not lived up to all our expectations. With ANFA elections around the corner the mudslinging in the battle for votes between factions definitely is bound to intensify and get worse.

In my opinion Thapa has a good chance to get himself re-elected. I say this because he has the money, resources and network which others don't have. It would be premature to make a prediction this early. Let us keep our fingers crossed and wait.

Despite the gloomy commentary the good news is that football is still the numero uno mass sport in the country popularity wise. The game continues to rule the hearts and minds of people of all walks of life in a very big way. Tournaments small or big draws a sizable animated crowd.

Even if it means starting from the scratch we need professional, sincere and committed people governing the game . Otherwise,football will continue to languish further.

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## "My decision ... to make ANA a ...

cont'd from pg 4...

issues and opportunities that may be matter to most and desired by many to be incorporated into ANA's service portfolio.

### Q: As an aspirant for ANA's top post, how do you evaluate the tenure of outgoing ANA team?

If the regressive bylaws were not enacted, I would have call the outgoing ANA leadership as mediocre.

### Q: If you're elected, how would your team's performance be different than theirs?

I will be open and honest and will always strive to bring the new generations of the leadership in the organization. I will do so by making ANA truly a democratic organization. I will also look ANA beyond July fourth event in finding new opportunities and expanding its constituency base.

My very first task after being elected as ANA president will be to propose the reversal of the part of the recently amended bylaws spon-

sored by Simon Dhungana, which requires an aspirant of the ANA office to be the board member.

### Q: Any thing you'd like to share with those who may not be able to attend the ANA Convention 2009?

ANA conventions offers all things for everyone. If you're a person with interest in Nepal's affair (political, economics or social), Nepal forum is there to satisfy your quest. If you're young person looking for fun, either in entertainment or sports, you will have plenty of those. On the other hand, if you're one of those people who go to the ANA conventions year after year just to rekindle the old friendship and meet new people, you don't want to miss this ANA convention either. This year, you have one more reason to participate in the convention; the beautiful San Francisco bay area.

ANA conventions are meaningful only when it's interactive. Therefore, you have to be physically in it to get anything out of it.

## Fruit Ripening Chemical...

cont'd from pg 2...

are of green and yellow colours, Dr. Bhandari informed. When tomatoes are uniformly red, or mangoes and papaya are uniformly orange in colours, one could easily make out that carbide may have been used, he said adding, bananas can also be identified if the stem is dark green while the fruits are all yellow. (The Rising Nepal)

Suspected sample may be tested for the phosphorus and arsenic residue on the surface of the fruits on the lab.

While purchasing fruits and fruits vegetables, it is advised not to select homogenously ripened and eye catching bright colored fruits.

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Washing and peeling procedures before eating the fruit could help in minimizing the risks associated with the use of carbide. (TRN)

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Canadian \$1	68.58	69.12
Euro 1	106.06	106.90
Pound Sterling 1	123.98	124.96
Australian \$1	61.31	61.79
Swiss Franc 1	70.11	70.67
Singapore Dollar	52.10	52.51
Japanese Yen 10	7.73	7.79
Chinese Yuan 1	11.07	11.116
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.84	-
Danish Kroner 1	14.24	-
Hong Kong Dollar 1	9.76	-
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	20.17	20.33
Qatari Riyal 1	20.78	20.95
Thai Bhat 1	2.22	2.24
UAE Dirham 1	20.60	20.76
Malaysian Ringgit 1	21.55	21.72

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, for June 12'09]

## Democracy fighter Shailaja...

cont'd from pg 2...

Thapa, UCPN-Maoist leader Dev Gurung and Terai Madhes Lokatantrik Party Mahantha Thakur paid their lasts tributes to her.

Acharya, who was known for her clean image and courage, was the first woman deputy prime minister of the country. Born in 2001 BS in Biratnagar, she actively joined the democratic movement after the royal takeover in 2017 BS. She was jailed for showing a black flag to late king Mahendra for dissolving the democratically elected government of BP Koirala.

She was deeply influenced by the democratic socialism propounded by B P Koirala. In her long and ardent political career, she never compromised her democratic and moral values. This was reason why she was forced to resign as Agriculture Minister when she raised the issue of corruption that was rampant in the ministry. The unmarried leader was elected to the parliament twice in 2048 and 2051 BS from Morang constituencies.

As she was involved in the value-based politics, she has spearheaded purification campaign from within Nepali Congress. In the latter years, she was dragged into controversy as she favoured constitutional monarchy at a time when the republican sentiments had swayed the country in the aftermath of April Movement.

The country lost a leading woman in her demise. The Legislature-Parliament passed a condolence proposal on her demise at its meeting today.

Premier Nepal said the demise of late Acharya was a setback to the national politics.

"All should learn from her good deeds," said Nepal after paying his tributes to her.

In his condolence message, Vice President Paramananda Jha said that late Acharya was a brave and bold leader. "Her struggle for democracy was a source of inspiration for all," he said and added that the nation had an irreparable loss.

## Obama Announces Medicare...

cont'd from pg 1...

In their weekly address Saturday, Republicans turned their attention to the rising cost of energy. Indiana representative Mike Pence called a proposal by the Democratic party to protect the environment by putting a limit on greenhouse gases "an economic declaration of war." "During these difficult economic times, higher energy prices pose a great hardship on families struggling to make ends meet. Unfortunately

the Democratic majority in Congress is embracing a national energy tax that will lead to even higher energy prices and massive job losses for the American people," he said.

The Republican's own proposal calls for investment in renewable energy, more nuclear power and increased oil and gas exploration.

Oil prices have been pushing higher in recent weeks, and have gained more than 60 percent so far this year.

## Indian Forces shift Border Pillars...

cont'd from pg 1...

Federation of Nepali Journalists, Dang Chapter, the "real border pillars are well within three kilometers inside the Indian Territory".

"We have recently located a concrete pillar marked Koilabas-2, yet an old one, which is three kilometers deep south of the current location where the fake pillar is erected", he adds.

An all party delegation that has come from the far-west claims that the Indian security forces have erected a Stone Pillar in the mid of Rajpur VDC.

"Ye Bharat Ka Jameen hai- This is the Indian Territory", the fake border pillar reads.

"They came and forcefully placed the Stone in the middle of our village, we could not think", the villagers said.

## Glacial Lake Bursts May Hit ...

cont'd from pg 3...

mountaineer Dawa Steven Sherpa, who was also the Eco-Everest Expedition-2009 leader.

The sports event has been organised to show to the world that it is not just the Artic and

Equatorial regions that are affected by climate change, the Himalayan region too is facing its impacts and ice up on the mountains are melting at an alarming rate.

"The Imja Lake didn't even exist 40 years ago. Today, it is one of the most dangerous lakes in the region, and we hope to draw the world's attention to the problems we are facing due to climate change," said World Wild Life Fund WWF 'Climate for Life' campaign leader Prashant Singh.

The 42-kilometer 'Action Run' in which approximately 142 run-

ners will be participating, will start from the banks of Imja Tsho (5010m above sea level) and will end at the Khumjung Village School—the first school built by Sir Edmund Hillary. The Run will be followed by Khumbu Festival which will be held at the village.

According to its organizers, this event has been organized to persuade the world and its leaders to wake up and take substantial and quick actions to prepare for this imminent disaster and find ways to mitigate it. (TRN)


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