

Clean Air News

Clean Air Network Nepal Local Country Network of Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities
(CAI-Asia Centre)

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 7

JULY 2011 (JUNI - JUN 30)

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Govt Planning To Ban Old Vehicles

By Prabhakar Ghimire

In an effort to bring down the number of accidents and improve the condition of environment, the government is bringing out 'Transport Policy 2068' that would make it mandatory not to use vehicles beyond 20 years. "Records show that outdated and old vehicles are the major reasons behind road accidents, especially in remote areas. We are ending the practice of using any vehicle for unlimited period regardless of their operating condition and fixing the maximum use of vehicle up to 20 years through the proposed policy," Anil Gurung, under-secretary at the Ministry of Labor and Transport Management (MoLTM), told Republica. The proposed draft of the policy, which is under discussion with stakeholders, envisages to make it mandatory for the importers to

commit that vehicles wouldn't be run for more than 20 years. "We are also making it mandatory to state in the Blue-book for conversion of the vehicle into scrap after 20 years of purchase," said Gurung. In the absence of any set timeframe for the use of vehicles, they are being used for unlimited time leading to rising accidents due to technical problems in the overused vehicles. "Keeping in view the soaring fuel import bill, geographical condition, rising motorcycle accidents involving teenagers, we are putting in place the mandatory provision of producing driving license by the buyer of motorcycles at sales outlet," said Gurung. Officials are also in favor of increasing the minimum age for acquiring driving license to 18 years from existing 16 years. The proposed policy aims at reducing pollution in urban areas by encouraging environment-friendly and fuel-economy vehicles.

The upcoming policy has attempted to bring reforms in the vehicle sector as the existing National Transport Policy introduced in 2000 focuses only on the transport infrastructure.

Source: <http://myrepublica.com>
June 2, 2011



NOC Hikes Petrol Price By Rs 5 Per Litre

In a bid to reduce its losses, the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) has yet again hiked the price of petrol on Sunday. The state-owned oil monopoly hiked the price by Rs. 5 per litre—from Rs 97 to Rs 102. However, no changes have been made in the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) or cooking gas, kerosene and Air Turbine Fuel (ATF). Earlier, the NOC board meeting on March 12

had decided to hike the price of petrol by Rs 9 per litre—from Rs 88 to Rs 97 per litre.

Source: <http://thehimalayantimes.com> June 12, 2011



Fuel Lines Return As NOC Goes Broke Once Again

Many private petrol pumps in the capital have pulled down their shutters due to inadequate stocks after Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) reduced deliveries. According to NOC, fuel imports from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have been slashed by over 50 percent after it fell behind in its payments. The cash-strapped corporation has cut supplies after the government turned down its request for a Rs 1.50 billion loan to finance imports. A company source said that IOC had asked NOC to make timely payments. NOC spokesperson Mukunda Dhungel said that although NOC had paid IOC Rs 3.57 billion in June, the amount was not enough to ensure regular oil supplies. "Our payment is short by Rs 1.09 billion," he



added. To avert a crisis, NOC has requested IOC to send fuel on credit for at least some time. "The IOC is positive regarding our request and the supply will increase from Tuesday," Dhungel said. The market is expected to return to normal after two-three days if IOC increases deliveries. The Thankot Depot said it supplied 317 kl of petrol and 435 kl of diesel on Saturday. Supplies of diesel and petrol had dropped to 273 kl and 213 kl respectively on Sunday. NOC estimates that the Kathmandu Valley consumes 250 kl of petrol and 350 kl of diesel daily. However, petroleum dealers said that the requirement had increased to 350 kl of petrol and 550 kl of diesel. The state-owned oil mo-

nopoly said that a two-day strike called by the Central Region Tanker Operators Association had also caused a fuel shortage in the market. The tanker operators halted imports from Raxaul on Thursday after NOC decided to shift 60 tankers to the Kathmandu-Raxaul route from the Amlekhgunj-Barauni route. On June 12, NOC had hiked the price of petrol by Rs 5 per litre. Although the increase had brought down the corporation's monthly projected losses, it said that it was still in the red by Rs 1.33 billion per month. The corporation has been making a profit on the sale of petrol and aviation fuel. The government has been financing NOC's petroleum imports for the past six months.

2nd National Environment Week 2011

Nepalese Youth For Climate Action (NYCA) organized 2nd National Environment Week in Kathmandu and throughout the nation, to mark the World Environment Day 2011, with the theme "Forest : Nature at your service". This was the first nation-wide week-long celebration of the environment day. The activities included Interschool Poem Competition, Online slogan Competition, Facebook Profile Picture Campaigning and Eco-Football Match 2011. The Eco-football Match 2011, was held on June 5th, on the World environment day, at Chyasal Ground.

The match was played between the celebrities and environmentalists. During the match, the environmentalist team won the match 7-4 and lifted the trophy. The cash prize of the poem competition was also distributed to the winner students during the match. The winners were Ms. Ritu Shah, Societal Higher Secondary School, Ms. Prarthana Thapa, Little Angel's School and Ms. Lamhu Sherpa, Padmakanya Ma. Vi. Also, the activities outside Kathmandu included events such as Interschool speech Competition, Inter school Art Competition, cultural rallies and more. The event was supported by Clean Air Network Nepal, Climate Change Net-

Work Nepal, VSBK Program Nepal, United Mission to Nepal, WWF Nepal and Oxfam GB Nepal, ECCA, Everest Bank Limited, Khwopa College, The Small Earth Nepal, Chyasal Youth Club, Youth Red Cross Circle - Trichandra Campus, Paschim Paila and ENPHO.



ANFA Technical Centre, Chyasal on June 5 at 1 PM Onwards

Govt Shortlists Firms For DPR Of East-West, Metro Railway

The government on Tuesday short-listed six global firms each for developing Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the two proposed railways service lines -- Bardibas-Birgunj section of Mechi-Mahakali Electric Railway and conduct feasibility study of metro railway system in the Kathmandu Valley. Six of the short-listed companies are from India. Railway Construction Project (RCP), which will soon be upgraded as Department of Railways, has said it will finalize the firm to prepare DPR from among the short-listed companies by mid-July. According to the project, Chungasuk Engineering Company of Korea, Kerbs and Keifer Beratende Ingenieure Fur Das Bauwesen GmbH and Zerna Ingeniwure GmbH of Germany, RITES Limited (India), Scott Wilson India, Systra F A of France and Yoshini Engineering Corporation of India have been short-listed for conducting DPR of the section of East-west rail-

way. Similarly, Chungasuk Engineering Company of Korea, MMM Group Canada, RITES Limited (India), Scott Wilson India, SYSTRA F A of France, and TEAM Consulting Engineering and Management have been short-listed to carry out feasibility study of Mass Rapid Transit (underground and elevated railway) in the capital. Ram Kumar Lamsal, chief of RCP, told Republica that the project would seek Request for Proposal (RFP) along with technical and financial proposal from the short-listed companies before finalizing the best aspirant firm. "We will complete the process of selecting qualified firms by mid-July this year and get DPR and feasibility study completed by the end of fiscal year 2011/12," Lamsal informed. According to him, technical proposal includes study procedure, manpower, experience and ethical commitment of the company, whereas financial proposal comprises of project cost and financial strength of the

company for the implementation of the projects. A total of sixteen companies had registered their expression of interest (Eol) to prepare DPR of the 136 km stretch of Bardibas-Simra-Birgunj section of Mechi-Mahakali railway line. Similarly, 16 companies had registered Eol to conduct feasibility study of Mass Rapid Transit (Underground and Elevated Railway) system in the capital. RITES Ltd (India) had submitted feasibility study report of the proposed East-West railway line (1,300 km) to the government in August last year. The total cost of the project, including Kathmandu-Pokhara Electrical Railway, has been estimated between Rs 700-800 billion. The proposed metro project in the capital envisages laying down 75 km railway track, including 27 km along the Ring Road. Similarly, it plans to construct eight radial lines connecting selected places along the Ring Road with Ratna Park area to ease traffic congestion in core city area.

Hong Kong told to revamp air pollution rules

HONG KONG - THE Hong Kong government has been told to hammer out a timetable for new air quality rules amid increasingly vocal criticism of pollution in the global financial hub, a green group said on Sunday. The order from the city's ombudsman comes several months after Friends of the Earth Hong Kong asked the Chinese territory's leaders for an explanation of its outdated air quality objectives, largely unchanged since the late 1980s. The environmental group filed a formal complaint last year over the city's pollution rules. "We think the government was dragging its feet and (this decision) means they need to give a clear timetable for when the new air quality objec-

tives will be released," Edwin Lau, the green group's director, told AFP on Sunday. The watchdog's decision is non-binding but Mr Lau said the order was 'a little bit of a victory' since it could not force government action on the issue, and stopped short of accusing officials of 'maladministration.' A spokesman for the ombudsman could not be reached on Sunday, but the watchdog previously declined to comment on its probe, citing privacy laws. -- AFP



Bike Registration Up 2.98pc

Continuing previous years' trend, registration of two-wheelers has increased in the Bagmati Zone with the fiscal year coming to an end. Registration of two wheelers, which was witnessing decline in the ninth and tenth months of the current fiscal year, increased marginally by 2.98 percent in the 11th month (mid-May to mid-June).

According to the Bagmati Zone Transport Management Office, a total of 2,036 units of motorcycles were registered during mid-May to mid-June. Madan Singh Mahat, chief of the two-wheeler unit at the office, said the registration increased marginally last month. "Every year during this period, registration of two wheelers increases amid speculations of rise in vehicle prices after the budget presentation," added Mahat. The two-wheeler market has been experiencing a slowdown for the last eight months with banks and financial institutions tightening auto

loans and the present budget hiking the excise duty. Although the registration has increased, traders say overall sales of two wheelers have fallen by 30 percent. "The registration might have gone up because of some traders maintaining stock. But this hasn't reflected in our sales," said Shekhar Golchha, vice-president of Nepal Automobile Dealers' Association (NADA). Golchha, whose Hansraj Hulaschand & Company deals with Bajaj motorcycles, said they had requested the government to come up with a new tax provision in the upcoming budget to make two wheelers cheaper. The government in the current budget had increased the excise duty on two wheelers by 10 percent. Few weeks ago, NADA had demanded that the government reduce the excise duty to 25 percent from the existing 40 percent

on bike imports. According to the Bagmati Zone Transport Management Office, it has registered 26,952 units of motorcycles after the budget—mid-Nov. to mid-June—this year. It is a decline of 33.15 percent compared to 40,323 units during the same period last year. The office has registered 49,035 motorcycles as of the 11th month of the current fiscal year. In the same period last year, 63,740 bikes were registered.

Source: <http://www.ekantipur.com> June 28, 2011



Petroleum Dealers Object To New Commission Scheme

Nepal Petroleum Dealers National Association has voiced objection against the government decision to fix commission on sales of petroleum products on a flat rate basis, ending the system of providing certain percent of sales amount as commission. Petroleum dealers have so far been collecting three percent of total sales as commission. NOC has proposed dealers Rs 1.85 per liter as sales commission. "The newly introduced system has left us worrying. Petroleum dealers were facing hard times sustaining business even with the 3 percent commission on sales amid rising

interest rate and operating cost," Saroj Pandey, president of the association, told media persons on Sunday. "The new decision ignores a joint-secretary level panel's recommendation of giving three percent commission." Pandey said the association would be compelled to announce protest if the government did not withdraw its decision. Dealers had already expressed their objection to the Finance Minister and the Minister for Commerce and Supplies. Pandey said the association will conduct a study on reform measures that can be implemented in NOC to bail the state-

owned oil supplier out of the present crisis. Petroleum dealers have also flayed the government's move of introducing digital dispensing system in refilling stations with the objective of replacing the existing mechanical system within a year. "It's not practical. The government must review it," Pandey added. He also expressed dissatisfaction over the report prepared by Bhim Acharya-led panel, stating that it has failed incorporate suggestions to end existing mismanagement and corruption in NOC.

Source: <http://myrepublica.com> June 26, 2011



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Building Partnership for Clean Air

Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) is a network of organizations and professionals involved in air quality management in Nepal. The goal of CANN is to increase the ability of professionals and other interested stakeholders to effectively address the problems of air pollution in Nepal. We encourage you to join hands with us to expand our campaign for clean and better Air.

Clean Air News is a free email publication that features news, information and events related to clean air. Clean Air News is published by Clean Air Network Nepal to highlight the activities and initiatives for clean air by CANN and its member and partners.

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Glimpses of Eco-Football 2011:

