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Wind, Solar Could Play Bigger Roles in Future US Energy Mix

By Rosanne Skirble, Washington, D.C., 26 June 2009 VOA

U.S. climate change legislation now before Congress would mandate that by 2020, 15 to 20 percent of the nation's electricity supply would come from renewable sources like wind and solar.

Currently wind and solar contribute only about 2 percent, with hydropower providing an additional 6 percent.

Can these renewable sources meet the nation's energy needs? A new report from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change finds that wind and solar can be a major source of electricity in the United States. But the report says that will happen only if the United States adopts new policies that promote renewable energy and put a price on climate-changing carbon emissions.

Paul Komor, professor of environmental studies at the University of Colorado and author of the Pew report, says there's theoretically enough sun and wind to meet all U.S. energy needs. The good news, he says, is that the country is already tapping these unlimited resources.

"This isn't a question where we need huge amounts of new research for a brand new technology which doesn't even exist yet. That's not the case here. These things exist. They are reliable. You can buy them from different vendors."

Most of the electricity the United States produces comes from fossil fuels - such as coal or natural gas - which are abundant and still relatively cheap. A major barrier to adding wind or solar is cost, although

wind has become more competitive with natural gas. Komor says solar is a different story.

"Current technologies with what you can buy today, it's quite expensive to make electricity directly from the sun. These technologies work quite well, but the costs are quite high."

According to the Pew Center report, if wind is to supply 20 percent of the U.S. energy needs, it will require investments in transmission-line construction of \$3-4 billion per year, or a 40 to 50 percent increase over current expenditures, to deliver electricity from remote wind turbines to urban users. And, says Komor, there's the additional challenge of where to put those transmission lines.

"It's a site[ing] challenge, to getting all the landowners and those



Photo: VOA

The Harper Lake Solar Generating Station in California is the largest commercial power plant in the world

with jurisdiction over the land to agree to accept that line on their land. Many people don't want this."

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All Set For ANA 2009 Convention

All necessary arrangement for the successful accomplishments of the upcoming 27th The Association of Nepalis in the Americas (ANA) contention 2009 has been virtually completed, states Convener Govinda Shahi and Co-convener Rajesh Giri. The convention is scheduled from July 2 through July 5 2009 at the Oakland Convention Center, Oakland CA. This area is popularly known as the San Francisco Bayarea in the northern California.

The election of the president during this convention has been one of the attraction and curiosity for all, among other things. Two candidates - Roger Adhikari from California and Simon Dhungana from Maryland are contesting the election. Although voting has already begun, the results would be counted and announced on July 2, 2009.

For the first time, Presidential Award is also being planned to introduce in the Convention and would be continued in the future. Efforts are in progress to find an individual or an

organization(s), either of Nepalese origin or others that have contributed to Nepal or the Nepalese community.

General Assembly comprising of various Nepalese organizations across the country would also be conducted this year. It was started last year in Baltimore, MD, and the Convention-chair Simon Dhungana believes that such gathering provides an opportunity to develop better understanding and cooperation among various organizations and individuals volunteering for the community.

Performances that reflect the various Nepalese cultures, Nepal forum, general assembly, cultural and musical performances, fashion show, literary and youth forums and others would keep all visitors engaged during the convention. Organizers are confident that this convention would be a unforgettable, wonderful learning and fun-filled experience, says Anil Pandey - Media coordinator of 27th ANA Convention.

Details about the convention are available on ana-convention.org/2009.

Nepal Maoists Decry Dubbing Indian Maoists As Terrorists

-Niraj Aryal, Kathmandu

The Nepal Maoists, the former rebels, have made public their views as regards the Indian regime declaring the Indian Maoists as "terrorists".

The central government of India declared the Indian Maoists' as terrorists on June 22, 2009.

Talking to a local broad sheet daily, June 24, 2009, one of the senior Maoist leaders of Nepal, Chandra Prakash Gajurel, says, "The Indian declaration has no sound logic in banning the Indian Maoists activities and declaring the party as a terrorist outfit".

"The party which is declared a terrorist outfit doesn't die...what happens if done so have been best illustrated by Nepal's fresh case", added Gajurel.

Perhaps this is the first official version of the Nepal Maoists as regards the Indian Maoists upon the latter was declared a terrorist outfit by the Indian regime early this week.

Gajurel is the chief of the Maoist party's international

department who made his own party's views clear after four days of such a declaration made by the Indian government.

"There is no logic in declaring the Indian Maoists as terrorists", opined Gajurel.

He says further that "the Nepalese Maoists though have some ideological proximity with the Indian Maoists but do not have working relations".

"We totally disagree with the Indian declaration which wants gain victory over a revolutionary force through the use of force", Gajurel added.

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*Whether at home,
or at work*

Telegraph Nepal
telegraphnepal.com

Editorial:**Neighbors compete, Nepal looses**

The competition among the neighboring countries – India and China - to gain undue influence in Nepal's internal affairs has pushed Nepal into a threshold of political instability, anarchy and a complete standstill in terms of growth and development of the State and its population.

Seeking their national interests in another country is very natural for any state, but what about Nepal's interests? Doesn't this country have its national interests? Certainly outsiders aren't going to talk about it, and they will have no consideration for it if the host country's stakeholders only know loyalty and submission towards either neighbor for their political gain.

Interference may have existed earlier, but it became more prominent during the first democratic movement in 1990 when resources in various forms flooded in Nepal from outside including India. Indian support for democratic movement was gradually translating into 'interference', when the contemporary governments were getting entangled in controversy by either signing or planning to sign controversial treaties that put Nepal in disadvantage. People soon began to realize the Indian design – the return India wanted for investing resources in Nepal's democratic process.

Recent interferences are more open and more offending to the people in Nepal – Indian ambassador meets Nepal's Prime Minister and other leaders in their bedroom, he threatens Upendra Yadav to bring split in his party, and he actually gets it done. He denies land encroachment, and their Foreign Secretary Menon calls it a non-issue. Any body writes about it are identified as anti-Indian and or pro-Maoists, but no one sees it as pro-Nepal.

It's normal for Indian government to shelter and protect the Nepal's Maoists when they're declared terrorists by the democratic governments in Nepal, and that's how they'd have played with the contemporary government in Kathmandu. But when some individuals enter Nepal after

committing crimes in India, India wants to sign extradition treaty with Nepal? Ever since the Indian proposal to sign 'Extradition Treaty' with Nepal, it has drawn attention from China, Pakistan for a similar treaty with Nepal, and may draw similar attention from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in future too. Is the extradition treaty really in the interests of Nepal, let this be debated in public and not through a discussion in bedrooms between Rakesh Sood and Prime Minister of the day? Referendum can be another option in deciding such treaties of national importance.

The undiplomatic and offending activities of Indian Ambassador Rakesh Sood in Nepal have made the otherwise overtly dormant Chinese Ambassador active too. They're never heard in media so much until recent past than seen in the recent days. At least their overt diplomatic activities were not offending to the general public. He's now seen and heard in media more often and no less effective than Sood.

In their struggle to affect influence in Nepal, the government and the people are the ultimate losers. Country in thrown in instability, and uncertainty, and the constitution never gets written, and people's life become miserable everyday with 'closures' called by someone or the other groups. All political parties talk about preserving national interests and sovereignty, development and prosperity of the country, and yet there can be no understanding among them for national interests.

Time has come to reject politicians that visit Delhi for medical checkup, those leaders who sneak to Delhi and return with roaring voice, reject those individuals who are ready to quit their loyalty after the dinner in Indian Embassy. The news stories about foreign interference should be given more prominence in the media, as it would help people of neighboring countries understand how their government functions externally, and how their representatives in Nepal are responsible for general disapproval for their country. Writing for Nepal shouldn't mean writing against another state.

Repatriation Or Resettlement For Bhutanese Refugees?

BELDANGI, 22 June 2009 (IRIN): Over the past year thousands of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal have resettled in third countries - mainly the USA - but many others, especially the elderly, hope only for repatriation to Bhutan.

Pahalman Bhattarai, aged 96, is Nepal's oldest Bhutanese refugee. "I'm getting old. My dying wish is to return to my home in Bhutan," he told IRIN at the Beldangi refugee camp in Nepal's southeastern Jhapa District.

Like many elderly Bhutanese refugees, Bhattarai has little desire to live in either the USA or the other six countries (Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and Canada) involved in a third country resettlement programme now being led by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

"I am 82 years old now. I don't think I will live long enough to start a new life in a Western country. I would rather die in my own country," said Layan Bahadur Thapa, another refugee, despite having many relatives and former neighbours already in the USA and Canada.

According to UNHCR, over 15,000 Bhutanese refugees have resettled in the past 14 months, with more expected in the coming months.

Of these, 14,050 have resettled in the USA, 781 in Australia, 377 in Canada, 271 in New Zealand, 164 in Norway, 161 in Denmark and 120 in the Netherlands.

Most want resettlement

According to UNHCR, there are close to 95,000 Bhutanese citizens of Nepali origin - also known as 'Lhotsampas' - still living in seven refugee camps in southeastern Nepal. Some 70,994 have declared an interest in resettlement.

"We have over 15,000 who have left in such a short period and that is rather unusual and is a good story to tell," UNHCR representative in Nepal Daisy Dell told IRIN in Kathmandu.

But there are sad stories, too: "My



Photo: IRIN News

Like many elderly Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, 96-year-old Pahalman Bhattarai wants to return to his homeland

parents were buried in Bhutan and we have hundreds of years of history rooted there. How can we just leave in vain like that?" asked 68-year-old Bir Bahadur Adhikari.

The first refugee camp was set up in 1990 after thousands of 'Lhotsampas' fled the country fearing for their lives after the Bhutanese government introduced new citizenship rules disenfranchising many ethnic Nepalis who had been living in the country since the 19th century, according to UNHCR.

The Bhutanese government says the refugees are migrants and have no right to live in Bhutan.

Camp numbers have increased more than tenfold in the past 19 years, as 15 rounds of talks between Nepal and Bhutan failed to resolve the issue, according to the refugees and media reports.

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Nepalese Calendar

Sun June 28 / Asar 14'66

Khasti

Mon June 29 / Asar 15 '66

Saptami

Tue June 30 / Asar 16 '66

Astami

Wed July 01 / Asar 17 '66

Nawami

Thu July 02 / Asar 18 '66

Dashami

Fri July 03 / Asar 19'66

HarisayaniEkadashin

Sat July 04 / Asar 20'66

Duwadashin

Home Stay Tourism Could Be Panacea For Rural Economy

Kathmandu, June 27: Home-stay tourism seems to be gaining currency and the latest trend here in the country also shows that this particular tourism has emerged as a productive means to uplift the rural economy.

At a time when the nation is all set to celebrate the Nepal Tourism Year-2011 with the aim of bringing one million tourists, the concept of home-stay—the alterative to hotels and lodges—seems to be gaining ground day by day.

Sirubari and Ghalegaon are the pioneer villages where the home-stay tourism flourished over a decade ago and recently, Tara Gaon Development Board (TGDB) also conducted a research to find unexplored destinations to develop this programme.

As the promotion is growing focusing the tourism year, Rajendra Duwal, a resident of Bhaktapur, started a home-stay at his place in 2008, which is a first of its kind in Bhaktapur-The City of Culture.

“We came to know about it through an advertisement given by Bhaktapur Tourism Development Board (BTDC) in a local newspaper asking for interested households who wanted to develop the programme at their home. When I visited there they told me that it was kind of tourism, where tourists would stay at the traditional houses with the families sharing same kitchen and live in pure family environment enjoying our traditional cultures,” said Duwal.

From the very beginning, Duwal’s ‘Om Bhaktapur Home-Stay’ at Thulo Byasi, Bhaktapur has managed to receive about 40 visitors at his place. They offer traditional foods like chatamari, bara, Nepalese food set, beddings of Sukul—a traditional mat—, hike to Changu Narayan and Nagarkot at reasonable Nepalese price.

Basudev Lamichhane, the chief executive officer at BTDC, said that they started the programme after the locals demanded to start such programme. “The locals wanted us to start such programme and at

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India Issues Warning of Attacks From Domestic Insurgents

By Steve Herman, New Delhi 21 June 2009 VOA

India’s government is warning of possible violent strikes by radical leftist insurgents. The alert comes as paramilitary forces conduct the most concerted effort in years to repel Maoists who control large swathes of eastern forests.

Maoist insurgents have called for a two-day protest in an eastern swath of India where they have considerable influence.

The Home Ministry is warning the general strike, Monday and Tuesday, may be accompanied by attacks against security forces.

Additional Home Secretary D.R.S. Chaudhary told a news conference Sunday authorities and citizens need to be vigilant, especially in five eastern states.

“There are intelligence inputs that CPI [Communist Party of India] Maoists may indulge in demonstrative acts of violence by targeting security forces and

economic infrastructure, such as trains, buses, railway stations, bus stations and other places where people are likely to gather,” said Chaudhary.

The alert focuses on five states: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal.

Security experts say armed Maoists, also known as Naxalites, number about 20,000 and control about one-fifth of India’s forests.

The warning comes as para-military forces re-captured a police station in Lalgarh in West Bengal. The insurgents claimed to have liberated the town from state control.

That prompted the central government to dispatch border security and police reserve forces to the area. They are backed by a new squad, known as Combat Battalion for Resolute Action - or COBRA -

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Calendar of Events

June 28: Baltimore Association Of Nepalese in America (BANA) invites all to participate in community meeting to provide constructive feedbacks and ideas to direct community leaders on Sunday June 28 2009 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Rosedale Public Library 6105 Kenwood Ave Rosedale MD 21237. For details visit nepalhorizons.com or info@banaonline.org

July 01-July 05: The Nepalis of Northern California will be hosting the 27th ANA convention which is scheduled to be held from July 01st to July 05th in San Francisco Bay Area at Oakland Convention Center and also at Oakland Marriott Hotel City Center. For details visit ana-convention.org/2009.

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

July 19: Baltimore Association Of Nepalese in America (BANA) invites all to participate in annual summer picnic on Sunday July 19 2009 at Gun Powder State Park. For details visit nepalhorizons.com or email at info@banaonline.org

July 26: The America nepal Society (ANS) invites all to participate in Annual Summer Picnic 2009 on Sunday July 26 from 12.00 pm to 6.00pm at NECC’s new property 20520 Beallsville Rd beallsville MD 20839 for more info contact Bishnu Thapa 571 214 2267 netra Ghising 703 597 4098 kabindar ghimire 571 259 3984 Prakash nepal 703 864 4141 Laxmi gaudel 703 220 8782 Tika Pun 703 342 8885 Khem bhattachan 571 242 5510 or visit nepalhorizons.com

Sept 5th-7th: The NASEA and ANMA has scheduled to organize a Joint Convention 2009 on September 5th-Septmeber 7th at Raleigh NC. For details contact pr2009jc@gmail.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.

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The End of the Globalization Debate?

Creeping protectionism lingers in the shadows if only for the moment

Edward Gresser, YaleGlobal, 2 June 2009

WASHINGTON: Four months into its first term, the Obama administration seems the model of an internationalist, center-left government. It began its global-economy policy with a strong line against protectionism as a threat to recovery from this year's economic crisis, an expansion of state aid to workers dislocated by trade competition, and a pledge of new money for the International Monetary Fund. From there it is moving on, looking for ways to encourage a new foundation for long-term growth based upon newly developing environmental technologies, moving a free trade agreement with Panama and then perhaps larger trade initiatives with Korea, Colombia and the WTO.

Meanwhile, American public opinion on trade has brightened. With the nation in a crisis emerging from the housing and financial services sectors, and with imports and trade deficits falling steadily and rapidly, polls find American support for trade policy returning to its long-term average – generally positive, though not starry-eyed – after a sharp dip in 2006 and 2007. And strong majorities, a 60-37 split in the most recent New York Times poll, believe the U.S. needs to cooperate with foreign governments on economics in order to solve the crisis.

Thus rather than a confrontation with China or a push to quickly reshape the North American Free Trade Agreement, the administration is emphasizing coordinated stimulus, open markets, and improved financial regulation. But the debate is more likely on 'pause' than settled for good. The last two weeks have brought a modest backlash against the administration's internationalism.

Senator Sherrod Brown, a long-time critic of trade agreements from Ohio, introduced a bill to prevent negotiation of any new agreements, pending a revision of all the old ones: "if in fact President Obama does not open up NAFTA for review, we must not continue the failed system for future trade agreements."

A group of quasi-'populist' House Democrats, calling themselves the Trade Working Group, is resolutely attacking the agreement with Panama. The group's leader, a Maine Representative, terms the agreement "Bush-era" (despite its revision to include the labor-and-environmental clauses long sought by unions and environmentalists) and calling the president's plan to move ahead with it "absolutely outrageous and a serious mistake."

And an industry/labor group called the Fair Currency Coalition, centered on steel and textile interests, announced a new bill to force the administration to threaten China with tariffs to gain a change in currency values, recruiting Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow and Kentucky economic-nationalist Republican Jim Bunning, plus forty House members from both parties to introduce it.

The spate of bills seems more a demonstration than the opening of America's first genuinely serious trade debate since the confrontations with Japan in the 1980s. In 2009, as the administration struggles with the financial crisis and the public hopes for cooperative relationships with foreign countries, these bills aren't likely to be enacted, and they seem unlikely to succeed in blocking the Panama agreement. But these rumblings amount to the first challenge to Obama's ability to set policy for Democrats – and highlight the importance less of the administration's early trade strategy than of its long-term hopes for re-founding American growth and employment in new "green" industries.

The rebound in public support for trade this year comes after a sharp drop between 2004 and 2007. This in turn coincided with a period of growth – but growth that seemed to reach few workers. Household wealth grew rapidly, as low interest rates pushed up stock market accounts, home values and GDP. But though home-owners and consumers fared well for a while – in retrospect, too well for their own good – the decade was a remarkably bad one for

workers and especially for job-seekers.

The millennium's first decade featured the slowest growth in employment since the anomalous 1930s. Since 2000, the US has added a net gain of 1.7 million jobs – after a gain of 17 million in the 1960s, 19 million in the 1970s, another 19 million in the 1980s, and 21 million in the 1990s. Factory work fared especially badly. It has been declining almost everywhere in the world, and has been falling as a share of the U.S. workforce since the mid-1950s. But this decade's experience was not a decline but a sheer drop, from 17 million factory jobs in 2000 to 12 million this year – the lowest total since the 1940s.

In these circumstances, unhappiness is natural and will find a target. The most plausible cause of the phenomenon is the massive rationalization of industry through the Internet and information technology. But technology is a hopeless villain, as attempts to reverse it are usually futile and most people like it anyway. Instead, this decade's years of growth saw a surge in unhappiness with immigration and with trade competition among Republicans and Democrats. Last year's presidential primaries provided a highlight, with the intense competition among Republicans to sound tough on immigration and the debate among Democrats over the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In fact, attempts to solve the jobs problem by addressing these issues haven't worked especially well. The Bush administration's experiment with steel tariffs in 2002 and 2003 achieved little. Its imposition of quotas on Chinese textiles between 2006 and 2008 had no effect at all. Neither has the fence built along parts of the US-Mexico border done much. But though such policies may offer little promise, they



Photo: Yale Global

Trade worries: While Obama favors free trade, protectionism may return if the economy does not improve

reflect a genuine alarm that will naturally be reflected in the political system.

For now these emotions have faded, muted by the larger threat of the financial crisis, and confined to the traditionally trade-skeptical politicians filing the bills. To the broader public, the risks of confrontational trade policy apparently seem much higher than they did a year ago, and support for more cooperative relationships with foreign governments is unusually high. And in any case, the rising trade-deficit figures and illegal-immigrant counts have gone into reverse this year. This year's trade imbalance, in fact, has already dropped to levels last seen in the late 1990s, as shoppers stay out of malls and auto dealerships. In total, it may fall from \$700 billion in 2008 to \$300 billion in 2009.

But when and if the economy recovers, the stresses may well return – unless workers and families have more confidence in their employment prospects. In this case, the globalization debate could pick up where it left off last summer, in the weeks before the crisis began.

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Clinton says Combating Human Trafficking 'Critical'

By David Gollust, State Department, 16 June 2009 VOA

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the fight against human trafficking, abroad and in the United States, is a critical part of the Obama administration's agenda. She spoke on the release of a State Department report that listed 17 countries as failing to make significant efforts to address the problem.

To underscore the priority the administration puts on the issue, Clinton made the release of the report a major event that included bipartisan Congressional leaders and activists from Albania and Costa Rica who were among nine people from around the world saluted in the report as anti-trafficking heroes.

Clinton called the trafficking of persons for forced labor, sexual exploitation and other illicit purposes "modern-day" slavery that spans the globe and affects every country including the United States.

She said the annual reports, mandated by an act of Congress in 2000, are intended to encourage nations to act where necessary with criticism and the threat of possible U.S. sanctions.

"We hope to shine the light brightly on the scope and scale of modern slavery so all

governments can see where progress has been made and where more is needed," said Clinton. "Trafficking thrives in the shadows. And it can be easy to dismiss it as something that happens to someone else, somewhere else. But that is not the case. Trafficking is a crime that involves every nation on earth, and that includes our own."

The report based on information from U.S. embassies, international organizations and non-governmental groups assessed 175 countries and gave 17 of them the lowest possible rating for anti-trafficking efforts.

The so-called "Tier Three" countries included 10 holdovers from last year - Burma, Cuba, Fiji, Iran, Kuwait, North Korea, Papua-New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Syria.

Four countries with poor ratings last year were downgraded to the lowest category - Chad, Malaysia, Niger and Zimbabwe. Three that were not covered in the 2008 report, Eritrea, Mauritania and Swaziland, were also listed in Tier Three.

At the same time, four Tier-Three countries from last year were

upgraded in recognition of their anti-trafficking efforts - Algeria, Moldova, Oman and Qatar.

The State Department's new anti-trafficking coordinator, Luis de Baca, stressed that encouraging improvement is the main point of the exercise.

"It has become a diagnostic tool that informs and guides our efforts as we seek to build a global partnership to combat modern slavery," said de Baca. "The successes are clear. Some former Tier-Two-Watch List countries are now Tier One. They have become models through their efforts for their regions and for the world. In this vein, I am particularly heartened for instance to see how Nigeria started a dedicated anti-trafficking police and prosecution unit.

Among several members of Congress at the event was the ranking Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who stressed the fact that an estimated 80 percent of trafficking victims are women and half are children.

"The numbers however do not convey the human horrors that

lay behind those statistics," said Ros-Lehtinen. "These crimes know no borders. In Iran, children are forced into sexual slavery, involuntary servitude, while Iranian girls are trafficked into Pakistan and numerous other countries. In Syria, women are trafficked from South and Southeast Asia and are forced to work as domestic servants. And women from Eastern Europe and Iraq are forced into prostitution."

Ros-Lehtinen, a Cuban American, said Cuba has shamefully been promoting itself as a destination for sexual tourism that exploits large numbers of children.

Activists Vera Lesko of Albania and Mariliana Morales Barrios of Costa Rica represented the nine activists hailed in the 2009 report as anti-trafficking heroes.

Morales, who founded a rehabilitation center in San Jose that has helped more than 3,000 trafficking victims, made an emotional appeal for governments to finance organizations like hers, urging remembrance she said, "for all victims who have died without a voice to speak for them."

Private Sector Has Pivotal Role To Play In Sports Development

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

The ongoing inter-school national football tournament sponsored by Coca-Cola is immensely important, specially to catch budding footballers young. The competition has attracted four hundred plus schools across the country.

The record number of schools in the fray underscores the huge popularity of football in school children. Unfazed or unaware of the fickle state of domestic football these young turks continue to play the game with great gusto, vigor and enthusiasm.

Apparently their passion is driving them to football. They all share a common objective that is to exhibit their latent skills and impress talent scouts, and ultimately make it to the national team one day.

Undoubtedly there is no dearth of talent in the country. Over the decades, however, we have seen countless aspiring footballers come and fade into oblivion. Our failure to tap talents as required and desired is a big setback to Nepali football.

The grim reality is that most district football associations responsible for grass roots level football development are crippled due to financial constraint and lack of resources. More alarming is All Nepal Football Association's failed policies, which in fact has pushed Nepali football into downward spiral of decline.

Thanks largely to Coca-Cola's sponsorship and support the tournament is in its fourth edition. The beverage giant has been at the forefront when it comes to supporting grass roots level football internationally.

Currently they are actively sponsoring a similar project in more than thirty countries with a purpose to unearth young potential who may be considered for the junior or youth or senior national team training camps.

I personally like the format of this year's competition. The tournament will be played in two phases. As I write the first phase is in progress in six regions-Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Pokhara, Butwal, Nepalganj and

Dhangadi, with around 450 schools in the fray.

The second phase will be league cum knock-out and held in Kathmandu. The twelve schools from Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Pokhara, Butwal, Nepalganj and Dhangadi will be divided into four groups.

The Coca-Cola tournament is one of the most important platforms for would be budding stars who are looking forward to a football career. Since start of the competition a significant number of aspiring youngsters have not only left a lasting impression but made it to the junior and youth national teams.

This kind of championship renders emerging stars a perfect setting to showcase their skills. What matters most, however, is players should be in a position to make maximum use of competitions. It is imperative that they step into competitive level football with some kind of preparedness.

To groom players rightly we have to provide them adequate, proper

and regular training under the watchful eyes of certified coaches, coupled with frequent tournament exposure around the year. Unfortunately our grass roots level development is close to non-existent, and this has seriously impeded our progress in football.

The way ANFA is functioning we cannot be optimistic about the future of Nepali football. We have to encourage and engage private sector who can play a pivotal role in the development process.

There are a few in the likes of Morang Football Project launched in 2006. Since then they have opened five training centers with 300 boys and girls in the 12,14,16 age groups.

Likewise, Sahara Club football established in 2004 has made invaluable contribution to football. The opening of football academy for orphans speaks volumes of their commitment to football. Foremost we have to create a healthy environment to lure private sector to support not only football but sports on the whole.

Factual Correction of ANA Bylaws Amendment Process

There have been some heightened interests recently on the process of Bylaws amendment in ANA, thus this write up to shed some light in it. It is a lengthy and fully democratic process. Only the members have the final authority to approve or deny. The last amendment prior to this one was in 2007. Regarding the amendment the Bylaws state on Article VIII that,

“The Executive Board shall have the power to make, alter, amend or repeal the By Laws of the Association, except that the By Laws so amended, or repealed shall be approved by a majority of the membership within 60 days. The General Secretary shall arrange for a mail-in ballot for approval of the amendments by the general membership. Amendments so made will be promulgated in the Newsletter of the Association and on its web site.”

The process starts when someone proposes amendment at the full executive board meeting. The proposal is then put for voting within the executive board for few months. After the approval of the proposal it is then forwarded to full member body for approving or denying it. The ballot is counted and if the majority of the members vote for the amendment it is ratified.

In the last issue of Nepal Abroad during the interview Mr. Roger Adhikari, ANA presidential candidate said that another ANA presidential candidate Mr. Simon Dhungana was the sponsor and responsible for recent amendment that required anyone running for five ANA officers to be existing or prior executive committee members, of which there are 19 at any term. That was false; Mr. Dhungana did neither sponsor nor was responsible for proposal.

Mr. Dhungana had no specific role in it just as Mr. Adhikari was also partly responsible being the executive officer of the association.

This is how the process went. It is derived from meeting minutes and ballot count, and fully backed by documentation.

During the 2008 Baltimore ANA Annual General Meeting in July 4 Convention, a proposal was tabled for this change in the bylaws. Messrs Dhungana and Adhikari were both absent at that meeting.

The proposal was then sent to executive board for discussions and advancement. Executive board put the agenda along with five other amendment proposals, including membership category, membership term, resignation of officers, duties of executive board, and means of voting on the table for months. In December 2008, after it was approved by executive board, five months after it was first proposed and after no one in the executive board opposed the amendment proposals, it was sent to the members for approval. All amendments passed with varying support, and the amendment requiring officer to have been executive committee member now attributed wrongly by Mr. Adhikari to Mr. Dhungana was approved by 85% of the members.

During this episode and as in anything else ANA does, the letter and spirit of the bylaws are followed to the fullest. It is wrong to falsify facts and accuse for election campaign purposes. ANA as an organization denounces such personal attacks and requests all involved to adhere to the standards set by the founders of the ANA, so that it will continue to be the one common national organization of the Nepalis in the Americas. ANA is a fully democratic and transparent institution dedicated to serve the Nepali community in the Americas.

Naveen Dutta, President / Medini Adhikari, General Secretary - ANA.
(received via email - Nepal Abroad)

Repatriation Or Resettlement ...

cont'd from pg 2...

New repatriation campaign

Over the past few months, a newly formed Senior Citizens Group has been leading a campaign for repatriation and has set up a registration process for those wanting to be repatriated. More than 8,000 refugees have filled in an application form so far, according to the group's leaders.

“After we get all the applications, we will take a huge delegation to the UN and appeal to officials to open up more doors for repatriation to Bhutan,” Harka Jung Subba, an activist told IRIN in Damak.

He said UNHCR was aware of the campaign - and the group's

warning that the refugees would never leave the camp until UNHCR assisted them to repatriate to Bhutan.

“Pressure from the UN and international community to find a solution has been ongoing to resume bilateral talks between Bhutan and Nepal and come to some kind of positive resolution,” UNHCR's Dell said, adding that the agency would continue its assistance to the refugee population until their problems were resolved.

“UNHCR believes in multiple solutions and not just one, but the situation now is that there is one such solution available and that is resettlement,” she said.

The End of the Globalization ...

cont'd from pg 4...

This is why, as heartening as the administration's early trade and global-economy policies are to internationalists, the real promise may lie in the administration's hope for a new domestic foundation for economic growth and employment. If that works out as Obama hopes - with investors channeling their money less often into real estate and finance, and more often into research, environmental innovation and clean investment - we

may see companies hiring people again. If so, the trade and immigration anxieties of the pre-crisis years may fade permanently. If not, they will be with us again.

Edward Gresser is director of the Trade & Global Markets Project with the Progressive Policy Institute. Rights: © Copyright 2009 Yale Center for the Study of Globalization

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India Issues Warning of Attacks...

cont'd from pg 3...

formed specifically to take on Naxalites.

Meanwhile, police say at least eleven members of the Central Reserve Police Force died when their vehicle hit a landmine in an area of Chhattisgarh, where Maoists are active. About a dozen more officers were injured when the truck exploded and flipped over.

Police say the survivors exchanged gunfire with the insurgents, killing seven of the heavily armed guerrillas in the encounter Saturday night.

The low-level rural insurgency has frustrated Indian authorities for decades. Recently, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh labeled it the biggest internal security threat India is facing.

The ultra-left movement claims it is a grassroots rebellion fighting against oppression, exploitation and corruption.

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India's Aviation Sector Faces Financial Crisis

By Anjana Pasricha, New Delhi 19 June 2009

India's national carrier, Air India, is deferring the payment of staff salaries to cope with a credit crunch.

When Air India recently announced that salaries for July will be paid two weeks late to its 30,000 staff, angry staff members threatened a nationwide protest.

But the airline management says it has little choice in light of the financial crisis it faces.

The airline incurred losses of \$800 million last year.

Others have faced losses

Government-owned Air India is not the only one reporting massive losses. A number of private airlines, which set up shop in the last five years hoping to benefit from a growing economy, are also struggling with high debt and huge losses.

The federal government has promised a bailout package for Air India.

Rajesh Menon at the Confederation of Indian Industry says other airlines are also asking the government to consider measures that will help them reverse the decline in profits.

"There is an issue of financial viability of the way airlines are functioning," said Menon. "There is a discussion already going on with the Government of India trying and seeing the way there could be support mechanisms in this regard ... there is an issue on taxation which at least if it could have been sorted out it would have been a little more viable."

Government aid

The industry, for example, is hoping for reduction of taxes on jet turbine fuel, which is the most expensive in India. It also wants the government to allow foreign airlines to buy equity in domestic airlines to give them access to fresh capital.

Like the aviation industry worldwide, the crisis in India was triggered by the high rise in fuel prices, and declining passenger traffic.

Domestic air traffic in India fell by 15 percent in April compared to the same month in the previous year, continuing a steady decline in recent months.

Affordable travel

This has hit hard a sector that expanded massively until 2007 on forecasts that passenger traffic would grow as increasing affluence made air travel more affordable. Many airlines bought new jets. Air India, for example, is taking delivery of 26 new aircraft this year.

But many aircraft are flying with empty seats as costlier fares have prompted people to cut back on both business and leisure travel. And the global economic downturn has worsened the situation.

A recent report by the Center for Asia Pacific Aviation says losses for the fiscal year that ended in March this year could double from the previous year's losses of \$ 1.75 billion.

Wind, Solar Could Play ...

cont'd from pg 3...

Another issue, says Komor, is variability. Wind and solar power are both subject to natural conditions.

"Some people have seen the variability of these resources as making this electricity system unstable... like the lights are going to go out when the wind doesn't blow. Well, that's not going to happen. We do have to pay for this, but the costs are not that high."

The climate change legislation passed by the House of Representatives would also establish a federal renewable electricity standard. It would require utilities in every state to get 15 to 20 percent of their electric power from renewables by 2020. It also puts in place a system of trading credits that would allow states to buy renewably generated power to meet the requirement. Part of that standard could also be met with more efficient use of electricity. Komor says 30 states have already adopted similar measures.

"Every state has its own numbers, its own definition of renewables, but that's the concept. It's a straightforward idea."

The Pew report finds that under current policies, the solar and wind share of the nation's energy mix will increase, but not that much. A business-as-usual forecast predicts that overall, renewables will supply 14 percent of U.S. electricity by 2030, with non-hydro renewables like solar and wind providing only 8 percent.

Yet Komor says the more ambitious goals envisioned by the U.S. Congress are still attainable, especially if congressional plans to put limits on climate-changing carbon emissions succeeds in making renewables more competitive.

"So the bottom line is, the technology - particularly for wind - is there. The barriers are neither trivial nor insurmountable. This is something that is technically feasible, economically reasonable. Politically that is the challenge that the Congress is facing right now."

Komor says he doesn't expect the law that emerges from Congress to be perfect, but he believes it's a good first step toward meeting the challenges of America's energy future.

Nepal Maoists Decry...

cont'd from pg 1...

According to Gajurel, the ongoing Maoist Polit Bureau meet also discussed this issue and the members opined that such an Indian declaration would not be in the larger interest of the Indian establishment itself in the long run.

"The PB meet expressed its dissent over the Indian decision", says Devendra Poudel aka SUNIL.

To recall, the Indian government had dubbed the Nepal Maoists as terrorists, much ahead of Nepal did so, but provided "care and shelter" to the Nepalese Maoists right in New Delhi for reasons yet unknown.

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Home Stay Tourism Could Be ...

cont'd from pg 1...

present, we have about nine houses to offer home-stay, and (Rajendra) Duwal is successfully running it."

"Bhaktapur is known for its culture and we have different ethnic and indigenous communities so with our cultural heritages we can surely attract tourist towards us. And, as the carrying capacity of the hotels in here is not sufficient at the peak season, home-stay programme could be a viable option for them. We are also targeting to promote it for the tourism year," he said.

Talking more about the BTDC, Lamichhane said that at the moment they were involved in

preparing Tourism Development and Management Plan so that they could smoothly run and promote tourism activities in all the sixteen VDCs of the district. "For this we are expecting the support of our municipality, stakeholders, tourism entrepreneurs, Nepal Tourism Board and the government to coordinate us in widening the scope of tourism in Bhaktapur."

"If we want to promote sustainable tourism here, then we have to enhance the quality, preserve cultural heritages and aware people to understand, conserve and promote the legacies of the city. Apart from this we can also promote

agro-tourism in the rural villages here," he said.

Nawal Kishor Rajbhandari, the president of BTDC, said that they had chosen Bhaktapur city and VDCs like Katunje, Nangkhel and Sipadol as favourable destinations to promote home-stay tourism. "We need support from the locals so that it would be easy for us to develop tourism and raise the income of the locals. But, we see that those who are interested to begin the programme often look for the quick return of their investment without understanding that it is a long-term activity, which needs a lot of publicity and quality service." (Source: TRN)

Exchange Rates in Nepal

Currency	Buying (Rs)	Selling (Rs)
US \$ 1	77.43	78.03
Canadian \$1	67.13	67.65
Euro 1	108.19	109.02
Pound Sterling 1	127.04	128.02
Australian \$1	61.98	62.46
Swiss Franc 1	70.76	71.31
Singapore Dollar	53.16	53.57
Japanese Yen 10	8.03	8.09
Chinese Yuan 1	11.33	11.42
Indian Rupees 100	160.00	160.15
Swedish Kroner 1	9.84	-
Danish Kroner 1	14.53	-
Hong Kong Dollar 1	9.99	-
Saudi Arab Riyal 1	20.65	20.81
Qatari Riyal 1	21.27	21.44
Thai Bhat 1	2.27	2.29
UAE Dirham 1	21.08	21.25
Malaysian Ringgit 1	21.93	22.10

[Source: Nepal Rastra Bank, for June 26/09]

27th ANA Convention 2009

Organizing Committee / www.ana-convention.org/2009

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ANA SCHEDULE 2009

Thursday

7/2/2009	10:00:00	11:30:00	ANA Members Meeting
	09:00:00	19:00:00	Registration
	08:00:00	17:00:00	Help Desk
	13:00:00	15:00:00	Organizers Meeting
	12:00:00	15:00:00	Food Stalls/Festival
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Vendor Exhibits
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Basketball
	13:00:00	15:00:00	Film Premier Sari Soldiers
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Soccer
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Volleyball
	15:00:00	15:15:00	Opening Procession
	15:15:00	17:00:00	Opening Ceremony
	18:00:00	20:00:00	ANA General Session
	20:30:00	22:30:00	Jay's 8 New and Local Bands
	22:30:00	01:00:00	DJ preview

Friday

7/3/2009	09:00:00	18:00:00	Registration
	08:00:00	17:00:00	Help Desk
	08:00:00	10:00:00	Religious/Prabachan
	09:00:00	16:30:00	Forum
	10:00:00	16:00:00	Kids Camp
	As Requested		Reunion
	14:00:00	16:00:00	Film Premier Sari Soldiers
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Vendor Exhibits
	12:00:00	15:00:00	Food Stalls/Festival
	Refer to meeting Schedule		Organizers Meeting
	Refer to meeting Schedule		Poetry & Literature

Refer to meeting Schedule	09:00:00	17:00:00	CAN-USA Meeting
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Basketball
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Soccer
	10:00:00	15:30:00	Volleyball
	17:00:00	18:30:00	Golf
	19:00:00	22:00:00	Banquet
	22:30:00	02:00:00	Cultural Program
			DJ Night

Saturday

7/4/2009	09:00:00	02:00:00	Registration
	08:00:00	17:00:00	Help Desk
	08:00:00	10:00:00	Religious/Prabachan
	09:00:00	03:00:00	Blood Donation
	09:00:00	16:30:00	Forum
	0:00:00	16:00:00	KIDS Camp
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Vendor Exhibits
	14:00:00	17:00:00	Film Premier Sari Soldiers
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Vendor Exhibits
		15:00:00	Food Stalls/Festival
	As Requested		Reunion
	Refer to meeting Schedule		CAN-USA Meeting
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Basketball
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Soccer
	09:00:00	17:00:00	Volleyball
	19:30:00	21:30:00	Fashion Extravaganza
	22:00:00	23:00:00	1974 AD & Deep Shrestha Concert
	23:00:00	23:30:00	Award Ceremony
	23:30:00	01:00:00 A.M	1974 AD & Deep Shrestha Concert