

Headlines Himalaya

September 22- September 29, 2015

No. 373

Editorial Team – Luna Thapa & Kiran Kunwar

For the 373rd issue, we reviewed 26 news reports from 11 sources and selected 23 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, there is scarcity of basic needs and fuel due to disturbances in the Terai while disaster induces human trafficking in north-eastern India. In Tibet, China, the first large wildlife national Park is established by the government. Tourist flow declines in Bhutan and illegal skin collection of sacrificial animals creates problem in southern Pakistan.

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

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WATER SHORTAGE

The acute shortage of drinking water has been seen in VDCs of Dhading, central Nepal. After the quake, the water sources were damaged. In order to fetch water, the people have to walk for more than one hour every day. The locals complained at their VDC office seeking a solution to the crisis. There are no water sources nearby the village so the VDC did not allocate budget for water management.

September 24

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/dhading-village-reeling-under-water-scarcity-for-months/>

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIM

Switzerland has donated an amount of USD 624,000 million to support the essentials of basic needs to remote quake affected areas through the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS/WFP) in Kathmandu, central Nepal. The additional contribution to UNHAS is part of the total amount of USD 31.2 million that Switzerland has allocated to contribute to the post earthquake operations in Nepal. The additional contribution is expected to support UNHAS to continue its operations till the end of October 2015.

September 24

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-24/switzerland-donates-additional-625000-for-assistance-to-earthquake-survivors.html>

STRIKE AFFECTS LIVELIHOOD

The indefinite strike of United Democratic Madhesi Front for the past 40 days has affected the life in the Terai districts of Nepal. The general strike has adversely affected industries, educational institutions, businesses and transport services and also highly affected on daily wage earners, rickshaw pullers, and street vendors. Scarcity of daily essentials and also the closer of educational institute have affected the education of thousands of students.

September 24

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/prolonged-bandh-cripples-mid-tarai/>

INCREASED VIRAL PATIENTS

The numbers of patient of viral fever have increased in Nawalparasi district of western Nepal. It was found that 70 percent of viral patient in the area. The reasons for such fever are changes in weather and high temperatures.

September 24

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/viral-fever-cases-increasing-in-nawalparasi/>

UNCHECKED DEFORESTATION

Following the Terai region bandh, forest encroachment and the felling of trees has been going unchecked in some community forests for the past one and a half months in Bardia district of south-western Nepal. Landless people have already built many huts inside the forest areas. Locals said some people have already started selling the illegally occupied forest land without providing any documents. District Forest Office (DFO) and their officers have removed some of the illegal huts in the forest.

September 25

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-25/forest-encroachment-goes-unchecked-in-bardiya.html>

DEPRIVED OF EDUCATION

The 5765 school going age children are deprived of education in Rukum, northern Nepal. The parents don't allow their children to go to school due to the poverty and related factors. It has been found that 57 percent children get married before they are 19 years old in the district. The data showed that 838 children have been affected due to conflict, 27 are working as laborers and 41 children have been trafficked illegally.

September 25

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/almost-6000-children-out-of-school/>

BRIDGE COLLAPSES

The 15 meter motorable bridge which connected Koshi highway to BP Koirala institute of health science (BPKIHS) has collapsed on the Dhankuta Road in Dharan, eastern Nepal. This had created disturbances in vehicular movement and it also affected the water supply to around 500 families in the area. The collapse is attributed to the carelessness of contractors.

September 26

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-26/dharan-bridge-collapses.html>

FUEL CRISIS

The tightening of cargo movement by Indian customs and security officials and the ongoing Terai bandh has intensified the shortage of fuel throughout Nepal. The government has started to implement odd-even system of vehicle movement based on registration plate number and the date of the Nepali calendar. Nepal Oil Corporation said that government-run petrol pumps would get enough supply from Tuesday but private gas stations would get limited stock of fuel.

September 27

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-27/fuel-crisis-worsens.html>

PASSENGERS INJURED

The protestors pelted stones at vehicles along east west Highway in Bhardaha, Saptari of eastern Nepal which had injured over three dozen passengers. Three passengers were critically injured and the injured passengers were sent to Biratnagar for further treatment. Local administration had imposed the prohibitory orders to the protestors and vandalized hundreds of vehicles along the highway.

September 27

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-27/hundreds-of-vehicles-vandalised-in-bhardaha-over-3-dozen-injured.html>

GOODS STOPPED AT INDO-NEPAL BORDER

Vehicles carrying goods have been stopped on the Nepal- border check point at Sinauli western Nepal. According to Nepali customs officials, the vehicles were stranded in India after the employees at Indian Customs Office started taking hours to check a single vehicle on the pretext of security. Over 5,000 vehicles, including carrier trucks and tankers, have been stranded. A total of 94 Nepal Oil Corporation tankers that are carrying cooking gas and petroleum products from India were not allowed to enter Nepal.

September 27

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/over-5000-trucks-stopped-at-indo-nepal-border-point/>

VEHICLES ESCORTED BY POLICE

Cargo vehicles stranded due to the strike in Terai region in different parts are accompanied by police to their destination in Saptari districts, eastern Nepal. The livelihood in the district has been adversely affected by the ongoing strike of Madhes-based political parties for the past 45 days.

September 28

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/400-vehicles-escorted-to-their-destinations-by-police/>

COOKING GAS SHORTAGE

The shortage of cooking gas in Lamjung, western part of Nepal has lined local consumers outside the Pokhara-based District Police Office of Kaski with a hope to get cooking gas. Local dealers have been creating an artificial shortage of the cooking gas, and concerned authorities have not taken action against them.

September 28

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/lamjung-reels-under-acute-shortage-of-cooking-gas/>

India-Himalaya

DISASTER LED HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Destruction caused by flood has accelerated human trafficking in many districts of Assam, northern India. The trafficked children were forced into prostitution, begging and household labors. In many cases, the children belonged to the flood-hit districts and they could not reach home because of the calamity, despite having reached the concerned region.

September 21

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/floods-have-made-assam-transit-point-of-human-trafficking/>

LEOPARD TERROR

Leopard has been seen in some villages in the forest area of Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir northern India. Villagers especially belonging to Jib, Nallian, Thear, Mera and Fantiyal are in fear. Leopards have attacked animals and this has terrorized the population from moving outside in the evening time. Education has been badly affected as parents are afraid to send their children to school through the forest area. Deputy Commissioner has informed the Wild Life Department for proper action.

September 22

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=159331>

WATER CONTAMINATION

Poor planning and carelessness of the administration has brought potable drinking water crisis in Samba district, of Jammu, northern India. For the last one year, the people are forced to drink contaminated water from ponds and irrigation canals due to lack of potable water. The people were getting potable water from dug well but due to the old machineries, the dug well has failed to meet current requirement in the area.

September 23

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=159432>

BENGAL FLORICAN SPOTTED

The endangered Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) has been seen in Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. The bird is listed as critically endangered species on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) red list because less than 1,500 of these birds were estimated to be alive in 2013. Vultures and some other threatened species like Black Neck Stork, Painted Stork and many more have been observed in the reserve. Conversion of grassland habitat into agriculture areas and habitat fragmentation were the major reasons for decline of this bird.

September 25

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/Bengal-Bustard-spotted-in-PTR/articleshow/49104105.cms>

China Himalaya

FIRST LARGE WILDLIFE NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHED

The Changtang Tibetan Antelope and Wild Yak National Park which is the largest national park with the highest altitude including most typical species was established in Lhasa of Tibet, south-west China. This conservation area is the first large-scale wildlife national park and a habitat of large numbers of rare and endangered wild animals such as Tibetan antelope, wild yak, wild Tibetan donkey and snow leopard.

September 24

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/pd/hj/201509/t20150924_3946133.html

NOMADS IGNORED

Tibetan nomads living in Thangkor Township, Tibet of western China have appealed to the government to provide lawful redress for the land which was grabbed from them in 2010 by the authorities. Around 20 families were forcibly evicted from their land and nomadic grazing in Dzoerge and Ngaba counties, and their houses were demolished. The Chinese authorities forcibly took land for government projects, evicting 20 families from their homes.

September 25

<http://www.contactmagazine.net/tib-headline/nomads-ignored/>

Bhutan-Himalaya

TOURIST DECREASE

The tourism industry of Bhutan has been affected by of the Nepal earthquake and the bomb blast in Bangkok. There were declined of international tourists by 14.62 percent but visitors from India, Maldives and Bangladesh were increased by 77.25 in this year. The decreased in tourist was compounded by the increasing number of tour operators and guides leaving, had created problems in tourism industry.

September 25

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/peak-season-records-fall-in-tourist-arrivals/>

CROP DAMAGE BY WILDLIFE

Wildlife has damaged the tonnes of crops every year in Bhutan. Department of Agriculture recorded that wild animals destroyed 3260 hectares of fields across the country causing a crop loss of 7,542 metric tons of which 1,725 metric tons was paddy between July 2013 to June 2015. Electric fencing has been used as an effective measure to protect the crops and this has benefited 5,860 households in the area.

September 24

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/tonnes-of-crops-lost-to-wildlife/>

FLOODING DUE TO POOR DRAINAGE

In the rainy season, the poor drainage system causes flooding in Bhutan. It is an emerging issue with the increase in population and buildings. Areas around the vegetable market get filled with drain water. Thromde officials have been working to solve the issue and see the need of a master plan for a proper drainage system.

September 25

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/poor-drainage-blamed-for-flooding/>

MILK PRODUCTION DECREASES

A synthetic version of the naturally occurring growth hormone (bovine somatotropin) that is used to increase milk production in dairy cows was banned from the market following cancellation of its registration by the Drug Regulatory Authority in Karachi, southern Pakistan. According to farmers, the hormonal injection increased milk production along with feed consumption. Animals producing 10 to 11 kg of milk produced eight to seven kilograms of milk. Meanwhile the heat wave had also affected the milk production causing the death of hundreds of animals.

September 24

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1209113/dairy-farmers-quitting-industry-as-milk-production-cost-surges>

Seven arrested for forcefully collecting hides of sacrificial animals

ILLEGAL SKIN COLLECTION OF SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS

Seven people were arrested by Ranger's personnel for collecting skins of sacrificial animals in Landhi area of Karachi, southern Pakistan. The state radio has reported that the arrested persons were workers of Kidmat-e-Khalq Foundation (KKF). The authorities had imposed a complete ban on collection of skins of the sacrificial animals without the government's permission.

September 25

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=6&key=OTE3ODM=>