

Headlines Himalaya

July 28-August 04, 2015

No. 365

Editorial Team – Sangam Rai & Khem Raj Khanal

For the 365th issue, we reviewed 21 news reports from 11 sources and selected 16 happenings in five countries. Landslide disaster results in heavy loss of life and property in western Nepal while flood condition has worsened in north east India. Heat wave is experienced in Tibet, China, and the numbers of wild tigers have increased in Bhutan. And one succumbs to Congo fever in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwestern 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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Nepal-Himalaya

DEFORESTATION THREATENS WILDLIFE

The deforestation and increased human activities have threatened wildlife in Myagdi district, western Nepal. Deforestation has been due to felling of trees for medicinal herbs, excessive use of firewood and timber for housing. Similarly, the wildlife in the upper part of the district has migrated to other areas.

27 July

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/deforestation-poses-threat-to-wildlife>

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS

The government has increased in compensation for wildlife attacks from NPR 300,000 to NPR 500,000. The victim would get NPR 10,000 for minor and NPR 100,000 for severe injuries as relief. The provisions are expected to encourage people's participation in forest and wildlife conservation and mitigate incidence of human-wildlife conflict.

28 July

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/07/28/national/compensation-up-for-animal-attacks/408535.html>

LOAD SHEDDING EFFECTS

The increased load shedding has resulted in excessive use of diesel generators in Kathmandu, central Nepal since 2006. This has increasing black carbon emission into the atmosphere. The study of World Bank in 2014 had found 220 tons of emission in 2012-2013. The highest emission was recorded during dry months of December-April.

28 July

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/diesel-generator-emissions-making-valley-air-more-toxic/>

PLANTATION DRIVE

Various species of more than 1,000 plants have been planted including medicinal herbs in Yagyadol Community Forest in Gokarna, Kathmandu, central Nepal to conserve the bio-diversity. The medicinal herbs would also be planted in five other parks by establishing a conservation area.

28 July

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/1000-saplings-planted-for-bio-diversity-conservation/>

ENDANGERED COW SPECIES FOUND

The endangered species of cow locally known as Sirigai was found in Taplejung district, eastern Nepal. The animal was believed to be extinct from Nepal about three years ago, according to the District Animal Service Office. The animal has been taken by National Agriculture Research Council (NARC) for further research.

29 July

<http://www.newsofnepal.com/?p=92759>

TIGER POPULATION ON RISE

The numbers of spotted tigers have increased from 12 to 15 in the Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, far western Nepal. Control in poaching and habitat conservation has contributed to this increase.

30 July

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/44916-number-of-spotted-tigers-on-the-rise-in-shuklaphanta>

LANDSLIDE DISASTER

The Landslides accompanied by heavy rainfall at Lumle and Bhadaure VDCs, Pokhara, western Nepal had killed 30, while 14 have been missing. A number of houses have been swept away. The injured have been taken to western regional hospital for further treatment. Similarly, Dhangadi city, far western Nepal has been waterlogged due to continuous rainstorm.

30, 31 July, August 02

<http://www.myrepublica.com/feature-article/item/25458-seven-killed-in-landslides-in-kaski.html#sthash.hAuV4YvX.dpuf>

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/31/world/asia/nepal-landslides.html?_r=0

LEAD EXPOSURE

The children playing outdoors have been found to have increase level of lead in their blood in Nepal. Dalits, disadvantaged indigenous nationalities and non-Dalit Terai caste groups and religious minorities have 3.4 times higher blood lead level compared to others. The drinking water from lead pipe, toys, soil, lead-based paint and contaminated dust have been the major sources of lead. US-based Centers for Disease Control has recommended 5 mg/dl to recognize children with detected blood lead level.

31 July

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/playing-outdoors-exposes-children-to-lead-study/>

PADDY PLANTATION FALLS

Only 35 percent of paddy fields have been transplanted in Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat districts, eastern. Insufficient rainfall and drought have been the major reasons. Only 220,455 ha of has been transplanted so far.

31 July

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/07/31/top-story/paddy-plantation-low-in-6-tarai-districts/408686.html>

RED PANDA CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The locals of Phedi VDC, Khotang district, eastern Nepal have been working towards conservation of red pandas in Bagale Community Forest, Chilim Lahure Pokhari Community Forest, Phungalung Community Forest and Chhimalung Community Forest. There are around 100 red pandas living in the four community forests at present. About a dozen were found dead in Taplejung, Panchthar and other eastern districts previous year.

August 03

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/08/03/national/phedi-villagers-want-govt-support-in-red-panda-conservation/408847.html>

LOSS IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The heavy rainfall since one month had damaged a crucial loss in agriculture and livestock in two municipalities and three VDCs of Ilam district, eastern Nepal. Similarly, the landslides had damaged an equivalent amount of NPR 84.8 million.

August 03

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/10251>

India-Himalaya

FLOOD CONDITION WORSENS

The heavy rainfall pouring all across Manipur, north eastern India has flooded the major rivers. A bridge and five houses have been washed away. It is feared that many more houses including concrete buildings may collapse due to strong water current. Meanwhile, the rescue operation has begun with INR 500,000 for victims as compensation.

August 01, 03

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/flood-situation-worsens-in-manipur/>

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/manipur-landslides-rescue-operations-begins-rs-5-lakh-ex-gratia-for-victims/>

China Himalaya

HEAT WAVE

The heat wave has affected much of Qinghai Province, northwest China. Similarly a rain triggered mudslide had killed two people while one has been missing. The rain and gales lowered temperatures by more than 10 °C, according to the provincial meteorological bureau.

August 03

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201508/t20150803_3722752.html

BASE FOR MODERN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

A modern agriculture and animal husbandry demonstration base has been built up on a wasteland in Tibet, southern China. In 2013, the county had invested in the construction for demonstration bases, transforming thousands ha of barren wasteland into "oasis". It is now a beautiful landscape along the bank of Kongquehe (Peacock River).

August 01

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/tg/201508/t20150801_3706034.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

TIGER POPULATION INCREASES

The numbers of wild tigers outside the protected areas have increased in Bhutan. Around 103 have been confirmed by the National Tiger Survey report. The figure is a significant rise from the previous estimation of around 75 tigers in 1998. The big cat population was analyzed from 1,784 tiger images and 138 videos captured in 1,129 cameras stationed across the country between March 2014 and March 2015. It was found between the ranges of 150 to 4,000 meters.

July 30

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/bhutan-home-to-103-tigers/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

CONGO FEVER

A patient who had contracted Crimean-Congo Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (CCVHF) has died in a Peshawar hospital, north western Pakistan. According to reports, three Congo fever patients were admitted to Hayatabad Medical Complex. The blood samples of all three patients have been sent for testing.

August 01

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=3&key=ODgxMzl=>