

Headlines Himalaya

May 19- May 26, 2015

No. 355

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For the 355th issue, we reviewed 16 news reports from 8 sources and selected 15 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, apart from continuing tremors extreme heat has effecting daily life while new biodiversity heritage sites have been established in India. In Tibet, China, economic loss has been caused by the Nepal earthquake while community forest has been handed back to the department of forest in Bhutan. Health care system has created problems in Peshawar, Northwest 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

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 25th of May, 2015, the Government confirmed a total of 500,717 houses have been destroyed and 269,190 partially damaged by the two earthquakes and aftershocks. The total number of casualties has increased to 8,669 people (4,771 female; 3,887 male; 1 body remain unidentified) and 384 people are still missing (*Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.18, OCHA*). The table below shows the 15 most affected districts death toll and casualties.

15 most affected districts Nepal earthquake 2015

Sn	District	Total no.of HH	Total Population	Male	Female	Injured
1	Bhaktapur	68636	304651	118	214	2101
2	Dhading	73851	336067	339	393	735

3	Dolakha	45688	186557	83	85	643
4	Gorkha	66506	271061	212	228	952
5	Kavrepalanchowk	80720	381937	129	189	1179
6	Kathmandu	436344	1744240	622	595	7830
7	Lalitpur	109797	468132	73	109	3052
8	Makwanpur	86127	420477	16	17	229
9	Nuwakot	59215	277471	452	609	1324
10	Okhaldhunga	32502	147984	9	10	61
11	Ramechhap	43910	202646	16	23	133
12	Rasuwa	9778	43300	286	310	771
13	Sindhuli	57581	296192	5	9	228
14	Sindhupalchowk	66688	287798	1491	1938	1568
15	Solukhumbu	23785	105886	14	5	104

(Source: Government of Nepal, Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal)

- Based on Government data on destroyed and damaged houses, humanitarian partners estimate some 2.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, out of which over 8,60,000 people are in immediate need due to loss of shelter, limited road access and poverty. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.18, OCHA).*
- On May 24, landslide in Kali Gandaki (Myagdi District) in Western Nepal blocked the river temporarily forming a lake which caused families in downstream villages to evacuate. Landslides along the Abukhaireni Gorkha Highway towards Baluwa and Barpak Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Gorkha District also pose a risk to the delivery pipeline. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.18, OCHA).*
- To ensure safety for those affected communities who have started to rebuild their damaged houses, the Government and the Early Recovery Cluster have published a poster in Nepal on safe debris management. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.18, OCHA).*
- In the affected areas with functioning markets, cash programming is being used to allow communities to access their preferred kinds of food. Small scale multi-purpose cash programming is also being rolled out targeting people with specific vulnerabilities. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.18, OCHA).*
- According to the Financial Tracking service, a report compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations as of 26 May 2015 funds received total USD 262.2 million while outstanding pledges total USD 306.5 million.

(https://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R24_E16575__1505260304.pdf)

- The accounts of funds deposited in PM disaster relief fund have accumulated to four billion Nepalese rupees. (<http://drrportal.gov.np/list-of-contributer>)

RELIEF CONTAMINATION

The relief given by World Food Programme (WFP) in coordination with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been found contaminated by fungus and insects in Chandanimandan and Mahadevsthan VDCs, Kavre district, Central Nepal. About 10 kg of rice was distributed per family in those areas. The victims have been suffering from diarrhea.

May 19, 21

<http://www.newsofnepal.com/new/nepal/2015/05/89281>

<http://www.newsofnepal.com/new/nepal/2015/05/89423>

HIMALAYAN GOLD RUSH STARTS

Locals of Dolpa district, mid-western Nepal, are gearing up for Yarshagumba (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*) collection. It is one of the major sources of income in the district. Every year from May to June, the Himalayan gold rush starts despite obstacles of extreme cold, avalanches and altitude sickness.

May 19

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/6982>

MORE SCHOOLS COLLAPSED

The May 12 tremor has further damaged 41 schools in Lalitpur district, central Nepal. Around 149 houses had already been damaged by the 25th April quake. About 780 rooms have been completely or partially damaged out of 2,388 school rooms. Likewise, the quake has also damaged 151 school toilets in the district.

May 20

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/43531-additional-41-schools-collapsed-in-lalitpur>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7016>

EXTREME HEAT AFFECTS LIFE

The extreme summer accompanied by increased temperature has been affecting daily life in Kailali, Dhangadi along with other districts, far western Nepal. The health post has been experiencing increased number of patients with symptoms like vomiting, headache and fever while the water sources within churia range are drying up causing acute drinking water shortages.

May 20

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7025>

DIARRHEA THREATS

The earthquake victims of Lapa VDC, northern Dhading, central Nepal have been suffering from diarrhea and common cold. Also people living in 51 houses out of 59 have resettled near the district headquarter.

May 20

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7015>

ELECTRICITY IN JUMLA

Locals of Kudari VDC, Jumla, mid-western Nepal have experienced electricity for the first time. It is estimated to benefit more than 180 households and over 800 people in the area by the 19 Kilowatt Laghu Hydroelectricity Project.

May 20

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7020>

NEW GLOF EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The old Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) warning system of Tsho-Rolpa Glacier Lake at Singati area damaged by April 25th earthquake has been replaced by a new system at Kirne Power House, Dolakha District, Central Nepal. A total of 6,000 people could be affected if the lake bursts.

May 20

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/20/top-story/tsho-rolpa-lake-gets-advanced-early-warning-system/405458.html>

WATER SOURCES DRIES

Locals of Barphak VDC, Gorkha district, Western Nepal have been forced to fetch water from Kulgaun, Saurapani VDC as the two rivers Harsyangkhola and another coming from Samledada to the East and West of the Pokhari have completely dried up. Around 100 households are now facing drinking water problem.

May 23

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7157>

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/23/top-story/water-sources-dried-up-in-barpark-after-quake/405575.html>

DRY LANDSLIDE HITS KALIGANDAGI

Dry landslides occurred at Baisari and Ramche, Myagdi district, western Nepal burying about 26 houses, while the Kaligandagi river has been blocked. The downstream settlements have been moved to safer places.

May 25

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/25/top-story/kaligandagi-disaster-averted/405634.html>

India-Himalaya

NEW BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITES

The Hamlet of Tonglu on the way to Sandakhphu, along with one in Darjeeling District, eastern India have been declared as new biodiversity heritage sites. The students have been taken for visits for environmental education.

May 20

<http://darjeelingtimes.com/tonglu-declared-biodiversity-heritage-site/>

RELIEF FUND TO NEPAL

The government of Sikkim, northwest India has consigned to provide relief materials for Nepal. A total of 14 trucks carrying 50,000 tarpaulin sheets worth INR 25 million are being dispatched.

May 21

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may2215/oth050>

China Himalaya

ECONOMIC LOSS

The Nepal earthquake has caused an economic loss of USD 13.23 billion in Tibet autonomous region, Southwest China. The April 25 earthquake has caused 27 deaths, three people are missing and around 860 have been injured. A total of 2,865 houses have collapsed, 38,806 houses have been damaged and more than 300,000 people have been affected.

May 22

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201505/t20150522_2988606.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

COMMUNITY FOREST DILEMMA

The Dado Goemba Community Forest (CF) group in Shengana VDC, Punakha, Western Central Bhutan had officially handed back the CF to the department of forest. They reasoned the CF did not have potential for timber extraction and could not make use of it. The number of CF's has reached 36 in Punakha.

May 20

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/community-forest-handed-back/#.VV6k7Y6qqko>

Pakistan- Himalaya

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TROUBLES

The poor health care system at the teaching hospitals of Peshawar, north western Pakistan has been creating problems to a new team of professionals. The patient care network has been deteriorated at the Lady Ruddy Hospital (LRH) while the Health Reforms Law 2015 is being implemented at the four tertiary care teaching hospitals, including the LRH, Khyber Teaching Hospital and Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar, and Ayub Teaching Complex, Abbottabad.

May 22, 2015

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1183520/replacing-rotten-health-care-system-a-daunting-task>