

# Headlines Himalaya

March 24- 30, 2015

No. 347

Editorial Team – Reena Bajracharya & Rabi Maharjan

For the 347<sup>th</sup> issue, we reviewed 18 news reports from 7 sources and selected 11 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, acute shortage of water is reported as the dry season approaches while landslides have been noticed in India. In Tibet, China, green industry has benefited while external debt have been exceeded GDP in Bhutan. And hospitals receive support to prevent hepatitis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 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!

NEPAL	<i>Acute Water Shortage</i> <i>Tourism Downturn in Myagdi</i> <i>Snowfall Hits Far West</i> <i>MFSC Efforts Obstructed</i> <i>Chemicals in Badaiya Lake</i> <i>Sandalwood Decaying</i> <i>Rhinoceros Terror</i>
INDIA	<i>Landslides Hit Jammu and Kashmir</i>
CHINA	<i>Green Industry Boost</i>
BHUTAN	<i>External Debt Exceed GDP</i>
PAKISTAN	<i>Support to Hospitals</i>

## Nepal-Himalaya

### ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE

Locals of around six VDCs in Udayapur district, eastern Nepal have been facing scarcity of drinking water with the advent of dry season. They are forced to collect water from Sunkoshi river walking two hours down on foot. Similarly, people in Balkhu area, Kathmandu district, central Nepal are also facing same problem since the past six months due to water supply cut off by ongoing road expansion works. They are forced to buy water from the private water suppliers.

March 24, 27

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=+Water+scarcity+hits+Udayapur+people&NewsID=449171>

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/03/27/capital/balkhu-facing-acute-water-shortage/403322.html>

### TOURISM DOWNTURN IN MYAGDI

Numbers of tourists has declined to 100 from 500 per day in Myagdi district, mid-western Nepal. They have been disheartened by the heavy snowfall at Thorangla pass and upper Mustang which came two weeks earlier.

March 24

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Tourists%27+arrival+decline+after+snowfall+in+Myagdi&NewsID=449125>

#### SNOWFALL HITS FAR WEST

The relentless snowfall, rainfall and hailstorms have affected daily life leading to reduced availability of basic commodities in far western Nepal. It has destroyed vegetables and crops, while people's mobility has been hindered.

March 24

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Snow%26sbquo%3B+hailstorm+hit+Far-West+on+5th+consecutive+day&NewsID=446690>

#### MOFSC EFFORTS OBSTRUCTED

Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation has been showing effort to clear encroached forest areas, while FECOFUN and political interested groups have obstructed the government conservation effort demanding the dissolution of the Chure-Madhesh-Tarai Conservation Development Committee. In Nepal, more than 100,000 ha of forest areas have been encroached. These areas are gradually rising in illegal activities such as smuggling, poaching and deforestation.

March 25

<http://www.karobardaily.com/2015/03/4505/>

#### CHEMICALS IN BADAIYA LAKE

The contractor has been accused for excessive use of chemical fertilizers and lime to kill insects in Badaiya lake, Bardiya, midwestern, Nepal. He was awarded NPR 10.5 million for pisciculture. Two trolleys of chemicals were poured in the lake on Thursday, but the contractor has denied the charge.

March 28

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/03/29/national/contractor-uses-chemicals-in-badaiya-lake/403389.html>

#### SANDALWOOD DECAYING

Red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) has started to decay in the godown of District Forest Office (DFO), Jhapa, eastern Nepal, that was imported from India, eight years back. The price is expected to be around NPR 10 million.

March 30

<http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/epapermain.aspx?queryed=9&eddate=3/30/2015>

#### RHINOCEROS TERROR

A wild rhinoceros from wildlife preserve has killed an old woman, while injuring 8 in Hetauda city, Central Nepal. Several attempts were made to scare it. But, animal kept running from one area to another and terrorized the whole town.

March 30

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/rssReference.php?headline=Runaway+rhino+kills+woman%26sbquo%3B++injures+eight+in+Hetauda&NewsID=449951>

## India-Himalaya

### LANDSLIDES HIT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Landslides in Jammu and Kashmir, northern India have killed three people. Rain and snowfall have been the major causes of landslide in the mountainous areas.

March 24

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/landslides-in-jammu-and-kashmir-kill-3-746905>

## China Himalaya

### GREEN INDUSTRY BOOST

The green industry has increased local's earnings without harming the environment in Lhasa, southwest China. The demonstration base of horticulture has been extended to 33.34 ha till 2015 that included experimental species like peaches, organic tobacco, tulips, lepidium meyenii and saffron.

March 24

[http://english.chinatibetnews.com/tj/201503/t20150324\\_356090.html](http://english.chinatibetnews.com/tj/201503/t20150324_356090.html)

## Bhutan-Himalaya

### EXTERNAL DEBIT EXCEED GDP

The external debt of Bhutan's economy has been exceeded by 12 percent of the GDP as of December of the previous year. According to the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) has it has increased from USD 1.7 billion to USD 1.84 billion.

March 20

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/external-debt-exceeds-size-of-economy-by-12-percent/#.VRoXXuHLq2g>

## Pakistan- Himalaya

### SUPPORT TO HOSPITALS

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwest Pakistan has provided PKR 30 million to the hospitals ensuring prevention from hepatitis. Further, a bill has been presented by the chief minister's advisor about safety issues to the workers of private organizations, where 14 more days has been added as holidays in a calendar year.

March 24

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=3&key=Nzg5NDI=>