

# Headlines Himalaya

July 04 – July 11

No 412

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For the 412 issue, we reviewed 21 news reports from 9 sources and selected 17 happenings in five countries. Authorities at District Forest Office in Central Terai turn a blind eye to the monkey business of illegal timber logging. Bishnumati river clean up-campaign extracted 55 metric tons of solid waste in its 100<sup>th</sup> week. In India, anti-poaching effort has been hindered by monsoon induced disaster. In Bhutan, Human-wildlife conflict has nullified the ample crop production in five villages. Natural springs have become a boon to the local residents under scorching heat in 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

*Landslides Killed Eleven*  
*Flood Wreaks Havoc in Bhotekoshi River*  
*First Environment Friendly Office*  
*Bishnumati Clean-up draws 55 Tonnes of Waste*  
*Uncontrolled Deforestation in Central Terai*

## INDIA

*Bad Weather Decreases Apple Production*  
*Indian Army Plants 12 Lakhs Sapling in a Day*  
*Solid Waste Clogs Ganga River in Uttarkhand*  
*Environmental Concerns Leads To Hotel Shut Down*  
*Anti-Poaching Activity Hindered By Funds*

## CHINA

*Endangered Alpline Plant in Artificial Cultivation*  
*National Survey on Wild Plant Kicks Off*  
*Groundwater Reserves on Qinghai-Tiber Plateau Rises*

## BHUTAN

*Wild Animal Attack Turns Land Fallow*  
*Wind Storms Destroys Maize Field*  
*Use of Potassium Bromate Prohibited*

## PAKISTAN

*Natural Spring Relieves the Residents from Heat*

### LANDSLIDES KILLED ELEVEN

11 people have died due to monsoon induced landslides in Pyuthan and Gorkha District, western Nepal. The landslide in Pyuthan swept houses killing eight people while three others were buried alive after a mountain slid down where they were working.

July 05

<http://www.nepalitimes.com/blogs/thebrief/2016/07/05/11-killed-in-landslides/>

### FLOOD WREAKS HAVOC IN BHOTEKOSHI RIVER

At least 21 houses were washed away by a flash flood in Tatopani village of Sindhupalchok District. The flood also damaged 45 MW Bhotekoshi Hydropower, under construction 102 MW mid-Bhotekoshi Hydropower plant and 30 km stretch of Tatopani-Lamosangu section, Kodari highway. Likewise, rock fall has obstructed the flow of Tamor River at Sawadin VDC in Taplejung District turning into an artificial lake of about 500 m long and 200 m wide increasing the vulnerability of household alongside.

July 07, 11

<http://www.nepalitimes.com/blogs/thebrief/2016/07/07/bhotekosi-flood/>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-07-11/rockfall-dams-tamor-river.html>

### FIRST ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY OFFICE

Chitwan District Development Committee is declared as the first ever environment friendly office. The announcement featured planting a red sandalwood sapling and unveiling the statue of "Chitwan Aama" on the office periphery.

July 10

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-07-10/chitwan-ddc-announced-first-environment-friendly-ddc.html>

### BISHNUMATI CLEAN-UP DRAW 55 TONNES OF WASTE

On 100<sup>th</sup> week of Bishnumati river clean-up campaign, participants extracted almost 55 metric tons of solid waste from Budhanilkantha, Balaju, New Bus Park, Chamati, Shobha Bhagawati, Dallu, Damai Tole, Tankeshwor and Kuleshwor stretch of the river. A large number of people from all walks of life have been supporting the campaign with their extended presence.

July 10

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-07-10/55-tonnes-of-solid-waste-extracted-from-bishnumati.html>

### UNCONTROLLED DEFORESTATION IN CENTRAL TERAJ

District Forest Office's indifference to punish the timber smugglers in Rautahat has contributed to rampant deforestation. Despite having more than 100 staffs at DFO, logging goes unchecked with a minimum of 20 trees felling every day.

July 10

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/logging-rampant-rautahat-forests/>

### BAD WEATHER DECREASES APPLE PRODUCTION

The apple production of Himachal Pradesh has declined by 29 percent this year in comparison to last year due to change in climate accompanied with bad weather. Low temperature and lack of chilling hours during the flowering phase has lowered the production. Apple is the major cash crop produced in seven districts of Himanchal Pradesh supporting 0.17 million families.

July 10

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/Apple-bears-brunt-of-bad-weather-in-Himachal/articleshow/53135834.cms>

#### INDIAN ARMY PLANTS 1.2 MILLION SAPLINGS IN A DAY

About 1.2 million saplings have been planted by Indian Army personnel in four different places of Pithoragarh and Almora District of Uttarakhand in a single day. Over 15,000 volunteers participated during the program including, school children, government and NGO officials, women etc.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Green-Sunday-12L-saplings-planted-in-Pithoragarh-and-Almora/articleshow/53143289.cms>

#### GANGA RIVER CHOKED WITH SOLID WASTE IN UTTARKHAND

Solid waste averaging at least 1,600 metric tons gets dumped daily into the Ganga river from 25 urban and 100 rural points. This necessitates the need of concrete Solid Waste Management Plan however, the authorities show a lackadaisical approach to the garbage piles.

July 07

<http://www.nyoooz.com/dehradun/533396/solid-waste-clogging-ganga-in-uttarakhand>

#### ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITY HINDERED

Forest guards in Morigaon District, Assam are unable to operate the anti-poaching activities in recent flood-hit Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary due to lack of mechanized boats and necessary funds. The five anti-poaching camps have been completely destroyed by the recent storms and flood. About 60 percent of the Rhino habitat is still under flood water, which has created the concern of their safety.

July 10

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1116/state050>

## China Himalaya

#### ENDANGERED ALPLINE PLANT IN ARTIFICIAL CULTIVATION

Pharmacognosy Department of Tibetan Medicine has been successful to artificially cultivate 'Meconopsis', an endangered alpine flower species. The research team artificially provided environment imitating the wild cultivation habits. They have successfully grown six endangered species, which is famous as an ornamental and medicinal plant after the research of seven years.

July 06

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1467785090818.shtml>

#### NATIONAL SURVEY ON WILD PLANT KICKS OFF

The second survey on protected wild plants, led by Tibet Forestry Investigation and Planning Institute has started in Tibet Autonomous region. The major objective of this survey is to know the distribution, survival conditions, status and threats of the key protected wild plants.

July 06

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1467784198997.shtml>

#### GROUNDWATER RESERVES ON QINGHAI-TIBER PLATEAU RISES

The joint research by Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Geodesy and Geophysics, the Swedish Land Survey and Department of Earth Sciences in the University of Hongkong has discovered that the ground water level on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is on rise from 18.6 billion plus or minus 4.8 billion cubic meters.

July 08

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1467950315655.shtml>

## **Bhutan-Himalaya**

### **WILD ANIMALS ATTACK MAKES LAND FALLOW**

Farmers of five villages in Chumey, Bumthang have left their productive land fallow as their crops are raided by wild animals like porcupines, wild boars and deer. Villagers have stopped to grow staple crops like wheat, buckwheat, potato and barley. The wheat farm has to be guarded regularly against the attack of wild animals.

July 05

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/human-wildlife-conflict-rampant-in-chumey/>

### **WIND STORMS DESTROYES MAIZE FIELD**

Wind storm of July 03, destroyed 45 acres of maize crops belonging to around 84 households in three villages of Lhuentse, north east part of Bhutan. Rain accompanied by wind storms wiped out the maize field in short time. The farmers are worried about feeding their family.

July 06

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/45-acres-of-maize-fields-destroyed/>

### **USE OF POTASSIUM BROMATE PROHIBITED**

Potassium Bromate, a food additive in bakery industry has been banned by Bhutan Agriculture and Food Authority (BAFA) to ensure food safety in Bhutan. The food additive labeled "hazardous" for public health is banned in many countries. It has been studied that consumption of this additive causes cancer.

July 06

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/potassium-bromate-banned-in-food/>

## **Pakistan- Himalaya**

### **NATURAL SPRING RELIEVES THE RESIDENTS FROM HEAT**

The two natural springs at Ali Masjid & Landi Khana in Khyber Pankthuwa, attracts the local visitors as the residents visit the springs to get relief from the scorching heat. The natural springs is the source of drinking water for the two village dwellers nearby. People visit these springs to swim in the cool water.

July 07

[http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=09\\_07\\_2016\\_183\\_006](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=09_07_2016_183_006)