

Headlines Himalaya

July 20 – July 26

No 414

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For the 414th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 20 news from 10 sources and selected 17 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, villagers initiate wetland conservation by constructing recharge pond in the community forest. New species of flower plant is identified in Manipur, India. In Tibet, both environment and local people are benefitted from grass land eco-tourism. In Bhutan, good pay and higher production of caterpillar fungus brings joy among fungus collectors. In Islamabad, a male urial (*Ovis Orientalis*) dies in Marghazar zoo, rising question on the condition of the animals kept in zoo once again.

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

Bio-Gas from Hospital Waste
Villagers Initiate Wetland Conservation in Kavre
Rhino and Tiger Dies in Chitwan National Park
Monsoon Brings Viral Fever
Dadeldhura- The Seed Exporter District

INDIA

New Flower Species Identified In Manipur
Land Encroachment Escalates in Assam
Agricultural Land Decreases in Kumaon Region
FAO Funds to Support Organic Farming

CHINA

Grassland Tourism Brings Economic Prosperity
Greening Maintains the Water Quality of Yarlung River

BHUTAN

Higher Production of Cordyceps in Bhutan
Electric Fence Not Capable of Controlling Wild Life
Sarpang Town Washed Away By Flood

PAKISTAN

Urial Dies in Zoo- Fifth Animal in This Year
Water & Food Borne Diseases on Rise

BIO-GAS FROM HOSPITAL WASTE

Bharatpur hospital of Chitwan district, central Nepal has installed a bio-gas plant of 25 cubic centimeters to generate energy from degradable and human waste generated in the hospital. With the cost of NPR 4, 90, 990 the bio-gas plants needs 105 kg of waste to operate. The bio-gas plant has reduced dependency on LPG and also manages the hospital waste.

July 22

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/2470>

VILLAGERS INITIATE WETLAND CONSERVATION IN KAVRE

The villagers of Tukucha and Urgachandi, Kavre district in central Nepal have started conserving wetland by building a recharge pond in Jaljale Community Forest, as a source for drinking and irrigation purpose during the dry season. The villagers have faced the water problem after the earthquake of 2015 has impacted the water table.

July 24

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-07-24/kavre-villagers-start-wetland-conservation-drive.html>

RHINO AND TIGER DIES IN CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

An injured female rhino, died during the treatment in Chitwan National Park, central Nepal on July 23. The initial investigation has confirmed that the injury of Rhino was caused during mating. Also, a tiger was found lying dead in a rivulet on the way to Kasara from Sauraha. There are 605 rhinos and 120 tigers in the park, according to the latest census.

July 25

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-07-25/rhino-tiger-found-dead-in-cnp.html>

MONSOON BRINGS VIRAL FEVER

The cases of viral fever have increased from 35 to 40 percent in Chitwan, central Nepal with the onset of monsoon season. The hospitals are receiving 300 patients with viral fever everyday as the public do not pay attention in drinking water and healthy eating habits.

July 25

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/chitwan-grip-viral-outbreak/>

DADELDHURA - THE SEED EXPORTER DISTRICT

Dadeldhura, a district in far western Nepal, has exported 121,909 metric tons of autumn and winter crops and vegetables in different parts of Nepal worth NPR 10 million in the last fiscal year. The seed has been produced by the several farmers group in Dadeldhura and Baitadi districts which is distributed under one co-operative organization. The production of seeds was initiated 12 years ago.

July 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/2704>

India-Himalaya

NEW FLOWER SPECIES IDENTIFIED IN MANIPUR

Caulokaempferia secunda, a flower of ginger family has been recorded in Manipur's Ukhrul district recently. It is a perennial herb containing erect pseudostems, with pink flower. The availability of plant ranges from eastern Himalayas ranging from Assam, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Indo-China region including Myanmar.

July 22

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2316/oth>

LAND ENCROACHMENT ESCALATES IN ASSAM

Rapid encroachment of forest area in Assam, India has been on the rise in Assam - Nagaland border by the residents of Nagaland. New houses are constructed by slashing down the trees of the Doldoli Reserve Forest. Though the local people of Assam have reported about the encroachment, the administration stay indifferent to the complaints.

July 23

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul2416/state051>

AGRICULTURAL LAND DECREASES IN KUMAON REGION

The agricultural department of the Kumaon region, India has revealed that the region has lost over 40,249 hectares of agricultural land in 11 years. Migration from Hill to Terai, raiding of agriculture crops from wildlife, un-economical methods of agriculture and industrialization are the major factors that have driven people away from agriculture. The schemes launched by the state have not been successful to attract the people to this sector.

July 24

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/land-under-farming-falls-the-most-in-us-nagar-in-kumaon/270329.html>

FAO FUNDS TO SUPPORT ORGANIC FARMING

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is providing monetary support of 20 billion to support the organic farming, in villages located outside the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The fund emphasize on cultivating rain-fed crops unpalatable to wild animals, using quality seeds and technical interventions.

July 23

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/UN-support-organic-farming-in-Corbett-landscape/articleshow/53354304.cm>

China Himalaya

GRASSLAND ECO-TOURISM BRINGS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

With increased protection of grassland in Tibet, China grassland eco-tourism has brought economic prosperity among people with increasing number of tourists. In grasslands, tourist can experience the history, culture, food and life style of nomadic people remaining close to nature. Grassland eco-tourism has protected the grassland and also provided the opportunity of farmers and nomads to earn money.

July 23

<http://eng.tibet.cn/travel/news/146923667784.shtml>

GREENING MAINTAINS THE WATER QUALITY OF YARLUNG RIVER

The recent water quality assessment report produced by Ministry of Science and Technology in Tibet has confirmed that the Yarlung Tsangpo river basin is in good condition. Greenification and Forest Projects have been implemented in the edges of river since 1980 to protect its water quality. The Yarlung Tsangpo river basin is the longest plateau river in Tibet, on which fifty percent of the people depend for agriculture and industrial development.

July 22

http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/green_tibet/1469168526125.shtml

Bhutan-Himalaya

HIGHER PRODUCTION OF CORDYCEPS IN BHUTAN

The caterpillar fungus collectors of Danchu village, Bhutan are happy as they have harvested more cordyceps this year earning more money than the last year despite higher production. The government has issued 250 permits this year which is less in comparison to 285 last year.

July 18

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/more-cordyceps-this-year/>

ELECTRIC FENCE NOT CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING WILD LIFE

The electric-fence installed last year in the Bemji village, western Bhutan was unable to protect crops from being raided by wild animals. Low voltage and power fluctuations in electric fence, forces the villagers to guard their crops for whole night. The problems have risen as fields are far from the electric points.

July 20

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/farmers-not-happy-with-solar-powered-electric-fence/>

SARPANG TOWN WASHED AWAY BY FLOOD

The Sarpang Town was destroyed by the Sarpang river, as it swelled by the continuous rainfall for two days in southern part of Bhutan. The flood water also washed away Gelephu-Sarphing highway, which halted the vehicle movement making the situation worse. Rescue and relocation of the affected have been under way.

July 22

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/flood-destroys-sarpang-town/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

URIAL DIES IN ZOO - FIFTH ANIMAL IN THIS YEAR

A male urial (*Ovis Orientalis*) is found dead in the Marghazar zoo - the fifth animal in this year, which claimed to be dead by hitting from one of its fellow mate few days ago. Earlier this year, the baby urial, zebras and ostrich died in the zoo. Established in 1978 the zoo houses 824 birds and 95 animals however, the zoo has been criticized by the public for poor living conditions of the animals within.

July 25

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=25_07_2016_151_007

WATER & FOOD BORNE DISEASES ON RISE

Patients visiting hospital with health ailments from consumption of polluted water and unhealthy food has increased in recent days according to a survey in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The surveyed hospitals are receiving 4000 patients infected from gastro-intestinal diseases, every week with its number on the rise. In Pakistan, about 1.2 million people die due to water borne diseases every year.

July 26

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/137608-Water-food-borne-diseases-haunt-population>