

Headlines Himalaya

Aug 23- Aug 28

No. 419

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For the 419th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 23 news from 11 sources and selected 22 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Mentha cultivation from the mint family is working miracles to maintain a trade-off between human-wildlife conflicts at Banke district. Youths are replicating Israeli tomato farming technology at Salyan district for livelihood. In India, flood-rescued nine rhino babies have been safely translocated at Kaziranga National Park, Assam. Downpour in Gansu province destroys properties and loss of livestock at north-western China. While, water woes grip inhabitants of Rawalpindi, 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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REVENUE OF NPR 185 MILLION FROM TIMBERS SALE

The sale of timbers from the forests in Sarlahi, Mahottari, Rautahat and Jhapa districts of eastern Nepal, has enabled Forest Products Development Board (FPDB) to collect NPR 185.1 million as revenue in the fiscal year 2072/73. The Board emphasizes on conserving and protecting forests in the districts under the Sagarnath Forest Development Project (SFDP) and Ratuwamai Tree Plantation Project (RTPP), spread over 13,500 and 2650 hectares respectively.

Aug 23

<http://en.karobardaily.com/fpdb-collects-rs-185-million-from-sale-of-timbers>

INJURED RHINO IN THE PROCESS OF RECOVERY

The male one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) which was rescued and taken to Chitwan National Park (CNP), in south-western Nepal, is under recovery. A technical team constituted of CNP and Nepal Army Personnel has been monitoring the health condition of the rhino. It has been assumed that the rhino was shot by the poachers for smuggling purposes.

Aug 25

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-08-25/rhino-with-bullet-injuries-recovering.html>

LIVING IN HARMONY: THE MENTHA STORY

Mentha (mint family) farming has become one of the successful initiatives in developing the community ownership and stewardship in conservation at Mahadevpuri-7 in Banke district of western Nepal under Tarai Arc Landscape (TAL) program. It has provided trainings and financial support for mentha plantation, distillation and extraction of the mentha oil. . Around 35 hundred households in Banke alone have been benefitted by such initiatives. Mentha is distasteful for wild animals that raid on crops which add an advantage to farmers by farming mentha as a natural barrier in between other crops.

Aug 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/4493>

POACHERS SHELTER INSIDE UNMONITORED AREA

Remote areas of Bardiya National Park in mid-western part, far from the park administration have been found to be refuge for poachers as Nepalese Army (NA) tracked down tents, equipment and ammunitions. Rough terrain and lack of necessary monitoring equipment shave benefitted poachers. Park authorities and Nepal Army to date, have organized various programs and strategies to discourage hunting and poaching inside the park.

Aug 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/4501>

YOUTH INITIATION IN MODERN FARMING AT SALYAN

A bunch of youths that returned from overseas employment have started modern tomato farming through Israeli technology at Darimjula of Korbang Jhimpe-4 in Salyan district, mid-western Nepal. With the investment of NPR 6 millions, farming has been done on 38 iron tunnels through drip irrigation technology at 15 ropani (slightly less than a hectare) of land with total 12,000 plants. These plants get water in eight minutes at once.

Aug 27

<http://en.karobardaily.com/modern-agriculture-farm-in-salyan>

BODHICHITTA PLANTED AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

Bodhichitta (*Ziziphus budhensis*) saplings were planted at Dambar locality of Beni municipality-5 in Myagdi district of mid-western Nepal for the first time at community level. Carried out by Lions Club of Beni Peace City collaborating with Sundar Dambar Town Reform Committee, the plantation was done with an aim to generate

income in the community. Bodhichitta tree beads can yield a healthy profit from 0.3 to six million Nepali rupees.
Aug 28

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/14011>

NO FOREST ENCROACHMENT

Sano Chautari Woman Community Forest located at Arthunge of Beni Municipality-8 in Myagdi district, mid-western Nepal, which was encroached by members of the local community, has been cleared. With the initiation of Community Consumer Group and Mangalghat Area Forest Office, the encroached forest area was freed from members encroaching it. The forest area is 4.3 hectares at present.

Aug 28

<http://en.karobardaily.com/forest-encroachment-cleared#!>

India-Himalaya

DOOM: ASSAM'S FIRST REGISTERED LIVESTOCK BREED

'Doom', native pig of Assam is considered to be the first livestock ever registered as a breed of the state. This breed was registered with accession number 'INDIA_PIG_0200_DOOM_09006' by the Breed Registration Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). It was noted that the breed which has a small population needed to be conserved.

Aug 25

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2616/city051>

CATTLE SMUGGLERS ARRESTED

Four Indian smugglers were arrested for smuggling large number of cattle from India to Bangladesh at international boundary in Dhubri, district of Assam. They were initially detained by the troops of Guwahati Frontier of the Border Security Force and then handed over to the local police for further legal action.

Aug 25

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2616/state058>

HAILSTORM HITS THE VILLAGE

Unexpected hailstorm struck at Paomata centre and its neighbouring villages in Senapati district of Manipur, has left the villagers helpless. It destroyed many houses, vegetables and other standing crops which are main source of livelihood of the residents.

Aug 25

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2616/oth057>

'CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE' IN FLOOD AFFECTED DHEMAJI

Considering children as being worst affected of any natural calamities, 'Save the Children' initiated 'Child Friendly Space' at Janumguri village of Dhemaji district, Assam in cooperation with Rural Volunteers 'Centre (RVC) under 'Humanitarian Response: Assam Floods 2016'. This program is believed to provide a better place for the children where they get to engage in various extracurricular activities and access to safer environmental condition.

Aug 25

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2616/state053>

RESCUED BABY RHINOS TAKEN TO KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

The Chief Minister of Assam kept total of nine baby rhinos at rehabilitation centre in the Kaziranga National Park, located in the heart of Assam, India after rescuing them from recent floods. Number of baby rhinos,

elephants and some other animals were separated from their herds when the park was hit by flood this monsoon.

Aug 25

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Assam-CM-takes-stock-of-rhinos-rescued-from-floods-in-Kaziranga/articleshow/53859003.cms>

MUSK DEER MEAT SELLERS APPREHENDED

Two people were arrested for selling musk deer's (*Moschus sps*) meat at a tourist resort of Sonamarg in Central Kashmir, India. They have been registered a case under FIR No. 10 of 2016 under section 298-A with 50 and 51 RPC Wildlife Act with further investigation.

Aug 26

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/2-arrested-for-selling-musk-deer-meat-in-sonamarg/226813.ht>

RAPID SPREAD OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The foot and mouth disease is spreading rapidly like a wildfire in the villages nearby eastern range of Agratoli in Kaziranga National Park of Assam affecting many cattle and other livestock. The disease is reported as a viral one and there is need of proper vaccination programmes that could reduce the mortality rates.

Aug 27

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2716/state054>

ASSAM TEA PRODUCTION DROPPED DUE TO HEAT

The excessive heat this month has led to decline in tea production in most of the state Gardens. It was reported that month of August experienced more than 39 degree Celsius in most of the gardens of the state. With the rainfall forecast for next week, Tea Research Association (TRA) scientists are hoping to compensate this month's loss in September.

Aug 27

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2816/at056>

EARTHQUAKE STRIKES HIMACHAL PRADESH

Magnitude of 4.6 intensity earthquake with epicentre at Kullu in Himachal district of India at the depth of 10 km hit the state Saturday morning. With the rumours of house collapse reported by the social media, locals feared to enter the house and many started to set up tent in open area. However, no loss of life and property were reported.

Aug 27

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/earthquake-of-mild-intensity-rocks-parts-of-himachal/286235.html>

China Himalaya

PRESIDENT NOTIFIES CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The President of China, during his inspection tour to the plateau stated that control over the exploitation of natural resources in the ecology-fragile Qinghai-Tibetan plateau, is essential for economic development. He emphasized that the Sanjiangyuan area in Qinghai Province of China, which serves as habitat to more than 2,200 types of wild plants, 85 animal species and more than 230 varieties of bird should be protected. He advised the local government to set up efficient strategies for conserving natural resources.

Aug 24

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1471999149450.shtml>

HEAVY RAINFALL HITS GANSU PROVINCE

In north-western China's Qinghai and Gansu Province, the Tibetan-populated regions were stuck by hailstorms and heavy rainfall with massive flooding on 24th August. Livestock were swept away whereas houses and cars were damaged affecting the locals' livelihood. More than 100 people were injured and were forced to be relocated but fortunately no fatalities were reported.

Aug 24, 27

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1472265218826.shtml>

TIBETAN PAPER MADE FROM POISONOUS PLANT

Roots of a local poisonous plant is used as a raw material for the manufacture of the traditional Tibetan paper used for writing sacred Tibetan scriptures. The plant grows in hilly mountains and cliff areas while locals have been hoping to grow this in the field for the last two years in order to minimize the impact on environment. This paper is famed for its durability and insect repellent attributes.

Aug 27

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1472263285761.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

INDIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDED BHUTAN GARBAGE TRUCK

The Government of India funded garbage trucks to Bhutan worth Nu 53.980 million. The Thimpu thromde already received 11 trucks which were distributed to seven districts and nine more trucks are expected to arrive by the end of September which will again be distributed to another five districts. It is assumed that these new trucks will help in better management of the garbage collection and thereby keeping the cities cleaner.

Aug 28

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/thimphu-thromde-provides-garbage-trucks-to-dzongkhags/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

SMUGGLING ENDANGERED TURTLES REPORTED

Four cases of endangered turtle smuggling have been reported in Pakistan since February this year. The reptiles are in demand throughout the world over as a pet and for medical purposes. It is reported that one turtle fetches a price of around \$1,000 and \$1,700S, the sensitive creature hardly survives in adverse conditions of illegal trade.

Aug, 27

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=27_08_2016_004_005

WATER SHORTAGE IN RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN

Only 40 million gallons of water a day is supplied to the Rawalpindi city and its cantonment areas, while the actual requirement is 100 million gallons per day. Locals can be seen in long queues at filtration power plant, waiting their turn to fill plastic can with water for drinking and many are left with no choice other than to buy water for everyday consumption from the private water tankers where no safety measures are guaranteed. The

Managing Director of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) notified that the water supply system will be improved once they have completed their project worth 0.1 million USD for the fiscal year 2016-2017 for supplying water to various localities.

Aug 28

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=28_08_2016_154_001