

Headlines Himalaya

Aug 29- Sep 4

No. 420

Editorial Team: Anju Neupane and Dorjee Choeden

For the 420th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 24 news from 14 sources and selected 22 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Closed Circuit (CC) cameras have been installed in different locations at sensitive areas of Chitwan National Park for strong visual monitoring. Cases of leopard killings have upsurged in western and far-western Nepal. In India, Golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) has been enlisted in world's 25 most endangered primates by the IUCN Red List. The wild donkeys once considered close to extinction are found to be growing continuously in Qinghai Province of Tibet, China.

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

Fire exchange between forest guards and smugglers
Damaged Power station resumes
Students invent water bicycle
CC cameras at national park
14 rhinos died in a year
Conservationists demanding for insurance
Turkish arrested from TIA
Forest land reclaimed by Parsa Wildlife Reserve
Deaths by leopard

INDIA

Illegal roads constructors for mining arrested
Controlling feral dogs population in high altitude deserts of Sikkim, India
One of world's largest horn found in Nagaon treasury
Golden Langur listed in world's 25 most endangered primates
Majuli recognized as largest river island in the world
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CHINA

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Soot accelerating glacier retreat in Tibetan plateau
Growing wild donkey population in Qinghai, Tibet
Lhasa ranked quietest capital whereas Guiyang listed noisiest

BHUTAN

Decline in mushroom production this year
Officials confirmed no threat from artificial lake

PAKISTAN

Adverse zoo condition reported

FIRE EXCHANGE BETWEEN FOREST GUARDS AND SMUGGLERS

Armed forest guards and smugglers exchanged open fire at Madhuban Mathawal Forest Area of Parsa district, central Nepal, where the forest guards caught sight of logging. With no human casualties, four sets of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) trunks, two set of saws and four sets of bicycles have been recovered from the smugglers. The seized items were brought to the Area Forest Office at Badhaniyar for further investigation.

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<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-08-29/forest-guards-and-smugglers-open-fire-at-each-other.html>

DAMAGED POWER STATION RESUMES

The Sunkoshi Power Station located at 81km east from Kathmandu in Sindupalchowk district that was damaged by flood of Bhotekoshi in first week of July has recently started generating electricity. The power station has the capacity of 10.5MW and generates 3.5-3.7 MW of electricity under the single turbine. But in recent times the centre has been generating 2.5 MW of power since the two other turbines were under maintenance.

Aug 30

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-08-30/flood-damaged-sunkoshi-power-centre-starts-generating-electricity.html>

<http://en.karobardaily.com/flood-damaged-sunkoshi-power-centre-starts-generating-electricity>

STUDENTS INVENT WATER BICYCLE

A group of students of Diploma in mechanical engineering at Manmohan Memorial Polytechnic (MMP) in Sunsari district of eastern Nepal, have invented a distinctive type of water bicycle which could be peddled through water. The invention could be useful in rescue efforts during monsoon in various parts of the country.

Aug 30

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/4729>

CC CAMERAS AT NATIONAL PARK

Chitwan National Park (CNP) set Closed Circuit (CC) cameras with the financial support of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), at 10 different locations for strong visual monitoring at sensitive and remote areas. The cameras have been installed from park's head office Kasara to Rapti and Narayani rivers in Amaltari of Nawalparasi. Cameras set up earlier at Tikauli east-west highway has minimized the wildlife crimes.

Sep 1

www.myrepublica.com/news/4863

14 RHINOS DIED IN A YEAR

As informed by Chitwan National Park (CNP), 14 rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) have died in the park area since last year among which two died of electric shock, one died of being old and others died of several causes like poisoning, tiger attacks, etc. Still due to negligence of concerned authorities, hotel entrepreneurs and local people, most of the rhinos are in the risk of death. The deadly electric fences and poisoning in order to protect the crops from animals are considered to be the main cause for death of park animals. According to the annual report of CNP in recent year, an elephant (*Elephas maximus*), a tiger (*Panthera tigris*), two leopards (*Panthera pardus*), three spotted deers (*Axis axis*), a wild boar (*Sus sps*) and a Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) have met unnatural death.

Aug 30

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2016-08-31/20160831200202.html>

CONSERVATIONISTS DEMANDING FOR INSURANCE

Conservationists in the buffer zone of Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR) are demanding for the insurance and other facilities for themselves from the PWR administration. Tackling with smugglers' attacks and wild animals in the

buffer zone, they have been facing different injuries and threats. They also have been helping to return the wild animals in forest area if they divert from the park periphery.

Sep 2

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-02/conservationists-in-parsa-demand-insurance-cover.html>

TURKISH ARRESTED FROM TIA

Two Turkish nationals were nabbed by the police from Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) with three rare stags' (male adult deer: *Cervidae*) horns while they were about to board a Turkish Airlines with flight number TK 727. For the further action, the arrested Turks were sent to District Forest Office at Kathmandu.

Sep 2

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/4927>

FOREST LAND RECLAIMED BY PARSA WILDLIFE RESERVE

Around 100 ha of forest land of Parsa Wildlife Reserve (PWR) previously occupied by squatters at Syauli in Nirmalbasti VDC, Parsa district, in south-central Nepal, has been cleared by PWR. The land was used to cultivate crops for the last 30 years and now the authorities have planted the saplings of different trees in repossessed forest land.

Sep 4

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-04/pwr-clears-100ha-of-its-occupied-land.html>

DEATHS BY LEOPARD

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) have killed humans and animals in different parts of the country. 22 people are reported to have been killed by leopards in the past five years in Baitadi of far-western Nepal. Similarly at Dhuhabi of Chikhloa in Myagdi district, 14 sheep were killed in the shed whereas a nine years old girl met death recently in a leopard attack at Bhalukhola in Arghakhanchi district of western Nepal resulting in a total of nine deaths of children within these two years.

Aug 31, Sep 4

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/four-year-old-child-killed-baitadi-leopard-attack/>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/29667>

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5018>

<http://radiokantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2016-08-31/20160831110405.html>

India-Himalaya

ILLEGAL ROAD CONSTRUCTORS FOR MINING ARRESTED

The Palampur police arrested two persons from Bhagotla village in Himachal Pradesh, India, for constructing illegal road for extracting mining materials at the Neugal River. Police reached the spot soon after being reported by locals and dismantled illegal road construction with few chopped trees. Both have been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Aug 29

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/crime/mining-2-held-for-constructing-road/287357.html>

CONTROLLING FERAL DOGS POPULATION IN HIGH ALTITUDE DESERTS OF SIKKIM

In order to control adverse ecological impacts, Sikkim Anti-rabies and Animal Health Division (SARAH) team is carrying out an extensive sterilization and vaccination of wild dogs in the high altitude deserts of northern Sikkim. These dogs are known to be disturbing the existence of endangered animals such as blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) and other mountain goats thereby, increasing the pressure on food chain of top predators

such as snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*). SARAH team has sterilized hundreds of feral dogs over the past few years and successfully checked the feral dog population.

Aug 29

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/anti-rabies-team-sterilizing-feral-dogs-in-high-altitude-areas-of-sikkim/>

ONE OF WORLD'S LARGEST HORNS FOUND IN NAGAON TREASURY

The Rhino Horn Verification Committee has found one of the world's largest rhino horns in the Nagaon treasury during the verification process in Assam. This massive rhino horn belonged to Bagori range of Kaziranga National Park found in August 1982, has a weight of 3.051 kg, 36 cm in height, outer curvature of 45 cm, inner curvature of 38 cm and base circumference of 60 cm. The only recorded horn bigger than this was also recovered in Assam in 1909 with height of 60 cm which now can be found in the British Museum, London.

Aug 30

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/horn-verification-panel-finds-one-of-worlds-largest-rhino-horn-in-nagaon-treasury/>

GOLDEN LANGUR LISTED IN WORLD'S 25 MOST ENDANGERED PRIMATES

The Golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*), an old world monkey which is endemic to the semi-evergreen and mixed deciduous forests of Indo-Bhutan border is now listed in the world's 25 most endangered primates in IUCN Red List (2016) and Schedule-I species in Indian Wildlife Protection Act (1972). The key reason for rapid decline of this species population is due to extensive habitat fragmentation, habitat destruction and encroachment along its distribution range.

Aug 31

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/golden-langur-features-in-worlds-25-most-endangered-primates-list/>

MAJULI RECOGNIZED AS LARGEST RIVER ISLAND IN THE WORLD

Assam's heritage, Majuli is recognized as the largest river island in the world beating Marajo in Brazil according to the Guinness World Record on Thursday. Covering an area of 88000 hectares, the island is home to an estimated 0.16 million people of different ethnicity. According to Guinness World Record, this island has lost around one third of its area in the last 30-40 years due to frequent flooding of Brahmaputra and resulting erosion.

Sep 2

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/majuli-declared-as-largest-river-island-in-the-world/>

SLUMP IN TOURISM HITS DRY FRUIT BUSINESS

The business of the dry fruit in Jammu has declined by about 70 % with slump in tourist arrival due to continuous curfew and shutdowns in the Kashmir valley. 78 business establishments had already suffered a loss of approximately \$2, 28,640.38 in the last 56 days.

Sep 4

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/business/kashmir-unrest-drop-in-tourist-arrivals-hits-dry-fruit-business-in-jammu/227576.html>

China Himalaya

BREATH-TAKING SIGHT IN BURANG, NGARI DISTRICT, TIBET

Burang located in the south of Ngari district, Tibet is surrounded by holy Mt Kailash beneath which lies Lake Manasarovar. Rich faunal diversity makes it one of the top destinations of locals as well as foreign tourists. It is approximately eight kilometres from the Nepal border and various merchants travel for the trade. In addition to the holy sites there are many breath-taking lakes, mountains and other natural features.

Aug 29

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1472437043979.shtml>

SOOT ACCELERATING GLACIER RETREAT IN TIBETAN PLATEAU

Researchers have discovered that combustion of fossil fuel and biomass, the main sources of black carbon is accelerating the glacier retreat in the Tibetan Plateau. The sources however are reported to contribute varying levels of black carbon in the plateau.

Aug 31

<https://www.tibetsun.com/news/2016/08/31/black-carbon-accelerating-glacier-meltdown-in-tibetan-plateau>

GROWING WILD DONKEY POPULATION IN QINGHAI, TIBET

Wild donkeys (*Equus sps*) which were once close to extinction in the 1980s are found to be growing continuously in Qinghai Province, Tibet. Experts have stated that this species is distributed all over that province especially in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous region, Haidong, Golog Tibetan Autonomous region and Haixi Mongol. With local shepherd's recent observation of dramatic increase in large wild animals and increasing stress on pasture, experts have discovered that wild donkey's birth rate has not exceeded 10%.

Aug 31

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1472612525462.shtml>

LHASA RANKED QUIETEST CAPITAL WHEREAS GUIYANG LISTED NOISIEST

Lhasa, the capital of Tibet is reported to be the quietest city compared to other 31 capitals of China as per country's noise pollution, 2015 report. It is found to be the only capital which does not surpass the national noise standard's first-level at 49 decibels (dBA) during daytime. However, Guiyang the capital of Guizhou province, China was ranked the noisiest city with average noise level of 58.9 dBA .

Sep 01

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1472719810620.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

DECLINE IN MUSHROOM PRODUCTION THIS YEAR

Bhutanese mushroom dealers are worried with the decreasing mushrooms production throughout the village. Farmers attribute it to less rain and snowfall than previous years. Despite competitive mushroom market and poor yield this year, many of the sellers however are still making more money by selling at higher rate.

Aug 29

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/less-sangay-shumu-but-better-prices-this-year/>

OFFICIALS CONFIRMED NO THREAT FROM THE ARTIFICIAL LAKE

The Department of Roads (DoR) and Project DANTAK have confirmed that recently formed artificial lake along Drangmechu river in Central Bhutan, formed by flash flood, has no immediate threat to life and property. They inspected the lake being formed at the distance of 30 m from the bridge with no endangered settlement downstream.

Sep 2

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/no-threat-from-artificial-lake-officials/>

ADVERSE ZOO CONDITION REPORTED

Already onto scandals, the Marghazar Zoo in Pakistan this time has been criticized for the unfriendly condition under which it maintains its animals. Total eight animals have died this year inside the zoo. The death of the ostrich (*Struthio sps*) and barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) were solely believed to be due to negligence by the zoo staffs. In addition, not a single international firm has responded to the project call for expanding the zoo except only four national companies.

Aug 30

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=29_08_2016_151_006