

Headlines Himalaya

Sep 5- Sep 11

No. 421

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For the 421st issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 32 news from 13 sources and selected 29 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, a pack of Himalayan wolves have been spotted in more than four decades at Khangsar of Manang district. A new initiative of trapping mice to study the Scrub typhus disease started in Chitwan, south-central Nepal. In India, Sikkim is ranked as the cleanest state among others. With rise in Puna Tsang Chhu River level, sand supply has declined in Bhutan. While, effective campaigning and vaccination monitoring has led the poliovirus test in Peshawar water sample from positive to negative.

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

Injured Rhino died
Monkey business for ginger trade
Poacher arrested from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve
Kathmandu valley selected for air quality improvement project
Increased security in Chitwan National Park
Morang farmers enjoying SMS advisory services
Capital city's water unsafe to drink
Trash heap around Bheri Zonal Hospital
Snake bite cases rose in Saptari
Smuggling of timber reported
Fish dying of mystery disease
River Cleanliness campaign
Pack of wolves spotted in Manang
Mother leopard terrifying villagers
Mice trapping campaign to study Scrub typhus
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INDIA

Sikkim ranked cleanest state in country
More than 102 serows died of Goat pox
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CHINA

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Negative result for Poliovirus in Peshawar water sample
Havoc by heavy rainfall and hailstorm

INJURED RHINO DIED

A one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) that was found critically injured by bullet wound on August 20 died yesterday while undergoing treatment in Chitwan, Nepal. The officials have already deployed a team to investigate the case. Nepal's one horned rhinos are poached for their horns where they get a huge price in the blackmarket. With this tragedy, the country has ended up taking pride in zero rhino poaching since past two years.

Sep 5

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5147>

MONKEY BUSINESS FOR GINGER TRADE

As India prohibited importation of Nepali ginger in its territory due to issues of high pesticide, smuggling of Chinese ginger to India faked as Nepali product is on rise. Custom officials in Nepal and India receive a handsome pay-off for clearance at the check-point as accused by Nepali traders. But the ban has been called off finally since Indian authorities found no harmful pesticide residue in lab tests of ginger. After cardamom, ginger is the second largest cash crop exported from Nepal.

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<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5115>

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/4841>

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5337>

POACHER ARRESTED FROM SUKLAPHANTA WILDLIFE RESERVE

With the joint efforts of Central Investigation Bureau, Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and Regional Investigation Team, a rhino poacher who was at large, has been apprehended ultimately from his residence at Beldani Municipality-12 of Kanchanpur district of far-western Nepal. The fugitive was sentenced for 10 years of imprisonment along with fine of NPR 50,000 already by Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve.

Sep 6

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5153>

KATHMANDU VALLEY SELECTED FOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

During the 17th World Clean Air Congress held in Busan, Korea, the Kathmandu valley has been selected for air quality improvement project. Multiple researches has shown high concentration of the particulate matter claiming Kathmandu as one of most polluted cities in the world. The final report of the capital's air quality will be presented at the 18th World Air Congress in 2018.

Sep 7

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/valley-picked-air-quality-improvement-project/>

INCREASED SECURITY IN CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

Chitwan National Park (CNP) has amplified its security level due to increasing insecurity and risk to wildlife in the park and its buffer zone. A one horned female rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was electrocuted at the hotel area last month while a male rhino was shot six bullets and died miserably. After the incident, authorities have started monitoring a variety of locations inside CNP.

Sep 7

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-07/cnp-widens-security-radar-after-death-of-one-horned-rhino.html>

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5212>

MORANG FARMERS ENJOYING SMS ADVISORY SERVICES

350 farmers in the Morang district, eastern region of Nepal are enjoying SMS agricultural advisory services initiated by the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) this week. They have been receiving crop mitigation advices from DADO and are also able to request the government facilities through the telecommunication services without actually visiting the concerned authorities.

Sep 7

<http://en.karobardaily.com/farmers-in-morang-benefit-from-sms-advisory-services>

CAPITAL CITY'S WATER UNSAFE TO DRINK

The Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) reported that more than 90 percent of drinking water in Kathmandu is contaminated by hazardous cholera causing bacteria like *Escherichia coli* and coliform bacteria. The deadly bacterium is not only found in water supplied by the Kathmandu Upyataka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) but also in the jar water which is said to be purified and safe for drinking. Till now, 139 people have been found to be infected with cholera in the capital this monsoon.

Sep 8

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5230>

TRASH HEAP AROUND BHERI ZONAL HOSPITAL

The patients and visitors at Bheri Zonal Hospital, the biggest government hospital in the district of Banke, mid-west Nepal have been making several complaints about the uncollected garbage in the vicinity of the hospital. The garbage pile has caused horrible stench and might result in disease outbreak. Ironically, the hospital has 17 cleaning staffs employed at present.

Sep 8

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5238>

SNAKE BITE CASES ROSE IN SAPTARI

With rising temperature, snakebite cases have also heightened in Saptari district, eastern Nepal. As many as six people have lost their lives while 107 were injured in the past two months. Doctors of the district reported those living in the mud houses and near forested areas are at high risk of snake bites.

Sep 9

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/snakebite-cases-rising-temperature/>

TIMBER SMUGGLING REPORTED

Locals of Rautahat and Panchwati VDC in eastern part of Udayapur district, Nepal have reported smuggling of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) timber in nexus with forest office staffs. They also filed a case against illegal saw mills involved in timber selling. However, the District Assistant Forest Office seemed oblivious about such wrongdoing.

Sep 9

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/illegal-saw-mills-selling-timber-openly/>

FISH DYING OFF MYSTERY DISEASE

Fish farmers reported death of around 1,000 farmed fish daily from mystery disease in the lakes and ponds of different parts in Bardia, south-western Nepal. Even though the disease is unknown, District Agriculture Office sprayed medicines and herbicides to control the death but none seem to have worked. The disease has been observed mostly in Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) and Naini (*Cirrhinus mrigala*) species.

Sep 9

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-10/farmed-fish-dying-due-to-mystery-disease.html>

RIVER CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN

During the weekly cleaning campaign of the major rivers in Kathmandu valley, a total of 18 metric tons of solid waste was extracted last Saturday. Six metric tons of waste from Teku confluence, two metric from Rudramati River, four metric tons from Bishnumati River and six metric tons of waste from Nakkhu River and its bank. Many distinguished personalities, local committee members and students participated in the drive.

Sep10

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-10/eighteen-metric-ton-solid-waste-extracted-from-rivers-in-the-valley.html>

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5396>

PACK OF WOLVES SPOTTED IN MANANG

A team of Global Primate Network-Nepal (GPN) researchers have spotted a pack of Himalayan wolves (*Canis lupus chanco*) for the first time in more than four decades in the remote pasture of Khangsar, Manang district of western Nepal. They are listed as critically endangered in IUCN National Red List and legally protected by National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 of the Government of Nepal.

Sep 10

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-10/the-wolves-of-manang.html>

MOTHER LEOPARD TERRIFYING VILLAGERS

A leopard (*Panthera pardus*) that gave birth to three cubs at an abandoned house inside human settlement has triggered panic among the locals in Anantalingeswar municipality-8, Bhaktapur district, central Nepal. Locals have already complained the concerned authority to relocate the cats. It was further reported that the mother leopard already took a cub from the house and experts assume that remaining two will also be taken.

Sep 10

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5333>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-10/leopard-gives-birth-in-city-house.html>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-09/cheetah-gives-birth-to-3-cubs-in-a-house.html>

MICE TRAPPING CAMPAIGN TO STUDY SCRUB TYPHUS

A campaign of trapping mice has been launched in the Sharadanagar, Megghauli and Gunjanagar, Chitwan district, Nepal to investigate the type of Scrub Typhus. The officials stated that this research is essential for the treatment of the infected ones. More than 189 people have been suffering from this disease since mid-April to the first week of September in Chitwan.

Sep 10

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/campaign-launched-chitwan-control-mice-infestation/>

LANDSLIDE BLOCKED PASANG LHAMU HIGHWAY

Torrential downpour that triggered multiple landslides has blocked the Pasang Lhamu highway in Rasuwa, Central region of Nepal. More than two dozen trucks loaded with freight have been stuck and still the incessant heavy rainfall is creating difficulty in clearing off the landslide debris.

Sep 11

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5434>

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/landslide-obstructs-pasang-lhamu-highway-2/>

SPACE SHORTAGE HITS TREE PLANTATION

Due to the lack of space in Chitwan, stakeholders failed to meet the compensation of trees felled while carrying out development activities like road construction. Nepal Electricity chopped 30,442 trees while installing 220 KV transmission line from Hetauda to Bardaghat, but has planted only 51,200 trees against 7,61,050 plants. According to existing law, as many as 25 times the number of trees felled must be planted in replacement.

Sep 11

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/lack-space-hits-tree-plantation/>

SIKKIM RANKED AS CLEANEST STATE

Sikkim located in the eastern Himalaya range of India has been ranked as cleanest state amongst 28 states of India while Jharkhand stood last, in a cleanliness survey conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). This survey was conducted in May-June, 2015 covering 73,176 households in 3,788 villages across the country. The ranking is set on the basis of percentage of households having sanitary toilets, where topper state scored 98.2 percent for toilet availability.

Sep 8

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Sikkim-Kerala-top-in-cleanliness-survey-Jharkhand-at-bottom/articleshow/54199340.cms>

MORE THAN 102 SEROWS DIED FROM GOAT POX

Total death toll of Serows or wild goat-antelope (*Caprinae*) due to goat pox has reached to more than 102 from May 2015 till August 2016 in Mizoram State of India. The disease caused by Capripox virus first hit the state last year with Aizawl forest division reporting 25 serow deaths, followed by 19 deaths in Lunglei division. Serow has been protected under Schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act.

Sep 7

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/goat-pox-claims-life-of-more-than-102-serows-in-mizoram/>

CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR FENCE AGAINST WILD ELEPHANTS

In order to protect the local crops from wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*), Corbett foundation, wildlife NGO in cooperation with forest department of Kaziranga is supporting installation of solar fence around the field of Rangaloo village area under the Burapahar Range of the Kaziranga National Park, Assam, north-east India. An area covering 485.4 hectare of paddy crop fields and distance of 4 km will be fenced. Till date, the local residents have been using fire and crackers to chase away the pachyderms.

Sep 8

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0916/state057>

LOCAL RESIDENTS IN DANGER

Continuous rainfall in confluence of Sonam River and Angar Nullah near the China border, Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, has led to the formation of 70-80 meter wide and around 3 meter deep lake, terrorizing inhabitants at downstream. Falling of huge boulders and mud into the Angar Nullah has blocked its flow while increasing the rate of lake formation.

Sep 5

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/lake-formation-imperils-uttarkashi-residents/290809.html>

WILDLIFE ATTACK INCIDENTS

Human wildlife conflict is reported from different locations of Uttarakhand state in Northern India. Elderly women of Talla Gojni village, Ramnagar area of Terai west forest division in Nainital district was attacked to death by tiger (*Panthera tigris*) near Corbett National Park just a day after a boy got injured by leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in the same area. A women was attacked by bear (*Ursidae*) in Asola village in Mori block of Uttarakashi while a five years old female elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) was found dead in the Cheela range of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. Incidences of human wildlife conflict in this region are reported to be mounting in recent days.

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<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/tiger-mauls-woman-to-death-in-ramnagar/291276.html>

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/dehradun/tiger-kills-old-woman.html>

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/woman-hurt-in-bear-attack/291858.html>

WATER SCARCITY IN SRINAGAR

In several areas of Srinagar, locals have been facing acute water problem in recent weeks. Public Health Engineering (PHE) department failed to restore the water supply as accused by the inhabitants.

Sep 11

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/srinagar-city/amid-unrest-water-scarcity-hits-severalsrinagar-areas/228238.html>

China Himalaya

CAUSE OF UNUSUAL AVALANCHE IN TIBET

The unusual avalanche in Tibet on July 17 can be seen through the satellite images. European Space Agency and NASA have captured the before and after images covering nearly 3.8 square miles of debris. Scientists are baffled about the cause behind the avalanche, which started at a relative flat points between 17,000 to 20,300 ft. above the sea level. It is presumed that climate change could be the cause. It is also reported that temperatures in the Tibetan plateau have increased twice the global average per decade.

Sep 9

<http://tibet.net/2016/09/climate-change-could-be-to-blame-for-an-unusual-avalanche-in-tibet-that-can-be-seen-from-space/>

Bhutan-Himalaya

SAND SUPPLY DECLINED WITH INCREASE IN RIVER LEVEL

The sand-dredging which usually supplies 50 to 60 truckloads of sand a day has been reduced to only 25 to 30 truckloads with increase in water level of Puna Tsang Chhu River in Bhutan. Natural Resources Development Corporation Ltd (NRDCL) has closed four out of five sand quarries and the trucker were to be seen queuing frustratingly at the dredging site for several days. Officials at the site stated that sand supply has increased by more than 22,000 cubic meters as compared to 2015 and claimed lack of machines at site has slowed down the operation.

Sep 7

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/river-level-increase-reduces-sand-supply/>

HOTSPOT HEROES

A pioneer in the field of environmental conservation in Bhutan, ecologist, Rebecca Pradhan was recognized as one of the "Hotspot Heroes" by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) at the 6th IUCN World Conservation Congress on September 4. She has made her unique contribution in the conservation of the critically endangered White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*) in Bhutan. On the occasion of 15th anniversary of CEPF, 15 conservationists from around the world were recognized as Hotspot Heroes.

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<http://www.kuenselonline.com/local-ecologist-recognised/>

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/recognising-conservationists/>

Pakistan-Himalaya

DIR PEOPLE ANNOYED FOR NOT UTILIZING FALLEN TREES

The local residents of Kohistan valley, Pakistan complained the government for not letting local people to utilize the fallen precious deodar trees (*Cedrus deodara*) and leaving it wasted. The government on the other hand, has also no thoughts about making use of the fallen timbers. Thousands of precious wood lay fallen in various forests due to wind and other natural disasters such as earthquake and soil erosion.

Sep 8

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=08_09_2016_182_011

NEGATIVE RESULT FOR POLIOVIRUS IN PESHAWAR WATER SAMPLE

With the strengthening of vaccination monitoring, the environmental water sample for poliovirus in Peshawar, Pakistan has resulted negative after testing positive in the July. It is reported that this virus generally remains most active in the month of August and September. The World Health Organization highly appreciated the health department for eliminating the virus from city due to campaigning.

Sep 7

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=07_09_2016_183_006

HAVOC BY HEAVY RAINFALL AND HAILSTORM

Madyan, a popular hill station at Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been messed up by heavy rainfall along with hailstorm damaging the crops, vegetables and orchards on Saturday. Rainfall also prompted for seasonal streams, flood disrupting the power and communication system within the valley.

Sep 11

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/149416-Heavy-rain-hailstorm-wreak-havoc-in-Swat>