

Headlines Himalaya

Apr 9 - Apr 15 (2018)

No. 500

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For the 500th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 35 news from 14 sources and selected 34 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Kapilvastu located in the country's west, has increased its fish production. Wild buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*) census started in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve by the Department of Wildlife Preservation. Yak festival was successfully celebrated in Pachthar, eastern Nepal. In Bhutan, critically endangered Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) is resused after being injured, in Tsirang, southern part of the country. In Pakistan, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province has put a banned on slaughtering of underage animals.

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

Fish production increases in Kapilvastu
Wild buffalo census started
Depletion of poultry farms in Chitwan
High risk of dengue in terai districts
Plants coded scientifically by NAST
Three poachers caught at Bardiya National Park
Rise in vegetables price
Garbage collectors suffered by respiratory illness
Musahar families facing water shortage
Consumption of non iodised salt
Efforts to conserve heritage sites
Panchthar witnessed yak festival
Education by selling trash
Chitwan National Park ensures wildlife security
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Bardiya National Park attracts tourists
Destruction due to fire
Wild tusker Dhruve and female elephant adhere together

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Protest against garbage dumping
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CHINA

Three thousand years tombs found in Tibet
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Easy business as beekeeping
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PAKISTAN

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Sufferings from heavy rain in Peshawar
Teachers protest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*

Nepal-Himalaya

FISH PRODUCTION INCREASES IN KAPILVASTU

The locals of Kapilvastu, western Nepal, has been practicing for aquaculture and are engaged in fish farming as they are attracted to the profit, in an area of approximately 700 hectares land. Before five years, the district used to import 80 per cent of the fish but it has reduced to 30 per cent. The farmers are shifting from traditional crop farming to commercial farming and the district is becoming self-dependent in fish production.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2vxxyyu>

WILD BUFFALO CENSUS STARTED

The three days census of wild buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*), world's rare species has begun at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, eastern Nepal, which is held in every two years as per the policy of the Department of Wildlife Preservation. The number count of earlier round census was total of 432 wild buffalo in the reserve but the number might have declined after 13 wild buffaloes were translocated to Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal.

Apr 11

<https://bit.ly/2qTFuEL>

DEPLETION OF POULTRY FARMS IN CHITWAN

Around 5,100 chickens (*Gallus domesticus*) have died due to infection from Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza H9 at a farm of Ratnanagar-15 and around 3,000 chickens have died due to a disease at a farm in Khairahani Municipality-13, Chitwan in south central Nepal. According to the District Livestock Office of Chitwan, the loss is approximately NRs 6 million.

Apr 11

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/22897>

HIGH RISK OF DENGUE IN TERAJ DISTRICTS

According to Health Service Department Epidemiology and Disease Prevention Division, three districts namely, Jhapa, eastern Nepal, Rupandehi, western Nepal and Mahottari, central Nepal, have been identified as high risk areas of dengue epidemic. Last year, Rupandehi came across the highest with 677 dengue-infected cases followed by Jhapa with 535 dengue patients and Mahottari with 438 dengue cases.

Apr 11

<https://bit.ly/2HDNIeH>

PLANTS CODED SCIENTIFICALLY BY NAST

Scientific coding of 60 plants that started from 2012 has been completed by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). According to a scientist at NAST, this centre has been coding 10 to 15 types of plants per year at present. He added that the information of the coded plant can be assessed easily from anywhere in the world.

Apr 12

<https://bit.ly/2Hjd0iR>

THREE POACHERS CAUGHT AT BARDIYA NATIONAL PARK

Three poachers have been caught with loaded muskets from Bardiya National Park, mid-western Nepal. A loaded musket, 11 rounds of iron bullets and a Khukuri have been seized from their control. According to the officials, a case will be filed against the poachers under National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Apr 12

<https://bit.ly/2HSXxD2>

RISE IN VEGETABLES PRICE

The prices of vegetables has spiked as drought occurred during the winter resulting in the less production of green products. Lately, the weather induced problems have been exerting pressure on the food items leading to the rise in prices of Terai regions, southern plain, followed by mountainous regions, hilly regions and the Kathmandu Valley. According to the report of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the annual average inflation is expected to remain below the annual forecast regardless of increase in vegetables prices.

Apr 13

<https://bit.ly/2HFC2li>

GARBAGE COLLECTORS SUFFERED BY RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Garbage collectors due to lack of safety measures and knowledge about personal hygiene are considered to be at high risk of suffering from respiratory and water borne diseases. Presenters at the Fourth National Summit of Health and Population have highlighted that the workers work for hours under unhealthy conditions and are prone to several chronic diseases as well. They further concluded that it is necessary to work wearing personal protective equipment such as helmet, safety boots, apron and goggles.

Apr 14

<https://bit.ly/2HRLvtx>

MUSAHAR FAMILIES FACING WATER SHORTAGE

Seventy Musahar families have been living in water scarcity in Jugauliya settlement of Gujara Municipality, Rautahat, central Nepal, which has indirectly affected the education of children. According to them, the water from the nearby tap is insufficient so they had to send their children to fetch water from nearby stream and living in the scarcity of water and food, the education for their children is of least priority. The administrative officials of Gujara Municipality are planning to bring out a programme to uplift the living standard of Musahar families.

Apr 14

<https://bit.ly/2vKYECD>

CONSUMPTION OF NON IODISED SALT

Due to lack of awareness, poor people living in remote parts of Salyan district, mid-western Nepal, are forced to consume non-iodised salt. People of Salyan have reported that they had to walk hours to buy salt as there is no depot of Salt Trading Corporation in the area. They added that the other reason for preferring non-iodised salt is of its cheaper prices compared to the iodised one.

Apr 14

<https://bit.ly/2K8WbVy>

EFFORTS TO CONSERVE HERITAGE SITES

A campaign as an effort to conserve and develop World Heritage Sites- Hanumandhoka and Swayambhu and the locations in between (Maruganesh, Kasthamandap, Maruhitti, Santaneshwor Mahadev, Marubahi, Banjahiti and Naradevi) has been launched for a week on the occasion of International Day for Monuments and Sites. People from various fields have participated in the campaign. The mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, central Nepal, has highlighted the need for the conservation of the heritages by making people aware.

Apr 15

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39942/>

PANCHTHAR WITNESSED YAK FESTIVAL

The two day Yak (*Bos spp.*) festival (Second Yak Festival), witnessing hundreds of yaks at the upper hilly area of Panchthar district, eastern Nepal, which is adjacent to Nepal-India border has been organized by the local authority with the help of many local bodies and tourism board. According to the organizer, the festival is arranged to protect eco diversity and to promote tourism industry in the district with the presence of several tourists from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Europe and USA. He further added that the festival will help to preserve the traditional way of Yak farming.

Apr 15

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39944/>

EDUCATION BY SELLING TRASH

Children, in dumping site in the western side of a local river in Duhabi, eastern Nepal, have been found scavenging on huge pile of trash and segregating the reusable garbage and waste to sell for money. According to the children, their economic condition is very poor and they have to earn by themselves for their education and livelihood. During summer time, the collection of garbage is difficult and they often fall sick due to the waste.

Apr 15

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39910/>

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK ENSURES WILDLIFE SECURITY

With the increase of regular patrols and other various measures, Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal, has come up with wildlife security in more effective ways. According to the Chief Conservation Officer, the security measures are strengthened as this is the time when more people crowd around the park. He further added that the locals have played a very significant role in the conservation and their effort is praiseworthy. The park has been deploying army officials overnight in the core areas whereas the buffer zones is managed by the local communities.

Apr 15

<https://bit.ly/2JhzSMc>

DHARAN FACES WATER CRISIS

The locals of Dharan, eastern Nepal have been facing water crisis every year after water sources in Sardukhardu and Tamakham, eastern Nepal, dried up with the beginning of dry season. Water has been supplied by the Nepal Drinking Water Corporation of Dharan but it has not been sufficient to fulfil the demand of the people. The drinking water project, which will solve the problem of water scarcity, is under construction.

Apr 15

<https://bit.ly/2JitPXG>

BARDIYA NATIONAL PARK ATTRACTS TOURISTS

Bardiya National Park (BNP), mid-western Nepal, which is a home to various endangered wildlife like Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), wild elephant (*Elephas maximus*), great one horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) and other many colourful birds, has been attracting many tourists due to high chance of spotting rare Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*). According to one of the tourism entrepreneur, elephant safari, rafting, fishing, jeep safari, boating and entry fee are the major activities for the generation of income. The number of tigers has increased in BNP due to suitable habitat, availability of food and improved security.

Apr 15

<https://bit.ly/2qUcVHI>

DESTRUCTION DUE TO FIRE

Fire in two separate places in Rautahat district, central Nepal, has destroyed four eateries and a jaggery factory on Sunday. The fire engine has controlled the fire with the help of security personnel and locals. The reasons for cause of fire, has yet been unknown while police have already started to assess the damage caused by fire.

Apr 15

<https://bit.ly/2Hkodvu>

WILD TUSKER DHRUBE AND FEMALE ELEPHANT ADHERE TOGETHER

The wild tusker named Dhruve, who had caused horrific destruction in the past, has been recently seen with female elephant after years around Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal. He had been responsible for severe damages of properties and killing of almost 15 people five years ago. Furious Dhruve has now been turned to lovesick with female elephant.

Apr 15

<https://bit.ly/2vEmT56>

India-Himalaya

IMPORTANCE OF MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

A program was organized at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), where the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture has highlighted the role of mushroom (*Agaricus* spp.) cultivation as an innovativeness and the importance of experiential learning programme in the course of Bachelor's in Agriculture.

Apr 9

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=229729>

PROTEST AGAINST GARBAGE DUMPING

A protest rally was organized by people, including senior citizens, students, intellectuals, presidents of shopkeeper association against the illegal dumping of hazardous waste by Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). The people were raged with anger and threatened the government to stop dumping of waste.

Apr 9

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=229687>

COOPERATIVES BENEFITTING FARMERS

The Minister of Ladakh Affairs and Cooperatives urges farmer to take advantage of loan being provided through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for increasing their agriculture and milk products. The interacting programme between the minister of Ladakh Affairs and Cooperatives and the representatives of Cooperative Marketing Societies of Leh, Changthang, Kharu, Sakti, and Sham areas is held on 12th of April.

Apr 12

<https://bit.ly/2JhSGuA>

RONGALI BIHU STARTED IN ASSAM

On April 14, 2018, people of Assam, north eastern India have celebrated first day of Rongali Bihu and this festival will be continued for a week. This festival is celebrated as New Year of Assamese and they have great respect for animals as they pray for good health of animals in this festival.

Apr 14

<https://bit.ly/2F9rqMh>

China Himalaya

THREE THOUSAND YEARS TOMBS FOUND IN TIBET

Nine tombs, dating back some 3,000 years old have been found in Tibet, south western China with stoneware, earthenware, bones and bells. The tombs were in two groups, with first group of around 3,000-3,500 years old and second group around 2,100- 2,300 years old from the result of carbon dating as per an archaeologist.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2Hkp13u>

AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

A survey has been conducted in Nagri, south western China, to find out the state of agriculture and related fields of the state. After survey, the team made suggestions regarding strengthening investment in irrigation facilities for agricultural land and pasture land and increase publicity efforts in disaster prevention and relief.

Apr 11

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/th/1523416343859.shtml>

ANCIENT BUDDHA CARVINGS

The construction workers of a mine had found relics of the Buddha figure carvings. The experts said that the carvings were of 9th century based on their style and this has contributed not only to the study of art and culture but also to the ancient transportation.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2HiSoHf>

TIBETAN ANTELOPE AND ITS PROTECTION

On the International Day of Endangered Animals on April 8, it has announced that Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) has been well protected. Tibetan antelopes are one of the China's ten most endangered species. This unique species are mainly found in Hoh Xil, north western Tibet, and now its population has increased to more than 60,000.

Apr 13

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/th/1523582482143.shtml>

SPRING TEA HARVEST SEASON IN MEDOG

It is the spring tea (*Camellia* sp.) harvest season in Medog County of Nyingchi City in south western China's Tibet. From the nine tea gardens of Medog, a total of 5,240 kilogram of tea leaves has been collected from mid March to till now. Medog is very suitable for growing tea because it is located in low altitude having mild climate and plenty of rainfall.

Apr 13

<http://eng.tibet.cn/economy/news/1523586091151.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

SUPPORT FOR WIND AND HAILSTORMS VICTIMS IN SARPANG

The Ministry of Agriculture of Bhutan has supported wind and hailstorms affected 361 households. The District Administration had assessed the damages due to storm and the farmers have been supplied with seeds, livestock and tarpaulins.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2Hmx3cd>

CHINESE PANGOLIN SPOTTED IN TSIRANG

Critically endangered Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) has been spotted in Tsirang, southern Bhutan, by the farmer and has been brought to the interim wildlife rescue centre in Damphu, southern Bhutan. According to a Senior Forest Ranger, the 6.1 kilogram female Chinese Pangolin has suffered a minor injury. He further highlighted that conservation awareness and patrolling need to be carried out more intensely

Apr 11

<https://bit.ly/2K8HySj>

EASY BUSINESS AS BEEKEEPING

The farmers of Patshaling village of Tsirang, southern Bhutan, have been fascinated by beekeeping as it is the easiest business which does not require much effort and time. The farmers have been harvesting honey from modern as well as traditional beehives and are commercialising the business.

Apr 14

<https://bit.ly/2Hl19Dp>

GUIDELINES TO IMPROVE HERITAGE SITES RESILIENCE

Draft guidelines to improve heritage sites resilience in Bhutan has been presented at the end of a four-day workshop in Thimpu, west central Bhutan, which mainly highlighted the pre-disaster activities such as risk identification, preparedness, maintenance and culturally incorporated recovery and response activities. This was supported by World Bank Disaster Risk Management Hub in Tokyo and was organized by the Department of Culture (DoC).

Apr 14

<https://bit.ly/2HKoLhu>

Pakistan- Himalaya

BAN ON SLAUGHTER OF UNDERAGE ANIMALS

In order to preserve animals' generations, the Food Safety and Halal Food Authority has intended to ban slaughter of underage animals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, north western Pakistan. Several other items like soft and energy drinks inside school premises along with loose chips, Gutka Paan, Chalian, substandard ice-cream, and mislabeling or false labelling were also banned in the Province.

Apr 9

<https://bit.ly/2vHmSO0>

SUFFERINGS FROM HEAVY RAIN IN PESHAWAR

Heavy rain hit Peshawar, western Pakistan, on 9th April that has lasted for almost seven hours, turning the city into water ponds. The rain caused severest traffic jam, particularly along the under-construction corridor of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The open and unfilled dugouts and materials left at roadsides of BRT corridor was the cause of traffic jam which became nuisance for riders and forced other people to walk about one and half kilometres on foot. Several people were injured and killed and the houses were inundated due to the heavy rain.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2Jl7SXN>

<https://bit.ly/2Jl8e0z>

TEACHERS PROTEST IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Teachers from different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan, have been protesting in the streets for demanding time-scale promotion, implementation of four-tier formula, upgradation of management cadre and scale wise professional allowance. They have threatened the government for further protest if their demand is not fulfilled.

Apr 12

<https://bit.ly/2K6Q587>