

# Headlines Himalaya

July 30 – Aug 5 (2018)

No. 516

Editorial Team: Sandhya Shrestha and Sindhu Pokhrel

For the 516<sup>th</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 28 news from 13 sources and selected 27 happenings from five countries. Three new species of bats; *Cynopterus aviator*, *Myotis frater* and *Nyctalus aviator* discovered from Kathmandu valley, central Nepal. Human-Wildlife conflicts rising significantly in Parsa National Park, south central Nepal. Whereas, Arunachal Pradesh, the north eastern Indian state functioned its first medical college. In western Bhutan, land use projects were introduced to settle unemployment issues.

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

*New species of bats discovered*  
*Death of tiger caged for treatment*  
*Fine collected from garbage*  
*Compensation delayed*  
*Farmers satisfied with cardamom cultivation*  
*Consequences of landslides*  
*Three caught for poaching*  
*Reconstruction begins at Durbar High School*  
*Killing of wild animals plummeted*  
*Emerging human wildlife conflict*  
*90 percent paddy plantation completed*  
*Increased number of tourist in Myagdi*  
*Risk of landslide in Gorkha*

## INDIA

*Huge pay back for development*  
*Training campaign organized for farmers*  
*Unforgettable day in the medical history*  
*Disastrous forest fires in Jammu*  
*Cleaning campaign in Morigaon district*

## CHINA

*Shangshung cultural tourism festival*  
*Economic activities to reduce poverty*

## BHUTAN

*Land use projects launched to reduce unemployment*  
*Inauguration of two major hospitals*  
*World Ranger Day celebrated*  
*Heavy rain caused flash flood*  
*Havoc of common leopard*

## PAKISTAN

*Plantation campaign by railways division*  
*Development in education and health sector*

### NEW SPECIES OF BATS DISCOVERED

A research conducted by Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation (SMCRF) from August 2016 to April 2018 in 19 different places of Kathmandu valley, central Nepal has recorded three new species of bats (*Chiroptera* spp.): *Cynopterus aviator*, *Myotis frater* and *Nyctalus aviator*. This has increased the number of species of bats to 55 in Nepal. According to the Foundation's Director, five-year action plan has been developed for the conservation of bats in Nepal.

**July 31**

<https://bit.ly/2OZEPg9>

### DEATH OF TIGER CAGED FOR TREATMENT

The Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), that was rescued from Rapti Ekata Buffer Zone Community Forest of Chitwan, south central Nepal three months ago has died. It has been found that the tiger had killed around 20 animals and injured a local so it was caged in Kasara. According to Senior Veterinary Doctor of CNP, the tiger died due to the infection of the wound on its right leg.

**Aug 1**

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

### FINE COLLECTED FROM GARBAGE

The Kathmandu Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has collected more than NPR 500,000 as a fine from 181 people who have thrown garbage randomly in various places of Kathmandu, central Nepal in the fiscal year 2017/18. In the fiscal year 2016/17, a similar amount of NPR 500,000 as a fine has been collected from 142 people for throwing garbage haphazardly. KMC has been managing 800 metric tonnes of garbage out of 1000 metric tonnes of garbage every day.

**Aug 1**

<https://bit.ly/2nx8i4G>

### COMPENSATION DELAYED

The families in Madi Municipality of Chitwan, south central Nepal had not got the compensation from the authorities for the crop destroyed by wild animals of Chitwan National Park (CNP). As per the Information Officer of CNP, the park owed NPR 7.5 million for the compensation to the victim but they could not distribute it because the Regional Forest Directorate (RFD) did not allocate the budget. About 7,227 families living in the buffer zone area have been suffered from crop depredation. The government has allocated NPR 20,000 as a compensation for each family for the crop damage.

**Aug 2**

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

### FARMERS SATISFIED WITH CARDAMOM CULTIVATION

The farmers of Ilam, eastern Nepal have been satisfied with cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) cultivation as its production and income has been increasing every year which has led to the betterment of their livelihood. The cardamom cultivation requires less investment and effort which are the prime attraction to the farmers. According to the Agriculture Ministry, cardamom cultivation is going on 17,002 hectares of total area of the country out of which 12,008 hectares of land produces cardamom.

**Aug 2**

<https://bit.ly/2Oxem8T>

### CONSEQUENCES OF LANDSLIDES

Due to the landslide caused by heavy rainfall on August 1, seven families have been displaced in Nuwakot, central Nepal. Some of the house has been buried and the people had been living in temporary tents provided by the Tadi Rural Municipality. Four people have been injured and 84 houses are at high risk of landslide at different places in Nuwakot. Similarly, multiple landslides in Khalanga, mid-western Nepal, have led to the obstruction of roads creating shortage of daily necessities and rise in the price of goods. Along with this, almost four dozens of houses are at risk of landslide.

**Aug 2 & 5**

<https://bit.ly/2MIGQ7S>

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

### THREE CAUGHT FOR POACHING

Three people have been arrested by a team from Central Investigation Bureau, Gandaki State Police Investigation Division and District Forest Office, Kaski, western Nepal for the illegal collection of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) skin on August 3 in Pokhara, western Nepal. They have been sent to District Forest Office, Kaski for the further investigation and will be charged under National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973.

**Aug 3**

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

### RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT DURBAR HIGH SCHOOL

The historic Durbar High School, Kathmandu valley, central Nepal, destroyed by 2015 earthquake has started the reconstruction of the school building with 40 class room in an area of 4.2 hectares since August 3. The reconstruction project is one of the 25 China Aid post-disaster. According to the Department of Archaeology, the design for reconstruction has been approved with a condition to maintain the same aesthetic beauty of building.

**Aug 4**

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

### KILLING OF WILD ANIMALS PLUMMETED

According to the data provided by the authorities of Banke National Park, mid-western Nepal, 172 protected wild animals have been killed on the highway in the past three years. Along with this, the wild animals have been posing threat from the nearby water canal too as they get drowned in the canal while drinking water. The number has been highest in the fiscal year 2074/75 which is 68 and on 2073/74 it was 61 and in 2072/73 it was 48. The concerned authorities have been initiating measures for the protection of wild animals.

**Aug 4**

<https://bit.ly/2nujA9J>

### EMERGING HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

The elephant (*Elephas maximus*) from Parsa National Park, south central Nepal, after entering the two wards of Manahari, southern Nepal has started creating problems by destroying their houses and crops stored in their houses. The locals have been living in fear of their life after the entry of three elephant in their settlement area. Similarly, wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in Udaypurkot district, eastern Nepal has been destroying the maize (*Zea mays*) that was planted in agricultural fields. The farmers are worried and have to stay in the field day and night for taking care of the crops. They have been adopting several measures of coping to prevent their crops from damage but still it has not been effective.

**Aug 5 & 4**

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

<https://bit.ly/2OZ67Ds>

### 90 PERCENT PADDY PLANTATION COMPLETED

According to the data collected by the Ministry of Agriculture Development on August 2, around 90 per cent paddy (*Oryza sativa*) plantation has been completed throughout the country. The yield from the last fiscal year was 5 million 151 thousand metric tonnes and it is expected to reach approximately 5.5 million metric tonnes this year. The paddy plantation has been done on 1 million 550 thousand hectares of land.

**Aug 5**

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

### INCREASED NUMBER OF TOURIST IN MYAGDI

The number of tourist visiting Myagdi, western Nepal has increased from 69,816 in the last fiscal year 2073/74 to 74,163 in this fiscal year 2074/75. According to the data from past several years, the number of tourist visiting Myagdi had decreased in the earthquake year 2015. The tourists are attracted by several touristic, cultural and historical places along with the magnificent mountain peaks.

**Aug 5**

<https://bit.ly/2Mlff6X>

### RISK OF LANDSLIDE IN GORKHA

Due to the heavy rainfall, at least 72 houses in Dharche Rural Municipality in Gorkha, western Nepal have been at high risk of landslide as large cracks has been developed through the settlement. The locals have been living in fear and some of them are staying in cowsheds whereas some people have even moved to their relative's house for safety. The Chairman of the ward stated that they have made the arrangements to relocate affected families to safer place.

**Aug 5**

<https://bit.ly/2Mekd5t>

## India-Himalaya

### HUGE PAY BACK FOR DEVELOPMENT

The step taken by Public Work Department (PWD) to cut down around 50 large trees of which most of them are over 100 years old for the extension of road has been an incorrect decision from the locals and environmentalist point of view. One of the environmental activists reported that alternatives should be searched instead of such massive destruction and urged the authorities to stop cutting trees. The trees which are to be destructed include Pipul (*Ficus religiosa*), Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), Elephant apple (*Dillenia indica*) etc. and these trees are home for many small creatures.

**July 31**

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

### TRAINING CAMPAIGN ORGANIZED FOR FARMERS

One day training programme by the Farmers Training Centre under the chairmanship of the Director of Agriculture, Jammu in northern India has been organized at one of the villages of Jammu. Altogether, 50 farmers have participated in the training. The training officer suggested the farmers to adopt new agricultural technologies and to use High Yielding Varieties seeds. Along with this, various speakers suggested about scientific way of cultivation and diversification of agriculture.

**Aug 1**

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

### **UNFORGETTABLE DAY IN THE MEDICAL HISTORY**

The first medical college (Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical sciences) of Arunachal Pradesh, north eastern India has started its academic session with a total of 50 available seats. The institute is further planning to increase the number of seats in MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) along with the introduction of post graduates course within 3-5 years.

**Aug 1**

<https://bit.ly/2nuo8gv>

### **DISASTROUS FOREST FIRES IN JAMMU**

Forest fires in Jammu and Kashmir, northern India has become a serious problem as it has destroyed trees along with causing respiratory problems with the gas emitted from it. The forest fire has been increasing since past few years which has resulted in the decrease of forest area. As per reports, the major cause of forest fires is man-made rather than the natural causes. The forest officials have urged the government to take proper action against such incidents.

**Aug 3**

<https://bit.ly/2B3HyCr>

### **CLEANING CAMPAIGN IN MORIGAON DISTRICT**

Under the guidance of the Morigaon District Water and Sanitation Committee, mega cleaning campaign "The Swachh Survekshan Gramin – 2018", was launched in Morigaon district of Assam state, north eastern India. This campaign will continue for a month and will primarily be focused on schools, health centers, market places etc.

**Aug 3**

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

## **China Himalaya**

### **SHANGSHUNG CULTURAL TOURISM FESTIVAL**

The seventh annual Shangshung cultural festival has been organized on July 28 in Ngari, south western China. This festival has been held to know the local historical tradition, folk culture etc. of the area. On this ceremony, various programmes and dance related to various cultures were performed. During the opening ceremony 'Xuan' dance of the Shangshung civilization took the viewer's attention.

**July 31**

<https://bit.ly/2M7JyyF>

### **ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE POVERTY**

In order to reduce poverty in Tibet, south western China, various activities have been launched in order to reduce poverty to a greater extent. Tibet has constructed 555 resettlement areas and it is focusing on cultivating highland barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), Yak rearing (*Bos grunniens*), and development of tourism industries.

**Aug 3**

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

### LAND USE PROJECTS LAUNCHED TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

In order to solve the problem of unemployment among the youths, two land use projects have been inaugurated in Lumang and Yangnyer village of Trashigang, eastern Bhutan. The main goal of these projects is to reduce unemployment through commercial farming and to increase economic productivity in rural areas. The land where the project is to be started is good for the plantation of quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*), asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*), vegetables etc.

**July 30**

<https://bit.ly/2AYx1bH>

### INAUGURATION OF TWO MAJOR HOSPITALS

Gelephu Central Regional Referral Hospital, southern Bhutan and Tsirang District Hospital, south western Bhutan, have been inaugurated. The regional hospital has 150 beds and the government of Japan has donated CT (Computed Tomography) scan machine and a digital X-ray. The regional hospital has been constructed at a cost of USD 12.17 million and the district hospital at a cost of USD 3.17 million whereas the district hospital has 40 beds. These two hospitals are the major hospitals which are very much beneficial to the people.

**Aug 1**

<https://bit.ly/2OZ9nyR>

### WORLD RANGER DAY CELEBRATED

On July 31, World Ranger Day has been celebrated with the theme of 'Stand with the World's Rangers' in the capital city of Bhutan, west central Bhutan. On this day, women who have given their great contribution in the field of forestry were honoured and addressed. On this occasion, the Agriculture Ministry launched nine publications whereas, the forest officials and guests planted tree saplings to make this day

**Aug 1**

<https://bit.ly/2Mi3Jcs>

### HEAVY RAIN CAUSED FLASH FLOOD

Continuous and heavy rainfall in Buna, eastern Bhutan has led to sudden flood in the area. About 12.5 km road was swiped away by the flood. Farmers have lost their land, paddy (*Oryza sativa*) fields and some people's poultry farms have also been washed away by the flood. According to the locals, flood is an annual phenomenon but this year, it appears to be comparatively a drastic one.

**Aug 3**

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

### HAVOC OF COMMON LEOPARD

A common leopard (*Panthera pardus*) was seen near Bhutan Oil Distributor (BOD) in Trashigang, eastern Bhutan. As per the locals, the leopard attacked the vehicles of the area but with no record of human destruction. The forest officials stated that the leopard might have arrived at highway after deviating from its way and has suggested the travellers to be alert while driving. Panic situation has aroused among the people after the incident

**Aug 4**

<https://bit.ly/2B4sMLC>

### **PLANTATION CAMPAIGN BY RAILWAYS DIVISION**

Plantation campaign has been organized by Peshawar Division of Pakistan Railways, north western Pakistan. Divisional Commercial Officer (DCO) has inaugurated the plantation campaign by planting a sapling at the Peshawar Railways area. Other Officers of railways have also participated in this campaign.

**Aug 1**

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

### **DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH SECTOR**

A digital library has been inaugurated in Abbottabad of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan by British Council. The Country Director of British Council was the Chief of the event where students and information technology experts participated. The Country Director reported that the library will be helpful for the students as well as teachers and others local groups to share their creativity and connect with the world as well as strengthen the relation between two countries. Similarly, the first eye bank of Pakistan has been inaugurated in Rawalpindi, northern Pakistan with the aim to collect corneal donations within the country and provide facilities to the people. With the availability of latest equipments, the doctors will be able to safely retrieve and store cornea for transplantation.

**Aug 1**

<https://bit.ly/2KLmIr5>

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