

Headlines Himalaya

September 1- September 8, 2015 No. 370

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For the 370th issue, we reviewed 18 news reports from 11 sources and selected 15 happenings in five countries. In Nepal wild yaks are at risk, while floods affect wildlife in Assam in India. In Tibet, China, the diversity of fauna increases whereas landslides have caused problems in Bhutan. And dengue patients have been increased in Peshawar, northern 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!

NEPAL *Tourists Decline in Langtang*
 Endangered Wild Yaks at Risk
 Flood Havoc
 Three Nabbed With Sandalwood
 Landslide after Earthquake
 Highway Blocked
 Blackbucks Increase
 Swine Flu Detected

INDIA *Assam Floods*
 Injured Python outside Reserve
 Leopard Rescued and Released

CHINA *Good habitat for Fauna*
 Unusual Crops Cultivated

BHUTAN *Landslide Problems*

PAKISTAN *Increasing Dengue Patients*

TOURISTS DECLINE IN LANGTANG

The number of tourists in Langtang National Park, Rasuwa, central Himalayan Nepal has declined due to recent earthquake. The glacier lake outburst flood had washed the settlement areas and massive landslide triggered by earthquake had totally damaged the VDCs and forests. The number of tourist up to now in 2015 had declined by 500 as compared to 2014.

September 1

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-01/20150901092405.html>

ENDANGERED WILD YAKS AT RISK

The number of wild yak (*Bos mutus*) had decreased due to illegal hunting in Limi Valley, Humla district, mid-western Nepal. The researchers of friends of nature (FoN) had identified only one endangered wild yak (*Bos mutus*) in 2015 where there were two numbers in 2014. There used to be wild yak population of 15000 in China, India and Nepal till a few decades back. Illegal hunting for meat and head to make trophy has threatened the wild yak.

September 1

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-01/survival-of-wild-yaks-under-increasing-threat.html>

FLOOD HAVOC

The flood triggered by heavy rainfall in Thotne River, Okhaldhunga, eastern Nepal has washed three houses and killed two people. Due to the damage of hydropower projects, the electricity supply has been interrupted in the area. This hazard washed five hector of agriculture land as well.

September 1

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/couple-swept-away/>

THREE NABBED WITH SANDALWOOD

Nepal police has arrested three people with 17 kg red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) in Dhapasi, Tokha in Kathmandu, central Nepal. Smugglers were handed over to the District Police Office, Hattisar, for further investigations and actions.

September 2

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/trio-held-with-17-kg-red-sandalwood/>

LANDSLIDE AFTER EARTHQUAKE

The cracked hills made by recent earthquake has triggered landslide in various parts of Bhaktapur district, central Nepal. This hazard has threatened 15 houses and 20 families have been shifted to other areas. Landslide has also badly damaged educational institution.

September 2

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/12149>

HIGHWAY BLOCKED

Landslide has blocked the Mechi Highway near Khokse Khola of Taplejung district, eastern Nepal. After four hours of blockage, about 40 percent of the landslide debris and vehicular jam had been cleared by machine.

September 3

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-03/landslide-obstructs-mechi-highway.html>

BLACKBUCKS INCREASE

Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) population has increased in Blackbuck conservation Center in Khairpur, Bardia, eastern Nepal. The buck population decreased in 2014 due to flood in Babai river but has increased by two in 2015.

September 4

<http://www.gorkhapatraonline.com/news/12207>

SWINE FLU DETECTED

A team of physicians deployed by the Disease Control Division detected swine flu infection while examining some 17 persons in Itahari of Narahi VDC, Bara, central Nepal. Flu had been found in 12 persons in the area. Mostly children and elder were found affected.

September 5

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/27629/12-people-detected-with-swine-flu-in-bara-html>

India-Himalaya

ASSAM FLOODS

The overflow of river and their bank caused flood in Assam, north east India where 16,000 peoples and wildlife have been affected. It has killed around 21 people in the last four days and made more than 800,000 people homeless. Wild animals including elephants, deer, buffalo and some of the 2,500 endangered one-horn rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park have moved to safer place.

September 1

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1204237/monsoon-floods-swamp-northeast-indian-villages-21-dead>

INJURED PYTHON OUTSIDE RESERVE

An injured Python (*Python molurus*) of 10 feet long had been found nine miles outside of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary (AWL) in Assam, northeastern part of India. Deforestation was a major reason for such incidents. After the treatment, it was released five kilometres inside the reserve by Khanapara Range Amchang Wildlife sanctuary. (AWL).

September 1

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep0215/city050>

LEOPARD RESCUED AND RELEASED

The leopard that escaped from Dehradun forest was observed in agriculture field in Dehradun, Uttarakhand northern part of India. It was rescued by locals and forest officials after trapping and was released in forest area. Human wildlife conflicts are a major problem in the state.

September 2

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/leopard-rescued/127967.html>

China Himalaya

GOOD HABITAT FOR FAUNA

Tibetan plateau, southern Tibet has become ecologically important as many endangered species are found. The population of Tibetan Antelopes (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) has increased from 40,000 to nearly 200,000 in the last decades. The best environmental quality of this plateau offers good habitat for 125 different species of wild animals and are under state protection.

September 6

http://eng.tibet.cn/2010hb/xw/201509/t20150906_3934424.html

UNUSUAL CROPS CULTIVATED

An unusual-looking crop named Quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*) with dark-red spikes and purple-green leaves had grown along the banks and valleys of the Lhasa and Yarklungtsangpo rivers in eastern Tibet. President of Quinoa Company said that 200 ha plot of quinoa will yield 250,000 kilograms of grains. These grains are highly nutritious, drought resistant and salt tolerant, making it popular with many industrialized countries.

September 7

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201509/t20150907_3935047.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

LANDSLIDE PROBLEMS

Several roads have been blocked due to landslide caused by massive rainfall in Bhutan. Road Department officials have mobilized manpower to clear roadblocks. Peoples are advised to take caution while travelling.

September 5

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/heavy-rains-cause-several-landslides-nationwide/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

INCREASING DENGUE PATIENTS

The health team of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dengue Control Programme (DCP) in Manshera, Peshawar, northern Pakistan visited the hospital where many dengue patients from different districts had been admitted. Doctors said that situation was under control and 68 blood samples had been sent to National Institute of health in Islamabad for further research. Precautionary steps had been taken dividing the district into 23 zones.

September 3

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-337881-Health-team-visits-dengue-hit-areas-in-Mansehra>