

Headlines Himalaya

June 02- June 09, 2015

No. 357

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For the 357th issue, we reviewed 16 news reports from 9 sources and selected 15 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, wheat production has been up while plantation drive takes off in north-eastern in India. In Tibet, China, Lulang Forest Sea has been gaining popularity and maggi noodles have been banned in Bhutan. And remuneration has been provided to government schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwest 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!

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Nepal-Himalaya

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

- As of 3rd June, 2015, the Government of Nepal confirmed over 500,000 houses was destroyed and 8,700 people were killed by the earthquakes. Humanitarian partners revised the Nepal Flash Appeal extending the implementation period from three to five months to ensure linkage with the Government's recovery programme. There was no increase in the overall estimated funding requirement. (*Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.20, OCHA*). The table below shows the 15 most affected districts death toll and casualties.

15 most affected districts Nepal earthquake 2015

Sn	District	Total no.of HH	Total Population	Male	Female	Injured
1	Bhaktapur	68636	304651	119	214	2101
2	Dhading	73851	336067	340	393	1218

3	Dolakha	45688	186557	84	85	662
4	Gorkha	66506	271061	215	233	952
5	Kavrepalanchowk	80720	381937	129	189	1179
6	Kathmandu	436344	1744240	621	600	7949
7	Lalitpur	109797	468132	69	108	3052
8	Makwanpur	86127	420477	16	17	229
9	Nuwakot	59215	277471	461	637	1051
10	Okhaldhunga	32502	147984	10	10	61
11	Ramechhap	43910	202646	16	23	135
12	Rasuwa	9778	43300	309	343	771
13	Sindhuli	57581	296192	5	10	230
14	Sindhupalchowk	66688	287798	1497	1943	1571
15	Solukhumbu	23785	105886	15	5	100

(Source: Government of Nepal, Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal)

- As of 3 June, the Government reported a total of 505,745 houses destroyed and 279,330 damaged by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April and the 7.3 quake on 12 May. The earthquakes killed 8,702 people (4,801 female; 3,899 male; 2 bodies remain unidentified) and injured thousands of people. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.20, OCHA).*
- An estimated 2.8 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Reaching some 864,000 people in hard to reach areas who have lost their homes and live below the poverty line is a priority. With the impending monsoon rains expected to further isolate remote villages, district authorities and humanitarian partners continue to prioritize distribution of shelter materials in the northern-most Village Development Committees (VDCs). *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.19, OCHA).*
- With reports received of possible relocation of villages and continuing internal migration as a result of the earthquake and eminent arrival of the monsoon, humanitarian partners have expressed the need to ensure that protection monitoring mechanisms are in place. Temporary relocation and encampment is the least preferred option and should only be considered if it is necessary for immediate life-saving purposes. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No 20, OCHA).*
- According to the Financial Tracking service, a report compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations as of 02 June 2015 funds received total USD 309.87 million while outstanding pledges total USD 339.07 million.

https://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R10_E16575_asof___1506090300.pdf

- The accounts of funds deposited in PM disaster relief fund have accumulated to four billion Nepalese rupees. <http://drrportal.gov.np/list-of-contributer>

WHEAT PRODUCTION UP

Nepali farmers have produced over 92,000 tons wheat in the current fiscal year. Likewise the production of barley has increased by seven percent and buck wheat by five, while there has been a reduction in the main crop paddy and maize. The relief programs for farmers are being conducted with priority in the earthquake affected areas.

June 02

<http://www.karobardaily.com/2015/06/5319/>

INDUSTRIES LACK WORKERS

The export oriented industries in Kathmandu, central Nepal have suffered as the workers left after the earthquake on April 25. The majorities of industries are not in a position to recruit new workers as they need skilled workers. Nepal exports carpets worth over NPR six billion per year. The total export has fallen by 5.6 percent in the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

June 02

<http://www.karobardaily.com/2015/06/5321/>

UNSAFE BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED

The joint team of security forces, led by Nepal Army (NA), has demolished over 4,000 buildings that were at risk of collapsing due to structural damage caused by the April 25 earthquake and its aftershocks, central Nepal. The preliminary assessment carried out by the local administrations from the three districts inside valley showed around 4,054 damaged buildings need to be demolished, including 1,451 in Kathmandu and 1,998 in Lalitpur.

June 02

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/02/capital/over-4000-unsafe-buildings-demolished/405996.html>

YARSAGUMBA COLLECTION CLOSES SCHOOLS

The schools of Dolpa district, mid-western Nepal and Darchula district, far western Nepal have been closed for 20 days as students abstain to collect Yarshagumba (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*). The medicinal herb has been a major source of income in the districts.

June 02

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/02/national/people-reach-highlands-in-droves-to-collect-himalayan-viagra/405999.html>

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

The farmers affected by the April 25 earthquake and aftershocks have been given a total of 17,930 Kg free paddy seeds by the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), Bhaktapur, central Nepal. . The seeds were purchased from farmers in Kavre as well as from Bhaktapur itself. However, the demand of the farmers has been yet to be fulfilled.

June 04

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/item/22080-free-paddy-seeds-to-quake-affected-farmers.html>

FIRE FIRES

The fire in chure region of Banke National Park, mid-western Nepal has created havoc in many national forests along

with the park. It was broke out a week ago, while the personnel from district forest and community forest have not taken action yet.

June 04

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7706>

EARTHQUAKE CHANGES GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

The devastating earthquake of April 25 and its strong aftershocks have changed the geographical position of Kathmandu valley and adjoining places, central Nepal. The landmass at Nagarkot, Phulchoki, Lakhedanda, Swayambhu and Kumaridanda has been found shifted towards the south-east direction by 1.82 m, 0.92 m, 0.99 m, 1.64 m and 1.71 m respectively.

June 04

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7706>

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING TO CHILDREN

The Youth Society Nepal Chitwan has given psychosocial counseling to over 300 children affected by the recent Gorkha earthquake, central Nepal. The counseling service has been completed in Shaktikhor, Bharatpur, Barhaghare, Devghat and at present focused on other areas of the district.

June 05

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/3967>

India-Himalaya

PLANTATION DRIVE

The green Guwahati drive has been launched aimed in planting saplings at Guwahati, Darjeeling district, north-eastern India. The forest department will initially plant trees across 15 ha of land and later will take the count to over 200,000 saplings in 106 ha.

June 2 2015

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150603/jsp/northeast/story_23602.jsp#.VW6sJVL5Hcs

China Himalaya

MAGNIFICENT LULANG FOREST SEA

The Lulang forest sea observation deck situated at an altitude of 4,300m has become one of the perfect places at Bayi township of Nyingchi city, Tibet autonomous region, southwest China. The local and international tourists come here to enjoy the sea of forests, clouds, flowers and the Namjiagbarwa peak.

June 2 2015

http://eng.tibet.cn/2010hb/xw/201506/t20150602_3100568.html

TECHNOLOGICAL TRIUMPH

The two major problems, preventing the track from clipping due to ice melting on the roadbed, and improving thermal stability that led to Tibet's first railway, southern China have been possible due to the effort of scientist's. Scientific technologies have been applied to the 550 km railway built on permafrost and a water transfer project in Gansu province.

June 02

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201506/t20150602_3098194.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

GREEN RECORD

Bhutan holds the Guinness Book of World Records for planting the most number of trees in an hour. Around 49,672 trees have been planted at Kuenselphodrang, Thimphu, western central Bhutan although 50,000 was the number attempted.

June 03

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/a-green-guinness-record/#.VXZ0Vo6qqko>

MAGGI BANNED

The sale and display of Maggi noodles has been temporally banned in Thimpu, for safety reasons as it has been found unsafe and hazardous for human consumption. Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) officials have sealed around 1,000 cartoons of Maggi noodles and 178 cartoons of Maggie cup noodles.

June 08

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/sale-and-display-of-maggi-banned/#.VXZz5I6qqko>

Pakistan- Himalaya

REMUNERATION TO SCHOOLS

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, north western Pakistan, has given over PKR 57 million for construction of boundary walls of government schools for boys in lower Dir district. A total of 149 government primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools would be provided with PKR 3.85 million each. The school heads have been asked to utilize the funds on development activities.

June 07

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=07_06_2015_183_007