

Headlines Himalaya

July 14-July 21, 2015

No. 363

Editorial Team – Khem Raj Khanal & Sangam Rai

For the 363rd issue, we reviewed 23 news reports from 12 sources and selected 14 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, Collaborative Forest has been successfully managed while Poplar seeds have created threats in India. In Tibet, China, water resources have been protected and monsoon has caused havoc in Bhutan. And floods have destroyed infrastructures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwestern 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

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION OBSTRUCTED

The distribution of relief materials have been obstructed by the landslides at many road sections in Sindhupalchok district, central Nepal. The Red Cross had been distributing relief materials in the district under the coordination of World Food Programme since one month.

18 July

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/latest/landslides-obstruct-relief-distribution-in-sindhupalchok/>

LANDSLIDE DISPLACES HOMES

A landslide that occurred at Maldhunga, Kusma, Parbat district, western Nepal had displaced over 150 households. The Beni-Baglung road section has also been obstructed while dwellers at Maldhunga have been shifted at safer locations as several cracks were developed in a cliff above the settlement.

19 July

<http://www.myrepublica.com/feature-article/item/24810-150-households-displaced-as-fresh-landslide-looms-large-in-parbat.html#sthash.3N4ca82k.dpuf>

COLLABORATIVE FOREST SUCCESS

The Lumbini collaborative forest in mid western Nepal spread over 1,321 ha has been successfully managed by over 25,000 households in collaboration with the government. It has helped locals to gain economic, social and environmental benefits. The users can prune mature trees, use old ones and replace them with new saplings.

19 July

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/07/19/national/collaborative-forest-mgmt-approach-scientific-say-users/408090.html>

India-Himalaya

ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE

The increased population in Dharampur and its adjoining areas, northern India has led to acute shortage of water. The Giri Potable Water Scheme of INR 6.4 billion that was launched in 2008 has failed to fulfill the supply. Around 1.5 million litres to 2 million litres water is lost due to defect in the distribution of lines whereas the required amount to serve Solan was 8 million litres per day.

July 14

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/community/water-shortage-plagues-dharampur/106709.html>

POPLER SEEDS THREAT

The Government of Kashmir, northern India has been undertaking a challenging task to axe nearly 20 million Russian female poplar trees (*Populus tremula*). The dispersal of cotton seed from the species may trigger allergic reactions like respiratory disorders, irritation of eyes, nose and throats in some people as well as major environmental catastrophe in coming year in the eco-fragile valley. It can be controlled without mass felling of the trees.

July 15

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/mobi/news/kashmir/experts-sound-caution-on-poplar-tree-felling-say-it-can-be-disastrous/191841.html>

HEAVY RAINFALL WREAKS HAVOC

The heavy rains had adversely affected different areas of Jammu Kashmir, northern India as water has not been supplied for 3-4 days. Link road, Pipal Wali Gali, Lower Mastgarh and the adjoining areas of Purani Mandi have been suffering from water crisis. Locals are able to fetch only one or two buckets of water daily.

July 15

<http://jammu.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/story/191877.html>

REMUNERATION FOR UTTARAKHAND

The Government of Uttarakhand, northern India has received a remuneration of INR 20 billion from the centre for developing infrastructures in over 10,000 villages. The fund sanctioned by Union Panchayati Raj Ministry, will be handed over to 8,000 Gram Panchayat for the construction of roads and bridges, drinking water and power projects.

July 15

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Ukhand-gets-Rs-2000-crore-from-Centre-to-improve-village-infra/articleshow/48089123.cms>

FLOOD INUNDATE

The floods accompanied by heavy rains had affected about 65,000 people in over 155 villages in Assam, north eastern India. More than 1,600 ha of crops have been destroyed while two parts of road and two embankments of Lakhimpur had been swept away. Likewise five roads were damaged and several embankments were breached at

four places in Sonitpur.
July 15

http://zeenews.india.com/news/assam/assam-flood-situation-grim-following-incessant-rains_1630725.html

China Himalaya

ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION

The Government of China has launched two phases of an ecological protection and construction project in the Sanjiangyuan area, Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, southern China. The projects have contributed to an increase of grassland and water by 12,370 ha and wetlands by 279,850 ha together with a decrease in desert area by 492,610 ha. The latest satellite data monitoring reports showed the area of Qinghai lake has been restored to 4389.31 square kilometres.

July 15

http://eng.tibet.cn/2010hb/xw/201507/t20150716_3536154.html

NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED

The zoologists have found new species of frog (cascade frog) and snake (Pallas pit viper) during a survey on wild land animals in Tibet Autonomous Region, southwest China. The scientists had confirmed the existence of over 20 endangered species, such as falcons and barking deer, in Tibet for the first time. The number of recorded vertebrates in the plateau region has reached more than 800.

July 16

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-07/16/c_134418572.htm

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201507/t20150716_3537674.html

ENDANGERED LEOPARD SEEN

The snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) has been seen in the Himalayas at an altitude of about 3900m in Woma Village, Tibet Autonomous Region, southwest China. It is been listed as endangered on the "IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2003". The size of the global population was estimated at 4,080–6,590 adults, of which fewer than 2,500 individuals may reproduce in the wild.

July 18

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201507/t20150718_3562597.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

MONSOON MENACE

The monsoon has given rise to financial burden for Department of Roads (DoR) in Phuentsholing region, southern Bhutan. The loss to roads in 2014 was about USD 0.47 million while it may go up to USD 0.78 million in this year. Similarly, the GC road connecting Tendu and Bara in Samtse is still cut-off due to landslides at three points. Gedu-Meretsemo and Sipsu-Tendu are constantly affected during monsoons.

July 20

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/monsoon-menace-to-cost-millions/>

HEAVY RAINFALL FORECAST

The Met Department had forecasted the occurrence of heavy rainfall in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Kashmir, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sargodha and Faisalabad over the weekend. Lahore had received 119 mm, Islamabad 66 mm, Murree 55 mm, Bannu 43 mm and Jhelum 26.6 mm rain. Heavy rain is expected in Kashmir, Hazara, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Gujranwala divisions over the next two days.

July 17

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191398-Met-Dept-forecasts-rainfall-over-the-weekend#sthash.37amMeW9.dpuf>

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=2&key=ODcyMzc=#sthash.eiDmqifo.dpuf>

FLOODS WREAK HAVOC

The floods accompanied by heavy rainfall had destroyed a bridge in Mastuj sub-division, disconnecting ten union councils from the main Chitral city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan. Likewise several houses, bridges and roads have been washed away. The rehabilitation and reconstruction works have been started in the affected areas.

July 20

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=3&key=ODczNTU=>