

Headlines Himalaya

Sep 12 – Sep 18

No. 422

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For the 422nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 20 news from 9 sources and selected 17 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, two injured rhino calves were rescued from the Meghauri and Amaltari jungle of Chitwan district and first integrated Dolphin census was successfully conducted resulting the total of 52 dolphin population in the country. In India, scientists from Central University of Himachal Pradesh identified *Aloe vera* as a termite repellent. Third tourism and culture expo is held in Lhasa, Tibet. Matar zela (*Trillium govanium*) is being considered as the new source of income by the farmers of north-western 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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INDIA	<i>Leopard shot to death</i> <i>Aloe vera as Termite repellent</i> <i>Two elephants electrocuted</i>
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Nepal-Himalaya

SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZERS IN PEAK PERIOD

Farmers in Gorkha district, western Nepal are in great stress due to lack of fertilizers in peak season of farming. The Licensed agriculture cooperatives have stopped supplying the fertilizers to them for getting better rates from the local businessmen. Many farmers are left with no other option than to buy fertilizers at exorbitant rates.

Sep 12

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5486>

FLOOD-RELATED ISSUES NEGLECTED

Indian authorities refused to comment on addressing the problem of flood related issues in the Tarai districts of Nepal during the Nepal-India home secretary-level talks held on September 8-9 in New Delhi. The embankments constructed by the Indian side has been causing the adverse flood conditions in the affected districts. The talks

focused on cross-border issues, mainly border conflicts, fake currencies, smuggling of drugs and arms and terrorism.

Sep 12

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5495>

TWO INJURED RHINO CALVES RESCUED

The Chitwan National Park (CNP) has rescued two injured male rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) calves from the Megghauli and Amaltari jungle in Chitwan district, south-western Nepal. The officials believe that one calf of around eight month is the new born of a rhino that was killed in an electric shock in Megghauli Serai Hotel on 8th August and another calf of one month might had been separated from mother during the flood. Both of them were suspected of being attacked by the tiger in the jungle.

Sep 13

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-12/two-rhino-calves-rescued.html>

CHILDREN RISKING LIFE TO REACH SCHOOL

Lack of high school in the Birkra village in the district of Arghakhanchi, west Nepal has forced more than 60 students to cross the treacherous river by swimming to reach school in neighbouring village. Despite the risk faced by the children, the local development officer cited inadequate budget to build a bridge. The sight of parents worrying and praying for their children's safe return can be felt everywhere in that village especially during the monsoon season when the river has strong current and floods.

Sep 14

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5613>

TOURISTS INCREASE IN ANNAPURNA CIRCUIT

The number of foreign tourist in the Annapurna circuit has been increasing in the peak season of Annapurna trekking. As many as 60 tourists have been passing through Lamjung, the only entry point of the destination on a daily basis. The official at the site are happy to receive more tourists even during the off season as compared to last year.

Sep 15

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/tourist-numbers-annapurna-circuit/>

MT MANASLU RECEIVING HIGHEST NO. OF CLIMBERS

Mt Manaslu (8156m), world's eighth highest mountain located in the Gorkha district, western Nepal, has received 151 foreign climbers out of 277 climbers permitted by Nepal government on 19 mountains. With the base camp being crowded, the altitude crews have already fixed the rope up to the Camp III. The climbers generally target to attempt the final summit from the last week of September to mid-October depending upon weather.

Sep 17

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/mt-manaslu-tops-autumn-climbing-chart-151-climbers/>

LOCALS IN SHORTAGE OF FOOD

Locals in as many of 18 VDCs in the district of Bajhang, far-west Nepal are in the shortage of food items whereas the local office at the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) is letting the stock of rice rot in its godown. No food item was supplied in that district for the last four months due to road obstruction. It was reported that 3,000 tons of rice is rotting in the godown of NFC but still no plans of food distribution is reported.

Sep 17

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5810>

RED PANDA DAY CELEBRATED IN EASTERN NEPAL

With the slogan of 'Let's conserve Red Panda', students from nine different schools celebrated Red Panda day in the eastern districts; Ilam, Panchthar and Taplejung of Nepal. This event was organized with various programmes such as elocution and fine art competition, cultural programs to raise the awareness on the conservation of this rare species. Nepal has been marking every third Saturday of September as Internal Red Panda Day since 2011.

Sep 18

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/red-panda-day-observed-eastern-districts/>

FIRST INTEGRATED DOLPHIN CENSUS

The first Integrated Dolphin Census was carried out on July 23 in order to obtain a reliable and comprehensive data of this species in Nepal. This census programme, coordinated by Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation in collaboration with National Trust of Nature Conservation (NTNC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was conducted in the Mohana River and its tributaries, Koshi, Karnali, Geruwa, and Narayani Rivers. A total of 52 dolphins were recorded during census, 43 in Mohana River and its tributaries, nine in Koshi River and none from others. Floods might have impacted the census.

Sep 18

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/first-integrated-dolphin-census-concludes/>

USURPING OF FORESTLAND

In the western region of Nepal, 27,258 ha of forest land has been usurped by landless people for settlement as per data from the Western Regional Forest Directorate. Large swathe of forest land has been cleared particularly in the Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi districts. In addition, rather than moving out from the occupied space, they insisted the government to provide them land ownership documents.

Sep 18

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-17/27000-ha-forest-land-encroached-upon.html>

DEFORESTATION HITS THE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

With the increase in deforestation, many villagers were forced to abandon animal husbandry due to lack of fodder in the Jajarkot district, mid-west Nepal. Each family used to own many buffaloes in the past but a single one is found these days. This has affected the dairy production and already dairies at eight locations in the district are closed.

Sep 18

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/5853>

India-Himalaya

TWO ELEPHANTS ELECTROCUTED

In the range of Rajaji National Park, Haridwar city of Uttarakhand, India, two elephants (*Elephas maximus*) were reported to be electrocuted. A 17 years female elephant and her 3 years old infant got electrocuted when they came in contact with 132KV high tension cable passing along the park. The dead elephants were spotted in a ditch by patrolling park employee due to a foul smell emanating from them.

Sep 16

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/two-jumbos-electrocuted-at-rajaji-park/296244.html>

ALOE AS TERMITE REPELLENT

Aloe vera has been identified as termite repellent by the scientists of Environment Science Department of Central University of Himachal Pradesh that can be useful to solve the termite problems in Shapur area of Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. Scientists added the fact that aloe has many health benefits and could also be used as bio-pesticides, bio-absorbent or bio-fertilizers.

Sep 17

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/mobi/news/himachal/community/aloevera-can-work-magic-as-termite-repellent-bio-fertilizers/296198.html>

LEOPARD SHOT TO DEATH

A 10 years old man-eater leopard (*Panthera pardus*) that killed a 10 years old boy at Sem village of Tehri district in Garhwal region of Uttarakhand was shot dead by the authorized shooter in Balaganj area of Ghansali forest. Since, it had attacked humans several times, the villagers had demanded the forest staffs to kill the leopard.

Sep 18

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Man-eater-leopard-shot-dead/articleshow/54383641.cms>

China Himalaya

THIRD TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXPO

With the aim of promoting tourism and culture, third tourism and cultural expo was held in Lhasa, capital of Tibet in southwest China at Tibet Convention Centre. Many guests from home town and abroad attended the grand expo. The expo played an important role in upgrading the region as an international travel destination, Chinese culture and major way to open to South Asians. 299 merchants from Nepal were present whereas traders from Taiwan and India appeared for the first time in the expo.

Sep 12

http://english.chinatibetnews.com/tt/201609/t20160912_1427437.html

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http://english.chinatibetnews.com/tt/201609/t20160914_1432544.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

CELEBRATION OF WORLD OZONE DAY

With the theme of restoring the global Ozone layer, World Ozone Day was celebrated in Bhutan on September 17, along with the participation of representatives from various ministries, agencies, and schools. Bhutan has successfully phased out one of the Ozone depleting substances i.e. chlorofluorocarbons and in the path of phasing the HYdrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC). Bhutan had become a party to Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer in 2004.

Sep 18

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/bhutan-on-track-to-phasing-out-ozone-depleting-substances/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

NEW SOURCE OF INCOME

The herbal plant, Matar zela (*Trillium govanium*) found in Upper Dir, north-western Pakistan lying in the foothills of the Himalayas, has been a new source of income for the farmers. As the mushroom business is declining, the dealers are attracted towards the herbal business. These herbal plants are said to be used in different homeopathic medicines. Matar zela is more profitable than mushrooms as they don't decompose like mushroom and can be stored for years.

Sep 18

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/khyber-pakhtunkhwa/18-Sep-16/matar-zela-herb-becomes-alternative-source-of-income-for-mushroom-dealers>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1284421/mushroom-traders-in-dir-turn-to-selling-herbal-plant>