

Headlines Himalaya

Apr 16 – Apr 22 (2018)

No. 501

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For the 501st issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 38 news from 12 sources and selected 36 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Swamp Deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*) census started at Shuklaphanta National Park in far western part of the country. World Earth Day celebrated with a theme “End Plastic Production” in different parts of Nepal. In China, the population of black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) has reached to 310 according to the County's Environmental Protection and Forestry Department. Modern medical equipments have been installed in the Bacha Khan Medical Complex (BKMC) of Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 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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Nepal-Himalaya

INCREASED CHARGE FOR YARSA COLLECTION

The Yarsa (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*) collectors have been charged NPR 500 more while collecting Yarsa in the mountainous district, Dolpa, mid-western Nepal, from this year. The local government chiefs, District Coordination Committee, District Administration Office, and other stakeholders discussed among each other and had finalized the decision. The amount collected will aid for various programmes of biodiversity conservation and awareness.

Apr 16

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/39982/>

FISHES OUT OF MENU IN CNP

The eating of fishes, both from rivers inside of Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, and those brought in from outside have been decreased from the menu to increase the food for gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*), one of the protected species, which is a better way to conserve them. According to the experts, the major threat is habitat fragmentation caused by humans which causes pollution in rivers. The Chief Conservation Officer disseminated that this decision has supported the park officials to discourage fishing in the rivers.

Apr 16

<https://bit.ly/2jtF5Wt>

MAN INJURED BY LEOPARD ATTACK

A leopard (*Panthera pardus*) entering a human settlement connecting Shuklaphanta National Park has attacked a 45 year old man in Bhimduttanagar, Kanchanpur, far western Nepal and also killed a goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*). According to the police, the man has been rushed to hospital and the leopard was chased away with the help of security personnels.

Apr 16

<https://bit.ly/2wc8a1K>

REFUSE TO HANDOVER SEIZED TIMBERS

Timbers that had been seized from smugglers on March 30 in Siddhalek Rural Municipality, Dhading, central Nepal has been still kept by the local residents despite the notice from District Forest Office. The timbers were seized while being transported to a furniture factory. However, municipal people have refused to hand over those seized timbers to the District Forest Office.

Apr 17

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

RISK CAUSED DUE TO DHANKUTA FOREST FIRES

Two community forests in Dhankuta, eastern Nepal have been caught up by fires since Saturday evening. The fire that had not been controlled until Monday afternoon has burned more than 100 hectares of forest causing many settlements at risk. Similarly, the relief such as food items, money, clothes and other necessary items has been provided by the government to the families affected by fire in Bara district, central Nepal and the fire that spread from the kitchen of one of the locals in Udayapur district, eastern Nepal, has damaged the properties worth nearly NPR 2 million.

Apr 17

<https://bit.ly/2JPSS17>

LAND ENCROACHED AT FEWA

Around 86.075 hectares of land has been encroached and registered in the names of private individuals over last 40 years at Fewa Lake in Pokhara, western Nepal as reported by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). The bursting of Pardi Dam in 1975 has led the drying of around 50 per cent of lake and hence encroachment proliferated. The high level committee formed by the government had warned that the lake would vanish after 75 to 100 years if the encroachment rate continues.

Apr 17

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40044/>

DEATH DUE TO STORM

Due to strong winds followed by rainfall, in Mahottari district, central Nepal, two people has been killed on April 17. Beside this, the district residents also suffered from disruption of telephone and electricity lines due to the storm. According to the Chief of Nepal Electricity Authority Jaleswor Branch, the storm has hit the poles, transformers and transmission lines in various places.

Apr 17

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

PAINTING COMPETITION ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION WEEK

On the occasion of 23rd Wildlife Conservation Week, painting competition has been organized with a title "Wildlife Conservation for Prosperity" on Monday to raise awareness about nature and wildlife conservation. The competition was accomplished with the participation of 42 student artists representing 16 schools around the valley in coordination with National Parks and Wildlife Reserve Department at Maitighar Mandala, Kathmandu, central Nepal.

Apr 18

<https://bit.ly/2w9Rist>

SWITCHING TO OTHER PROFESSIONS THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The people of high mountainous and hilly regions of Nepal are now switching their professions from animal husbandry to other such as going abroad, farming of medicinal herbs, mushrooms (*Agaricus* spp) and pulses. According to one of the farmer, in order to get access of health, transportation, education, communication and other facilities and due to lack of popularity of animal husbandry among new generations, people are migrating to other regions especially plain areas and changing their occupations.

Apr 18

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40099/>

PRODUCTION BEYOND EXPECTATION

With the aim to utilize the government's land that has been housing agricultural farm, Jute Research Programme in Itahari, Sunsari, eastern Nepal has produced eight different improved varieties of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) seeds totalling 22 tonnes this year. According to a senior scientist at Jute Research Program, jute (*Corchorus* spp.) is produced during summer and the land used to be left idle, so to better utilisation of the land, improved varieties of paddy (*Oryza sativa*) seeds are grown during summer and wheat and lentils (*Lens culinaris*) seeds during winter.

Apr 19

<https://bit.ly/2IfUK9w>

DEATH OF THE LAST KUSUNDA SPEAKER

The last Kusunda speaker in Tanahun, western Nepal, has died on April 18 at the age of 70. According to the Chairperson of Tanahun Tourism Development Committee, he was the only person to speak his tribal language and had immense contribution in the conservation and continuation of Kusunda culture and language. The political parties, journalists, social activists and other people has expressed their heartily condolences on social media.

Apr 19

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40150/>

SMUGGLED POULTRY AND CHICKEN

After India was detected with bird flu, the government of Nepal had prohibited the import of chicken and poultry products from India. But different markets in Siraha, eastern Nepal, have been found selling them openly as chicken and white eggs are being smuggled to different Nepal-India border. The police in the border had arrested smugglers with chicken worth NPR 8, 50,000.

Apr 19

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40193/>

SWAMP DEER CENSUS AT SHUKLAPHANTA NATIONAL PARK

The census and monitoring of swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), has started in Shuklaphanta National Park, far western Nepal since Monday and will continue till Friday. It is being done with the collaboration of park officials and stakeholders. Shuklaphanta is considered to be the most appropriate place for observing swamp deer and the monitoring helps to get information about new habitat and overall situation of swamp deer.

Apr 19

<https://bit.ly/2rg0ian>

EARNINGS THROUGH TRASH COLLECTION

Daily thousands of Indian scrap collectors who have been entering parts of Morang district, eastern Nepal from the eastern border have been earning handsome amount by collecting scraps from Nepali households. Many of the scrap collected are sold in Nepali market, while some of them are taken to Indian Market. According to the Scrap Collection Entrepreneur of Urlabari, Morang, eastern Nepal, a total of 500 scraps collectors are working in the districts.

Apr 20

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/23051>

AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO LOCALS FROM CNP

In order to enhance skill development training and infrastructure development in locality, the buffer zone management committee comprising the locals around Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal, has distributed over NPR 700 million to the locals over there. The amount was distributed after two years of committee formation mobilized from CNP income which has also increased the interest of locals in preserving the national park.

Apr 20

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/23063>

NEPAL GIFTS TWO PAIR OF RHINOS TO CHINA

Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal, has begun the process to capture two pairs of rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) possibly from the Amaltari area on the western side of the park to gift them to China. The rhinos would be between one year or one and half year old. The gifted rhinos will be kept at Chimelong Safari park at Guangzhou and Shanghai Wild Animal Park, China.

Apr 20

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40216/>

INCREASED DEMAND FOR NEPALI TEA IN INDIA

Eastern Nepal districts have increased the export of Nepali tea (*Camellia sinensis*) in India and Nepal had exported tea worth around NPR 2 billion in the first nine months of current fiscal year. Over 26,000 hectares of the land have been producing tea at current and it can be enhanced if the appropriate technology and modern farming techniques will be adopted. Nepal had recently received trademark for Nepali orthodox tea.

Apr 20

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

LOCALS PREPARING TO COLLECT YARSHA

The festive like season for collecting Yarshagumba (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*), the world's most expensive herb, is onset to start and the locals of Mugu, mid western Nepal, are already preparing to make a trip to highlands where Yarshagumba grows. The people have to pay entry fees to enter areas where Yarshagumba grows and the fund

raised will be used for developmental purpose. Even the people working in India return home during the season of collecting Yarsha.

Apr 21

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

CLEANING CAMPAIGN IN KATHMANDU

Around 51 metric tons wastes have been managed from different parts of Kathmandu, central Nepal cleaning the rivers and streets. Around 12 metric tons from Baneshwor Campus area, two metric tons from Sundarijal area of Bagmati River, two metric tons from Ratopul to Kamalpokhari, one metric tons from Tilganga area, five metric tons from Manamaiju bridge area and remaining from Jadibudi of Bhaktapur, Chakrapath, Syuchatar and Aloknagar have been collected with the involvement of locals, campaigners, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and several organizations.

Apr 21

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40298/>

SCIENTIFIC FOREST MANAGEMENT STARTS AT DOLAKHA

With the aim of improving depleting forest quality and productivity, the Scientific Forest Management (SFM), has been started in Khorthali Community Forest in Charikot, central Nepal. The users can prune mature trees, fell old trees and replace them with new saplings following SFM process which helps in regeneration and sustainability of the forests. According to the District Forest Officer, the SFM needs to be implemented in whole district as most of the trees in the forest are old which has deteriorated biodiversity and ecological importance.

Apr 22

<https://bit.ly/2HJ3gyp>

TIGER FOUND DEAD AT CNP

A tiger (*Panthera tigris*) has been found dead in the Rapti riverbank of the Chitwan National Park (CNP), south central Nepal. According to the CNP authorities, the tiger could have died while encountering with another tiger last night. They further added that altogether four tigers have been spotted dead in Chitwan in the last two months including the latest death. The dead tiger was spotted by the local resident, while foraging for fodder.

Apr 22

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40360/>

CELEBRATION OF WORLD EARTH DAY

With the theme of "End Plastic Pollution", World Earth Day is celebrated in different parts of country. Plastic pollution is one of the burning issues in the globe. This year's Earth day is dedicated to provide information and awareness needed towards the band of the excessive use of plastic and end plastic pollution. World Earth Day was first celebrated in 1972 on April 22.

Apr 22

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40369/>

COMMITTEE FORMED TO STUDY RHINO MORTALITY

It has been found that the number of death of rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), has increased in the recent years. Concerning about the increasing deaths of rhino, the Department of National Park has formed a committee to study about recent number of rhinoceros, deaths and its causes in addition to poaching and natural death under the coordination of different conservationists. Altogether 605 rhinos are present at CNP according to the latest census.

Apr 22

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40368/>

BISHNUPUR DECLARED OPEN DEFECATION FREE DISTRICT

Bishnupur in Manipurnorth eastern India, has become the second Open Defecation Free (ODF) district whereas Nagaland was declared the first ODF district. According to the Superintending Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), within the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin in Manipur, about 3, 65,576 individual household toilets have been constructed till now. He further added that the entire State will soon achieve the ODF status.

Apr 18

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

HIGH REVENUE COLLECTION FROM FOREST

The revenue of USD 1,807,984 has been collected by Forest division of Kamrup East, north eastern India in 2017-18 financial years. During the period, large numbers of forest offences were also detected and new plan has been implemented by Forest division of Kamrup East to collect more revenue in the current year.

Apr 18

<https://bit.ly/2rn0q7x>

WORLD HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATED IN KASHMIR

Department of Archives Archaeology and Museums has organized exhibition on the occasion of World Heritage Day and the traditional and exquisite Kashmiri shawls were displayed at Shri Pratap Singh (SPS) Museum Lal Mandi, Srinagar, northern India. Different types of shawls, which included Shah Passand Kani Shawls, Jamavers, embroidered Romals and Amlikar Shawls were the limelight of the exhibition. Students from various schools and colleges and many visitors have visited the exhibition.

Apr 18 & 19

<https://bit.ly/2I5VnCN>

<https://bit.ly/2rjC666>

RARE SPECIES OF TORTOISE RESCUED

A rare species of tortoise (*Testudinidae* sp.) has been found near Changsari, northern India and has been rescued by people and a team of Forest officials. They brought the tortoise to the Sila Range Forest Office and released it at the Saraighat Lake. The forest officials and wildlife organizations are working to create awareness among people about the importance of tortoise.

Apr 19

<https://bit.ly/2reC2FS>

CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY

On the occasion of Earth day, the Governor of Jammu, northern India, urged to come together for protecting the natural resources. He further highlighted the importance of working together for solving serious environmental issues, promoting natural balance and encouraging the people to respect the natural resources of the planet. He concluded by requesting the people to discontinue the use of plastics.

Apr 21

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

IMPORTANT MEDICINAL PLANTS IN TIBET

The Reishi mushroom (*Ganoderma lucidum*) is unique and a protected geographical icon product in Nyingchi, south western China's Tibet. It is very important medicinal plant which contains more than half glucose and adenosine than that growing in inland China. The Red Sun Scientific Demo Family Farm in Xueka Village of Nyingchi was opened by a family in 2012 with an area of 11 hectares and mainly grows Tibetan medicinal plants.

Apr 17

<https://bit.ly/2HKz6uS>

LARGE NUMBERS OF BLACK-NECKED CRANES

According to the County's Environmental Protection and Forestry Department, 310 black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) have been recorded in the Jiatang grassland in Chindu County, Yushu Tibetan Prefecture, north western China's Qinghai Province. Black-necked cranes are an indicative species of ecology changes on plateau and also included in appendix of *the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* in 1997.

Apr 17

<http://eng.tibet.cn/travel/news/1523931389919.shtml>

KICK-OFF CEREMONY FOR TOURISM SEASON

The tourism season kick-off ceremony has been held in Gongbo'gyamda County, south western China's Tibet Autonomous Region on April 15, 2018. During the occasion, people performed different folk arts, cultural programmes and took part in various competitions. They also showed different traditional costumes.

Apr 17

<http://eng.tibet.cn/travel/news/1523924950122.shtml>

ICE CORE RECORDS SHOW INCREASING WILDFIRE

As Chinese scientists have found that ice core records can be very effective means to rule out the causes and increased wildfires in the Himalayas. According to the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, scientists have detected a specific biomarker, laevoglucose, for fire emissions in ice core which showed a rapid increased of wildfires in the Himalayas and surrounding regions since the beginning of the 21st century.

Apr 19

<https://bit.ly/2JO6VHR>

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FOLK CULTURE

The Tibet Natural Science Museum had organized a handicraft learning programme and about 30 children participated to make river lanterns with the help of teachers. The students also got an opportunity to learn and understand local folk culture.

Apr 19

http://eng.tibet.cn/culture/arts_history/1524017212580.shtml

DEPARTMENT TO LEARN CHINESE CULTURE

In Lhasa, south western China, Tibet Academy of Chinese Culture has opened with a motive to advance development and innovation of traditional Chinese culture. The major aim of the academy is to build platform for dissemination and exchange of Chinese culture through creating its own teaching and academic brands with Tibetan characteristics.

Apr 19

<http://eng.tibet.cn/culture/news/152412030336.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROJECT

For organic agriculture project; 'Empower Small Scale Bhutanese Farmers to Increase Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods through Agro-Ecological Farming and Food Systems Development', an introductory meeting has been held at Bayul-kuenza under Bongo village in Chhukha, south west Bhutan, on April 13, 2018. The main purpose of meeting was to solicit technical support and collaboration from the district and village authorities for the successful implementation of the project. The project is to be accomplished in collaboration with various organizations.

Apr 19

<http://www.rspnbhutan.org/project-introductory-meeting/>

<http://www.chhukha.gov.bt/?p=3912>

Pakistan- Himalaya

INSTALLATION OF MODERN MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Bacha Khan Medical Complex (BKMC) of Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan, has been equipped with modern medical equipments. The instruments include CT (Computed Tomography) Scan, Fluoroscopy, Mammography, Ultra sound and many others. The hospital has been visited by the speaker of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and Provincial Minister for Health and examined the equipments.

Apr 18

<https://bit.ly/2HJu6GM>