

Headlines Himalaya

June 18 – June 24 (2018)

No. 510

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For the 510th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 22 news from 12 sources and selected 22 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, for the first time, use of radiosonde device to collect meteorological data has been launched by Department of Hydrology and Meteorology under Tribhuvan University. In Assam, north eastern India, plastic waste is polluting enormously the state, especially the city, Guwahati. In China, the villagers in Qiangtang National Nature Reserve, Tibet are relocated in the place with enough oxygen and public facilities. Implementation of 'Toilet Revolution' in Tibet is assured to boost domestic tourism.

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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WILD ANIMAL HUNTING INCREASE

Yak and Nak (*Bos spp.*) hunting by wild animals in Solukhumbu, north eastern Nepal has been increased day by day, resulting in the decline of interest in Yak and Nak farming. According to the manager of the Yak Development Farm, the Sagarmatha National Park has been providing relief for killing of livestock by wild animals. The relief amount is NPR 30,000 per animal of which 20 people have already got the relief and 58 people are in process.

June 19

www.kantipurdaily.com/pradesh-1/2018/06/19/152939905233321818.html

CONFERENCE ON DRR

The international conference on Disasters Risk Reduction (DRR) has completed in Kathmandu, central Nepal on which, over 200 DRR experts from 12 countries participated. The conference was jointly organised by the Nepal Reconstruction Authority, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and Nepal Society of Earthquake Technology (NSET) under the leadership of Ministry of Home. The conference was concluded highlighting the need for managing disaster risks, assessing the disaster induced risk and lowering the risk through rescue and reconstruction.

June 20

www.therisingnepal.org.np/news/24295

SOIL FERTILITY DECREASE

The maximum use of chemical fertilizers in the agricultural land in Rupandehi district, south western Nepal has led to the decrease in the fertility of soil. According to one of the soil experts, due excessive use of chemical manure, the fertility and productivity rate are being reduced. The soil test revealed that the soil contains less amount of nitrogen, organic matter, phosphate and potash. Continuous farming of single crops and decline in microbial organism is also another reason for decrease fertility in Rupandehi's soil.

June 21

www.radiokantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2018-06-21/20180621083017.html

RADIOSONDE: COLLECTING METEOROLOGICAL DATA

On June 20, 2018, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology has launched Radiosonde for the first time in Nepal, from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, central part of the country. Radiosonde is an instrument that is carried aloft by a balloon to send back information on temperature, pressure, wind speed, wind direction, cloud condition, humidity etc. of the atmosphere. This technology is new to Nepal which will provide a reliable data on the weather condition.

June 21

www.kantipurdaily.com/news/2018/06/20/152948488925543376.html

ATTACK OF WILD ANIMALS

On June 20, an elderly man of 75 years old was attacked and killed by Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) in Mahotari district, south eastern Nepal. Similarly, another woman was injured with Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) attack in her own house. According to the District Forest Officer (DFO), deforestation in Chure region, habitat degradation due to wild fire and human encroachment have triggered the wild animals to move alongside villages for their self-defence.

June 21

www.kantipurdaily.com/pradesh-2/2018/06/21/152955313103238932.html

TIGERS IN CHURE REGION

In Chure region of Dadeldhura, far western Nepal, so called refugee centre of flora and fauna, the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*) has started extending its habitat. According to one of the studies, the tiger was trapped in the camera and the conservationist believes that the adverse environmental conditions such as increased temperature, water scarcity, and human encroachment in Terai region along with the biological corridors establishment, might be subjected to enforced the animal's migration to Chure region. Furthermore, various programmes are also being conducted at the community level for wildlife conservation.

June 22

<https://www.kantipurdaily.com/pradesh-7/2018/06/22/152964189154185171.html>

BRAHMIN COMMUNITY PROMOTING PANCHEBAJA

Brahmin community of Tehrathum district, eastern Nepal has started a campaign to conserve the 'remote populous folk music' by playing Panche Baja in societal event and function. Panche Baja is a group of five traditional Nepali musical instruments that are played during auspicious occasions. Previously played by the Dalit Community, Panche Baja are now been publicized by Brahmin Communities after the Dalits discontinued playing the instrument saying that they are being affronted in the society. At present, around 30 households of Brahmin community are involved in the campaign with profitable business.

June 23

<https://www.kantipurdaily.com/pradesh-1/2018/06/23/152972503215519262.html>

MUDDY RAIN: CAUSING DISEASES

Muddy rainfall that occurred in Sindhuli district, central Nepal this summer has led maximum number of people to suffer from viral fever and diarrhoea. Muddy rain, heat and contaminated water sources have led to rise in the number of patient visiting the hospital. Around 100 patients of diarrhoea and fever have been visiting since past weeks. Doctors have warned the children to avoid eating mangoes (*Mangifera indica*) and raw maize (*Zea mays*) and drink contaminated water. Despite this, people are forced to drink as they don't have enough access to clean drinking water.

June 23

<http://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/diarrhea-and-viral-fever-cases-spike-in-sindhuli/>

WATER SHORTAGE AT PAANCHTHAR

The people of Yasok Bazar, Panchthar, eastern Nepal have been facing water shortage as local market management committee has removed water pipes installed there in the course of market management without the provision of any alternatives. Due to complete disturbance in supply and absence of natural or artificial water sources nearby, the people are forced to depend on water tankers provided by local government. According to the market management secretary, it will take some more days to restore the pipes.

June 23

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2018-06-23/water-shortage-hits-life-at-yasok-in-panchthar.html>

DAMAK BAZAR: SUBMERGED IN WATER

City areas of Damak, eastern Nepal have been submerged in water due to heavy rainfall on Friday and Saturday again. Improper management of rain water, encroachment of river, streams, and sewer and unmanaged settlements have led to the inundation of the area. According to the Chief of Damak-5, several families have built up houses with the encroachment of river and despite the warning to leave the area they are still living there. Due to the inundation led by heavy rainfall, the local people have suffered a lot, as per sources.

June 24

<http://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/heavy-rainfall-inundates-damak-bazar/>

PLASTIC WASTE INCREASES HAPHAZARDLY

These days, Assam, north eastern India has been generating 299,000 kg of various types of plastic waste in a day, and, in this, Guwahati, capital of Assam has a share of 37,000 kg per day. Forty per cent of these wastes are the non-recyclable wastes which are mainly liable for plastic caused pollution. According to the President of the city-based environment group ENVIRON, the use of plastics has increased by six times as compared to fourteen years back. A total of 68,000 kg of plastic waste is being produced daily only because of the use of polythene carry bags. Besides, several other items of plastics are generating enormous waste on a daily basis.

June 19

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2018/at059>

IMPROVING FLOOD SITUATION

Heavy rainfall over the north eastern regions of India has led to the inundation of several villages. But as the heavy downpour stopped, there has been a little improvement in the flooding situation of the area. The number of people reeling under flood waters was receded on 20th June to 514,597, while in 19th June, a population of 5,64,074 in 727 villages were reeling under floodwaters. Along with this, a total of 3,547.65 hectares of agricultural land is still under water. A total of 154 relief camps has been set up in various areas for the rescue of people.

June 20

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2118/at059>

FOREST NEEDS ATTENTION IN CONSERVATION ASPECT

Reserved Forests (RFs) in Assam, north eastern India State's total forest want the focus by the government. According to the Forest Department officials, there was a major need for the change in policy for protecting the RFs as RFs has always been marginalized and the existing measures were not sufficient for their protection. They further added that RFs plays a significant role in biodiversity conservation and also acts as wildlife corridor which helps in maintaining the healthy gene pool. But the destruction of RFs has led to increased human-wildlife conflict.

June 20

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2118/at063>

MEASURES TO TACKLE WATER SCARCITY IN KARGIL

Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Kargil, north western, India have called upon a meeting for the discussion about the measures to tackle water scarcity and to assess the extent of damage to crops, trees and agricultural fields. Different officers from various departments attended the meeting and CEC focused on creating teams comprising the officials of Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest etc. to assess the effects of water scarcity and damages thereof and submit reports to the authorities. CEC has also focused on providing relief to the farmers and also the provision of irrigation in areas that are affected by water scarcity.

June 21

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/cec-kargil-measures-tackle-water-scarcity/>

DISEASE BREAKS OUT

In Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir, north western India, dozens of animals have been infected with foot and mouth disease. High fever, weight loss and death of new born animals have led to drastic decline in milk production which has left farmers worried. According to the farmers, the Animal Husbandry Department has not been able to prevent the disease till now which has led to the continuous dying of animals. Cattles are being vaccinated and doctors to check cattle are already sent to the affected area for further prevention.

June 24

<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/foot-and-mouth-disease-breaks-out-in-kupwara/288702.html>

China Himalaya

HIGH-ALTITUDE NATURE RESERVE VILLAGERS RELOCATED

In Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, relocation program for around 1,100 villagers has been carried out. Residents from two villages in Qiangtang National Nature Reserve were settled metres far from the regional capital Lhasa, at an altitude of 3,800 meters. Little oxygen and public facilities, and low life expectancy are the major causes to relocate them. The relocation program helped to improve the local people's lives and reduce human activities in previous area. The regional government has spent around USD 35.1 million on the relocation program.

June 19

http://eng.tibet.cn/eng/index/focus/201806/t20180619_5953387.html

TIBET'S REVOLUTION TO CLEANEST TOILETS

"Toilet revolution" in The Tibet Autonomous Region is being implemented with the plan of building and rebuilding 1,934 toilets starting 2017 to the end of 2018 in the total area of 17,100,000 hectare. This plan is implemented with the aim of improving the living standards of the residents and promoting tourism. According to the Chinese President, for improving the quality of life of people and promoting domestic tourism, China should continue to upgrade the country's toilets as a part of its "toilet revolution".

June 21

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2018/0621/c90000-9473278.html>

Bhutan-Himalaya

INITIATIVES TO COMBAT LANDSLIDE

A group of 18 villagers of Semjong, Tsirang village, south western Bhutan have initiated the plantation of broom grass (*Thysanolaena maxima*) in 2013 to combat landslide and erosion which was very much effective as they have been suffering great loss from the yearly landslide. According to one of the locals, broom grass has many other uses besides controlling the landslides and he have been benefitting from it since long. The Tsirang Forest Division had also planted around 10,000 saplings in the community forest on the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 2017 under the project funded by United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

June 20

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/farmers-grow-broom-grass-to-combat-landslide/>

GELEPHU-ZHEMGANG ROAD CLOSES

Continuous landslide has been occurring in Ossey, south central Bhutan in the route Gelephu-Zhemgang, which has blocked the roads for vehicles. According to one of the Chief engineers, the landslide has been occurring even after the rain stopped as Ossey has loose soil and added that there is a need for new route in that area. The washed away road is reported to be the new one built last year.

June 22

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/ossey-block-closes-gelephu-zhemgang-traffic/>

PLANTATION INITIATIVES STRENGTHENING

The meeting of officials from the Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS) has come to an end with the recognition for the need to fortify plantation initiatives across the country as various developmental activities are being carried out without the concern for environment. Chief Forestry Officer has suggested the people to prevent development activities in plantation areas and Director of DoFPS has recommended for maintaining the details about plantation and nurseries so that the people can be encouraged for plantation by providing seedlings to them.

June 23

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/strengthening-plantation-initiatives/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

VISITORS INCREASED IN CONSERVATION AREA

The number of people visiting the Lakka Crane Conservation Centre, Peshawar, northern Pakistan has increased during Eid holidays. The Wildlife Department's employees facilitated and guided visitors and the visitors enjoyed the presence of a large number of birds and animals in the centre. Visitors also admired the wildlife department for the proper maintenance of the centre and stated that the centre has helped them to understand the importance of the conservation of wildlife. The officials said that the department would take more steps to increase facilities at the centre for visitors.

June 19

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1414623/lakki-crane-conservation-centre-attracts-crowds>

PROTEST AGAINST DUMPING WASTE

The people belonging to various rural localities of the provincial capital Peshawar, northern Pakistan have protested against the Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) for setting up a dumping yard at Garhi Faizullah in Peshawar. The protester blocked the entry of waste carrying vehicles in the area and stated that they produce varieties of products for their livelihood and they would not let anyone dump waste in their land. They feared that the garbage dumped in area would hamper the movement of locals due to the foul smell and unhygienic conditions.

June 20

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1414882/protest-against-dumping-site-in-peshawar-area>