

Headlines Himalaya

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For the 562nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 13 news from 7 sources and 11 selected happenings from five countries.

Police arrested five persons for possessing body parts of endangered wild animals including rhinoceros horn, leopard skin and skull from different places of Kathmandu. The Bailey bridge over Myagdi river connecting Lamjung District with Manang District in north-western Nepal was swept away by a massive flood. The National Concern and Coordination Committee has permitted Ministry of Forest and Environment to allow Nijgadh International Airport to cut down the trees. A 3 years old male elephant was killed due to electricution at Ranakali Community Forest of Haldibari, Jhapa. Frequent snowfall, storms and rains in north-western Nepal affected the quality and quantity of Yarsagumba. The Qinghai-Tibet Wildlife Zoo has opened the Panda house with four babies to public. The capital of Tibet autonomous region, Lhasa, recorded a temperature of 30.8 degrees Celsius on June 24, which is a record high in four decades. Payment for Environmental Service (PES) is the fourth scheme of the country that will be commenced in Tsirang District of southern Bhutan. Bhutan has lost agricultural land to development activities and projects that affects the food self-sufficiency. 'Billion Trees Afforestation Project', initiated in November 2014 has been accomplished by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in north-west Pakistan.

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WILDLIFE POACHING

Police arrested five persons for possessing body parts of endangered wild animals including rhinoceros horn, leopard skin and skull from different places of Kathmandu, central Nepal. Nepal has legal procedure to prosecute wildlife poachers under National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, and can be obliged by fine and imprisonment.

Jun 27

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

FLOOD AND LANDSLIDES IN NORTHERN NEPAL

The Bailey bridge over Myagdi river connecting Lamjung District with Manang District in north-western Nepal was swept away by a massive flood on June 23. It caused the disruption in transporting daily essentials to Manang District and it takes at least three weeks to repair the bridge and resume transportation services. Landslides in Yangbarak Rural Municipality of Panchthar District in north-eastern Nepal also swept away one house and destroyed six other houses.

Jun 28

<https://bit.ly/2KJdss5>

<https://bit.ly/2YHSyN4>

PROGRESS ON NIJGADH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The National Concern and Coordination Committee has permitted Ministry of Forest and Environment to allow Nijgadh International Airport to cut down the trees at the construction site of the airport. The committee also directed Civil Aviation Authority to accomplish the resettlement and compensation distribution task soon.

Jun 28

<https://bit.ly/32e66Ci>

OBJECTIONS TO NEW BILL

Government of Nepal has been working on new bills in forestry and environment conservation. However, concerned stakeholders are raising their voice against these bills. The Federation of Community Forest User Groups Nepal (FECOFUN) has raised their disagreement on the changes in the forest bill that allows the Government's District Forest Officer to dismiss a community forest or seize lands if the user group fails to fulfill the commitments.

JUN 28

<https://bit.ly/2S1qjX5>

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

DEAD ELEPHANT FOUND

A 3 years old male elephant was killed due to electricution at Ranakali Community Forest of Haldibari, Jhapa of south-eastern Nepal. The electric fence has been installed by the villagers to prevent elephants from entering into their property.

JUN 29

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

NATURAL DISASTERS AFFECT YARSAGUMBA COLLECTION

Frequent snowfall, storms and rains in north-western Nepal affected the quality and quantity of Yarsagumba (*Cordyceps sinensis*) collected this year. Four Yarsagumba pickers from Jajarkot District died during the hunt this year. The yarsagumba collection season generally starts from the end of May for a month, and many people rely on this activity for their subsistence.

Jun 30

<https://bit.ly/2NFsy3O>

China Himalaya

PANDA HOUSE IN QINGHAI-TIBET

The Qinghai-Tibet Wildlife Zoo has opened the Panda house with four babies to public in Xining, northwest China's Qinghai Province after examining their adjustment to the climate on the plateau. These four panda babies were brought to zoo from Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Center.

Jun 25

<https://bit.ly/2xCQY37>

LHASA RECORDS HIGHEST TEMPERATURE

The capital of Tibet autonomous region, Lhasa, recorded a temperature of 30.8 degrees Celsius on June 24, which is a record high in four decades. Even in Gongkar and Gyaca of Shannan registered the record high temperatures of 31 and 32.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

Jun 26

<https://bit.ly/329Wx7r>

Bhutan-Himalaya

PAYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Payment for Environmental Service (PES) is the fourth scheme of the country that will be commenced in Tsirang District of southern Bhutan. The scheme aims to protect and conserve the Paokhola-Darachhu watershed area.

Jun29

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

FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY WEAKENS

Bhutan has lost agricultural land to development activities and projects that affects the food self-sufficiency. Bhutan imported over 893 thousands metric tons of food commodities between 2012-2017, of which about 50% constituted the rice.

Jun 26

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

Pakistan- Himalaya

AFFORESTATION PROGRAM

'Billion Trees Afforestation Project', initiated in November 2014 has been accomplished by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in north-west Pakistan. This globally recognized project has restored a previously deforested landscape and helped to fight against climate change hazards.

Jun 30

<https://bit.ly/2S0DoQB>