

Headlines Himalaya

May 19- May 26, 2015

No. 356

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For the 356th issue, we reviewed 18 news reports from 9 sources and selected 13 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, windstorm has caused massive destruction while apple farming has been benefiting the farmers in India. In Tibet, China, poaching incidents have stopped and there has been a shortage of vegetables in small towns in Bhutan. And CNG dealers have protested in Peshawar, northwest 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!

NEPAL *Earthquake Highlights*
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Fire Damage
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INDIA *Apple Farming Benefits*
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BHUTAN *Acute Vegetables Shortage*

PAKISTAN *CNG Dealers Protest*

Nepal-Himalaya

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

- As of 29th of May, 2015, the Government confirmed 103,686 cases were treated and 31,707 patients were admitted in the hospitals. 1.1 million People require sanitation service. 32,145 classrooms have been destroyed or partially damaged. 236,000 farming households are affected in six districts. (*Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.19, OCHA*). The table below shows the 15 most affected districts death toll and casualties.

15 most affected districts Nepal earthquake 2015

Sn	District	Total no.of HH	Total Population	Male	Female	Injured
1	Bhaktapur	68636	304651	118	214	2101
2	Dhading	73851	336067	339	393	735
3	Dolakha	45688	186557	83	85	643
4	Gorkha	66506	271061	212	228	952

5	Kavrepalanchowk	80720	381937	129	189	1179
6	Kathmandu	436344	1744240	622	595	7830
7	Lalitpur	109797	468132	73	109	3052
8	Makwanpur	86127	420477	16	17	229
9	Nuwakot	59215	277471	452	609	1324
10	Okhaldhunga	32502	147984	9	10	61
11	Ramechhap	43910	202646	16	23	133
12	Rasuwa	9778	43300	286	310	771
13	Sindhuli	57581	296192	5	9	228
14	Sindhupalchowk	66688	287798	1491	1938	1568
15	Solukhumbu	23785	105886	14	5	104

(Source: Government of Nepal, Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal)

- As the first phase of the emergency is winding down the majority of the foreign military personnel have now departed. With the approaching monsoon season the Nepalese military is focusing on the stockpiling of food at forward staging areas and distribution points. Heavy equipment will be repositioned in landslide prone areas. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.19, OCHA).*
- It is estimated that the monsoon will last for an average of 105 days, with higher rainfall expected in the eastern compared to the western region. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.19, OCHA).*
- It is expected that the central region will receive the highest rainfall. The central region is also one of the areas that were highly affected by the earthquake. The monsoon will reach Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, and Ramechhap first, followed by the central region (Dolakha, Kavrepalanchowk, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading), and reaching Gorkha last. In terms of agro ecological zones, the hills should receive higher annual rainfall than the mountains. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.19, OCHA).*
- Social and economic exclusion for some communities such as the Dalit, Deula and religious minorities has left them vulnerable after two earthquakes. The combination of entrenched marginalization and geographical remoteness, with many living apart from the mainstream settlements, has meant that they have not received adequate relief aid. The most affected districts are Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Bhaktapur and Bhelukhel. *(Nepal: Earthquake 2015 Situation Report No.19, OCHA).*
- According to the Financial Tracking service, a report compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations as of 02 June 2015 funds received total USD 303.06 million while outstanding pledges total USD 317.8 million.

https://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R24_E16575___1506020303.pdf

- The accounts of funds deposited in PM disaster relief fund have accumulated to four billion Nepalese rupees. (<http://drrportal.gov.np/list-of-contributer>)

SMALL HYDRO SHUT DOWN

The small hydro power stations of Kavrepalanchowk district, central Nepal have been shut down by the devastating earthquakes of April 25 and May 12. About 60 kilowatt electricity was being produced from the hydels. This has affected more than 600 households.

26 May

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7278>

WATER SOURCE DRY UP

The water sources at Dhakabang VDC, Argakhanchi district, western Nepal have completely dried after the April 25 major earthquake. More than 715 households and eight schools have been affected. It has forced locals to fetch water from the nearby rivers and other sources.

26 May

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Drinking+water+crunch+in+Arghakhanchi+after+April+25+quake&NewsID=456244>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7317>

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/43652-drinking-water-crunch-in-arghakhanchi-following-april-25-quake>

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/26/national/drinking-water-crunch-in-arghakhanchi-following-april-25-quake/405713.html>

NORMAL LIFE AFFECTED

The rise in mercury level has affected the normal life in Parsa and its surrounding district, central Nepal. Locals and students have been staying indoors to avoid the extreme heat waves, cutting down on their regular activities. Likewise the hospitals and health posts have been teeming with patients suffering from diarrhea and fever.

May 26

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/26/national/normal-life-affected-due-to-scorching-heat/405720.html>

WINDSTORM WREAKS HAVOC

The continuous wind storm has damaged around NPR 100 million at Udayapur district, eastern Nepal. Around 370 houses, 12 schools and 400 electricity poles have been destroyed along with one casualty. More than 3,000 Sal trees (*Shorea robusta*) in the chure area have fallen down.

May 27

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7339>

FIRE DAMAGE

The fire started at the core area of Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Kanchanpur district, far western Nepal has caused a huge damage. The fire covered around 15 km of the reserve affecting the protected wildlife. It has also increased the risk of poaching.

May 28

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7380>

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/43681-fire-in-shuklaphanta-wildlife-reserve-causes-extensive-damage>

EAST-WEST HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTED

The transportation in east-west highway has been obstructed by flood at Ratu River, Mahottari district, central Nepal. The bridge was calved a year ago forcing the drivers to use 100m long diversion road. The Precautions are being taken with only one vehicle at a time.

May 28

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/43682-floods-in-ratu-river-obstructs-transport-along-east-west-highway>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/7379>

India-Himalaya

APPLE FARMING BENEFITS

The apple farming has been benefiting the farmers of Shimla district, Himachal Pradesh, northern India. In 2014, around 52 metric ton per ha was produced from a single orchard, while in US and China the production was only about 35 to 40 metric ton. At present more than 25 varieties of apples are grown in the orchard.

May 26

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Home/Environment/Flora-Fauna/Shimla-farmers-ensures-record-apple-production-in-his-orchard/articleshow/47426622.cms>

DEMAND HIGH FOR SPOTTED TURTLES

The spotted pond turtle known as black pond turtle (*geoclemys hamiltonii*) seized in the recent past in Mumbai and various other parts of the country have high demand in local and international pet markets. About 158 spotted pond turtles were rescued in Muradganj area of Auraiya district, northern India on May 14, 2014. The aquatic animals, found in Etawah, Auraiya, Kannauj, Mainpuri and neighbouring districts have been smuggled to other parts of the country.

May 26

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Home/Environment/Developmental-Issues/Smuggled-spotted-turtles-land-in-international-pet-markets/articleshow/47424220.cms>

China Himalaya

NO POACHING INCIDENTS

The poaching of various wild animals such as Tibetan antelope, wild yaks and Tibetan wild donkeys in Ho Xil nature reserve, Tibet, southern China had remained zero since last nine consecutive years. At present there are more than 60,000 Tibetan antelopes, nearly 20,000 Tibetan wild donkeys, more than 6,000 wild yaks, and 3,000 Tibetan gazelles in the reserve.

May 26

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201505/t20150526_3026521.html

TIBETAN ANTELOPES MYSTERY

The migration of endangered Tibetan antelopes known as chiru (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) for thousands of kilometers to their calving grounds to give birth has remained a mystery. It is reported around 35,000 mother antelopes have given birth to babies in Zhuonai Lake this year.

May 26

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201505/t20150526_3026625.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

ACUTE VEGETABLE SHORTAGE

Locals of Phaling, Lhuntse district, eastern Bhutan have suffered from acute shortage of fresh vegetables. The farmers from other areas have been bringing vegetables in the market only once in a week. The long distance and small population of the town have been the major reasons behind the shortage.

May 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/phaling-is-starved-of-vegetable/#.VWQg1I6qqko>

Pakistan- Himalaya

CNG DEALERS PROTEST

The Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) operators from Peshawar, Swat, Hazara, Nowshera, Swabi, Kohat and other cities, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan have protested the imposition of Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC) by the federal government. The Peshawar high court had already declared GIDC as illegal on June 13, 2013 while Supreme Court had also upheld the decision on August 22 last year.

May 26

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1184324/cng-dealers-protest-imposition-of-gas-cess>