

Headlines Himalaya

June 16- June 23, 2015

No. 359

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For the 359th issue, we reviewed 21 news reports from 9 sources and selected 16 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, the devastating earthquake of April 25 had shifted geographical position of Mount Everest while lakes have been encroached in India. In Tibet, China, wild donkeys have been spotted and AWLS have been installed in glacial lakes in Bhutan. And various development projects have been promoted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 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!

NEPAL	<i>Earthquake Update Geographical Position Shifts Taplejung Landslides Monsoon Begins Avalanches Disrupt Efforts Flash Flood Hits Lalbandi Rotten Pulses Found Tourism Infrastructures In Gaighat Falls First Fully Immunized District</i>
INDIA	<i>Lake Encroachment Acute Water Shortage</i>
CHINA	<i>Tibetan Wild Donkeys Spotted Wild Animals Protection</i>
BHUTAN	<i>Relief Fund For Nepal Diarrhea Outbreaks AWLS Installed</i>
PAKISTAN	<i>Development Projects Promoted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</i>

Nepal-Himalaya

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

- As of 19th June, 2015, around 117,700 houses have been residing in spontaneous displacement sites, 505,577 houses had fully damaged 278,907 houses had partially damaged (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 19 June 2015, 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	119	214	2101
2	Dhading	73851	336067	291	385	1218
3	Dolakha	45688	186557	84	85	662

4	Gorkha	66506	271061	215	233	952
5	Kavrepalanchowk	80720	381937	129	191	1179
6	Kathmandu	436344	1744240	621	601	7949
7	Lalitpur	109797	468132	71	108	3052
8	Makwanpur	86127	420477	16	17	229
9	Nuwakot	59215	277471	462	640	1051
10	Okhaldhunga	32502	147984	10	10	61
11	Ramechhap	43910	202646	17	24	134
12	Rasuwa	9778	43300	312	344	771
13	Sindhuli	57581	296192	5	10	230
14	Sindhupalchowk	66688	287798	1544	1987	3531
15	Solukhumbu	23785	105886	17	5	100

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

- The monsoon season increases the risks of landslides in earthquake affected areas. Landslide dams can fail rapidly after formation, causing flash-floods. Hence, there is a need to monitor landslide events and have mitigation measures in place. *(Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 19 June 2015, OCHA)*
- Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur were classified as 'crisis zones' for a year to accelerate demolition of buildings. *(Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 19 June 2015, OCHA)*
- Based on damage and loss, final report of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) estimates that costs for recovery and reconstruction will amount to USD 6.66 billion, some 1/3 of GDP. *(Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 19 June 2015, 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 330.27 million while outstanding pledges total USD 350.26million.

https://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R10_E16575_asof___1506220301.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>

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION SHIFTS

The devastating earthquake that hit Nepal in April 25 had moved Mount Everest, north eastern Nepal three centimeters to the southwest, but did not change its height. It reversed the gradual northeasterly course of the world's highest peak which straddles Nepal and China, the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation reported.

June 16

<http://www.karobardaily.com/2015/06/5511/>

TAPLEJUNG LANDSLIDE

Landslides triggered by rainfall in Taplejung has displaced 160 households in multiple VDCs. Food shortages have been reported. Relief efforts have been further hampered by ongoing rain and flash floods. (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 19 June 2015, OCHA*)

MONSOON BEGINS

Monsoon season began in eastern Nepal on 13 June. Rains will move westwards covering the rest of the country over the next few days (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 19 June 2015, OCHA*)

AVALANCHES DISRUPT RECOVERY

The fresh avalanches have been disrupting efforts to recover dead bodies from the remote village of Langtang, central Nepal. Authorities have recovered 193 bodies, including 22 foreigners. Five soldiers were injured in fresh snow slides on Monday temporarily halting the operation for the victims.

June 16

<http://www.firstpost.com/fwire/avalanches-disrupt-efforts-to-rescue-bodies-from-landslide-hit-nepal-village-reuters-2298644.html>

FLASH FLOOD HITS LALBANDI

The flash flood triggered by incessant rain fall had inundated most parts of the Lalbandi Municipality, Sarlahi district, eastern Nepal. Similarly, access to northern belt has been blocked. More than 100 houses near the East-West Highway and northern villages of the municipality were flooded, while some cattle were also killed in the flood. Efforts have been made to open an outlet from the inundated sides.

June 19

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/19/national/lalbandi-area-inundated/406777.html>

ROTTEN PULSES FOUND

The Disaster Management and Monitoring Committee of the Legislature- Parliament have found 514 tons of rotten pulses at a godown of World Food Programme (WFP) in Nepalgunj, mid western Nepal. WFP had ordered 1,000 metric tons of yellow split peas for the victims of the earthquake. The victims in different districts have complained the rice distributed were inedible as rice grains were rotten and had turned black in color. Some have decided to return the relief materials.

21 June

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/06/21/top-story/rotten-pulses-found-in-wfp-godown/406851.html>

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURES IN GAIGHAT FALLS

Physical infrastructures have been constructed near Gaighat falls, Amarbhumi VDC 04, Baglung district, western Nepal. The Ministry of Tourism had supported the construction worth NRS 7, 00,000. Free labour was provided by the locals. The falls located on the bank of Daramkhola could attract tourists for enjoying fishing also.

June 22

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/44180-infrastructures-made-in-gaighat-falls>

FIRST FULLY IMMUNIZED DISTRICT

The Ministry for Health and Population has declared Baitadi district, far western Nepal the first fully immunized district after all the people were vaccinated. Altogether 10 districts in the country have been declared fully vaccinated including Baitadi as the first in the Mahakali zone.

June 22

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/44184-Baitadi-becomes-first-fully-vaccinated-district-in-Mahakali-zon>

India-Himalaya

LAKE ENCROACHMENT

The two lakes famed for pristine waters in Shaher-e-Khaas, greater Kashmir, northern India have been battling for survival due to massive encroachments and siltation. The lakes were one of the major tourist attractions and bird watching sites.

June 20

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/srinagar-city/gilsar-khushalsar-lakes-battle-for-survival/189887.html>

ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE

The locals of Allama Iqbal sector and Usman Colony of Bagh-Mehtab, Srinagar, northern India have been facing with acute water shortage. They have been fetching water from other areas.

June 21

<http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/srinagar-city/city-areas-hit-by-water-scarcity/189956.html>

China Himalaya

TIBETAN WILD DONKEYS SPOTTED

The rare Tibetan wild donkeys, kiang (*Equus kiang*) have been spotted at the Qiangtang National Nature Reserve Tibet Autonomous Region, southwest China. Their numbers which were almost extinct in the last century have been estimated to exceed 80,000 in Nagqu Prefecture. It has been listed in "The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2008".

June 21

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/pd/hj/201506/t20150621_3281847.html

WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION

The Tibetan farmers and herdsmen have been protecting wild animals in the Co Nyi area of Nagqu Prefecture, northern Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), southern China. A local herdsman from Duoma Village in Nagqu had alone kept 300 sheep and 400 goats with an annual subsidy of 3,000 yuan from the government.

June 21

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/pd/hj/201506/t20150621_3282065.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

RELIEF FUND FOR NEPAL

The relief fund worth USD 48,000 was given to the Kidu Foundation for the citizen's Bhutan for Nepal fundraising initiative. It would be used for procuring medicine by the medical relief team.

June 17

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/getting-the-gaur-down/#.VXgMVI6qqko>

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/wild-gaur-gores-man/#.VXgOvY6qqko>

DIARRHEA OUTBREAKS

The locals of Tokari village, Mongar district, eastern Bhutan have been suffering from diarrhea. Around 14 people including eight children have been affected. A team from the regional hospital, comprising a doctor, two lab technicians, and the district health officer had visited the households to investigate the outbreak.

June 19

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/new-variety-of-hybrid-maize-planted-in-mongar/#.VXgOHo6qqko>

AWLS INSTALLED

The Chamkharchhu basin, northern Bhutan has been facilitated with six sirens and three automatic water level stations (AWLS). Similarly, the Mangdechhu basin will have three sirens and two AWLS. "10 out of 25 dangerous glacial lakes are situated in the Mangdechhu and Chamkharchhu basins.

June 20

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/ews-in-mangdechhu-and-chamkharchhu-by-yearend/>

Pakistan-Himalaya

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PROMOTED IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan has promoted 46 development projects costing over PKR 12 billion. The projects include provision of solar road lights for selected districts of the province, construction of wetland Park in Peshawar and promotion of fast growing and multi-purpose trees in Hazara and southern districts of the province.

June 20

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=3&key=ODU1NjU=>