

Headlines Himalaya

August 18- August 25, 2015

No. 368

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For the 368th issue, we reviewed 22 news reports from 11 sources and selected 14 happenings in five countries. Greenery increases in Upper Mustang, Nepal while elephant population has increased in India. In Tibet, China, Mt. Siguniang has gained popularity and farm products have been confirmed safe in Bhutan.

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

BIOGAS BENEFITS

The environmental friendly biogases have been benefiting the housewives of Arman, Beem and Okhar VDCs in Myagdi district, Western Nepal. More than 380 houses were distributed with the Toilet Biogas Digester. Meanwhile around 400 housewives have started to cook using biogas.

August 19

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/11057>

RISING TREKKER ARRIVAL

The number of trekkers after the April 25 earthquake has reached 1,635 while the tourist arrivals in general has decreased. But the treker arriva is down by 80 percent compared to figures of same period in 2014. Trekkers' Information Management System (TIMS) cards are provided for trekkers.

August 19

<http://www.myrepublica.com/economy/story/26625/nepal-sees-1-635-trekkers-after-the-earthquake.html>

SNAKE BITE CASES INCREASE

The victims of snake bite in Nawalarasi, western Nepal has increased due to the monsoon. Around 79 cases have been hospitalized while few death within the period of July-August this year.

August 22

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2015-08-22/20150822160346.html>

SOLAR LAMPS FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The Energy Society Nepal has provided solar lamps to health post office, birth centre and redcross sub unit of Nuwakot district, central Nepal. Around 1,200 solar lamps and 164 filters have been distributed in different places of the district. While the society had given such lamps and filters to more than 10 worst hit districts by earthquake.

August 23

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/11350>

LANDSLIDES WREAK HAVOC

Several parts of the country have been affected by heavy rainfall and landslides. Incessant rainfall in Duragaun, Ramechhap district, central Nepal, has caused mudslide in quake-hit vulnerable land. Likewise, highway of Oyam, Panchthar district, eastern Nepal has been obstructed, while electricity poles and wires were damaged. Similarly, a child has been found dead after being buried in a massive landslide in Taplejung. Two people have lost their lives in Banepa. Roads have been affected by landslides in some VDCs of Rasuwa.

August 23

<http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2015-08-23/20150823122528.html>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-08-23/landslide-obstructs-transportation-in-panchthar.html>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/11088>

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/top-story/45311-two-killed-after-house-wall-caves-in-due-to-incessant-rain>

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/45361-dhaibung-village-in-high-risk-of-landslide>

GREENERY IN UPPER MUSTANG

The barren lands of upper Mustang, Western Nepal have turned green as afforestation that began in 1992 continues. Specially, Bhote Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) is the preferred species for its suitable growth and favourable environment. Mainly, Lomanthang, Chosher, Chondhup, Ghami, Chusang and Surkhang VDCs had been involved.

August 24

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/11425>

India-Himalaya

FLOODS IN ASSAM

The flood accompanied by heavy rainfall has affected around 650,000 people of more than 1,400 villages in Assam, north eastern India. Likewise, around 57,500 ha of crop area have been under water and over 54 roads were damaged. More than 17,500 have been taking shelter in 45 relief camps.

August 20, 23

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2015/at051>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-assam-flood-situation-worsens-over-65-lakh-affected-2117488>

INCREASING MUSK DEER POPULATION

The population of musk deer belonging to Moshus family had increased to 18 as three fawns were born in Mahrori Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand, northern India. Meanwhile, the number has declined from 12 to 24 over the years as the weather pattern has been affecting the health of the musk deer in the farm.

August 20

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/3-fawns-take-deer-count-at-mahrori-park-to-18/121775.html>

CHANDIGARH MANALI ROAD INUNDATED

The sudden discharge of water from the tunel of 126 MW Larji project has affected Chandigarh Manali road, Sundrengar, Himanchal Pradesh, northern India. Around 25 students have been swept away in the flowing water.

August 23

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/sudden-discharge-of-water-from-larji-dam-floods-nh/123045.html>

RISING ELEPHANT POPULATION

The population of elephants has increased from 190 to 309 in Rajaji National park, Uttarakhand, northern India. The 2015 census has put the population of elephants at 1,797 while according to the 2012 census the count was 1,559. It is 15 percent increment in the total population.

August 23

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/15-rise-in-elephant-count/123075.html>

China Himalaya

MT. SIGUNIANG GAINS POPULARITY

The Siguniang Mountain (Four Girls Mountain) located in the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, southern China has been gaining popularity. It consists of four adjacent peaks covered with eternal snow covering an area of 200,000 ha. It is home to many species, including golden monkeys and black bears as a nation level nature reserve. The scenic areas attract people for sightseeing, mountain climbing and other recreational outings.

August 22

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201508/t20150822_3892049.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

HEAVY RAINFALL BLOCKS ROAD

The floods and landslides triggered by continuous rainfall had blocked the road of Gelephu, Sarpang district, eastern Bhutan. Similarly, Lhamoizingkha, southern Bhutan has remained cut off for five days due to road blocks caused by rain.

August 21

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/heavy-rain-cuts-off-lhamoizingkha/>

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/incessant-rain-floods-and-blocks-road-in-gelephu/>

FARM PRODUCTS SAFE

The Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) has confirmed through tests that the products were free of pesticides and safe for consumption. There had been rumours of adulterated fruits and vegetables in the centenary farmers market. BAFRA has been testing the content of pesticides on a variety of vegetables and fruits, both on local and imported, at the farmers market since 2012.

August 22

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/farm-products-at-cfm-safe-bafra/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

UPGRADING TEACHING HOSPITALS

The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwestern Pakistan, has allocated PKR 1,770 million for the renovation, beautification, repair and cleanliness of the four teaching hospitals. Around PKR 300 million for Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), PKR 700 million for Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH), 400 million for Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) and PKR 370 million for Ayub Medical Complex (AMC) have been distributed.

August 25

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1202721/rs1770m-allocated-for-renovation-of-hospitals-in-kp>