

Headlines Himalaya

June 23- June 30, 2015

No. 360

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For the 360th issue, we reviewed 20 news reports from 9 sources and selected 15 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, goat rearing has benefited the farmers while poaching of rhino continues in India. In Tibet, China, many salt lakes have been discovered and infant mortality rate is still high in Bhutan. And flash flood has caused havoc in Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northwestern 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 Update*
Patients Increase
Goat Rearing Benefits
Milk Price Falls
Poisonous Mushroom
Acute Water Shortage
Relief Fund For Nepal
Himalayan Honeybees Decrease

INDIA *Flood Hits Assam*
Rhino Poaching Continues

CHINA *New Route*
Salt Lakes Discovered

BHUTAN *Vegetable Sheds Insufficient*
IMR Still High

PAKISTAN *Flash Flood Hits Upper Dir*

Nepal-Himalaya

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

- As of 26th June, 2015, over 8,800 deaths have been confirmed (NEOC/MoHA). Around 594,000 (48%) houses had fully damaged and about 280,000 (23%) houses had been partially damaged (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 26 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	90	86	662
4	Gorkha	66506	271061	215	234	952

5	Kavrepalanchowk	80720	381937	129	191	1179
6	Kathmandu	436344	1744240	621	601	7949
7	Lalitpur	109797	468132	71	109	3051
8	Makwanpur	86127	420477	16	17	229
9	Nuwakot	59215	277471	463	642	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	1573
15	Solukhumbu	23785	105886	17	5	100

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

- The International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction took place on 25 June in Kathmandu to respond to the Government's appeal for USD 6.66 billion. Donors pledged USD 4.4 billion, or two-thirds of the appeal, to Nepal's reconstruction. Following the 22 June declaration by the Government of the end of the relief phase, the application of national duties and custom fees on imports, including CGI, have been fully resumed. (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 26 June 2015, OCHA*)
- A landslide triggered by rainfall has blocked the Liping river causing floods in the Tatopani area near the China border in Sindhupalchok district on 23 June. Locals were asked to relocate. Numerous landslides and rockfalls have hit the area after the quake and are expected to increase following continuous rainfall. (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 26 June 2015, OCHA*)
- The Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) forecasts that an additional 2.5 to 3.5% people will be pushed into poverty in FY 2015-2016, which translates into at least 700,000 additional poor under poverty. (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 26 June 2015, OCHA*)
- Local authorities reported that a lack of equipment is slowing the demolition in Kathmandu valley. Manual demolition has also been difficult due to labour shortages (*Nepal Earthquake: Weekly Situation Update, 26 June 2015, OCHA*)

PATIENTS INCREASE

The number of patients suffering from diseases like fever, typhoid, diarrhea and dysentery has increased in the Panchthar district, north eastern Nepal. Around 150 patients have been visiting the hospital every day.

June 23

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/8433>

GOAT REARING BENEFITS

The goat rearing has been benefiting the locals of Chamunda VDC, Dhailekh district, western Nepal. Around 19 households had benefitted from goat rearing, 11 from pig rearing and two with poultry farming in the fiscal year 2071/72

June 23

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/8457>

MILK PRICE FALLS

The low demand for dairy products after the earthquake has made the local farmers to reduce milk price in Chitwan, central Nepal. Low demand has contributed to reduction in milk price even though the dairy market in Kathmandu valley was recovering.

June 24

<http://www.myrepublica.com/economy/item/23358-preparation-to-slash-milk-purchasing-price-worries-chitwan-farmers.html>

POISONOUS MUSHROOM

Four members of a family have fallen ill due to the poisonous mushroom in Baranja-2, Myagdi, western Nepal. The mushroom was brought from a nearby forest. They have been taken to Pokhara for further treatment.

June 26, 2015

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/8516>

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/4410>

ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE

The students of 211 schools in Baitadi districts, far western Nepal have no access to toilet and potable drinking water. It has affected regular learning activities in schools.

June 26

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/4406>

RELIEF FUND FOR NEPAL

The Songkra University in Hat Yai, of Thailand, has donated over NR 3 million for the relief of the earthquake victims in Nepal. Similarly, the Songkranagarind hospital under the Songkra University has contributed more than NR 1.8 million for the same purpose.

June 26

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/44282-Thai-University-provides-over-Rs-3-million-to-quake-survivor>

HIMALAYAN HONEYBEES DECREASE

The Himalayan honeybees (*Apis laboriosa*) had decreased in Myagdi district, western Nepal. The production of honey has come down in the recent days. The honey of the Himalayan honeybees is famous for its better taste and importance in traditional (Ayurveda) medicine. There used to be as many as 25 hives some years ago but at present there are only seven or eight hives.

June 28

<http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/44304-Himalayan-honeybees-decreasin>

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/8546>

India-Himalaya

FLOOD HITS ASSAM

The flood that hit Assam, north eastern India has affected over 27,000 people in more than 70 villages across the state. About 1,600 ha of crops have been submerged. At present, the Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark

at Nematighat in Jorhat.

June 23

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/flood-situation-in-assam-remains-grim/>

RHINO POACHING CONTINUES

The dead body of an adult rhino with its removed horns has been found in Sonitpur district, Assam, north eastern India. It was allegedly killed by the poachers, while the forest and police personnel have been searching them.

June 24

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/rhino-killed-near-orang-national-park/>

China Himalaya

NEW ROUTE

A new route for Indian pilgrims has been opened along the Himalayan Nathu La Pass, Tibet Autonomous Region, south west China to promote religious exchanges between the two nations. China has welcomed about 80,000 Indian pilgrims in the past decade alone.

June 23

http://eng.tibet.cn/2012sy/xw/201506/t20150623_3294704.html

SALT LAKES DISCOVERED

A recent field survey in Tibet, southern China had discovered about 500 salt lakes. The lakes covered an area of 6,000 square kilometers, and 220 of them were larger than one square kilometer with mineralization degree higher than 50 grams per liter.

http://eng.tibet.cn/2010hb/xsyj/201506/t20150623_3295498.html

23 June

Bhutan-Himalaya

VEGETABLE SHEDS INSUFFICIENT

The increased numbers of vegetable sellers in Bhangtar bazaar, Samdrupcholing, northern Bhutan have been forced to sell vegetables from makeshift shelters. There is a need for a proper vegetable market. The sellers from Martshala, Pemathang and Phuntshothang have been travelling almost an hour to reach the market, while farmers from the far-flung villages of Wangphu and Gomdar gewogs take more than a day to reach the market.

June 23

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/farmers-in-need-of-additional-vegetable-sheds/>

IMR STILL HIGH

The number of babies dying within the first 28 days of birth (Infant Mortality Rate) is still high in Bhutan despite its progress in improving the survival of infants and those under-five years. The national health survey had found 21 out of 1,000 babies born alive died within the first month of birth in 2012.

June 24

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/infant-mortality-rates-still-high-in-bhutan/#.VYpdWY6qqko>

FLASH FLOOD HITS UPPER DIR

The flood triggered by a heavy rainfall had killed nine people in Upper Dir district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north western Pakistan. The locals and madrasa students had been missing from nearby as it destroyed a seminary, shops and houses in the bazaar and adjoining areas.

June 26

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1190484/nine-die-as-flash-flood-sweeps-away-bazaar-in-upper-dir>