

Headlines Himalaya

April 27 – May 02

No 402

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For the 402nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 28 news from 13 sources and selected 25 happenings from five countries. In Nepal drought and forest fire have caused havoc in different districts. In India, water induced disasters have severely affected the lives of people. In China, Tibet has started to build its Hydropower Project which has the production capacity beyond one million Kilo Watts. Bhutan signs Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In Pakistan, Rawalpindi suffers from water scarcity as the supply from dam goes down.

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

Seismic Sensors Installed In Valley
Artificial Ponds to Combat Water Shortage
Lowest April Rainfall in 30 Years
Wildlife Smuggling Increases Along Nepal India Boarder
Excessive Land Mining In Chure Leads to Water Shortage
Water Shortage Hits Western and Central Nepal
Heat Wave Affects Normal Life
Forest Fire Incidents on Rise
Prolonged Drought Prevails In Western Nepal
Chitwan National Park Completes Zero Poaching For Two Years
Air Pollution increases health ailments in Public

India

Smuggling Of Bovine Animals in Northern India
Incessant Rains Affecting North-East India
Encroachers Evicted From Namdapha National Park
Dirty Water Supply Spreads Diseases in North India
Incessant Rain Affects Tea Production in Assam
Five Killed As Severe Storm Lashes Assam
Cyclonic Storm Hits North India
Water Tankers to Feed Waterholes in National Parks Of Uttarakhand
Forests of Uttarakhand Turning into Coal and Ash

China

Tibet Starts its First Over- Million Kw Hydropower

Bhutan

Road Widening Suspended After Slope Stability Concerns
Water Shortage Affects Life in Eastern Bhutan
Bhutan Signs Paris Agreement on Climate Change

Pakistan

Rawalpindi Hit by Water Scarcity as Supply from Dam Goes Down

SEISMIC SENSORS INSTALLED IN VALLEY

The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) has installed earthquake seismic sensors, in four various places in the Kathmandu Valley in Central Nepal. NAST had agreed to install 120 early warning sensors, covering one-third of the country. The sirens will disseminate information of earthquake occurrence within 80 km of the installation range.

April 25

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41184/4-seismic-sensors-installed-in-valley.html#sthash.HySOEaXz.dpuf>

ARTIFICIAL PONDS TO COMBAT WATER SHORTAGE

Artificial ponds have been constructed, which is filled with water pumped from tube well to overcome the water scarcity in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Far-western Nepal. One and half dozens of ponds and streams have already dried up due to prolonged drought.

April 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41182/vanishing-lakes-in-shuklaphanta-threat-to-wildlife.html#sthash.GyRZUy4N.dpuf>

LOWEST APRIL RAINFALL IN 30 YEARS

Metrological Forecasting Division (MFD) said that the prolonged drought is the most severe in the last 30 years as rainfall in four regions except eastern region is 20 percent less than normal. Many parts of the country have been reeling under the acute scarcity of drinking water. The ongoing dryness has resulted from El Nino effect which is prolonged warming in the temperature of the Pacific Ocean.

April 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41178/lowest-april-rainfall-in-30-years-mfd.html#sthash.53ogLzyS.dpuf>

WILDLIFE SMUGGLING INCREASES ALONG NEPAL INDIA BORDER

A team of Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) has confiscated a tiger skin from Suryapatuwa VDC, Bardiya district, Mid-western Nepal. In the last decade, four tigers from Bardiya National park have been killed although recently smuggled tiger skin was from India. The incidents have exposed that poaching on the wildlife have been increasing as police have arrested a total of 22 persons in connection with poaching in wildlife parts.

April 26

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41247/poaching-on-tiger-parts-rising-along-nepal-india-border.html#sthash.OkZOBtSw.dpuf>

EXCESSIVE LAND MINING IN CHURE LEADS TO WATER SHORTAGE

The water scarcity has now spread from the Chure region of Sarlahi district, Eastern Nepal to the highway and nearby western regions due to uncontrolled mining in Chure region. The building materials extracted from Chure hills are exported to India to build Indian Highways.

April 27

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41313/excessive-land-mining-at-chure-causes-water-sources-to-dry-up.html#sthash.zWEwJ3HE.dpuf>

WATER SHORTAGE HITS WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEPAL

Local people of Tikapur Municipality in Kailali district, Far-western Nepal have been reeling under severe drinking water crisis. Underground water levels are declining and many rivers and streams have been drying up as a result of prolonged drought. Water scarcity also hits Narayanpur, Dhasinapur, Durgauli, Pathariya VDCs and even some settlements along the banks of Karnali River. Likewise, residents of Kathmandu valley are facing the acute shortage of drinking water. With the sharp decline in water production, Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) curtailed its capacity to distribute water even through the water tankers.

April 28, April 30

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41327/water-shortage-hits-tikapur.html#sthash.VZTkFKez.dpuf>
<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41418/water-crisis-deepens-in-kathmandy-valley.html#sthash.a9Gqcmwx.dpuf>

HEAT WAVE AFFECTS NORMAL LIFE

Heat wave sweeping across the Bardia district, Mid-Western Nepal adversely affected the normal life of people. People have started falling sick. Similarly, normal life in Dhanusha including the Central and Eastern Tarai has been disturbed by the constant rise in temperature for the past few days. The scorching heat impacted vegetation, children health, the risk of fire in rural settlements in the district.

April 27, April 30

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41323/heat-wave-sweeps-bardiya-throws-life-off-kilter.html#sthash.jsa8UMr0.dpuf>
<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41451/scorching-heat-taking-a-toll-on-people.html#sthash.auV74ZW8.dpuf>

FOREST FIRE INCIDENTS ON RISE

The Forest fire has destroyed 19 houses and sheds in Swarumba village of Panchthar district, Eastern Nepal. The estimated loss is worth \$70,000 including some livestock. Similarly, wildfire destroyed around 1,744 hectares of forest, including 85 community and two leaseholds, in Doti district, Far-western Nepal. 14 houses were destroyed by the fire in Dhullubaskot-1, Baglung district, Western Nepal and two in the Amargadhi Municipality of Dadeldhura district of Far-western Nepal. Forest fires has destroyed over 1,000 out of 19,997 hectares of forest in Parnat district of western Nepal. Also, forest fire in Nawalparasi district, western Nepal so far claimed life seven deer including the spotted ones.

April 28, April 30, May 1

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41321/lack-of-resources-lets-fire-run-amok.html#sthash.vHWEV8yu.dpuf>
<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41202/fire-destroys-property-worth-rs-7-million.html#sthash.rlnsYwnh.dpuf>
<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/wildfires-kill-seven-deer-nawalparasi/>
<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/forest-fire-destroys-community-forestry-doti/>
<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41473/14-houses-reduced-to-ashes-in-baglung.html>
<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/fire-guts-entire-settlement-baglung/>
<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41433/fire-destroys-two-houses.html#sthash.pPkSjsB0.dpuf>
<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41522/forest-fires-happening-on-daily-basis-in-parbat.html#sthash.1QKEOXFB.dpuf>

PROLONGED DROUGHT PREVAILS IN WESTERN NEPAL

The entire Karnali region of Mid-western Nepal is facing the driest spell in the last four decade. As the water sources are fast drying up local people are forced to drink dirty, untested water in some places. Local people are extremely worried about their vegetables and rice as the field are almost dry. Likewise, maize and vegetable crops in several VDCs of Kaski district and its surrounding district of Western Nepal have to wilt due to prolonged drought.

April 30, May 1

<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41447/dry-spell-grips%20karnali.html>
<http://www.myrepublica.com/society/story/41488/farmers-worried-as-crops-start-wilting-due-to-drought.html#sthash.GSv91Clk.dpuf>

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK COMPLETES ZERO POACHING FOR TWO YEARS

The Chitwan National Park, Chitwan Central Nepal on Sunday completed two years of zero rhino poaching as the last record was on May 2. 2014. Many poachers, notorious for their activities were caught as the park has adopted a four-layer security strategy to control wildlife crimes. The records show that fiscal year 2001/02 was the most violent as 37 rhinos were killed that year.

May 1

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/chitwan-national-park-completes-2-yrs-zero-rhino-poaching/>

AIR POLLUTION INCREASES HEALTH AILMENTS IN PUBLIC

The haphazard road expansion activities going along different roads in Kathmandu valley, Central Nepal at the end of the fiscal year is creating health problems. Local people are exposed to toxic air pollutants such as dust, construction debris and vehicular emissions. Kathmandu is one of the most polluted cities in the world in terms of impact on human health.

May 1

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-01/pollution-taking-toll-on-health-of-valley-denizens.html>

India-Himalaya

SMUGGLING OF BOVINE ANIMALS IN NORTHERN INDIA

Police arrested four persons on April 24 while they were trying to smuggle bovine animals to Kashmir via Mughal road in Jammu and Kashmir, northern India. The team of police rescued 170 animals and took the smugglers into custody. A case under sections 188 of RPC and 3 of PC Act was registered against them at Surankote police station. As a part of drive against Bovine smuggling, two more smugglers were arrested and eleven animals rescued by police of Rajaouri, Jammu.

April 24, 28

<http://earlytimesnews.com/newsdet.aspx?q=174623>

<http://epaper.earlytimes.in/epaperadmin/photos/large/4384028154201640298.jpg>

INCESSANT RAINS AFFECTING NORTH-EAST INDIA

Incessant rains have caused serious problem in Arunachal and Assam, North-Eastern states of India. Rain triggered landslides and flood have killed many people and destroyed properties worth billions. Over 40,000 people have been affected and 1,000 hectares of crop land inundated. The flood has blocked roads, drowned a community health center and three people were drowned to death by flooded Dalai river in Anjaw district. The Government released relief fund of Rs 1 Crore each to the badly affected districts.

April 25, 26

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

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/arunachal-flood-govt-releases-fund-situation-still-grim/>

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/arunachal-anjaw-reeling-under-flood-tawang-limps-back-to-normalancy/>

<http://www.arunachaltimes.in/anjaw-affected-by-continuous-rain-2-drowned/>

ENCROACHERS EVICTED FROM NAMDAPHA NATIONAL PARK

The officers of Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh, North-East India, along with police evicted the land encroachers of the Park on April 21. The team demolished 14 dwelling huts, destroyed 4 hectares of cardamom plantation and 2 hectares of maize fields during the eviction drive. The encroachers will be prosecuted under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

April 25

<http://www.arunachaltimes.in/encroachers-evicted-from-namdapha-park/>

DIRTY WATER SUPPLY SPREADS DISEASES IN NORTH INDIA

Use of dirty water has resulted skin infection and diarrhea among villagers and minors in Kathua district, Jammu, North India. Shortage of water supply has affected sanitation and drinking water. Supply of unhygienic water has added even more sufferings to the locals. Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has been accused of supplying the dirty and unhygienic drinking water.

April 25

<http://epaper.earlytimes.in/epaperadmin/photos/large/2441625154201616166.jpg>

INCESSANT RAIN AFFECTS TEA PRODUCTION IN ASSAM

Incessant rainfall accompanied by hailstorms has severely affected tea bushes in Assam, India's largest tea producer in North-East India. Planters are worried that this will affect production of premium variety second flush tea. The second flush tea accounts for 20% of the total tea production and commands a premium in the domestic and international markets.

April 28

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/52026593.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

FIVE KILLED AS SEVERE STORM LASHES ASSAM

At least five people have died in severe storm and lightning in different parts of Assam, North-East India. Severe storm lashed the state last night damaging houses and uprooting trees and electric poles, leading to disruption of power supply in several places.

April 29

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/five-killed-as-severe-storm-lashes-assam-116042900944_1.html

CYCLONIC STORM HITS NORTH INDIA

A powerful cyclonic storm hit many parts of Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh, North India, killing two persons. The cyclonic storm coupled with heavy rains and hailstorm lasted for about 15-20 minutes. Countless houses were destroyed and damages worth crores of rupees are expected, especially in Avoipur, Dumpani, Jyotipur, Shantipur, Bijoypur and Diyun Town.

April 30

<http://www.northeasttoday.in/arunachal-cyclonic-storm-in-diyun-kills-2/>

WATER TANKERS TO FEED WATERHOLES IN NATIONAL PARKS OF UTTARAKHAND

The State Forest Department has taken initiative of providing water to waterholes within National Parks in Uttarakhand, Northern India. This step is taken to provide relief to thirsty animals so that they don't stray from their natural habitats. Following a long dry winter spell and excessive heat in the month of April, water bodies in the national parks of Uttarakhand have been dry.

May 1

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/water-tankers-to-feed-waterholes-in-uttarakhand-national-park-1401291>

FORESTS OF UTTARAKHAND TURNING INTO COAL AND ASH

More than 2000 hectares of forest in Uttarakhand, Northern India, have been devastated by forest fires in past few weeks. Satellite pictures suggest that 200 fires are still raging in the state. The prevailing wind conditions are helping the spread of the fire. In spite of tremendous effort from local residents, forest staffs and Indian Army force, the situation hasn't come under control yet.

May 1

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/reporting-on-uttarakhand-fires-from-a-chopper-this-is-what-i-saw-1401383>

China Himalaya

TIBET STARTS ITS FIRST OVER- MILLION KW HYDROPOWER

The Suwalong Hydropower station, first hydropower station in Tibet with an installed capacity beyond one million kilowatts, is now under full construction. The construction of roads, power supplies and camps within the hydropower station site have been completed. The construction of the station is considered very significant for the West-East electricity transmission project as well as the socio-economic development of the local area.

April 29

<http://enq.tibet.cn/news/1461896638824.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

ROAD WIDENING SUSPENDED AFTER SLOPE STABILITY CONCERNS

Road widening works going on in the hill below Taa Dzong in Trongsa, Central Bhutan, has been stopped after concerns about stability of the hill slope. Department of Road had begun the work after getting approval from the concerned committee. However, when further cuts were made on April 21, Taa Dzong officials objected and the department suspended its work concerning danger to the area.

April 25

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/road-widening-suspended-after-objections/>

WATER SHORTAGE AFFECTS LIFE IN EASTERN BHUTAN

Scarcity of water has forced the villagers in Shokhang, Trashigang, Eastern Bhutan, to stop cultivation of paddy and potato. Due to drying of water source since last three years, around 105 households face the drinking water shortage and difficulties in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the village. Poor hygiene has resulted in vulnerability to diseases and affected farming and livestock activities.

April 26

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/water-shortage-stops-paddy-cultivation/>

BHUTAN SIGNS PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Bhutan has joined 174 countries to become a signatory to the Paris Agreement for Climate Change at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 22 during the High-Level Signing Ceremony convened by the UN Secretary-General. The signing ceremony marks the initial step towards bringing the Paris Agreement into force. The agreement aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2 degree Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius.

April 27

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/bhutan-signs-paris-agreement-on-climate-change/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

RAWALPINDI HIT BY WATER SCARCITY AS SUPPLY FROM DAM GOES DOWN

Several areas of Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonments in Punjab, Eastern Pakistan, have been hit by severe water scarcity. Around 11 million gallons of water is currently being supplied from Khanpur Dam and 70 other tube wells against the daily need of 22 million gallons. Several illegally operating service stations are reported to consume water being supplied to residential areas creating the scarcity-like situation.

April 30

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/islamabad/30-Apr-16/rawalpindi-hit-by-water-scarcity-as-supply-from-dam-goes-down>