

# Headlines Himalaya

Apr 23 – Apr 29 (2018)

No. 502

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For the 502<sup>nd</sup> issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 40 news from 11 sources and selected 40 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Save The Frogs Day” was marked with an interactive program on discouraging the practice of frogs dissection at high school biology labs. World’s smallest cow breed (*Bos taurus*) is in the phase of extinction in Nepal. In northern India, Salal locals protested against Bovine smuggling. In Tibet, digital reading is gaining popularity in the recent years. Bhutan initiated the project of using eco-friendly green bags replacing the plastic ones.

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

*Protest against Dhruve  
Mount Everest to be pollution free  
Kailali imports 30,000 tons of vegetables  
Thirty per cent completion of tunnel work at Bheri Babai  
Failure in combating fire  
Wild elephant kills a woman  
Focus on Chure conservation  
Barpak: quake epicenter facing delayed recovery  
Fire damages at Saptari  
Forest fire getting out of control  
Risk from malaria in Dang  
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Water crises increases at Chure  
Boosting floriculture business in Dharan  
Stolen idols replaced with new ones  
Alluring beauty of Dhakeri botanical garden  
World’s smallest cow in phase of extinction  
Huge fire in Itahari  
Celebration of 10th annual Save The Frogs Day  
Malaria epidemic prevailing in Nawalparasi  
Jhapa district lacks clean drinking water supply*

## INDIA

*Sand mining weakened the Jhelum embankment  
Protest against bovine smuggling  
Fire in wheat fields  
Concerned about preservation of amphibians*

## CHINA

*Modern machines in Tibet for ploughing  
Road maintenance in Tibet is about 83,400 kilometres  
World book day celebrated in Tibet  
Contribution of committee for vegetable industries  
Science and technology for Lhoka city  
Popularity of digital reading in Tibet  
Tibet welcomes an elephant  
Job fair held in Lhasa*

<b>BHUTAN</b>	<i>Leopard rescued from Thinleygang</i> <i>Potato farming affected by dry weather</i> <i>Initiation towards the use of green bags</i> <i>Improved paddy cultivation</i> <i>Royal Bhutan flower exhibition</i> <i>Huge loss due to windstorm</i>
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<i>Less concern in climate change schemes</i>

## Nepal-Himalaya

### PROTEST AGAINST DHRUBE

With the support of society, the locals in Bharatpur-Madi-Thori, central Nepal, have protested against the nuisance of Dhurbe, wild elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and disturbed the highway along. Many families in the place have become homeless due to Dhurbe as it destroyed their houses. The highway was closed from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Sunday as locals were protesting for their demanding compensation from Chitwan National Park (CNP) for losses caused by Dhurbe.

**Apr 23**

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/23120>

### MOUNT EVEREST TO BE POLLUTION FREE

On the occasion of silver jubilee function of Pasang Lhamu Mountaineering Foundation, Prime Minister said that Mt Everest should not be made polluted and there is need for pay attention for protection of various mountains in Nepal. He expressed concern over increasing impact of climate change on the Mt Everest and other mountains of Nepal. He also showed his concern about negative impacts of carbon emissions in Nepalese Himalayas.

**Apr 23**

<https://bit.ly/2I650hm>

### KAILALI IMPORTS 30,000 TONS OF VEGETABLES

Around 15,300 hectares of land in Kailali district, far western Nepal, produces 233,000 tons of vegetables annually. Yet it imports around 30,000 tons of vegetables worth around NPR 500 million per year due to increasing demand for vegetables. According to the Chief of District Agricultural Office Kailali, internal production fulfils 60 % of district's vegetables needs and remaining demand is met through import. However, the district is operating various programmes to make self-dependent in vegetable production.

**Apr 24**

<https://bit.ly/2Iqyf1P>

### THIRTY PERCENT COMPLETION OF TUNNEL WORK AT BHERI BABAI

The Bheri Babai Diversion Multipurpose Project which is considered to be a national pride project, located in Bheri-Ganga Municipality in Surkhet district, western Nepal has been using a tunnel boring machine (TBM), the first use of the technology in Nepal, to dig tunnel. The project has finished digging 30% of a 12km tunnel in five months using the machine. The TBM is being used to dig the tunnel through which water from the Bheri River will be diverted to the Babai River to irrigate farmland and generate electricity.

**Apr 24**

<https://bit.ly/2IpxgyP>

### **FAILURE IN COMBATING FIRE**

Due to strong wind and heat waves, the authorities of Bardiya National Park (BNP), mid western Nepal have committed to be unsuccessful in combating with fire which has been prevailing since last three weeks. The fire has damaged the park's area from Parewaodar to Lalmatiya. The fire threatens wild animals while smoke and ashes from fire, affects the health of people living in buffer zone.

**Apr 24**

<https://bit.ly/2ruGFvz>

### **WILD ELEPHANT KILLS A WOMAN**

A woman was killed by wild elephant (*Elephas maximus*) at Theliya of Kanchanrup municipality, south eastern Nepal, while she was sleeping at home. It has also destroyed the property in the home. The Superintendent of Police reported the woman to be the age of 45.

**Apr 24**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40490/>

### **FOCUS ON CHURE CONSERVATION**

Chure (Inner Terai and river valleys), that covers 12.78 % of total area of Nepal, has been facing massive degradation since decades. However, former President has requested the government to conserve Chure by formulating policies and plans for its conservation while speaking at the Barbara Adams Talk Series titled, 'Conservation of Chure: Why is it essential? How is it possible?' on Tuesday. He further added that the lives of people in Chure area would be threatened if Chure is not protected. Managing farming and animal husbandry and promotion of bio gas could be some ways to conserve Chure.

**Apr 25**

<https://bit.ly/2FXWvTQ>

### **BARPAK: QUAKE EPICENTER FACING DELAYED RECOVERY**

Barpak, western Nepal, which used to be a famous tourist destination before earthquake, 2015 has now become an expanse of colourful tin roofs. Around 1,400 houses were destroyed by earthquake being epicentre killing many lives. Out of 1,400 damaged houses, only 509 have been reconstructed and 429 are still far away to reconstruct due to lack of sufficient government grant and land. The reconstruction of quake-damaged schools and other facilities are still not on pace.

**Apr 25**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40512/>

### **FIRE DAMAGES AT SAPTARI**

Fire starting from a cowshed belonging to the local resident has destroyed three houses at Mahadeva rural Municipality-5 Saptari, eastern Nepal on Wednesday. According to the police, properties including food commodities, clothes and furniture worth around NPR 500,000 were destroyed. Fire was later controlled by local residents and fire engines from Rajbiraj municipality along with police support..

**Apr 26**

<https://bit.ly/2I65p3m>

### **FOREST FIRE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL**

Bara district, central Nepal, having around 47,000 hectares of forest land gets forest fire every year mostly during dry season. This year too fire has been raging in Mahadevsthan, Bara for the last 15 days. According to District Forest Officer, the fire is getting out of control then fuelled by strong winds. The fire might have started by the cattle herder since most of the forest fires are started by humans, he said.

**Apr 27**

<https://bit.ly/2I6iY2P>

### **RISK FROM MALARIA IN DANG**

Although Nepal targets to eradicate malaria by 2025 AD, the infectious disease, malaria, is still prevailing in Dang, mid western Nepal. Altogether fifteen malarial patients have been found in last nine months in Dang according to District Public Health Office (DPHO), Dang. All the authorities, civil society and the locals must play role in order to eradicate malaria from the country. Though the number of patients is decreasing than past year, people are still vulnerable.

**Apr 27**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40664/>

### **ACTIONS FOR HAPHAZARD WASTE DISPOSAL**

Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) has exposed 91 individuals for improper and haphazard waste disposal to legal action. They have been taken into action for not disposing waste at the designated areas or handing the waste to the garbage truck. The individual will be subjected to a minimum charge of NPR 500 to maximum of NPR 100,000.

**Apr 27**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40659/>

### **WATER CRISES INCREASES AT CHURE**

Water crises, affecting humans, cattle, wildlife and environment seems to be increasing with the passing time due to massive Chure destruction. Locals of Chure claimed that rivers and other water sources are rapidly disappearing as a destruction of Chure and also urged the government to take action against it. A local of Krishna Sawar, Saptari, eastern Nepal, said that water is getting polluted and none of the authorities are worried for its conservation.

**Apr 27**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40696/>

### **BOOSTING FLORICULTURE BUSINESS IN DHARAN**

To boost up the production of flower in Nepal, Floriculture Association Nepal (FAN) has introduced province-level floriculture counselling center in Aman Bajar of Dharan, eastern Nepal. The center aims at boosting up the floriculture business and anyone can learn about flower business from this center. The project also aims to reduce garbage at temples by offering flower plants along with flower pots.

**Apr 28**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40723/>

### **STOLEN IDOLS REPLACED WITH NEW ONES**

The statue of the God Dattareya along with 21 other idols that were stolen from the Chandannath temple, a pilgrimage site in Karnali, mid western Nepal, have been replaced and restored with new idols. The idol has been placed at the original location after required religious consecration. The new idol was constructed with the help of a person from Dehradun, India and later it was transported to Jumla with help of two priests.

**Apr 28**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40719/>

### **ALLURING BEAUTY OF DHAKERI BOTANICAL GARDEN**

Dhakeri botanical garden, situated at Dhakeri, mid western Nepal, is the first botanical garden in Banke and is an alluring place to visit. The garden is a suitable premise for many researchers and learners to conduct botanical studies, survey and preservation on medicinal herbs. With the aim to preserve biodiversity, including the preservation of orchid (*Orchidaceae*) and other extinct flower species, many activities are conducted in the garden.

**Apr 28**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40724/>

### **WORLD'S SMALLEST COW IN PHASE OF EXTINCTION**

The world smallest cow breed (*Bos taurus*) commonly named as Naumuthe is on the verge of extinction due to the lack of conservation. The species is only found in some districts of far western Nepal and some cattle farms in Pokhara, western Nepal. Farmers do not show their interests in rearing this breed of cow which is leading to its extinction. The District Livestock Services Office (DLSO) data shows that the number of this cow is just 447 throughout Achham district, far western Nepal.

**Apr 28**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40727/>

### **HUGE FIRE IN ITAHARI**

A massive fire that started from electric short circuit in a shop, exploding 11 gas cylinders occurred through the Ghana Bazaar at Paruhang intersection in Itahari, eastern Nepal. The fire has destroyed four houses and there has been the loss of around NPR 10 million. The fire was later controlled by fire engines send off from Inaruwa and Itahari, local residents and police force.

**Apr 28**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40726/>

### **CELEBRATION OF 10TH ANNUAL SAVE THE FROGS DAY**

On the occasion of 10th Annual Save The Frogs Day 2018, an interactive program has been organized by Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF), at New Baneshwor, central Nepal, to discourage dissection of frogs. Participants from different colleges, universities and academicians have attended the program. The Research Officer of RHF highlighted the importance of frogs in ecosystem along with the threats they are facing. He reported that among 11 endemic species of Nepal, 4 of them are on the verge of extinction and urged all the authorities to end up dissection and adopt alternatives.

**Apr 29**

<http://www.hakahaki.org/np/2018/04/29/2708/>

### **MALARIA EPIDEMIC PREVAILING IN NAWALPARASI**

Altogether, 21 people have been identified with malaria epidemic, including three in western part and 18 in eastern part, according to District Public Health Office, Nawalparasi, western Nepal. A campaign was held with the slogan 'Let us all participate in the campaign against Malaria' on the occasion of World Malaria Day by the District Public Health Office of Nawalparasi.

**Apr 29**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40770/>

### **JHAPA DISTRICT LACKS CLEAN DRINKING WATER SUPPLY**

Water sources in Jhapa district, eastern Nepal have been drying due to various reasons and the locals are forced to drink contaminated river water. Three big water projects have been launched in the town but still the local people are deprived of clean drinking water supply. The Municipality Mayor reported that they have consulted with the concerned authorities and the problem will be solved within a few years.

**Apr 29**

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/40776/>

## India-Himalaya

### SAND MINING WEAKENED THE JHELUM EMBANKMENT

Extensive sand mining and use of heavy machines for extraction and transportation have threatened and weakened the embankments of Jhelum River, Kashmir, north western India. As a result, the entire region has been vulnerable to inundation. The locals expressed their concerns about the future consequences of extensive mining and said that the concerned authorities are not taking any action to stop this.

**Apr 23**

<https://bit.ly/2KNTXLK>

### PROTEST AGAINST BOVINE SMUGGLING

The locals of Salal, northern India, held a protest against the continuous bovine smuggling in Salal and blocked Jyotipuram- Salal road at Batakala tunnel, Jammu and Kashmir. The locals were furious as no actions were being taken despite the assurance from police officials. The protester requested the administration to take necessary actions to control smuggling.

**Apr 25**

<https://bit.ly/2rtuX43>

### FIRE IN WHEAT FIELDS

The fire caused on Apr 25, has destroyed the standing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) crop on about 10.9 hectares of land in Kathua district, northern India leading to a great loss. The police team, farmers and fire tender were in the field to control fire. The short circuit of live electric wires that were passing through the fields were thought to be the cause of fire.

**Apr 26**

<https://bit.ly/2rvpeu2>

### CONCERNED ABOUT PRESERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS

Assam, north eastern India, harbours about 53 species of amphibians which includes frogs (Order Anura), salamanders (Order Urodela) and caecilians (Order Gymnophiona). Due to suitable geographic location, vegetation and specific climate, wide varieties of amphibians are found in the region. On the "Save the Frogs Day", conservationists warned that there is a need of studies and conservation action of these amphibians for preserving whole ecosystems. One of the herpetologist highlighted the importance of amphibians and threats they are facing due to more use of pesticides and global climate change.

**Apr 27**

<https://bit.ly/2K6yEUa>

## China Himalaya

### MODERN MACHINES IN TIBET FOR PLOUGHING

In Mochong Village, Thangkya Town, Maizhokunggar County and Redui Village, Nyetang Town, Quxu County, south western China, the farmers have been using modern machines for ploughing. Agriculture and animal husbandry departments at all levels in Tibet has focused on the grain production and to increase farmer's income by improved varieties of crops, accumulation of farm manure, transformation of low-yield fields, and transportation of agricultural materials for this spring.

**Apr 23**

<https://bit.ly/2rvbVuh>

### **ROAD MAINTENANCE IN TIBET IS ABOUT 83,400 KILOMETERS**

According to the road work conference held recently, the road maintenance in Tibet has reached about 83,400 kilometres, which accompanied 98% of the total roads by the end of 2017. Over the past five years, the services provided has been improving along with the improvement in the quality of road maintenance. This has been contributing in the economic and social development and long-term stability.

**Apr 24**

<https://bit.ly/2FYNaLf>

### **WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATED IN TIBET**

On April 23, World Book Day was celebrated in Tibet by a series of activities such as publications sales, parent-child reading, digital reading experience and famous books promotion. These activities has been organized to greet the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Book Day in Tibet Autonomous Region.

**Apr 25**

<https://bit.ly/2KNUFZg>

### **CONTRIBUTION OF COMMITTEE FOR VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES**

Nambar Neighborhood Committee of Nang County of Nyingchi City, south eastern part of the Tibet Autonomous Region, has invested a poverty alleviation fund of USD 251,512 in building 30 greenhouses and also established vegetable cultivation cooperative to alleviate poverty. The greenhouses are being managed by the local farmers. The farmers are being provided technical services and trained, which has encouraged them to grow more vegetables.

**Apr 26**

<https://bit.ly/2rsIHfA>

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR LHOKA CITY**

Lhoka City, south eastern Tibet Autonomous Region, China, has been concentrated on transforming scientific and technological achievements into productive forces by strengthening the breeding of good varieties, cultivation of artificial grassland, and large-scale and efficient farming. Lhoka City has established 1400 hectares of elite seed breeding field and 77 township integrated service centers for agriculture and animal husbandry.

**Apr 26**

<https://bit.ly/2IOMQsr>

### **POPULARITY OF DIGITAL READING IN TIBET**

Digital reading has become popular in Tibet as people are using cell phones, kindles, or other mobile devices for reading. A research done in 2017 showed an increase in e-book reading with an average of 10.1 e-books read per person and more people willing to pay for e-book which increased from 60.3% in 2016 to 63.8% in the 2017. Reading has become a habit in Tibet with the improvement of public libraries.

**Apr 27**

<https://bit.ly/2KOXjhw>

### **TIBET WELCOMES AN ELEPHANT**

Tibet, south western China, has welcomed 28 years old Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) named as "Nipu" after over 80 years which is about 2.9 meters high and weighs about 5 tons. First elephant in Tibet was from Nepal in 1936, which died in the 1960s. The Quxu Animal Protection Park, south western China, has already started cleaning and disinfecting the residence area of Nipu.

**Apr 27**

<https://bit.ly/2wrMPkY>

### **JOB FAIR HELD IN LHASA**

Job fair for college graduates has been held on April 25 on the square of Lhasa Public Service Centre, south western China. In this event, around 3980 post including secretary, accounting, sales, architect, cook, cashier and so on has been provided by more than 200 enterprises. The companies expressed that they are giving chances to new graduates. Similarly, more than 6,000 job seekers have attended the job fair.

**Apr 27**

<https://bit.ly/2rtBTO7>

## **Bhutan-Himalaya**

### **LEOPARD RESCUED FROM THINLEYGANG**

A female leopard (*Panthera pardus*) from a trap in Thinleygang below the Dechentshemo Central School in Punakha, central Bhutan, has been rescued. According to the Senior Forester, the leopard was first spotted by a villager and as they could not rescue they informed the Wildlife Rescue and Animal Health Section in Thimpu, central Bhutan. The leopard was then taken to the Wildlife Rescue and Animal Health Section for the examination and was released back into the forest after it was found to be healthy.

**Apr 24**

<https://bit.ly/2FXbFZy>

### **POTATO FARMING AFFECTED BY DRY WEATHER**

Dry weather has affected the potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) plants in Rimta Dorgen village, Chukha, western Bhutan. The farmers expressed their worries about the decrease in production of potatoes due to less rain. They reported that due to lack of rainfall, the potatoes plants are drying up and the pests are attacking them. Potato is the main cash crop for about 130 households in Rimta Dorgen.

**Apr 25**

<https://bit.ly/2lpRCIk>

### **INITIATION TOWARDS THE USE OF GREEN BAGS**

The students of Sherubtse College, Kanglung eastern Bhutan, have initiated to use green bags for shopping with the purpose of spreading awareness of waste management in the community. This trial project has been inaugurated by the Forum for International and National Awareness (FINA) and has distributed green bags to all the college students. According to one of the students, the idea of green bags aroused during a cultural exchange program which was held in Japan last year.

**Apr 26**

<https://bit.ly/2HY7v9s>

### **IMPROVED PADDY CULTIVATION**

In Haa, western Bhutan, farmers are overjoyed as the production of paddy (*Oryza sativa*) has increased as compared to the previous season. The concept of paddy cultivation was brought forward only on 2016 and before that the people living there used to depend on potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*). According to the Senior Agriculture Officer, new variety of seeds that could grow in high altitude was introduced to increase rice self sufficiency and food security.

**Apr 26**

<https://bit.ly/2wr3qFp>



### **ROYAL BHUTAN FLOWER EXHIBITION**

On Apr 25, the 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Bhutan Flower Exhibition has been started at Thangzona in Punakha, central Bhutan, with the aim to facilitate the entrepreneurship in floriculture and horticulture and appreciate beautiful public places. It has been managed by the Ministry of Agriculture with the support of various national and international organizations. Exhibition is spread over around 3.94 hectares of the Thangzona ground.

**Apr 27**

<https://bit.ly/2ruHZP3>

### **HUGE LOSS DUE TO WINDSTORM**

Windstorms have affected twenty one households in Orong, Samdrupjongkhar, south eastern Bhutan, and destroyed crops and killed cattle. The farmers expressed their pain as their hard work went in vain. The houses were insured with one of the insurance company and the farmers are in expectation of the relief after assessment.

**Apr 27**

<https://bit.ly/2rv6zhH>

## **Pakistan- Himalaya**

### **LESS CONCERN IN CLIMATE CHANGE SCHEMES**

As climate change is becoming big issues for the world but there is less concern about it and only few budget has been allocated in federal budget 2018/2019. Only USD 6,927,289 have been allocated for the climate change division while only two new schemes have been introduced among total budget. Two of the new schemes are Climate Change Resilient Urban Human Settlements Unit and Establishment of Pakistan WASH Strategic Planning and Coordination Cell.

**Apr 28**

<https://bit.ly/2In92Ft>