

Headlines Himalaya

May 15-21, 2010

No. 111

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Headlines Himalaya, weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Nepal looks inspiring with clean energy, organic farming and innovative human urine bank. But the Government appears to be less concerned with rural community sanitation and public health. Rhino poachers are caught in hordes in India and many wonder when rhino poaching will come to end in Nepal and India? The current spurt in poaching is associated more with the functions of feeble park management than anything else including illicit cross-country markets. Enjoy!

NEPAL **MONASTERY LIGHTS UP ON CLEAN ENERGY**
HAILSTONES AND FIRE
MORE TOURIST ELEPHANTS WITH TUBERCULOSIS
SELLING URINE MAKES SENSE
LOGGING, HUNTING AND EVERYTHING
EARTHWORMS NAMED TIGER
DON'T PLAY WITH DIARRHOEA
A RHINO TURNS FURIOUS

INDIA **POACHERS HELD**
TEMPERATURE RISING

CHINA **LHASA RESIDENTS ENJOY 60 CITY PARKS**

BHUTAN **RIVERBANK PROTECTION**

Nepal-Himalaya

MONASTERY LIGHTS UP ON CLEAN ENERGY

Four kilometers northeast of Swayambhu, Kathmandu, Druk Amitabha, a Buddhist nunnery on a hilltop, lights up streets, dorms and houses over 25 acres with hybrid solar PV system.

May 15

Himalayan Times

HAILSTONES AND FIRE

Three women were killed and two were injured while fighting forest fire in Salyan District (West Nepal). In east Nepal, farmers lost crops worth millions due to hailstone in Panchthar District, which not only destroyed maize, wheat, tea, potato, and cardamom but also killed wild animals.

May 15

Kantipur Daily, Himalayan times

MORE TOURIST ELEPHANTS WITH TUBERCULOSIS

Two captive female elephants, died in Chitwan National Park (CNP), central Nepal. Two more elephants are being treated for TB and six have already been cured for the disease in the last five months. Out of 230 elephants identified in Nepal, 190 were short-listed for tests. Of them, 133 were tested for TB and 29 of them confirmed positive. But only 22 elephants have been treated.

May 17

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=18710

SELLING URINE MAKES SENSE

The farmers from Siddhipur, 10 km south-east of Kathmandu, have established a first "Human Urine Bank." To minimize the adverse effect of chemical fertilizer, human urine is used as alternative. Human urine thus collected is sold at NRP 1 per Liter. The bank is established in technical and financial support of UN Habitat organization from Switzerland and managed by Human Urine Management Committee.

May 18

<http://www.nepalnews.com/main/index.php/business-a-economy/6138-farmers-set-up-first-human-urine-bank-for-better-harvest.html>

LOGGING, HUNTING AND EVERYTHING

About 2,000 khayar trees, worth millions of rupees have been smuggled with the help of community forest users' committee from Tumlingtar Community Forest of Terathum District, eastern Nepal. Similarly, more than 150 deer have been killed within the past one month in Mahabharat Forest and Khaptad National Park in Doti, farwest Nepal. Both fresh and dried deer meat in nearby areas are openly sold. In east Nepal, uncontrolled mining of sand and stones had deepened the Indrawati River by 2 meters creating a risk for rafters and kayaking, which threatens adventure tourism.

May 17, 18, 20

Himalayan Times, Republica, Nagarik

EARTHWORMS NAMED TIGER

Earthworm farming has become a profitable business in Ramechhap District, east Nepal as fertilized soil with earthworm is exceptionally good for crops and other plants. Farming of two types (species) of earthworms, Asida and Tiger has been a good source of earning for villagers as they are sold at NRP 25 per kg.

May 16

http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/rising.detail.php?article_id=34507&cat_id=8

DON'T PLAY WITH DIARRHOEA

Eight mid-western districts of Nepal, (Surkhet, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Rukum, Rolpa, Salyan, Kalikot and Mugu) are highly vulnerable to diarrheal outbreak. Use of polluted water, lack of sanitation and health awareness is to be blamed for diarrhea spread. Meanwhile, some 861 drinking water and sanitation projects across the country are in limbo for the last six years due to ineffective government policy and monitoring mechanism. Government had already spent NPR 3 billion but none of the projects are completed.

May 18, 19

Kantipur, nepalnews.com

A RHINO TURNS FURIOUS

A 70 year old man was killed by a rhino in Bardia on May 15 which came out of the park, west Nepal.

May 20

Gorkhapatra

India-Himalaya

POACHERS HELD

Seven persons were apprehended from Kuthori, Kohora and Numaligarh in connection with the poaching of a rhino in Kaziranga National Park, Assam, northeast India.

May 18

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may1910/state06>

TEMPERATURE RISING

Minimum temperatures have risen by 1 - 1.5⁰C in the past five decades, affecting the annual snowfall in the high-altitude areas of Yumthang Valley, Sikkim, north India. Receding ski slopes and a rise in mercury level make tourism actors call off this year's skiing itinerary because of low snowfall.

May 17

<http://beacononline.wordpress.com/2010/05/18/sikkim-climate-focus-on-eight-core-areas-less-rain-and-receding-snow-line-spur-sikkim-action-plan/>

Back to Headlines

China-Himalaya

LHASA RESIDENTS ENJOY 60 CITY PARKS

Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, has completed construction of 60 city parks. The green field occupies 78% of the acreage of parks in Lhasa.

May 18

http://eng.tibet.cn/09index/yctt/201005/t20100518_580403.htm

Bhutan-Himalaya

RIVERBANK PROTECTION

Bamboo plantation has been carried out along the banks of the Phochhu (river) for erosion control. Such may also minimize the impact in the event of flash flood. Locally available bamboo grows fast.

May 16

<http://kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15469>

[Back to Headlines](#)