

Headlines Himalaya

February 16- February 23, 2016

No. 392

Editorial Team – Deepak Khadka & Sagar Niraula

For the 392nd issue, we reviewed 24 news reports from 11 sources and selected 18 happenings in five countries. In Nepal, 16 rhinos died due to the natural death in Chitwan National Park in Chitwan district, southern Nepal. Survey on blue sheep started in high altitude of Uttarakhand state, northern India. Tibet becomes a Temporary Settlement for Black Necked Cranes in Tibet in China and electricity reaches in remote villages in Bhutan. Indian Blue bull was found after it entered Pakistan from India.

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

Drought and Food Crisis in Humla
Natural Death of 16 Rhinos
Cutting Of Tress for Development
Monitoring Of Pesticides Use
Medicinal Plant Trade Promote
Seized Of Wild Lichen

INDIA

Survey on Blue Sheep in High Altitude
Water birds Census in Wetlands
Remove Of Encroachment on Government Land
Trapped Leopard Released Back Into the Wild

CHINA

Ibet as a Temporary Settlement for Black Necked Cranes
Over 10000 Forest Rangers Protect Forest

BHUTAN

Electricity in Remote Village of Bhutan
High Expectation of Farmers from Mango in Samdrupjongkhar

PAKISTAN

Illegal Killing of Ibexes
Selling Sand, Brought By Flood
Banned Of Fertilizers Affects Farmer
Indian Blue Bull Found

DROUGHT AND FOOD CRISIS IN HUMLA

This year has been the worst drought faced by people of Humla district of northwest Nepal in 30 years with no rainfall in the area since the middle of July. Even the percentage of monsoon yield has declined by more than half with the delayed snowfall making the matters worse. This has led to not only a loss in crops but fights over access to water sources and increased migration to India for labor work.

February 17

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-02-17/drying-of-the-west.html>

NATURAL DEATH OF 16 RHINOS

A total of 16 rhinos (*Rhinocerotidae*) died due to natural death in the Chitwan National Park in Chitwan district of southern Nepal in the last 22 months. Rhinos died due to attacks from tigers and crocodiles, combating with each other as well as getting electric shock.

February 21

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/16-rhinos-die-in-past-22-months-in-chitwan-national-park/>

TREES CHOPPED FOR DEVELOPMENT

Trees have been cut down in the jungle between Inaruwa and Itahari along the East-West Highway in Sunsari district of eastern Nepal for the expansion of roads. The authorities have failed to pay attention despite uncontrolled trees cutting in the jungle along the highway.

February 21

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-02-21/tree-felling-in-sunsari-rampant.html>

MONITORING OF PESTICIDES USE

The Department of Food Technology and Quality Control and the Directorate of Crop Protection have started monitoring the use of pesticides in fruits and vegetables entering the Kathmandu Valley, Central Nepal. The monitoring was started due to the complaints from public that widespread use of pesticides was found in fruits and vegetables imported into the Valley.

February 22

<http://radionepal.gov.np/radio-nepal/pesticide-use-in-fruits-vegetables-monitored-at-valley-entry-points/>

MEDICINAL PLANT TRADE PROMOTED

Rudrakshya is one of the medicinal plants which are mostly exported to China and India from Nepal and are very expensive. Trade of this medicinal plant from Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha district of eastern Nepal have developed into a big source of earnings for people over there.

February 22

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/promotion-of-rudrakshya-trade/>

SEIZED OF WILD LICHEN

Police seized 13 tonnes of wild lichen in Nepalgunj, Banke, mid western Nepal. Around 542 sacks of wild lichen were in custody. The detained lichens were handed over the seized wild lichen and the suspect to the District Forest Office. The government has prohibited trading of wild lichen prized for its various medicinal values.

February 22

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-02-22/banned-lichen-seized.html>

India-Himalaya

SURVEY ON BLUE SHEEP IN HIGH ALTITUDE

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) team conducted a survey to count the number of blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) for the very first time in high altitude region of Uttarakhand state of northern India. A total number of 8,549 blue sheep were found in the area. The lower range reported a count of 5,896 blue sheep and the higher region reported 12,048 blue sheep.

February 16

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/good-blue-sheep-count-in-high-areas/197239.html>

WATER BIRDS CENSUS IN WETLANDS

The Kashmir state government has started a survey of birds in 23 wetlands across Kashmir valley of Northwest India. The survey comes in the heels of a sharp decline in the number of migratory birds in the valley. The Department of Wildlife Protection, in collaboration with a group of experts, students and volunteers started the 'Asian Water bird Census, 2016' from Hokersar wetland on the outskirts of Srinagar.

February 16

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/governance/waterbirds-census-begins-across-23-valley-wetlands/197163.html>

TRAPPED LEOPARD RELEASED BACK INTO THE WILD

A leopardess (*Panthera pardus*), caught by forest officials from a posh locality of Pithoragarh town was released into Thalkedar forest of Uttarakhand, northern India. Two cubs were trapped from the same area recently and released into the forest.

February 21

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/uttarakhand/community/trapped-leopardess-released-into-forest/198625.html>

China Himalaya

TIBET BECOMES A TEMPORARY SETTLEMENT FOR BLACK NECKED CRANES

Around 70 percent of the world's total population of black necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) are now found in Tibet. Tibet is temporary home to 7,000 to 8,000 black-necked cranes. This is due to the improvement in protection and conservation through the public awareness.

February 17

http://eng.tibet.cn/photo_video/photo/1455669664452.shtml

OVER 10000 FOREST RANGERS PROTECT FOREST

A total of 102,786 forest rangers have been deployed, between November 15- May 31, to protect the public welfare forest during the season of forest fire.. The public welfare forest covers over 90 percent of the whole forest area in Tibet Autonomous Region. Last year, over 0.7 billion yuan was used for management and protection subsidies.

February 21

http://english.chinatibetnews.com/xwzx/ms/201602/t20160222_1082724.html

Bhutan-Himalaya

ELECTRICITY IN REMOTE VILLAGE OF BHUTAN

The rural electrification package for 13 remote villages of Bhutan began in 2012. However, at the rate of electrifying one household in a month, it is estimated that it will take a few more years to complete the project. So far only five villages of 40 households have access to electricity. Acute scarcity of labor has caused the delay.

February 18

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/reaching-electricity-to-remote-gong/>

HIGH EXPECTATION OF FARMERS FROM MANGO IN SAMDRUPJONGKHAR

Samdrupjongkhar is known as “Mango Village” because of its suitable climate and topography for the plant to thrive. More than 272 saplings of mangos (*Mangifera indica*) were distributed to 10 interested households from the village last year with the help of a Research development centre. Villagers are now eagerly waiting for the plants to bear fruits, which are expected to bring a big yield this season which is the main source of income in the area.

February 18

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/mango-village-in-samdrupjongkhar-aims-big/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

ILLEGAL KILLING OF IBEXES

A magistrate of the Gilgit wildlife department has nabbed the illegal killing of ibexes (*Capra ibex*) in Gilgit Baltistan of northern Pakistan. The provincial government sold permits to hunt four markhors, 60 ibexes and eight blue sheep in the region in 2015. However, illegal killing of ibexes is also on the rise in the area.

February 17

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1048080/on-the-hunt-five-jailed-for-illegally-killing-ibexes-in-gilgit-baltistan/>

SELLING SAND, BROUGHT BY FLOOD

The residents of Goghabanj, Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Pakistan earn millions of rupees every year by selling sand brought in by the flood. They sell the sand in winter when the water level decreases in the river making it easier to collect the sand. They consider flood as a gift of nature and pray for floods in the summer season every year.

February 19

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetaillImage.php?StoryImage=19_02_2016_183_006

BANNED OF FERTILIZERS AFFECTS FARMER

The government imposed a ban on chemical fertilizers and this has badly affected the production of Peshawar, northern Pakistan. Farmers complained that the banned of fertilizer has reduced their crop harvest.

February 22

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1241162/fertiliser-ban-in-fata-may-curb-terrorism-but-adds-to-farmers-woes>

INDIAN BLUE BULL FOUND

A team of Punjab Wildlife Department and rangers caught a male blue bull (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) after it entered Pakistan from India. A team got information that a male blue bull entered Pakistan by crossing Indian border and caught the bull and shifted it to Wildlife Park, Changa Manga.

February 22

<http://www.pakistanpressfoundation.org/2016/02/indian-blue-bull-caught/>