

Headlines Himalaya

Aug 08 - Aug 14

No 417

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For the 417th issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 23 news from 12 sources and selected 20 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, Tibetan Argali (*Ovisammon hodgsoni*) is trapped in camera after four decades at Upper Dolpo. While Guwahati in Assam, India demands the need of urban greenery due to transformation of the city into an urban heat island. White Rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*) was spotted for the first time in Lhalu Wetland in Tibet. In Bhutan, villagers are terrorised by the attack of wild elephants.

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

Female Rhino Dies at Chitwan
Tibetan Argali Re-Discovered at Upper Dolpo
Landslide Displaces Human Settlement
Celebration of the First Community Forest Day
Red Panda Hides Confiscated: 70 In Four Years
Bat Population Decreases in the Valley
Government Installs Early Warning System
Climate Change Impacts on the Eco-System of Gandaki River Basin
Waste Collection in the Major Rivers of the Valley

INDIA

Urgent necessity of Urban Forest
Clean Drinking Water for a Rupee
Dumping Waste near Anchar Lake Prohibited
Death Toll of Rhino reaches 49 in Assam
Monsoonal Disaster: Loss and Damages
Biodiversity Conservation Program at Dergaon

CHINA

*White Rumped Swift Spotted (*Apus caffer*) for the First Time in Lhalu Wetlands*

BHUTAN

Flash Flood Led By Heavy Rain
Elephants Terrorises Gelephu Villages

PAKISTAN

Windstorm Kills Three People

FEMALE RHINO DIES AT CHITWAN

A female one horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) has been found dead in the Bhagaha VDC, Narayani zone, central Nepal. The death of the rhino was suspected to be due to the electric shock received from the electric fence that local people kept for protecting their crops from wild animals. Nevertheless, the horn and hoof of the animal was intact in the body.

Aug 08

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/one-horned-female-rhino-found-dead-chitwan/>

TIBETAN ARGALI RE-DISCOVERED AT UPPER DOLPO

Tibetan argali (*Ovisammon hodgsoni*), an endangered, legally protected species has been captured on camera for the first time on July 19, Upper Dolpo at an elevation of 4,796 metres above sea level after more than forty years. Hunting and harsh environmental condition has driven the species to extinction in Dolpo in past. The species is found in China, India and Bhutan as well.

Aug 09

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-08-09/tibetan-argali-sighted-in-upper-dolpo.html>

LANDSLIDE DISPLACES HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Landslides caused by incessant rainfall have displaced eleven households in Itautar and Jirma VDC in Ilam district, eastern Nepal. In Itaura VDC, the land slide has destroyed three houses leaving six houses at risk. Likewise, five families were displaced in Jirma VDC along with seven houses at risk.

Aug 09

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-08-09/landslide-displaces-nine-families-in-ilam.htm>

CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST COMMUNITY FOREST DAY

First community forest day was celebrated with planting seventy varieties of saplings at the Jagdol community forest at Gokarna with the direction of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation in collaboration with National Martyr Memorial and the Lions Club of Kathmandu Rising Sun. The community forest day has been started to celebrate in Nepal in the memory of handing over of the National forest of Thokarpa of Sindhupalchowk district to the local community for the first time in August 9, 1971.

Aug 10

<http://www.karobardaily.com/2016/08/14336/>

RED PANDA HIDES CONFISCATED: 70 IN FOUR YEARS

Nepal Police has confiscated nine red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) skins from Kapan, Kathmandu, central Nepal last week. According to the Law Enforcement Agency, in the last four years altogether 70 units of red pandas hide have been seized. Red pandas are in the decreasing number due to poaching and habitat destruction.

Aug 13

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/70-red-panda-hides-seized-fours-years/>

BAT POPULATION DECREASES IN THE VALLEY

Population of bats residing in Kathmandu valley has drastically decreased one of these days. Rapid urbanization, electrocution, lack of fruit farms and felling of trees have attributed to the death of at least 600 bats in the period of nine years. Kesarmahal and Narayanhiti palace premises in Kathmandu valley and Sallaghari in Bhaktapur are the major habitats of bats.

Aug 11

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/time-ticking-for-bats-in-kathmandu-valley/>

GOVERNMENT INSTALLS EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology has installed 42 early warning system to inform public about the possible danger of landslides and inundation beforehand. The system has been installed on the bank of the rivers like Kankai, Koshi, Bagmati, Narayani, West Rapti, Babai, Karnali and Mahakali. The radar installed at the bank of river provides information regarding the water level which can send warning ranges from mountain to hilly region.

Aug 09

<http://www.karobardaily.com/2016/08/14301/>

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE ECO-SYSTEM OF GANDAKI RIVER BASIN

A pilot study conducted by experts of ICIMOD in the Gandaki River Basin including areas of Rasuwa, Nuwakot and the Chitwan districts has revealed that climate change has impacted the agriculture, biodiversity, water resources and tourism in the area. The report was made public in two days' workshop.

Aug 12

<http://www.karobardaily.com/2016/08/14416/>

WASTE COLLECTION IN THE MAJOR RIVERS OF THE VALLEY

Altogether 14 metric tons of the wastes have been collected from the periphery of rivers like Bagmati, Rudramati and Bishnumati in its 171, 129 and 105th week of the cleanup campaign. Awareness program on cleanliness and sapling plantation were conducted as part of the campaign.

Aug 13

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/28698>

India-Himalaya

URGENT NECESSITY OF URBAN FOREST

Guwahati, a largest city of Assam is in need of urban forest as the city has been transformed to heat island in the summer and city of dust in winter. The city does not consist of any parks and children playground. This necessitates inhabitants to plant trees and maintain greenery so as to maintain the environment.

Aug 10

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/mdetails.asp?id=aug1116/city05>

CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR A RUPEE

In the Katonipur village in Jorhat district of Assam, north-east India clean drinking water is available only for a rupee. The villagers had been dependent on tube well for years but now the task of drawing water will need only the use of a smart card. The users will have to pay Rs.1 for a litre of water before inserting the card to the water dispensing machine.

Aug 10

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160811/jsp/northeast/story_101815.jsp#.V6x9ITNw1t4

DUMPING WASTE NEAR ANCHAR LAKE PROHIBITED

Anchar lake of Srinagar in the vicinity of Jammu and Kashmir will be cleaner in the days to come as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has prohibited the dumping of municipal solid waste near the lake. In addition, NGT has alleged the government authorities of overlooking the matter at hand.

Aug 11

<http://m.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/ngt-no-to-jk-throwing-waste-near-anchar-lake/225447.html>

DEATH TOLL OF RHINO REACHES TO 49 IN ASSAM

Assam, the north eastern part of India has lost 49 Rhinos since May this year in four different national parks. Out of total number, 22 rhinos were killed in natural calamity and 21 died naturally across Kaziranga, Manas and Pobitora forest area. Five rhinos were poached in Kaziranga National Park and one rhino was poached in Orang National Park. Though, 49 rhinos died, the forest officer recovered only 19 rhino horns.

Aug 11

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/49-rhinos-died-in-assam-since-may/article8974286.ece>

MONSOONAL DISASTER: LOSS AND DAMAGES

A migrant of Bihar lost his life after a roof collapsed since all-day rain in Shimla, Himanchal Pradesh of India. Furthermore, roads, bridges and other infrastructures were damaged by landslides in the same region. Landslides have even blocked roads in Kasauli, Himanchal Pradesh.

Aug12, Aug 13

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/monsoon-misery-house-collapses-bridge-roads-damaged/279805.html>

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/kasauli-roads-blocked/279806.html>

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROGRAMME AT DERGAON

Missamara Girl's High School in Dergaon, Assam organised a biodiversity conservation programme on the occasion of 70th Independence Day. Golaghat Forest division, Deragaon Forest Beat office, Nature Organisation Aashray and Missamara Uttar Anchalik Biodiversity Management Committee collaborated for the program where seventy saplings were planted at the school periphery.

Aug 13

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug1416/state059>

China Himalaya

WHITE RUMPED SWIFT SPOTTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LHALU WETLANDS

The researchers of Tibet has spotted the white rumped swift (*Apus caffer*) and four species of butterfly in the Lhalu Wetland, China's highest altitude wetland at 3600 meters for the first time. The number of wetland plant and animal species has been increasing yearly with improvement in ecological environment of lake. Lhalu Lake has an area of 12.64km², where the average water level has risen by three centimeters.

Aug 15

<http://eng.tibet.cn/news/1471242739700.shtml>

Bhutan-Himalaya

FLASH FLOODS LED BY HEAVY RAIN

Ngalhakhang, Dramphel and Samthang villages were affected by flash floods due to heavy rain which occurred in Chokhortoe, Chokhor VDC in Bumthang. The flash floods have damaged the infrastructures at villages and swept away dozens of properties.

Aug 11

www.kuenseonline.com/heavy-rains-cause-flash-flood-in-chokhor/

ELEPHANTS TERRORISES GELEPHU VILLAGES

Villagers in different parts of Gelephu, located in the Indian boarder have been terrorised due to encroachment by elephants. About 25 elephants in two herds have been causing havoc in the villages by damaging crops, houses and other properties. Despite the effort of forest officials, they couldn't succeed to chase the elephants away from the villages as the elephants often come in herd.

Aug 14

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/elephants-threaten-gelephu-villages/>

Pakistan- Himalaya

WINDSTORMS KILLS THREE PEOPLE

Rain accompanied with windstorm killed three people and injured 59 in Bannu, southern part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Falling of trees and collapse of boundary wall were major cause of casualties.

Aug 11

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=11_08_2016_181_004