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Climate Change Corner

Climate Change Campaign in Lamjung

Climate Change, Bali conference and Nepal

Climate Change and Disaster risk

Climate Change & Conservation

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As of 25th January, 2008

Disaster Related Reports

Issue-90, Jan 25, 2008

According to the global report on disaster risk, Nepal ranks 11th in terms of earthquake risk and 30th in terms of flood risk.

Seven succumbed to death from cold

Two minors and five elderly people died due to the severe cold and snowfall in last four days. According to the police, five died in Bajura and one each in Siraha and Nawalparasi district.

Kalak Bista, 65, of Dantola VDC-5, Himkala Dhama, 43, and Haribhakta Dhama 61 of ward-2, Laxmi Roka of Kada-7, have been died of cold. Locals said snowfall has been appeared more this year comparing last years. District headquarter Chainpur and neighbouring VDCs have been more afflicted this year. of the district, though the snowfall used to occur in the previous years too, said Vijaya Bista of Dantola-7.

In Madar-5 of Siraha district, fifty-five-year-old Sona Devi Jha died of severe cold at her house on Wednesday evening. Severe cold for the last few days has affected normal life in the district.

An unidentified elderly person died of cold at Pithauli-9 of Nawalparasi along with Mahendra Highway on Thursday night, area police office Kawasoti said. In Parasi District Hospital, patients of pneumonia have been increased significantly.

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Winter scourge in several districts

Dadeldhura : Transport along Bhimdutta highway has been obstructed since Thursday morning due to the heavy snowfall in the district. There is about two feet thick snow on the road at Halgute stretch of the highway. Chief District Officer of Kailali Dil Bahadur Ghimire informed that security forces were deployed there to clear the highway. "However, they could not accomplish the mission as it started snowing from Friday evening in the areas," added Ghimire.

Ilam : More than half a dozen schools were closed down in the northern part of Ilam district due to severe cold. The schools were closed down for some days as it was very difficult to go outside from the houses, teacher of Rastriya Primary School of Joubari, Pemba Sherpa said. Joubari, Kalpokhari, Sandakpur, and Tumling had received snowfall accompanied by rain a few days ago and business centres also witnessed low transactions because of this.

Humla : People from various VDCs of Humla district reached in the district headquarters Simikot for food grain have returned empty handed. They were bound to return without food grains due to the snowfall. Recommendation by the VDC secretary is required for the people to get rice and salt. However, they are facing problems as the secretaries in almost all VDCs not found in their offices.

[Situation Report NRCS, 10th Sep](#)
[NRCS Bulletin 21st Aug, 2007](#)
[WHO SITREP \(5-19th Aug, 2007\)](#)
[OCHA Situation Report, 13th Aug](#)
[WHO SITREP \(4-12 Aug, 2007\)](#)
[Sink or Swim \(Oxfam Int\)](#)
[DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)
[NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)
[Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)
[Flood scenario of Saptari, 2007](#)
[Report on relief, Mahottari, 2007](#)
[Delhi Declaration, Nov, 2007](#)
[We Know What We Need : Nov.](#)
[Flood Response Study 2007](#)
[Global flood lesson 2007](#)

Snapshots



Women participating in a rally to mark 10th National Earthquake Safety Day in Lalitpur on Jan 16.

Our Words

Disaster Watch Newsletter is now going to change its pattern. Along with the end of monsoon, daily updates will not be available but new updates will be posted regularly. Disaster Watch Newsletter would be made more interactive henceforth.

We will start regular columns and invite guest, viewers to have their say on different disaster issues. Suggestions and feedbacks would be heartedly appreciated.

Lamjung : Normal life here in the Northern part of Lamjung district adjoining the Himalayan region has become troublesome because of the snowfall. People of half a dozen VDCs including Taghring, Ghermu, Bahundanda and Bhulbhule of Northern Lamjung and Dudhpokhari, Ilampokhari, and Ghanpokhari of the north-west are more affected because of the snowfall. People of the VDCs have not been able to come out of the house and their daily works have been affected because of the snowfall.

Sankhuwasabha : The food shortage surfaced in Makalu Kimathang, Chepuwa Thudam, Hatiya, Pawakhola, Nundhaki, Gufapokhari including other VDCs in the mountainous belt of Sankhuwasabha district due to a heavy snowfall. The food shortage took place when yaks have not been used in the area to transport goods due to the continuous snow, rain and cold for the last one week.

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Jan 23 coldest day this winter

Kathmandu saw its coldest day so far this winter on January 23rd. The maximum temperature in the capital on that day was 10.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest of the season so far, according to the Meteorological Forecasting Division. The maximum temperature was 12.7 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

The coldest day recorded in the capital so far was January 20, 1997. The maximum temperature on that day was 6.9 degrees Celsius. Due to the presence of clouds, the cold wave spreaded to the lower parts of the Tarai.

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Be alert on bird flu : Ministries urge all

The Ministries of Health and Population, and Agriculture and Co-operatives have been adopting high-alert steps to prevent country from bird flu. The sample tests carried out in various districts of the country including Jhapa have not found the disease. The ministries have urged all not to sell and buy the diseased and dead birds.

Moreover, the ministries have already dispatched various teams of experts along with essential instruments and things to detect the disease and also given directives to the regional and district level offices to adopt preventive measures.

The disease has not entered Nepal. However, it is our responsibility to remain with high alert for the prevention as people can also be caught with the diseases from the diseased hens and other birds, the ministries warned.

The ministries have further suggested the children not to near the diseased hens, pigeons, and other tame birds as parrot. They have urged all to wash hands with soap and water after cleaning the pen and touching chicken.

Meanwhile, Quarantine Check Post, Kakarbhitta has confiscated 60 hens being tried to import illegally in Nepal from West Bengal, India which is hit hard with bird flu. The confiscated birds have been culled in Mechi river bank on Friday.

However, the locals of Birgunj have complained that birds and avian products have been blatantly imported from Birgunj entry though said to have been maintained high alert of the bird flu.

BANGLADESH: Bird flu "spreading fast", says expert

DHAKA - A fresh outbreak of bird flu this week in Bangladesh has renewed fears of a possible spread: Seventy-two farms in 23 of Bangladesh's 64 districts have reportedly been infected with the deadly virus so far.

"The situation is really bad. It is getting out of control. People are handling, selling and eating avian influenza infected chicken," said Habibibur Rahman of the Bangladesh Agricultural University.

"The disease is spreading fast in terms of numbers and areas. Two new divisions, Barisal and Sylhet, out of the country's six divisions, have been freshly affected this week," he said. But Rahman, a national expert on bird flu, insists that the pan-demic can be controlled provided backyard farmers improve their health and hygiene behaviour - including the disposal of poultry faeces.

"Dead birds are culled and buried. But their faeces, loaded with the H5N1 virus, are not disposed of properly. If this continues, the outbreaks will also continue," the expert warned, noting: "It is the backyard farms that pose a real danger - more than the commercial ones."

Government efforts

"We are detecting and culling bird flu affected poultry wherever they are found. We are also compensating the farmers for their losses based on the number and age of birds culled," said Sunil Ghose, director-general of the Department of Livestock. "Our field staff all over the country are working round the clock to identify sick birds and send samples to six of our field testing laboratories and two other labs in Dhaka. Imposition of movement restrictions and

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Warmer winter this year

This year's winter is drier and comparatively warmer compared to past ones. According to the Meteorological Forecasting Division (MFD), there is a low chance of significant rainfall or snowfall this year.

According to Krishna Bhakta Manandhar, senior divisional meteorologist at the MFD, the western disturbance — weather phenomena that causes cloudiness, snow and rainfall — is weak this year. "There has been no significant rainfall or snowfall, save insignificant drizzle in some western parts," he said. Today, the minimum temperature remained 5.6 degree Celsius. "The normal average during the third week of January used to be around 0 to 2 degree Celsius," he said.

On February 14 last year, Kathmandu received its first snowfall in 63 years. Manandhar said there is no probability of snowfall this year.

(Posted on 21st January, 2008)

Chamar dies of cold

Member of the Save Susta Committee, Ramananda Chamar, who was involved in agitation demanding withdrawal of India from Nepalese territory for the past some time, died last night due to the cold.

Chamar, 65, one of the 65 members agitating for the past one month in Kathmandu, died in the Bagmati riverbanks, said Chairman of the Committee, Gopal Gurung.

Gurung said Chamar died of excessive cold while living in tent at Bagmati riverbanks for the past one month. Gurung said they are now in problems, as the government did not show any concern to the team which reached Kathmandu for resolution of Susta problem, and received only assurances from various bodies.

(Posted on 21st January, 2008)

Heavy snowfall in Mustang and Humla

Heavy snowfall in Mustang and Humla district since Friday morning has obstructed communications services and thereby affected daily public life.

The continuing snowfall forces people into their homes while livestock risked of dying of cold. Snow as high as three feet has accumulated in Mustang and district headquarter of Humla, Simikot. As a result, the Pokhara-Jomsom air service was also stooped, said local trader, Rangaraj Gautam.

People are seen huddling around fire in order to keep themselves warm and avoid catching cold.

(Posted on 21st January, 2008)

Deceased of earthquake remembered

Deceased of earthquake were remembered and earthquake safety programmes informed at a programme organized in Kathmandu to mark the Earthquake Safety Day on January 16.

establishing security zones around infected farms have so far worked effectively in restricting the spread of bird flu," Ghose said.

New areas affected

New areas like the southern and eastern districts of the country have reported bird flu in commercial and backyard poultry farms, raising concern amongst government officials, farmers, scientists and the general public over containing the pandemic.

Over 21,000 fowls were culled in coastal Barguna District on 17 January, and another 3,000 in Jessore District, southwestern Bangladesh, after detection of the virus. Fowls have been culled in Barguna since 16 January, when over 400 chickens at a poultry farm in the village of Dhalua, Sadar sub-district, reportedly died after detection of the deadly H5N1 virus.

Barguna is one of the districts hit worst by last November's devastating Cyclone Sidr, which killed more than 3,400 people and rendered millions homeless.

Local authorities have declared a one-mile no-go zone around the area and culled 20,157 chickens, 590 ducks, 515 pigeons and a parrot in the area.

On 16 January, in Barisal, another southern district, the authorities culled over 1,500 birds. "Almost all our chickens are dead. Government officials are killing only ducks and pigeons. There is no chicken left alive," said Kutubuddin Mollah, a poultry seller at Barisal's Kathpatti bazar.

Meanwhile, all 1,650 poultry farms in nine sub-districts of Khulna District, including Khulna city, are now under observation by health authorities, with a one-mile security zone declared around all bird flu affected farms throughout the country.

At the programme organized by the Nepal Engineers Association (NEA), the Nepal Engineering Council and the Kathmandu Municipal Corporation (KMC), KMC Assistant Officer Jhanka Nath Khanal said Nepal is always in the earthquake risk zone and we have to be alert toward this.

NEA ex-President Jiv Raj Pokhrel said a big earthquake happens each 100 years and such awareness programmes contribute in lessening damages. Chief of the Department of Town Development and Building Construction, Surya Bhakta Sangachhe said the building code of conduct prepared 15 years ago should be revamped.

(Posted on 21st January, 2008)

Scant attention on bird flu threats

Even as the news of bird flu spreading in Dinajpur and Birbhum districts of bordering West Bengal state of India is stealing the limelight in the recent days, Nepali authorities have been indifferent on security measures in the border areas to prevent entry of the avian influenza.

Atisur Rahman, state minister of West Bengal, officially announced on Tuesday that bird flu has been spreading in Dinajpur and Birbhum districts, which fall some 150 kilometers south of Siliguri.

In their Wednesday issues, various Siliguri-based newspapers quoted Rahman as saying, "During the tests in hospitals in Bhopal and Pune, F5 N1 virus has been found in chicken."

Despite the threat of the spread of influenza, chickens and white eggs are being imported to Nepal through different border points.

When asked, Chief District Officer Shankar Prasad Koirala, however, said that he was not informed about the issue. "Quarantine Office should look into the matter," added Koirala. Kaushalendra Jha, the acting chief at the quarantine office in Kankadhitta said that they were working to stop the import of chickens and eggs.

(Posted on 21st January, 2008)

Workshop on quake in Bhaktapur

Narayan Man Bijukchhe, president of the Nepal Workers' and Peasants' party, stressed on the need to research and find technologies to construct earthquake-resistant buildings to avoid loss of property and human life.

Inaugurating a workshop on 'Earthquake Engineering' organised by Post Graduate Department of Earthquake Engineering under Khowpa Engineering College and Structural Engineers' Association Nepal on Sunday, he said engineers should devote their time on research to innovate technologies to construct earthquake-resistant buildings. Dr Rajan Suwal, principal of the college, said everyone should know about early preparedness.

(Posted on 21st January, 2008)

Cold takes toll in Mugu, claimed five lives

Five local people of remote Bhiye VDC of Mugu district have lost their lives of

Additionally, the export and import of fowls, eggs and poultry feed to and from the affected areas have been officially banned. (IRIN)

Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Banke	28
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Bardia	10
Sindhuli	10
Darchula	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	10
Baitadi	8
Dang	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Siraha	7
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Makwanpur	6
Achham	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Chitwan	4
Morang	4
Sunsari	4
Nawalparasi	3
Rukum	3
Dhanusha	3
Khotang	2
Bhojpur	2
Panchthar	2
Sarlahi	2
Parsa	2
Palpa	2
Bara	2
Dhading	2
Rupendehi	2
Bajhang	1
Tanahun	1
Sindhupalchowk	1
Lalitpur	1
Dadeldhura	1
Kavre	1
Mustang	1
Myagdi	1

(As of 30th October, 2007)

Major Displacements

common cold and cough that has been spread throughout the village for a week. The disease has taken lives of 55-year-old Krishnakala Shahi of Bhiie VDC Ward No. 4, 58-year-old Dalbahadur Bahadur Shahi of Ward No. 5, 52-year-old Banchukala Luwar of Ward No. 6, a woman of the age 27 and a child of the age 7.

Local people said the disease spread throughout the village because of decreasing temperature and common cold, fever, neck ache, loss of appetite, weakness and death were the symptoms.

Staff at Sub-health Post used to be absent for lack of medicine, the Sub-health Post had remained closed for last three months and local people had to walk for two days to get medicine at district headquarters, local resident Narbahadur Budha said. District Public Health Office has stated that a health team would be sent to the village immediately.

(Posted on 16th January, 2008)

Earthquake Safety Day today Duck, Cover and Hold exercise all over Nepal

The 10th earthquake national safety day is being observed today with the theme of 'reliable measures for earthquake preparedness; responsibility for ensured health and safety'. The Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) is preparing to celebrate the 10th National Earthquake Safety Day (ESD) today to commemorate Nepal earthquake of 1934.

As many as 17,000 people were killed in Nepal and India in the earthquake that occurred in 1934. Nepalis observe ESD on Magh 2 every year to create awareness about earthquakes and share knowledge and information about safety measures and disaster management.

According to a statement issued by the DUDBC, a rally will go through the thoroughfares of the city and converge into a mass meeting at the Bhugol Park, which was constructed in memory of victims of 1934 quake. This is the culmination of the past seven days of activities across the country, including talk shows, rallies, public interest information dissemination, symposiums, meetings and many such events.

An earthquake safety exhibition would be conducted in the office of the Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City and an earthquake simulation will be organised in different parts of the country, the statement of the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction said, adding that the programmes aim at creating awareness on earthquake and help manage the risk.

As a part of the ESD celebrations, related organizations are jointly organizing a Duck, Cover and Hold exercise all over Nepal, followed by human chain. The exercise and human chain symbolizes the need for self protection as well as solidarity in dealing with such future eventualities.

Meanwhile, the National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal has warned that any earthquake as powerful as that of 1934 in Kathmandu Valley would result in deaths of 40,000 persons and over 100,000 people may be rendered homeless.

(Posted on 16th January, 2008)

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Dhanusha	2050 family
Parsa	2000 family
Rupendehi	2000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family
Total displacement: 48000 family	
Total affected population:	
Around 4 lakh 72 thousand (as of 30th October, 2007)	
<i>Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN</i>	

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