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**Issue-92, Feb 2, 2008**

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

**Mustang on starvation after flight disruption**

Various places of the nation have been adversely affected after the continuous snowfall for the past few days. It is learnt that the life of Mustang is in crisis as the problem of starvation arises there after the disruption of Pokhara- Jomsom Air Service due to continuous snowfall and adverse weather in various parts of the district for the last week.

Temperature of Mustang had dropped to minus 3 degree Celsius which is expected to be continued for a few days, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology informed. The decline in temperature also adversely affected various sectors of Mustang such as tourism, trade, education and so on.

Meanwhile, transport of Dadheldhura was also disrupted as it witnessed the snowfall. Sahukharka- Hagulte road section of Bhim Dutta Pant Highway was disrupted due to snowfall. Many vehicles were stranded there and a team was sent to clear the highway, the District Police Office, Dhadeldhura said.

*(Posted on 2nd Feb, 2008)*

**Snowfall halts road construction in Dhading**

Construction works of the road linking Kiranchok VDC-5 Tinghare in south Dhading to Bhandara (Chitwan) has been stopped because of the snowfall. The construction was stopped after snowfall continued from January 29. The road was started three years ago as an alternative road of the Prithvi Highway and Tribhuwan Highway, said Sri Bahadur Tamang of Tinghare.

The road has reached Kiranchok of Dhading after construction of 25 kms from Palung and 95 km in total will be constructed upto Bhandara, said the Users Committee. The road will benefit 19 VDCs of Dhading and Makwanpur districts.

*(Posted on 2nd Feb, 2008)*

**Cold kills two in Sarlahi, Saptari**

One person died in Sarlahi on Friday as the mercury continued to dip for the past few days. Bindeshowr Roy of Sarlahi's Salempur VDC-7, died of cold, said a local health personnel Birendra Yadav. Roy, shivering of cold, suddenly fell down on the ground while he was working on the field and died on his way to hospital, yadav added.

One person died in Saptari district Thursday night from the dropping temperature

**Climate Change Corner**

Climate Change Campaign in Lamjung

Climate Change, Bali conference and Nepal

Climate Change and Disaster risk

Climate Change & Conservation

Effects of Climate Change on the Ocean

Linking Climate Change, Forestry and Biodiversity

Climate Change Presentation from Co-Action Nepal

Information Paper on Climate Change

Global Warming and GLOF Danger to Nepal

**Cold Fatalities**

Mugu	5
Bajura	5
Siraha	5
Bara	3
Sunsari	2
Rautahat	2
Nawalparasi	2
Kathmandu	1
Dhankuta	1
Sarlahi	1
Saptari	1

*As of 2nd Feb, 2008*

**Disaster Related Reports**

[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](#)  
[Flood Response Study 2007](#)  
[Adaptive capacity and livelihood resilience](#)

## Snapshots



**COLD SPELL:** As Wednesday's drizzle sent the temperatures tumbling, people on the streets of the capital were visibly affected. Photo: TRN

## 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 .

for the past few days. Chhatu Ram, 50, a resident of Jagatpur of Saptari died because of excessive cold. Ram, admitted for treatment at the local health center died during treatment, the family said. Epidemic of cold diarrhea and pneumonia has increased among children with the dropping temperature.

In Bhojpur district, one person died and five others were injured when they were swept away by a landslide at Gupteshwor-1 on Thursday morning. Police said the killed and the injured are all construction workers working at Cihandanda road section at around 9 am on Thursday. Raj Kumar Rai, 20, breathed his last on way to district hospital.

*(Posted on 2nd Feb, 2008)*

## Link dams in crisis

'A' Gap and 'B' Gap link dams of Nawalparasi of Gandak Canal are under threat as the Indian Government did not carry out the works according to agreement. The structures made by Nepal are facing crisis due to the misappropriation of budget allocated by Nepal Government by the Indian officials, the locals said.

The flood at Narayani River swept away around 20 bighas of land of Kudiya Paklihawa VDCs, inundated six VDCs and affected the powerhouse of Suryapura last year as those dams ruptured due to negligence on proper maintenance.

*(Posted on 2nd Feb, 2008)*

## Norwegian PM to learn climate change impact in Nepal

Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg is paying a working visit to Nepal on February 8, 2008. Beside political meetings, he would visit to a glacier lake to observe how the climate change is affecting the Himalayan region. In this connection, he will make a visit to one of the glacier lakes in Nepal, which is showing signs of climate change.

*(Posted on 2nd Feb, 2008)*

## Rukum gets stuck from snowfall, severe cold

The normal life in district headquarters of Rukum district, Khalanga has been hit hard due to the heavy snowfall that took place on last Saturday. The snowfall that occurred on Saturday night is so far the biggest one in the area, said Meteorology Measurement Centre, Rukum.

The snowfall also took place at and around Musikot and other adjoining VDCs owing to the cold increased following a week-long continuous snow fall in upper region. Locals said the headquarters measured above half feet snow fall while it is one-and-half to five feet in Saankh, Chaukhawang, Jhula, Syalapakha including nearby VDCs.

Normal life is being affected when the food supply in the northern belt of the district has been obstructed due to the problem surfaced in the movement of horse and mule with the snowfall. The locals of the region have been sustaining their livelihoods relying on millet, potato and barley, said Pheran Budha of Hukam.

The flight services and road transport in the district were also obstructed during Saturday and Sunday due to the snowfall. The score of patients suffering from pneumonia has gone on rise due to the excessive cold in the area, said Dr. Shyam

## Asia Watch

### \$590m aid to offset Sidr-flood losses in Bangladesh

(AFP)

Dhaka-Visiting World Bank Vice-President for South Asia Praful C Patel said his Bank's response to Cyclone Sidr and flood losses in Bangladesh might rise to US\$ 400 million in the form of budget support.

He said the Bank has already approved US\$ 370 million credit to extend budgetary support to Bangladesh to recover the post-Sidr situation. Of this, Bangladesh and World Bank (WB) signed US \$ 100 million credit agreement.

He said the development partners would now focus on how the mid-term issues of Bangladesh after the dual shocks of cyclone and floods could be addressed.

"After the immediate response to the cyclone and floods, now the focus is on how we can address the medium-term problems," he told a press briefing, after a loan agreement signed at the NEC conference room.

The WB will provide US\$ 100 million to Bangladesh for the 2007-08 financial year as part of its support to recover the resource gap caused by the devastating Cyclone Sidr. "We are now working on another livelihood project of US\$ 100 million (for the people of the affected areas)," Patel said.

He, however, pointed out that the extent of the assistance would depend on the final damage assessment by a joint mission of Bangladesh and the WB.

Similarly, development agencies are providing more than 190 million dollars to help Bangladesh recover from the floods and cyclone that devastated the country last year, the Asian Development Bank said Friday. The ADB will lend 120 million dollars

BK.

No public service related works took place in the public offices in the districts as service user did not approach the offices, Arjun Bhandari of District Administration said. More than 30 locals at Syalapakha have been detected with pneumonia, Manbir Shahi, a local, informed.

*(Posted on 30th January, 2008)*

### Snowfall badly hits Humla, Rasuwa, Mustang

Snowfall along with windstorm yesterday has badly affected normal life in Lali VDC of Humla district. The windstorm damaged the roof of the health post in the VDC and damaged medicines and documents, health worker Rudrabir Shahi said. Both health workers and patients have been affected after the storm damaged the roof of the health post.

Normal life in northern parts of Rasuwa district has been affected due to the snowfall for the last few days. The snowfall has affected the langtang area the most followed by Briddhim, Timure, Thuman, Chilime and Gatlang areas. Livestock have also been affected due to the lack of grazing following the snowfall. Almost all areas 2,000 metres above sea level are covered with snow.

It has been very difficult for the people in Mustang district after the heavy snowfall occurring since last friday brought severe cold. Even the livestock are badly affected by the snowfall. The snowfall recurred after two days have disrupted the communication and also the Pokhara-Jomsom air flights. A local Res Bahadur Tulachan said people in upper Mustang are making fire in the houses and those in the lower region could not come out of home due to the snow piled up to three feet.

*(Posted on 30th January, 2008)*

### Hailstone causes heavy loss in Myagdi

A heavy rain with hailstone that took place on January 26 has destroyed standing wheat and vegetable worth tens of thousand in the rural area of Myagdi district.

The hailstone that occurred in Barangja, Okharbot, Takam, Bhakimli Gaushwara including other VDCs of Myagdi district destroyed wheat, potato, cabbage, tomato and other seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables worth around Rs. 500 thousands, said the local farmers.

According to the information provided by Dor Bahadur Gharti, a local farmer of Bhakimli, the hailstone measuring one and half fit has caused entire damage of vegetable production and has buried wheat plantation in Bhakimli. The detail of loss caused by the hailstone has yet to be finalized, said District Agriculture Development Office.

*(Posted on 30th January, 2008)*

### Pneumonia patients on rise, one dead

Health officials of Dhankuta district have said that the number of patients with pneumonia and other respiratory diseases has shot up in Dhankuta. Health officials say that around three dozen such patients visit the hospital every day. According to Dr Ayush Khanal, the dipping temperatures are behind such diseases. A six-year old boy from Dhankuta Municipality died of pneumonia on Sunday.

and extend a grant of 200,000 dollars to the aid project, the Manila-based organisation said in a statement.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation will lend 60 million dollars and the Canadian International Development Agency is preparing a grant of 10 million dollars. More funds are expected from other partners. The ADB will manage the relief fund. Last year's floods and cyclone affected 25 million people in Bangladesh, resulting in three billion dollars in losses, the ADB said.

### 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

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

## Nepal sees 10 minor quakes a day

The National Seismological Centre (NSC), last year, recorded 929 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than two on the Richter scale. The record doesn't tell all, chief of the NSC Soma Nath Sapkota says. Around ten earthquakes, very minor ones, take place every day, he added.

"It is observed that around ten earthquakes take place every day, but they are less powerful and quakes of less than two on the Richter scale are insignificant and so not recorded," Sapkota said. Those earthquakes being very small and harmless, people "would not even realise the tremor," he added.

The NSC has recorded 21 earthquakes which had a magnitude of more than four on the Richter scale, three which were over five on the scale, including the one in Kathmandu on October 29, which had Nuwakot as its epicentre. Sapkota said unless the earthquakes have a magnitude of around six, there is little chance of big damage. However, he added that the impact of any earthquake could vary based on the distance from the epicentre and the land type.

"If the area have bedrocks, there is less chance of destruction, but on soft soil there is a higher risk." Nepal is positioned on the boundary between the Indian and Tibetan tectonic plates and therefore lies in a seismically active region. It is the 11th most earthquake-prone state.

According to Surya Narayan Shrestha of National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), small tremors are frequent in the country, but an earthquake as big as that of 1934 occurs only in a span of 70 to 80 years. He added that the earthquakes could not be prevented. All that we can do is to minimise the hazards and prepare ourselves to face them. (*The Himalayan Times*)

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

## 10 VDCs of Ilam sensitive to outbreak of bird flu

The Ilam District Livestock Service Office (DLSO) has categorised 10 VDCs as vulnerable to bird flu outbreak. The Ilam DLSO has said that Pashupatinagar, Phikkal, Itatar, Samalbung, Chulachuli, Godak, Danabari, Sulubung Ghuseeni VDCs and Ilam municipality are facing risk of bird flu outbreak.

"We are preparing to send 150 samples of birds from these areas for tests," technician at the Ilam DLSO Dr Ram Parikshyan Shah said. VDCs including Jamuna, Pyang, Maimajhuwa, Mabu, Maipokhari, Shreeantu and Jogmai are also considered sensitive in view of possible outbreak of bird flu, he said.

A 12-member technical team coordinated by CDO Ram Prasad Ghimire has been formed to prevent outbreak of bird flu. The committee is organising various programmes, including launching awareness programmes in schools and banning import of poultry products.

Meanwhile, a report from Damak said quarantine posts based in southern parts of Jhapa are on high alert to prevent a possible outbreak of bird flu. "The import of chickens and poultry products has been banned after bird flu spread in West Bengal," assistant technician at the Livestock Service Centre in Gaurigunj, Ghanedra Bhandari, said, adding some 700 eggs that were smuggled into Nepal were destroyed.

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

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)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/  
MCN

Supported by



(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

## 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)

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