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Ancient Halkhoriya lake in dire straits

Post Report

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The historical Halkhoriya lake at Ratanpur VDC-1 of Bara district is on verge of extinction due to inadequate care. The Sen rulers of Makwanpur district during the medieval age of Nepali history used the lake for hunting purposes, according to legend.

Stretched over around 25 hectares of land, the lake is surrounded by hills. Legend has it that various wild animals came to drink water on the lake and the Sen rulers killed them.

Russian technologists had used the lake for fishery during the construction of the Mahendra Highway. However, the lake is getting swallowed due to mud deposited by the monsoon floods.

"The VDC has leased the lake for fishery to a party. However it is indifferent towards its upkeep," said Lal Mani Chaudhari, a ranger of Pasaha Range Post.

If the lake is protected it would provide water to different types of wild life from Parsa Wild Life Reserve during the dry season and could also attract tourists, according to Chaudhari. The lake is also an ideal swimming spot, he added.

The concerned VDC is indifferent towards conservation of the lake. However, the District Development Committee (DDC) has appealed to the government to take steps to protect the lake, according to Purushottam Poudel, an erstwhile MP.

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