

The Himalayan

T I M E S

US Professor All who survived 70-Foot Mt. Himlung Fall

Set to head for his home country to undergo surgery of his right arm

By RAJAN POKHREL | May 26, 2014 10:27 PM



THT
Prof John All, who survived 70-ft fall on Mt Himlung at a hotel in Kathmandu on Monday.

KATHMANDU: An American climber, who survived nearly a 70-foot (22 metres) fall into a crevasse on Mt Himlung (7,126m) in the Annapurna mountain range, says he will have to fly back to the US for surgery if 'I want to use my right arm in future'.

"I am leaving for my home country tomorrow for further treatment," Prof John All, 44, from Bowling Green, Kentucky told THT at a hotel in Thamel, referring to doctors' advice to undergo a surgery in the US.

The climate scientist was rescued by Global Rescue at around 11:30am on May 19. A Global Rescue helicopter had carried out a longline rescue to lift All from Camp 2 (5,897m). He was later admitted to Norvic International Hospital in Kathmandu. Other members of the expedition were at Camp 1 when the accident occurred.

"Doctors said I had my five ribs broken and my right arm and shoulder dislocated," he said. A day after treatment in the ICU, John was discharged. "The internal bleeding has stopped but doctors have advised me to go an urgent arm surgery," he added.

After spending six hours to escape from the hole of the crevasse, John said, he crawled for three more hours to reach his tent. "I had survived without having water and food, but with internal bleeding and fractured arm and ribs," said John who is resting in Kathmandu for a week. A small ledge of ice blocked him from falling hundreds of meters further down into the crevasse, he said. "After crawling back for hours to my tent, I managed to send text messages via my satellite messenger for help. I am happy to be alive after breaking ribs and an arm," said All, who also managed to film his situation between life and death, and thanked all his well-wishers, global friends and family for their wishes.

Other members of the American Science Climber Programme — Jake St Pierre, Horodyskyj Ulyana Nadia, Dave Byrne and Chris Cosgriff — are still collecting the samples of snow. All along with his team is on a mission to study the impacts of climate change in Himalayas and the people in the mountain ranges.

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The team had obtained permit for Mt Himlung after it was forced to abandon Mt Lhotse (8,516m) expedition in the aftermath of the deadliest avalanche in the Icefall route on April 18.

According to All, who is a faculty of the Geography Department at Western Kentucky University, the research programme is being conducted in close collaboration with Tribhuvan University, Nepal Botanical Society, Nepal Tourism Board and Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, among others.

Andrew James Sparkes, British Ambassador to Nepal, had also presented an award to All on April 10 for his and his team's exemplary work on mountain conservation with Nepali students. "The research launched here some five years ago will, however, go on," said the scientist who spent about 14 months here for research.