

Briefly

SAARC experts meeting begin

>> Experts from SAARC countries will attend a three-day consultation meeting on Water-energy-food nexus in Thimphu from July 3.

Researchers will present papers on water security, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture development.

Inside

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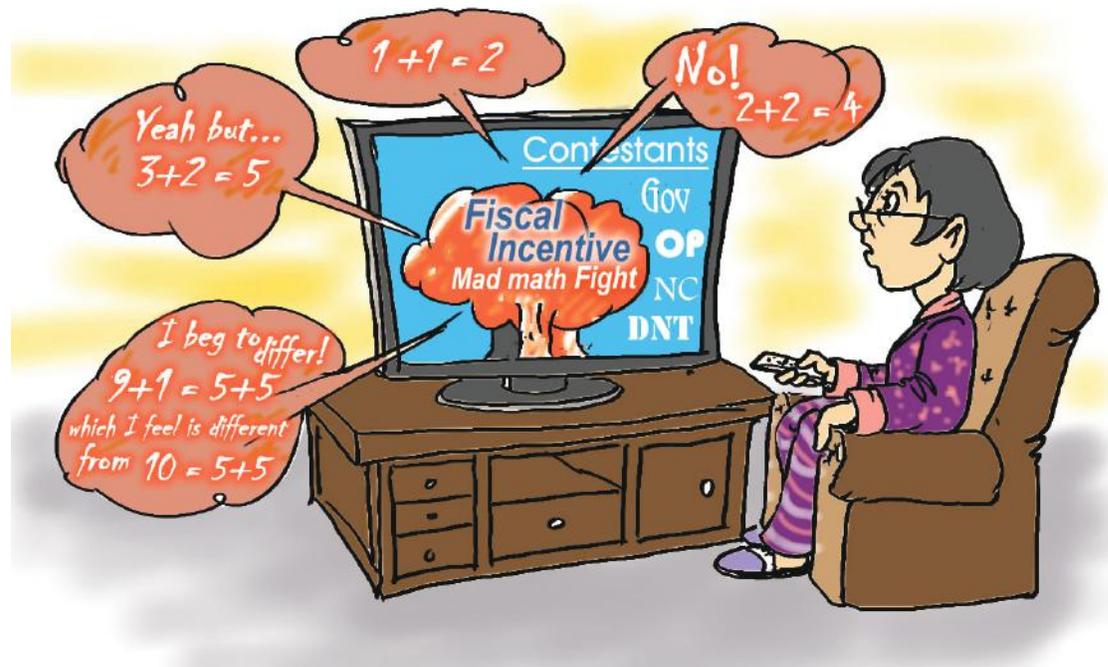
Pg.9: Choeten and the man

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Dismissal of fiscal incentives accusations draws criticism

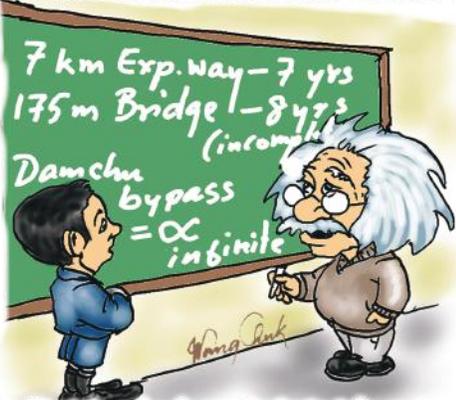
NC says the government must establish the legality of the tax incentives given until May 8, 2017



A step towards preventing corruption rather than fighting against it

Focus Point

Einstein's relative Take!



Dr. Einstein, why do our Projects take so long?
That's not accurate. Since BST is stretchable time, your projects complete quicker relatively speaking!

MB Subba

The government's outright rejection of the allegations against it violating the Constitution by granting the Fiscal Incentives 2016 without the parliament's approval has irked the Opposition, the National Council and Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT). Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay,

in a live interview on BBS on June 27, and at the Meet the Press on June 23, dismissed the accusations as unsubstantiated. The Prime Minister said that the accusations of the Opposition and DNT were politically motivated.

The National Council, the Opposition and DNT have hit back at the Prime Minister over his statement saying that the Prime Minister's statement undermined the principle of democracy.

Panbang MP Dorji Wangdi said the Prime Minister's statement against the Opposition was uncalled for. "The PM's singling out of some business entities is highly misleading and baffling," he said.

Questioning the timing of the declaration of the Fiscal Incentives 2013, the Prime Minister said the previous government dissolved just three days after announcing the fiscal incentives. **Pg.2**

Water shortage: Slow death of rural communities

Tenzin Namgyel | Punakha

It's been more than a year seventy-six-year-old Tshering has been begging water from her neighbour. The muddy pond at Dhamphyejuk that served as the main source dried completely.

And now her benefactor has

stopped giving her water. Tshering has only to rely on rainwater to drink and wash.

There are 81 households in Lapsakha chiwog in Talo, Punakha. The residents have been severely hit by an acute drinking water shortage. The situation became worse after the Dhamphyejuk pond dried up.

Until 2015, the pond was the ultimate source of water for the 13 households of Gungthramo village. There is now not a trace of pond to be found in Dhamphyejuk.

Tshering said: "Streams and springs are drying every year. I don't understand why they disappear."

Pg.19

Celebrate World Music Day at the Clock Tower, Thimphu



Win FREE round trip air tickets and buy smart phones on promotional rate!

Date: July 1st (Saturday) and July 2nd (Sunday), 2017

Event Organized by:

Drukair
Royal Bhutan Airlines



Dismissal of fiscal incentives accusations draws criticism

From Pg.1

The Prime Minister in the BBS interview had said that Le Meridien hotel benefited Nu 76.9 million within the period of two years and eight months from the fiscal incentives. He said the hotel belongs to the daughter of North Thimphu MP Yeshey Zimba, who was a minister in the former government.

"It is up to the Anti-Corruption Commission to see if there was any policy corruption," the Prime Minister had said.

However, MP Dorji Wangdi said that a government could grant fiscal incentives even on the last day of the tenure. "Doesn't a government have the right and duty to function till the last hour of its legal tenure?" he asked.

Dorji Wangdi said that despite being the second government, PDP has "not accomplished" anything. The introduction of fiscal incentives and economic development policy were the achievements of the former government.

"We are extremely proud to have pioneered the fiscal incentives and economic development policies," he said. According to him, most of the fiscal incentives the present government has given are the continuation of the past fiscal incentives.

In the BBS interview, Prime Minister challenged DNT to take the government to court and prove that it has violated the Constitution. "For DNT to make such comments off the cuff is not enough," he said, adding that DNT had made comments without proper knowledge of the prevailing laws.

DNT had earlier called for resignation of the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister on the grounds that the government had breached the Constitution by granting fiscal incentives.

DNT president Dr Tandri Dorji said the Prime Minister's attempt to dismiss the arguments of other political parties and the National Council does not bode well for Bhutanese democracy and its principle.

"Showing anger publicly by a prime minister is inappropriate," he said. He said the Prime Minister made "condescending remarks" not only about DNT but also the Opposition, and the Council to find excuses.

He said that the Prime Minister's reaction demonstrated that the government was not willing to debate on the issue. "We are saddened with the way our PM dismissed the democratic views of the Opposition, the Council and DNT, with total disregard and arrogance," he said.

Referring to DNT's earlier press release, the Prime Minister said on BBS interview: "They (DNT) have called me a two-faced politician. I have a big face but I don't see two faces there."

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said that in defending the Constitution, the former Opposition had never stated the fiscal incentives granted by the former government were illegal.

The former government had granted fiscal incentives thrice - twice in 2010 and once in 2013 - without the parliament's approval. The present government gave continuity to the fiscal incentives granted in 2013 without the parliament's approval.

The Prime Minister said, "Our stand then and now is the same. The only difference now is having learned and known what the previous government did just three days before they resigned. We think it's a good idea to take the powers related to fiscal incentives away from the government."

National Council

The Prime Minister had criticised the Council's decision to reject the Fiscal Incentives Bill 2017. Deputy Chairperson Tshering Dorji had said that the government should collect the tax forgone without the parliament's approval.

The Prime Minister said the Deputy Chairperson's comments showed lack of understanding of the law.

"They (DNT) have called me a two-faced politician. I have a big face but I don't see two faces there."

In an email interview, the Deputy Chairperson said: "First of all, I was really shocked with the way Hon'ble Prime Minister interpreted my comments, which I made in response to a question that was asked by a media house along the sidelines of the post-session press conference of the Council. I was doubly shocked with the way Hon'ble Prime Minister has questioned the working of the House and singled me out by directly questioning my experience and knowledge as a law maker."

Tshering Dorji clarified that he had spoken as the spokesperson of the Council without any political, personal or malicious intent or for any publicity stunt. "I did not see the reason for such overreaction from the PM."

The Prime Minister had said that the Deputy Chairperson's comments were his personal views, and necessarily the Council's.

The Deputy Chairperson said that he still stands by the statement he made at the post-session press conference. He said that in fact, whatever he had said was nothing different from what the chairperson of the National Assembly's legislative committee, MP Ritu Raj Chhetri, has said: the responsibility to recover the taxes falls on the government. (Kuensel, June 23, 2017). "I only added that the Council hopes that the government will uphold the rule of law."

After the Prime Minister's statement on BBS, he said the ambiguity became even more pronounced. "The Council recognizes the supremacy of the National Assembly over money bills. There has been no argument about it. If, as argued by Hon'ble Prime Minister, the supreme court's judgment does give the executive the right to grant tax incentives without the approval of Parliament, it calls into question the very decision to table the Fiscal Incentive as a bill in the Assembly."

Tshering Dorji said that on the other hand, the Council understands that the objective for the same was to seek approval and therefore, legitimacy from Parliament. The Fiscal Incentive Bill 2017 was passed by the National Assembly as a money bill, granting tax incentives from May 8, 2017 and not from January 1, 2016 as initially proposed by the government, he said.

Accordingly, he said that for the period not granted in the bill, it would be logical to infer that the incentives have not been approved by an Act of Parliament.

"The argument by the PM that the tax incentives granted by the government until May 8, 2017 is derived from the Supreme Court's interpretation, and further the tax incentives from here on shall be approved by the Parliament in the form of money bill, implies how conveniently, the Supreme Court's interpretation and Parliament's

approval, of fiscal incentive Bills is used as two sources of legitimizing its position," he said.

He added that the National Council continues to call upon the government to uphold the rule of law without causing inconvenience to the people.

Prime Minister in the BBS interview said that the fiscal incentives declared by the former government benefited 94 hotels to a tune of Nu 186 million in a span of two years and eight months.

The Prime Minister said that "it could be coincidental" that (the daughter of a minister in the former government benefited from the fiscal incentives granted by the former government). "But the coincidence is a bit too stark," he added.

He added that he was revealing the figures since the Opposition wanted the government to collect the taxes forgone accepting them as illegal.

Dorji Wangdi said that considering the recommendations of relevant agencies like the Tourism Council of Bhutan and Hotel Association of Bhutan, the previous government revised the first fiscal incentives twice. The aim of revising the fiscal incentives was to ensure that all business houses in a certain sector got equal and blanket treatment as per the incentives prescribed for that particular sector.

MP Yeshey Zimba was not available for comment.

Announcement

Kuensel requests our valued readers to refrain from downloading and sharing eKuensel on Wechat. It's unethical and has huge financial implication to the company. We thank you for your cooperation.

India expresses concern over road construction in Doklam

Staff reporter

India is concerned with the recent actions of China in the Doklam area and has conveyed to the Chinese government that the construction of the road in Doklam area would represent a significant change of status quo with serious security implications for India, the ministry of external affairs stated in a press release yesterday.

Doklam is one of four disputed areas between Bhutan and China in the western region of Haa and Paro dzongkhags.

Following recent queries and reports on the Bhutan-China

boundary in the Doklam area, the ministry of foreign affairs on June 29 issued a press release stating that Bhutan has conveyed to China, both on the ground and through the diplomatic channel that the construction of the road inside Bhutanese territory is a direct violation of the agreements and affects the process of demarcating the boundary between the two countries.

According to the foreign ministry, the Chinese Army had started constructing a motorable road from Dokala in the Doklam area towards the Bhutan Army camp at Zompelri on June 16, 2017.

The press release from the ministry of external affairs, India, stated that Indian personnel in Doka La area continue with their efforts to approach Chinese construction party and urge them to desist from changing the status quo.

It also stated that India and China, in 2012, reached an agreement that the tri-junction boundary points between India, China and third countries will be finalised in consultation with the concerned countries. "Any attempt, therefore, to unilaterally determine tri-junction points is in violation of this understand-

ing," it stated.

It also stated that where the boundary in the Sikkim sector is concerned, India and China had reached an understanding in 2012, reconfirming their mutual agreement on the "basis of the alignment." "Further discussions regarding finalisation of the boundary have been taking place under the Special Representative framework," it stated.

The press release stated that it is important that the consensus reached between India and China through the Special Representatives process is scrupulously respected by both sides. "It is also

essential that all parties concerned display utmost restraint and abide by their respective bilateral understandings not to change the status quo unilaterally," it stated.

It states that India cherishes peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas. "It has not come easily. Both sides have worked hard to establish institutional framework to discuss all issues to ensure peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas and India is committed to working with China to find peaceful resolution of all issues in the border areas through dialogues."

DNT tells PM: Resign or face the law

MB Subba

Indicating that it may take the government to court, the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) has started consulting legal experts and lawyers on the constitutionality of the fiscal incentives granted before May 8, 2017.

Issuing a press release yesterday, DNT stated, "We insist that they step down on moral grounds or face the law." DNT stated that although the party does not see itself as either winners or losers but the national issue must be resolved once and for all.

"So we will find a harmonious way to resolve fiscal incentives issue. DNT has started consulting legal experts and lawyers for the next course of action to protect the Constitution and resolve this national issue to its logical conclusion in a harmonious way," the press release stated.

The press release was issued in response to the Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's recent statement on BBS and at the Meet the Press that government did not breach the Constitution by granting the fiscal incentives without the parliament's approval from January 1, 2016 to May 7, 2017. He said that DNT's accusation of constitution violation, in an earlier press release, was made without understanding of the law.

In its effort to hold the government to account, this was

the second press release DNT has issued on the fiscal incentives issue.

The press release states, "There is no ambiguity in the laws and the Prime Minister is not above the law. It is the sacred responsibility of every single Bhutanese to defend the Constitution."

And as a registered political party, DNT stated that it was a "mandated duty" of any political party to defend the Constitution. "DNT understands the repercussions of such an unpopular action, but we have to do our mandated duty even if it costs us politically," DNT stated, adding that it was the fundamental duty of a political party to defend the Constitution.

The party stated the Constitution is a precious gift from the Golden Throne to the people, and that as the political party having secured 17 percent of the national votes in 2013, the onus of defending the Constitution had fallen on DNT's shoulder. The press release described DNT as the third largest party.

"The PM intentionally violated the Constitution and, when exposed with evidence, attempted to defend it by deliberately misleading the people, concealing important and crucial legal provisions," the press release reads. "Even more dangerous is his usurping the power of Judiciary by misquoting and wrongly interpreting the finding as the de-

cision verdict of the Supreme Court."

The party also stated that Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay tried to find excuses by making "condescending remarks" about DNT, the Opposition and the National Council. "We are saddened with the way PM dismissed the democratic views of Opposition, National Council and DNT- with total disregard and arrogance," it stated.

The press release further reads, "DNT is worried that such responses from our PM only reflected his interest to protect himself and the flaws of his government and disregarded the very basic values and principles of our growing democracy."

DNT stressed that the issue is not about the Prime Minister or DNT or the National Council or the Opposition, but about the breach of the Constitution, the supreme law of the land. This is a serious issue of national importance. DNT reiterated that it stands firm that the government has "intentionally violated the Constitution" and that it is committed to hold the Prime Minister and Finance Minister Namgay Dorji accountable.

DNT's Grounds

Article 14.1 of the Constitution: "Taxes, fees and other forms of levies shall not be imposed or altered except by law."

DNT stated that tax holidays to certain businesses

were provided by the present government from January 2016 without passing it as a law. "Tax" holiday, DNT says, is tax, where tax rate is altered to 0 percent.

"Tax is tax. The National Assembly's decision to pass the fiscal incentives (tax holidays) as a law is binding only from May 8, 2017, the day it was tabled in the Parliament. "Therefore, there is a clear violation of the Constitution."

Another ground for accusation is Article 14.3 of the Constitution, which states, "Public money shall not be drawn from the Consolidated Fund except through appropriation in accordance with the law."

According to DNT, the PDP Government misusing public money from the Consolidated Fund or forgoing public money for the Consolidated Fund is a clear violation of the Constitution.

DNT stated that the Prime Minister's "deliberate misquoting of just the court's finding as Supreme Court's verdict decision is misleading" people and misinforming the nation. "PM's allegation that the Supreme Court has authorized the government of the day to "declare and grant fiscal incentives" is not there in the decision of the Supreme Court."

The Prime Minister, DNT stated, is "deliberately misleading" the people by quoting the background "findings" of the court, which is not the verdict "decision" of the Supreme

Court. The Supreme Court's "decision" on the first constitutional case, DNT says, was unambiguous that "under no circumstances the authority to impose or alter taxes may be delegated to the Executive".

DNT argues that the Prime Minister overlooked Section 46A and 46B of the Public Finance (Amendment) Act 2012, which states that the "imposition or increase of any tax or abolition, reduction or remission of any existing tax" can be done by enacting as law by Parliament. "The PM wrongly informed that no amendments were made in any of the Acts regarding fiscal incentives (tax holidays)."

According to the press release, the principle of the Public Finance Act 2012 eclipsing older laws nullifies all the contradicting sections made in the Income Tax 2000, Sales tax, Customs and Excise Act 2000 and the Public Finance Act 2007.

The Prime Minister earlier said the fiscal incentives it granted are legal and constitutional both by law and precedence. He said granting of fiscal incentives are not alteration of taxes.

Explaining the government's interpretation of the law and the first constitutional case's verdict of 2011, the prime minister said that while only the parliament can impose or revise taxes, it is the government's prerogative to grant fiscal incentives.

The limits of power

The fiscal initiatives 2017 has reached a deadlock.

The government remains firm that it has the prerogative to grant fiscal incentives. But the Opposition, the Council, and Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) are just as insistent that the fiscal incentives given between January 2016 and May 8, 2017 are unconstitutional because they were given without the Parliament's approval.

In defence of the Constitution as they say, all institutions are citing the Supreme Court's judgement of the first constitutional case to legitimise their stand. Even as the debate is getting intense, such discourses are important and good in a democracy.

We see perspectives converging and differences magnify. Questions are asked on the power of the executive and answers sought on the limits of that power. Law provisions and accusations are flung to assert their stand and past practices cited to justify the present exercise. How long this could go depends on how far the institutions are willing to go with their claim of protecting the Constitution.

In an attempt to clarify and interpret the Supreme Court's judgement, the institutions involved must not muddle the issue by breeding contempt nor assume that the people are dumb. The electoral advantage of such debates is not lost on the people or the politics and the theatrics that come with it. In the end, it must enhance the democratic process.

The Supreme Court's judgement of the first constitutional case has established the powers of the executive. It has also established a precedent for judicial review of executive decisions. Then, it was the Opposition that filed the case. Today, it is a third party - DNT - that is threatening to sue the government.

A legal recourse may be helpful to clarify the issue. But the judiciary has to have a case for it to provide its opinion. Even if a case gets filed, it will again depend on whether the court would accept the case. If it does, the public confidence in the decision of the judiciary must not falter because even in this case we do have a precedent.

These procedures beside, there is however a need for clarity. The issue is about reviewing executive decisions and ascertaining the legitimacy if not the righteousness of these actions. It is about holding institutions accountable to the Constitution, the law that protects the national interest.

It is in national interest that we cannot allow it to remain in a deadlock.

Corrigendum

Please refer the story, Misuse of SIM Card across border still rampant on Kuensel's June 30 issue. Paragraph six should read as, TashiCell's human resource officer, Sangay Tenzin, said SIM cards are issued only upon submission of proper identification documents and not as "there is not much scrutiny while issuing SIM cards." The service provider also issues only one SIM card to consumers except in few cases where customers use two devices, and not as "an individual is not entitled to own more than two SIM cards." The error is regretted.

MY COUNTRY, MY TOWN



Wasted: Given its holes and location, this bin would have served better for biodegradable rubbish. Photo by Raika, sherubtse college

Send in your pictures to: editorkuensel@gmail.com

MY SAY

Improve the system to reserve Changjiji football ground

Sir/ Ma'm,
I am writing to the board of directors of Bhutan Football Federation concerning the playground in Changjiji (Artificial turf). I am not sure if Changjiji play ground (both Football and Futsal) is being owned by BFF or if it is privately owned. Even if it is privately owned, I assume BFF may have certain rights over them. As football activities help many youth to engage in meaningful ways, it is hoped that BFF will take this into consideration.

There is one caretaker at the ground who always creates problems with the timing. There is no proper system for ground booking. What he usually does is that he notes the reservations on a piece of paper and tends to lose it. Later if other person reserves the ground, he gives the ground for the same time that was allotted to the earlier person.

The following day, there is confusion among two or more teams over the same timing. Sometimes he even

swaps the timing for some people without informing the concerned person. He is also hardly available in the playground vicinity and we have to search him to get the ball.

I understand that he is a little aged to handle such responsibilities. But it could be helpful if BFF could appoint a young and responsible person to handle the ground bookings.

Ngawang Zepa
Football Enthusiast

Make your opinions known. Send your letters to

editorkuensel@gmail.com

Letters will be edited for space and clarity

Mental health cases still underreported

Dechen Tshomo

The 36-year-old woman from Phanas in Mongar who was admitted for mental health problems at the Mongar regional referral hospital (MRRH) was discharged from the hospital on June 24 after her relatives insisted on taking her home.

Health secretary, Dr Ugen Dopu, said Tshering Lhamo's condition has improved. "The ministry had instructed the health staff at the BHU in Nagtsang, Mongar to personally give her medicine everyday."

Tshering Lhamo was brought to MRRH on June 12 after Dr Ugen Dopu instructed the MRRH officials to send an ambulance to bring her to the hospital following a report on her condition in Phanas village.

The health ministry is also working on writing to all the dzongdags across the country to trace patients suffering from mental and behavioural disorders and to bring them for treatment.

Dr Ugen Dopu said the community and family members of those with mental and behavioural disorders could help them in addressing the social needs while the health ministry will help assist in providing healthcare services.

Of the total 24,257 patients reported to health facilities for having mental and behavioural disorders in the last five years, anxiety is the most common mental disorders at 7,194, according to the latest annual health bulletin.

In the last five years, 16 people died of 'other mental and behavioural disorders,' of which eight died from mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol.

Those who have mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol is the second highest at 3,831 followed by depression at 3,666. A total of 6,687 people visited health facilities for other mental disorders, according to the health bulletin.

About 1,089 people with other mental disorders were

recorded in 2012, after which the number declined to 129 in 2014. It again increased to 1,723 last year.

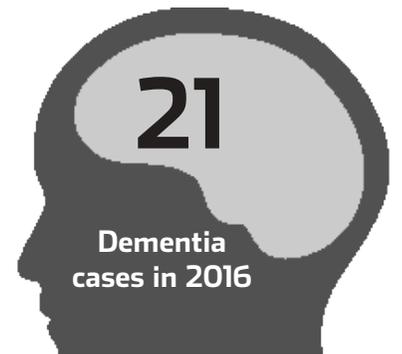
The number of people with anxiety increased by about three times at 2,141 last year from 729 in 2012. The health facilities saw the highest number of people with anxiety in 2014 at 2,146.

Similarly, the number of psychosis increased from 94 in 2012 to 318 last year. The psychosis patients steadily increased for the last four years and then declined last year.

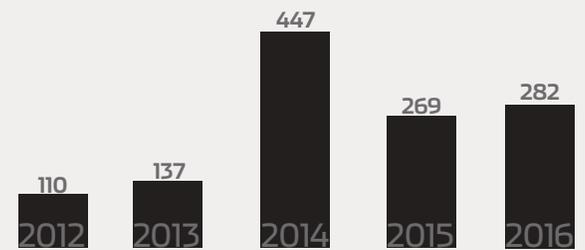
According to the latest health bulletin, people living with depression increased from 559 in 2012 to 1,044 in 2014, the highest recorded so far after which the number declined to 743 last year.

Likewise, in 2014, health facilities reported the highest number of people with mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and other use of psychoactive substances at 447.

The health facilities did not report any dementia



Name of disease	Year				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Mental and behavioral disorder due to alcohol	463	774	129	1,442	1,023
Psychosis	94	132	564	526	318
Depression	559	653	1044	667	743
Anxiety	729	654	2,146	1,524	2,141
Other mental disorder	1,089	1,170	129	2576	1,723



Mental and behavioral disorder due to multiple drug use and other use of psychoactive substance

cases until last year. The health sector saw about 21 cases of people suffering from Dementia last year.

The number of people with mental and behavioural disorders may be higher than

the number reported in the health bulletin as people hesitate to come forward to avail the clinical services to treat mental health patients because of the stigma attached to mental health.

Thimphu public library cries for space

Phurpa Lhamo

Thimphu's only public library for a population of close to 100,000 is crammed and gasping for space. For want of space so, the library in 2013 initiated a mobile library service.

A bus goes around the city carrying more than 3,000 books. This door-to-door service happens every Sunday.

The single-storey Jigme Dorji Wangchuck Public Library (JDWPL), which was established in 1979, has only fifteen small shelves. Of the total 47,479 books in the library,

8,995 were discarded this year.

Officiating Librarian, Tshering Phuntsho, said that the books that were removed were in bad state of repair.

"We needed space for new books."

The library submitted a proposal to thomde for new space in 2002. There has not been any development since.

"We put a proposal again in 2014 but the city officials said they didn't have fund," said Tshering Phuntsho.

The government provided 27M for the establishment of the new JDWPL in 2015. The

library was provided a space at the Royal University of Bhutan premises for three years.

Tshering Phuntsho said that the library is concerned because the three-year term is nearing.

There are more than 3,700 members registered with the library. Until 2005, there were only 350 registered members. June saw 19 new members join the library. Of the total members today, 70 percent are children.

A group called 'Friends of the Library' initiated reading class for volunteers and the members every Saturday. The classes are held twice a week in summer and winter breaks.

A member of the group, Siok Sian Pek-Dorji, said, "I have been part of the group for more than 10 years. We try to raise books for the library."



The crammed shelves at the JDWPL

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bhutan Insurance Ltd is pleased to announce various vacancies for immediate recruitment. Interested candidates fulfilling the criteria may submit their applications to the Human Resource Department, Bhutan Insurance Ltd, Thimphu latest by **13th July, 2017**. Kindly visit our website www.bhutaninsurance.com.bt for further details.

Management

ANNOUNCEMENT

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN

College of language and Culture Studies, Taktse
CLCS/Adm-02/2016-2017/5180

The tender opening date for supply of furniture to CLCS, Taktse is postpone for its opening of tender on July 17, 2017 at RUB, Thimphu. The management remain deeply regretted for the inconvenience caused.

Administrative Officer

NOTIFICATION OF RESULT

BHUTAN LOTTERY LIMITED



BLL/Result/2016-2017/

Bhutan Lottery Limited is pleased to announce the result of Phuensum Dharim June 2017.

<u>1st Prize (1winner) Nu. 10,00,000/-</u>	B-58386				
<u>2nd Prize (1 winner) Nu. 500,000/-</u>	A-38550				
<u>3rd Prize (1 winner) Nu. 200,000/-</u>	B-43130				
<u>4th Prize (10 winners) Nu. 40,000/-each</u>	81211	40133	28983	80938	
	46529				
<u>5th Prize (10 winners) Nu.20,000/-each</u>	62261	08823	18405	46101	
	64506				
<u>6th Prize (100 winners) Nu. 10,000/-each</u>	6182	8235	5735	9341	0829
<u>7th Prize (100 winners) Nu. 2,000/-each</u>	6057	8507	8037	3958	1655
<u>8th Prize (2000 winners) Nu. 500/-each</u>	314	831	813	345	259
	470	391	432	592	652

Note: The prize winning ticket above **Nu.10, 000/-** should be verified by respective selling agents before claiming prize from Lottery Office, Phuentsholing.

[Signature]
Chief Executive Officer

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Housing

Rent: Furnished house with lawn, garage, servant quarter available from 1st July at Motithang, Thimphu. Please contact 17609671/17117236.

Sale: Two & three bedroom flat with two balcony each in Karbayter. Contact 17697121.

Sale: Micro shop at Changzamtog. Contact 17467141.

Sale: Workshop at Olakha. Contact 17923858/339919.

Sale: Restaurant at Olakha. Contact 17923858.



Land

Sale: Land at Bjemina. Contact 17642064.



Vacancy

Vacancy: Two waiter/waitress, one dishwasher for a restaurant in Thimphu. Contact

17344009.

Vacancy: Two female helpers for milk booth, Thimphu. Educated & uneducated will be accepted. Age: eighteen-fourty. Salary: 6000, Contact 17717112.

Vacancy: Experienced housecook cum helper at Lungtenphu. Salary: ten thousand plus quarter. Contact 17110083.

Vacancy: One waitress, one dishwasher & one momo maker. Contact 77293114.

Vacancy: High quality car rental requires eight slot suv-drivers. Experience: minimum two years. Preference will be given to driver cum mechanic. Contact 336465/17364059.

Vacancy: One male two female for lodge. Contact 17398225. Reporting: 8th July, Paro.

Vacancy: Four waitress & two machine operator. Contact 77268745.

Vacancy: Immediate recruitment at Paro for driver, security guard, farm

attendant & general helper. Contact 17641224.

Vacancy: Female graduate to teach small group of children in private primary school in Thimphu. Must have studied business math or pure math in class XI & XII. Contact 77111177 between 8am to 5pm.

Vacancy: Receptionist-two, cook -two, F & B-two, Laundry-one, for Wangchuk hotel (Monger). Contact 02324500/17134500/17788057.

Required: Four technicians for construction equipment. Preference will be given to those who are having relevant experiences. Contact Yoebar Trading, Thimphu @ 17141724/341233.

Vacancy: Hotel Migmar would like to recruit two male staff for F&B & one dishwasher. Contact 77342900/17141886.

Vacancy: Machine operator -3 (Backhoe loader & road roller). Contact 17597986/17920519.



Others

Announcement: Contact Zenith Cargo to carry yours goods from Kathmandu-Bhutan. Wechat: harikarki

Announcement: Bhutan Ply Manufacturer & Supplier Flush Door, Shuttering ply at competitive rate. Contact 17114230.

Announcement: BCSE prelims coaching with past toppers @ Nu 2,500 only. Venue: Thimphu (main town). For registration contact 17549354.

Announcement: Chhoekeymo clean services: Home pickup and delivery, Time: 9: 00 am to 5:00 pm. Delivery three days. For inquiry call 77652497/17360047.

Announcement: This is to notify that Etho Metho visa application centre has been named as Bhutan visa application centre. Office address & all other contact details remain the same: Phone 338282/ 338383/ 338383/

mobile 17175858.

Announcement: Institute for professional studies will be providing coaching on problem solving & data interpretation for preliminary examination from 4th July. (reasonable fee) Contact 17584747/77205558.

Announcement: BCSE prelim exam 2017-RTC coaching classes will be held in July at Kawajangsa, Thimphu. Details: www.rtc.bt, email: bdo@rtc.bt/call 351801 (145).

Hire: Steel props/support available on hire for bridge construction. Interested may contact 17618275.

NU. PER UNITS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY as of yesterday

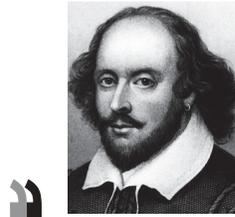
	NOTES	
	Buy	Sell
US \$	63.65	65.65
POUND	82.45	84.75
EURO	72.55	74.55
YEN (100)	56.55	58.15
HK \$	8.15	8.35
AUS \$	48.80	50.15
SING \$	46.10	47.40

Courtesy BNB

Wisdom wise



He that is giddy thinks the world turns round.



William Shakespeare

A WORD a day

Concessions.

n. 1. A thing that is granted, esp. in response to demands; a thing conceded; 2. A preferential allowance or rate given by an organization.

The government was unwilling to make any further concessions.

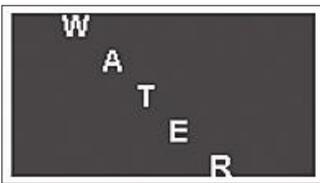
BHUTAN 25 YEARS AGO

Higher interest for farmers will strengthen BDFC

Bhutanese farmers using the Rural Credit Programme will now pay 14 percent interest on the loans, up from 10 percent. This was announced by the Bhutan Development Finance Corporation. One of the chief advantages of the raised interest rate is that it would help make BDFC more self-sustaining.

The loans are aimed at increasing agriculture productivity and the income of the farmers who have used it for a range of activities from the purchase of seeds and fertilisers to fencing apple orchards.

REBUS

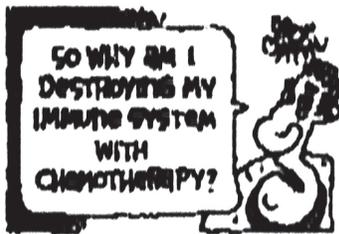


ANSWER: Waterfall

Health Capsule



IN WHAT CANCERS ARE SURVIVAL RATES NOT IMPROVED BY CHEMOTHERAPY?



CHEMOTHERAPY DOES NOT IMPROVE THE SURVIVAL RATES OF THESE CANCERS: COLORECTAL, GASTRIC, PANCREATIC, BLADDER, BREAST, OVARIAN, CERVICAL, HEAD AND NECK. YET, ONCOLOGISTS RECOMMEND CHEMOTHERAPY FOR ALL THESE CANCERS.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

The Wicked Postman



Why do you sit there on the floor so quiet and silent, tell me, mother dear? The rain is coming in through the open window, making you all wet, and you don't mind it.

Do you hear the gong striking four? It is time for my brother to come home from school.

What has happened to you that you look so strange?

Haven't you got a letter from father to-day?

I saw the postman bringing letters in his bag for almost everybody in the town.

Only, father's letters he keeps to read himself. I am sure the postman is a wicked man.

But don't be unhappy about that, mother dear.

To-morrow is market day in the next village. You ask your maid to buy some pens and papers.

I myself will write all father's letters; you will not find a single mistake.

I shall write from A right up to K. But, mother, why do you smile?

You don't believe that I can write as nicely as father does!

But I shall rule my paper carefully, and write all the letters beautifully big.

When I finish my writing, do you think I shall be so foolish as father and drop it into the horrid postman's bag?

I shall bring it to you myself without waiting, and letter by letter help you to read my writing.

I know the postman does not like to give you the really nice letters.

Rabindranath Tagore

Tech Tricks

Indesign: Type panels and dialog boxes

How to Open Keep Options dialog box?

MICROSOFT Alt+Ctrl+K

MAC Option+Command+K

How to Activate Character panel?

MICROSOFT Ctrl+T

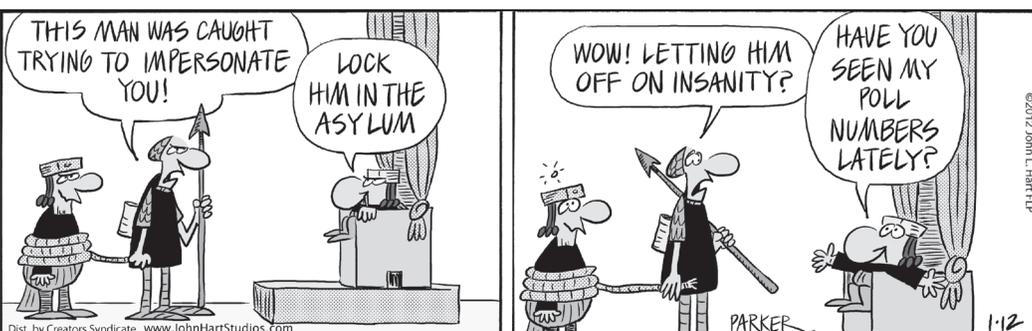
MAC Command+T

Legal Terminologies

- བདག་དབང་ ཁོངས་སྐྱུ གལ་ཁམ།
Belongs
- ཁྲིམས་ཁྲི། Bench
- ཚུན་བྱུང། Bench clerk
- ཐུགས་ཇེ། བྱིན་རྒྱབས། Benediction

To be continued...

Wizard



eco tip : Boost Your Mental Health

Cycling is great for your mental health too. I am sure you aren't surprised after what we have discussed, reduction in stress, time to think, improved fitness and weight loss and family time!

New HIV/AIDS commission finds renewed vigour

Dechen Tshomo

Following a recommendation in the 17th National HIV/AIDS Commission (NHAC) meeting, the commission has been reconstituted to encourage diverse representation of the members.

The government endorsed the proposal during the 133rd session of the Lhengye Zhungtshog in June.

Health minister Tandin Wangchuk inaugurated the reconstituted NHAC at Le Meridian in Thimphu yesterday.

Chief programme officer with the health ministry's Communicable Disease Division, Namgay Tshering, said that no major reconstitution has happened except for the change in a few members based on the decision of the chairperson in the last 13 years.

He said that the reconstitution is aimed at addressing the issues related to HIV/AIDS in the country and to showcase the strong commitment of the government towards addressing the issues of HIV/AIDS.

The commission was constituted in 2004 following the resolution of the 220th session of the Lhengye Zhungtshog with 18 members under the chairmanship of Prime Minister.

Later, in 2006, membership was reduced to 11 and chairmanship was handed over to health minister.

The reconstituted commission now has 15 core members and a member secretary.

The commission members are from the education, labour and human resources, home and cultural affairs, and health ministries, armed forces, Thimphu and Phuentsholing thromde, Dratshang Lhentshog, Lhak-Sam, civil society organisations, and private agencies.

Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk said that since its inception, 17 rounds of meetings were held and the outcomes were very significant in re-shaping the national strategies towards combating the social menace of HIV/AIDS in the country.

Coinciding with the commission meeting, the National AIDS Control Programme launched mobile HTC (HIV testing and counseling) service and GeneXpert machine as part of its innovative approaches in responding towards the prevention of HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

GeneXpert machine is a POC (point-of-care) facility for HIV viral load testing, early infant diagnosis of HIV



GeneXpert machines have been installed in five hospitals in the country.

for infants born to HIV positive mothers and rapid diagnosis of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

The machines have been installed in five major hospitals in the country and the services will be available in the hospitals in Thimphu, Phuentsholing, Gelephu, Mongar, and Samdrupjongkhar. A GeneXpert machine costs USD 54,000.

Two vans equipped with mini-labs to undertake onsite

HIV/STI testing have been procured at USD 77,000 to pilot the mobile HTC service in the country.

Namgay Tshering said, "Most people don't turn up to health centres for HIV screening. Based on this assessment the health ministry is taking forward this intervention to affected population group."

The vans will be used also during the disease outbreaks to carry out surveillance at the

outbreak sites.

The machines and the vans were procured through Global Fund Support.

The commission meeting highlighted the follow-up actions on the recommendations of the last meeting, updating the members on the HIV epidemic in Bhutan and its challenges, new proposals for policy directives to enhance effective programmatic intervention and management.

BAFRA beefs up measures to prevent fake food products

Tshering Palden

Videos on plastic rice, sugar, cabbages, and eggs have gone viral on social media creating apprehension and doubt on the imports of food products in the country.

In one of the videos that have gone viral on Internet, a Bhutanese couple warns others of plastic cabbage in the market. They remove a leaf and burn it on the gas stove.

However, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) officials said although there were no complaints of such products filed in their office, the director general issued a notification on June 29 calling the public to inform the office if they come across suspicious

products.

Deputy chief regulatory and quarantine officer, Sithar Dorjee said that the concerns related to plastic rice, sugar, cabbages and eggs have been raised on social media recently including the concerns expressed that such products may enter into Bhutanese markets. "People should report to the nearest BAFRA office with samples of the products."

He said that it is easy to test if the products are plastic or not. "We can do simple tests like floatation or burning."

Officials said that their inspectors at the entry gates are alerted and they are vigilant to rule out possibilities of entry into our market, if it is true at

all, he said.

BAFRA officials said if they come across any such products, the products would be immediately removed from the market. "We've withdrawal procedures and it'll be prompt," an official said. "If the plastic rice is mixed with the natural rice, it might be difficult to detect."

Officials explained that the problem at the present food imports is that BAFRA has no control over food products as the economic affairs ministry's trade department governs it because of Bhutan's free trade agreements.

BAFRA regularly inspects mainly fresh food products such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products and meat.

The authority is expected to take over inspection of other food imports in the 12th Plan.

Officials said BAFRA is

constrained by shortage of human resource and budget limiting its ability to take over food import monitoring.

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Website: www.kuenselonline.com

Choeten and the man

Younten Tshedup |
Trashiyangtse

Located in a spacious valley along the river Kholongchu, the quiet settlement of Trashiyangtse town, also known as Choeten Kora town, has been growing. The giant Boudhanath-style choeten stands as one of the unique features of the town. Here an old man has made home.

Kencho Tshering, 73, from Kechingdung village, remembers the once rocky valley that was pretty much barren. He is one of the few residents of the town who have seen the transformation the dzongkhag has undergone over the years.

"Most of the upper part of the town was filled with boulders. The rest were grassland," said Kencho Tshering. "There were a few bamboo huts."

A gigantic flood some thousand years ago washed away all the settlement in the area. This is the story Kencho Tshering, as a child, heard from his grandparents. "That's the history. If we look at the huge boulders here, how big the flood was."

Kencho Tshering got married when he was 11 years old. At 17, he visited Arunachal Pradesh to trade goods for the first time.

"It was a bad timing then. The locals were in conflict and war was looming in the air," he said. "It was for the first time I



Kencho Tshering at Choeten Kora

heard a gunshot in my life."

Kencho Tshering was conscripted into the army at the age of 23. For the next 25 years, he travelled from one place to another with his unit.

"Once in a while I got to come home. Every time I came back I saw many developmental activities taking place," he said. Houses and buildings had started to mushroom.

While he was away, he couldn't see his children

grow. His wife left him and his parents had passed away. "I missed a lot of things while I was away. I regret it now, but then there wasn't much I could do about it then."

Kencho Tshering can be seen most of the time here, doing the rounds of the choeten. He spends about eight hours here. He recalls how the kora, the festival at the choeten used to be then.

"We used to hold the

hands of young girls and go round the choeten. We'd spend hours teasing girls," he said. Men would sing to girls.

"Many of my friends got married this way here. It was a rural courtship unique to this place. Those were good days," said Kencho Tshering.

And there would be fights. "And so the name of the river - Kholongchu - meaning fighting river."

It has been decades since Kencho Tshering started doing the rounds of the choeten.

There were eight of them. Now only four remain.

"We lost our friends some years ago. The rest of us will soon follow them. But until our time comes, it is a good life," said Kencho Tshering. "This is the place where my grandparents and parents met. This is the place where my children and grandchildren come to pray."

He looks lost, staring mid-distance at nothing in particular: "And this is the place from where I shall leave this world."



Choeten Kora

ADDENDUM

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
Department of Industry
Industrial Infrastructure Development
Division

MoEA/IIDD/(Mongar)-13/2017/605

With reference to the invitation of Tender in Kuensel issue dated , 6th June, 2017 for **Construction of Security Guard Living Quarters at Bondeyma Industrial Park, Mongar, Dhamdum Industrial Park, Samtse and Jigmeling Industrial Park, Sarpang.** Minutes of the Pre-bid Meeting can be accessed from www.moea.gov.bt.

Director General

Constitutional framing or a usual bickering?

The recent public exchange of political salvos between the PDP government and Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) has once again brought to attention some caveats in the Constitution, specifically Article 15.

The point of departure here is what the prime minister alluded about the DNT last week – that, despite their absence in Parliament, the party lost no opportunity in issuing press releases to suit its political interest by crying foul at the government’s certain decisions.

In a democratic context, or even otherwise, an institution or an individual or a group, has the right to issue press releases or seek media attention to have its voice heard. Call it presenting alternative facts or alternative views!

But this is not the issue here. For PDPs and DNTs will come and go. The issue is the Constitution itself, because experience is now telling us that our so-called multiparty democracy ends with the primary round. After the primary round, it is strictly a two-party affair.

The drafters of the Constitution believed that multiparty representation would paralyze Parliament. Examples are aplenty in the region. Political coalitions tend to be shaky. The drafters believed that a coalition of parties would not necessarily guarantee a strong and effective government. They agreed on only two parties for the general round, an automatic fix to all potential deadlocks.

The 2008 political scenario didn’t challenge the provisions of Article 15 because a third party failed to materialize. However, the primary round of the second election in 2013 had four parties. The People’s Democratic Party and Druk Phuensum Tshogpa went into the general round, while DNT and Druk Chirwong Tshogpa (DCT) took home about 23% of popular votes.

Consequently, in a turn of complex events leading up to the poll day, PDP won the maximum votes, and formed Bhutan’s second democratically elected government. While DPT made its resentment with the result a much-

debated affair, DNT and DCT were off to a long hibernation. They were the failed parties.

Now, come to think about it, what happens to these parties when their supporters are forced to rally around a new party for the general round? Even otherwise, how do the supporters of these ‘failed’ parties make themselves relevant to the polls? The Constitution leaves them with no choice but to engage in horse-trading. They must quickly choose between the two parties and declare allegiance if they are to expect a fair representation in Parliament. And we saw that happen.

Thus, certain clauses of Article 15 curtail pluralism and participation thereby consequently weakening the very foundation for a strong democratic tradition. Add to this other diluters: apolitical National Council, apolitical local government, apolitical civil service, and disfranchised religious domain. The pool of participation only shrinks, especially when one realizes that almost half the population can’t vote because it’s an adult and secular franchise.

Political parties must be formed as long-term public institutions and they should muster credibility through active participation in elections, and sometimes by winning elections. However, given the limitations set by the Constitution, people might be of the perception that political parties are encouraged with the myopic vision of fulfilling the short-term democratic agenda.

Democracy can only be deepened if people actively participate in politics through the parties of their choice that have fair representation in Parliament. The Constitution, again, by declaring the local government apolitical further curtails political participation, and limits people’s engagement in political affairs.

Deepening democracy means creating a vibrant political culture, and this can happen only if we have thriving political parties that create smart politicians who rally around a set of political ideas that set the tone of public policies. Public debates must become livelier and dissent must be tolerated. A major challenge if democracy

needs to be deepened will be in building the capacity of parties. Without functional multiple parties that stand on differing ideologies but with common national goals, the danger of democracy remaining within the confines of the polling stations is real.

A politically illiterate electorate might not bother so much for fairness of representation in Parliament so long as their needs and wants are met, but a matured electorate may not participate in the general round where the parties of their choice are not contesting. In other words, this disenchanted electorate might choose to forego an unrepresentative political participation.

Let’s take an example: four parties - A, B, C, and D - are participating in the primary round, and B and D garner most votes, which means they are constitutionally granted legitimacy to contest the general round. However, the fact that they have failed to be among the top two performers in the primary round has rendered A and C irrelevant for the moment. And to add insult to their injuries, their supporters now have no choice but to either abstain from voting in the general round or must quickly defect for either of the two parties contesting the general round.

A couple of disconcerting observations can be made here: first, the voters of Party A and C have lost their political identity either way (whether they abstain or legitimately horse-trade); second, democracy is tacitly encouraging disfranchisement. This certainly will neither help in deepening democracy nor in building a democratic culture.

We have seen that for the parties that don’t go beyond the primary round, the issue is about their very existence. They need funds to maintain the party structure and sustain their presence until the next election. In the meanwhile, they must prove their relevance in the public sphere by negotiating outside-the-Parliament role with the ruling and the opposition parties.

The question is: what possible role could these parties play?

For one, these parties with no formal role in governance should continue to provide platforms for formal political engagement to their supporters. They could help communities remain connected to politics after the polls. To their supporters these parties will represent political inclusion in the wider sense of reaching out to policymakers, and the very existence (even after the primary round defeat) of the

party that one supports is itself an incentive to engage in politics.

The third parties can also play a more traditional role of protest vehicle as practiced in the American system. In fact, the importance of third parties becomes pronounced when people believe that the major two parties (the ruling and the opposition) have neglected issues of importance or have become unresponsive to their needs.

Otherwise, in absence of a wider public space for political bargains, voters are bound to rally around the winner simply because one that governs also delivers. And this sadly defeats the vision of a multiparty democracy. Especially if voters offer a sweeping win to one party and leave the other completely weakened and disillusioned. Of course, the other, and perhaps wiser, option is to build institutions that will help build the capacity of political parties – both winners and losers.

**Contributed by
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Department of Medical Supplies & Health Infrastructure
Bio-Medical Engineering Division

MOH/DMSHI/BMED/11/2016-2017/850

The Bio-Medical Engineering Division (BMED), Department of Medical Supplies & Health Infrastructure (DMSHI), Ministry of Health (MOH) invites sealed bids from firms registered with DMSHI for the supply of medical equipment spare parts and for FY 2017-2018.

The bidding document can be collected from the office **w.e.f July 4, 2017** during office hours upon producing revenue receipt issued by the AFD, MOH on the payment of non-refundable fee of **Nu. 500**.

Sealed bids must be submitted to the BMED, MOH, Thimphu on or before **1:00 pm (BST) of August 2, 2017**. Bids will be opened at **2:30 pm** on the same day in the conference hall of Medical Supplies and Procurement Division.

For further information please contact at Tel No. **+975-2-335510**, E-mail: **kdorji909@gmail.com** during office hours.

Chief Engineer

Naming And Shaming: Freedom Of Media Is Not Absolute

In recent times, media have started publishing photo(s) and details of people suspected or accused of crime resulting in naming and shaming preceding a judicial process. Such trend is worrying and unprofessional as it violates not only the fundamental rights but also legal rights. Even more worrying is the publication of only a selected few that could construe as bias reporting and discriminatory undermining the basic human rights of these people.

No freedom is absolute and freedom of media is not an exception. Media must enjoy the right to exercise the democratic culture as Bhutan embarks on the journey of democracy. However, such democratic culture must stay within the limits of the Constitution. Fountain of justice

is the prerogative of judiciary and not Media. Therefore, media has neither constitutional nor legal right to punish any person including naming and shaming.

With the adoption of the constitution of country, Bhutan's criminal justice system rests on Article 7 of the Constitution, the Fundamental Rights. This means that every person has right to life, liberty and may be taken only with due process of law. He or she also has right to security, equality before law, equal protection of the law, protection against discrimination, presumption of innocence until proven guilty, protection against arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, home or correspondence and unlawful attack on his honour and reputation. Due process of law and fair trial are

The freedom of the press should not degenerate into a licence to attack litigants and close the door of justice nor can it include any unrestricted liberty to damage the reputation of respectable persons

cardinal rules of criminal justice. Thus, media by naming and shaming of any person without due process of law, no matter how heinous the crime that person might have committed or suspected to have committed or accused of committing would tantamount to violation of his numerous fundamental rights under the Constitution. It could cause an accused or suspect and his or her family members an irreparable damage to their reputation, unimaginable mental trauma and stigmatization in the society particularly a small society like ours.

Researches around the globe revealed that, the media trials tend to influence judges and subconsciously a pressure is created to affect the sentencing. Courts have stated that, in the eyes of public, media trial provokes public hysteria akin to the extent of lynching mob making the fair trial nearly impossible and regardless of the result of the trial, in public perception, the accused is already held guilty and would not be able to live the rest of their life without intense public scrutiny. Thus, it is now a universal settled law that when a conflict arises between fair trial and freedom of speech, the former prevailed because the compromise of fair trial for a particular accused will cause them permanent harm whereas the inhibition of media freedom

ends with the conclusion of legal proceedings.

Besides the Constitutional Rights, any suspect or accused also enjoys numerous legal rights. Section 96.2 of the Civil and Criminal Procedure of Bhutan states, "Finding of guilt against one or more of the parties can only be given when the prosecution to the full satisfaction of the Court has established a proof beyond reasonable doubt." And Section 207 of the Penal Code of Bhutan requires that a person can be punished only if the elements of the charge where guilt beyond reasonable doubt have been proven to full satisfaction of the court. By Section 6 of the Penal Code of Bhutan, a person can be convicted of a criminal offence and shall not be sentenced otherwise than accordance with this Penal Code. Thus, where does the media derive jurisdiction of punishing any suspect or accused through naming and shaming even before their trial begins.

The Media must remember that for any suspect or accused to be punished, the prosecution has duty not primarily to convict, but to seek justice proving the accused beyond reasonable doubt while the accused must be accorded to defend any accusations by all lawful, fair and honorable means, so as not to deprive his or her of life or liberty, through due process of the law.

The preamble of the Penal Code states that the law is enacted to "perpetuate good and chaste actions, correct those, who have gone wrong," guilty not to escape and innocent not to suffer and to secure justice to ourselves and our posterity." Therefore, how does the pre-trial naming and shaming by media justify such rights of the accused or suspect. Naming and shaming of suspect or accused before formal court proceedings also undermines the pre-trial as well as other rights enshrined in the Civil and Criminal Procedure Code including determina-

tion of sufficient cause of accusations made, whether to plead guilty or not (Nolo Contendere).

The Code of Ethics for Journalists framed under Section 26(d) of the Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act prohibits the journalist from reporting judicial proceedings that might affect or alter the trial unfairly or publish anything that is defamatory of any person or organization. The Code also requires the journalist not to identify relatives or friends of any person accused or convicted of crime, or imply guilt by association in relation to such relatives or friends, unless there are compelling reasons, such as relevance to the story being published, or evidence that might reasonably point to such guilt. The Code further mandates that the journalist stand by the principle that all persons are equal before law.

It is even more worrying when the media try to name and shame few selected as in the recent cases, the principle of all persons to be treated equal before law and equal protection of law is completely ignored. In fact, such reporting would warrant a suit against such reporter or media for the damage the suspect or accused and his family suffered in the society.

In a nutshell, media must remember that presumption of innocence of an accused is a legal presumption and should not be destroyed at the very threshold through the process of media trial and that too when the investigation is pending. The freedom of the press should not degenerate into a licence to attack litigants and close the door of justice nor can it include any unrestricted liberty to damage the reputation of respectable persons.

*Contributed by
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The writer is a Faculty of
Law, JSW School of Law in
Thimphu*

ANNOUNCEMENT



ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN College of language and Culture Studies Taktse

CLCS/Adm-02/2016-2017/5180

The tender opening date for supply of stationery and sports items, hardware items and vehicles maintenance and spare parts for the financial year **2017-2018** is postpone for its opening date of tender on **July 18, 2017** at RUB, Thimphu.

The management remain deeply regretted for the inconvenience caused.

Administrative Officer



VIEWES & FEEDBACK

Call 324684
or mail to
editorkuensel@gmail.com

How will GST affect common man's purse?

As the country braces for a new indirect tax regime in the form of Goods and Services Tax (GST), slated for launch on 30 June midnight, consumers will get a mixed bag in terms of its impact on the cost of commodities and services. There is excitement in the market and the common man is visibly anxious for obvious reasons. Here, we simplify its impact on the prices of a variety of products and services that matter the most for the common man.

House kitchen

The prices of the basic food items — cereals, rice, wheat, pulses, milk, sugar, tea, coffee, edible oil — will remain unaffected under the GST. The

prices of biscuits, corn flakes and ice-creams will come down as the tax rate has been cut down by 14%. The tax has been slashed by 5% on chocolates.

Non-food items

In the non-food section, prices of most commodities will come down, except for Ayurveda products and footwear with MRP above Rs. 500. Consumers will have to pay less for hair oil, bathing soaps, toothpaste, shampoo, face cream, silk and jute. The tax on cotton remains the same at 5%. Washing powder will be dearer. Tobacco users will have to pay more, too.

Durables

The cost of TV, fridge, washing

machines, smartphones will come down as the tax has been slashed from 33% to 28%. However, the price of gold will go up slightly as the tax has been hiked by 1%.

Basic services

This is an area of concern for the common man as services, except movie tickets, healthcare and education, will be costlier under the new tax regime. Insurance, banking, telephone and mobile services will be dearer by 3% as the tax has been hiked from 15% to 18%. Movie tickets will be cheaper due to 12% slash in the tax from 40% to 28%. Taxi rides and air travel (economy class) will be marginally cheaper in view of 1% tax

cut. Air travel in business class will cost 3% more.

Hotel booking

Higher the bill the more tax consumers will pay. There will be no tax on hotel bookings costing less than Rs. 1,000, which earlier was 15%. For hotel bookings between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,500, the tax has been brought down from 15% to 12%. Hotel bookings above Rs. 2,500 up to Rs. 5,000 will attract 3% more tax (18%). The tax on bookings in luxury hotels has been hiked by 13%, from 15% to 28%.

Eating out

You may pay more or less, depending on the type of restaurant you are moving in. Res-

taurants with turnover up to Rs. 50 lakh and those without air-conditioned facilities will pay less tax, but those with liquor licence will pay 2% more tax. Five-star hotels will attract 13% more tax, up from 15% to 28%.

Cars

Under the GST, diesel and mid-sized cars, including those running on petrol, will cost more, while SUVs and luxury cars will be slightly cheaper. The tax on small cars (diesel as well as petrol) has been hiked by 3%, and for mid-sized cars by 2%. The tax on luxury cars has been slashed by 2% (from 45% to 43%), and for SUVs by 5%, from 48% to 43%.

The Statesman

Alibaba spending US\$1bil in Southeast Asia's Lazada

Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding is investing an additional \$1 billion in Southeast Asian online retailer Lazada Group, boosting its stake by nearly a third to 83 percent and amplifying its focus on the region. Lazada, founded in 2012, is headquartered in Singapore and also operates in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Alibaba's announcement comes as its rivals such as Chinese e-commerce firm JD.com Inc are expanding operations in Southeast Asia and amid media reports that Amazon is eyeing an entry into the region of 600 million people where only a fraction of total retail sales are currently conducted online.

The region may be the first market where Amazon and Alibaba will go head-to-head, if the U.S. firm confirms the plans.

"It is a clear signal from (Alibaba) that, now having learned the market better, that they really believe in the opportunity of ecommerce in southeast Asia," Lazada Chief Executive Maximilian Bittner told Reuters in an interview.

The move doubles Alibaba's investment in Lazada after last year's deal to buy a controlling stake in it for about \$1 billion and is a part of its efforts to boost its global sales. Alibaba had the option to buy the remaining stakes from

some Lazada investors, 12-18 months after the deal closed.

Besides financial support, Alibaba's investment has provided Lazada with several benefits, including access to a wider range of merchants and improving its logistics capabilities.

Lazada has been expanding its offerings over the last year, buying Singapore-based online grocer RedMart and tying up with companies such as Netflix and Uber [UBER.UL] for a membership program.

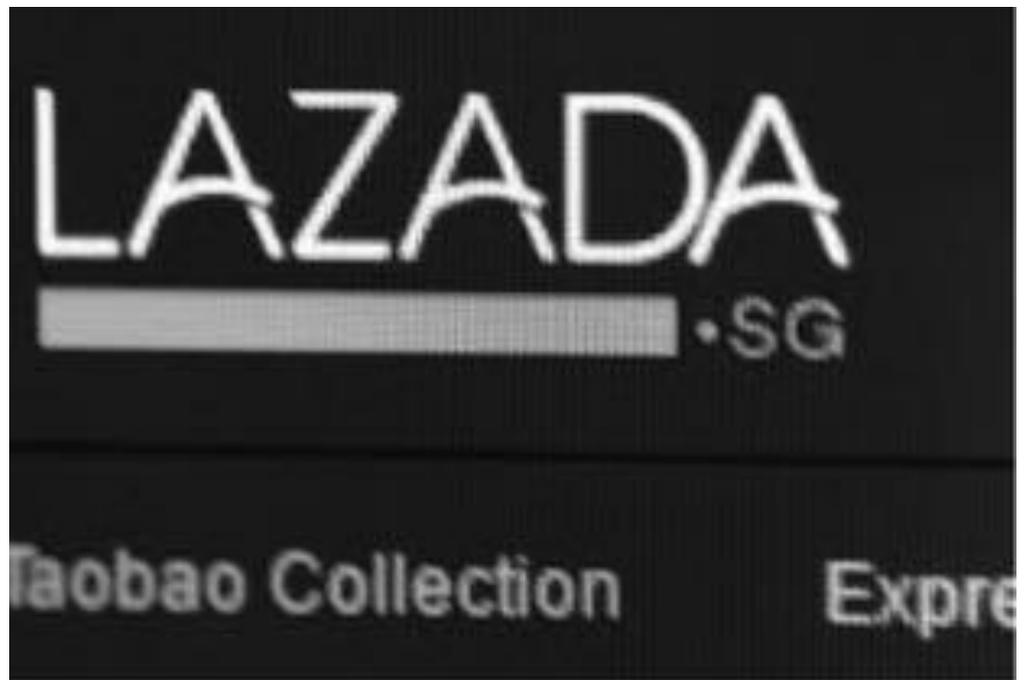
Bittner said having Alibaba as a backer was "very helpful" in distinguishing itself from Amazon and other competitors.

"It will be easier to take on one 800 pound gorilla when you have the other 800 pound gorilla behind you," he said, when asked about a potential Amazon entry.

On Wednesday, Alibaba said it will purchase the shares from certain Lazada shareholders at an implied valuation of \$3.15 billion. Germany's Rocket Internet and Sweden's Kinnevik confirmed in separate statements that they were among the selling shareholders.

Last year's deal had included partial stake sales by investors, including British supermarket operator Tesco Plc, Rocket and Kinnevik.

Bittner said Lazada management and Singapore state investor Temasek Holdings [TEM.UL] were the only other



remaining shareholders, besides Alibaba.

Lazada, founded in 2012, is headquartered in Singapore and also operates in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In the twelve months ended March 31, 2017, Lazada had about 23 million annual active buyers, according to Alibaba's annual report.

"The e-commerce markets in the region are still relatively untapped, and we see a very positive upward trajectory ahead of us," Daniel Zhang, CEO of Alibaba, said in a statement. "We will continue to put our resources to work

in Southeast Asia through Lazada to capture these growth opportunities."

Alibaba shares were down 0.4 percent in pre-market trading, while Rocket shares were

2.3 percent lower.

Amazon did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment on its plans for the region.

The Star

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FEEDBACK**

Call 17170455/324684
or mail to
editor@kuensel.com.bt

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UGEN TRADING HOUSE

UTH/01/2017/

Ugen Trading House is pleased to announce the vacancy for following posts for networking products of CISCO for immediate recruitment:

Sl.#	Position	Post	Qualification and experience	Salary PM	Place of posting
1	ICT Engineer	1	B Tech/BCA/BSc IT with CCNA	Nu. 50,000	ICT division, UTH Thimphu
2	ICT Engineer	1	B Tech/BCA/BSc IT with CCNP	Nu. 60,000	ICT division UTH, Thimphu

Salary negotiable based on qualification, experience and aptitude.

Interested applicants meeting the minimum qualification criteria may apply to Director, ICT Division Ugen Trading House, Hotel Singye building, Norzin Lam with the following documents:

1. Curriculum vitae (CV)
2. Academic transcripts and relevant certificates.
3. Security clearance certificate from police
4. Medical fitness certificates
5. NOC from employer if already employed

The last date for submission of applications is **July 5, 2017**. Only shortlisted applicants will be informed of place and date interview. All original documents will be verified during interview. For any other clarifications/information please call at **02-329937** during office hours.

Management UTH

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Department of Medical Supplies & Health Infrastructure
Health Infrastructure Development Division

Ref. no. 08/HIDD/Tsirang Hospital/2016-2017/

Project Management Unit, Tsirang Hospital Construction is pleased to announce the availability of vacancy for the post of Administrative Assistant on muster roll payment (Nu. 324/day excluding govt. holidays) for 11 months/completion of the project **w.e.f August 2017**.

Interested candidates may submit application to the office of the Project Manager on or before **20th July, 2017** along with following documents.

- i. Class XII pass certificate&mark sheets
- ii. Valid security clearance certificate
- iii. Valid medical fitness certificate
- iv. Candidate must have basic computer knowledge (submit certificate)
- v. No objection certificate from the working agency if employed.

For query, do call at **06-471388** during office hours.

Project Manager



DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PROPERTIES

FM/DNP/GP-44/2017/1451

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Department of National Properties invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Canteen Service at Gold Smith Office at DNP Office.

1. Bidding will be conducted through Open Competitive Bidding; a procedure specified in the RGoB procurement Rules and Regulation 2009.
2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Mrs. Kelzang Wangmo, Procurement Section at **02-322582/336963** during office hours.
3. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded from MOF website: www.mof.gov.bt
4. Bids must be delivered to the Director General, Department of National Properties, MoF with Security Deposit of **Nu.20,000.00 (Ngultrum Twenty Thousand)** only.

Offtg. Director General

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES Department of Revenue and Customs



Save the Children

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Save the children, Bhutan Country Office would like to seek expression of interest from applicants interested in undertaking potential enumeration work such as data collection/surveys during 2017 and 2018 for its projects. The idea is to have a pool of potential candidates whom Save the Children can engage in as and when required. Candidates will be short listed and then interviewed.

Interested Bhutanese nationals having an education qualification of minimum class **12** and above may submit your application and CV to the Administration & HR Manager latest by **17th July 2017 (before 1 PM)**. Please drop your application at Save the Children's Office located at Chang Geydaphu, Thimphu (Phone Numbers: **323419/325599**). Please highlight among others, the following in your resume:

- Language competency (will be verified during the interview)
- Any experience in data collection (pls attach copies of supporting documents)

NOTE: ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEWS.

VACANCY FOR A PRIVATE FIRM IN PHUNTSHOLING, BHUTAN

Manager -1. Min 8 years work experience at the managerial post with Graduation in business studies .

Office Assistant : 1. Graduate/XII with min 2 -4 years work experience and should have very good computer skills.

Bill collectors : 4 (min class 8 pass).

Cable technicians : 3 (should have technical background in the field ,experience will be highly preferred)

Seriously interested Candidates, may apply only!

Kindly submit your CV and Resume at Cable Sat Club, (Rabten Cables), Dekilam, Phuentsholing, Bhutan.

Contact No **17111757**.



INVITATION FOR SEALED QUOTATION

BHUTAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LTD.

BDBL/ADM/PROC/02/2017/3810

Bhutan Development Bank invites sealed quotation for following:

1. Supply and delivery of fire and burglary cash safe vault.
2. Supply, installation and commissioning of cash counting/sorting/fake note detection machine.

The detailed terms and conditions can be purchased from the procurement Section during office hours from **July 1 till July 29, 2017** on payment of **Nu. 500 each**, which is non-refundable. The last date for submission of quotation is on or before **July 31, 2017 at 12:30 pm** & shall be opened on the same day at **2:30 pm**. or further information contact **+975-2-322579** during office hours.

*General Manager
ADM/HRM Department*

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

DRUKGYEL CENTRAL SCHOOL, PARO

Ref.SHERIG/DCS-13/2017/ 10691

Sl no	Particular	Contract	Date of sale	Date of close	Date of submission	Date of Opening
1	1. Package 1: vegetable and fruits items(local bidders) 2. Package 2: grocery items(local bidders) 3. Package 3: Meat items(local bidders) 4. Package 4: stationery 5. Package 5: Uniform 6. Package 6: Sportswear 7. Package 7: bedding items	FY 2017-18	1st July 2017 Saturday	2nd August 2017 Wednesday	2nd August 2017 Wednesday 10:00 AM	2nd August 2017 Wednesday 11:00 AM

The quotation forms and documents to be downloaded from Dzongkhag Website www.paro.gov.bt . For further clarification, please contact school administration # **17641132/17536717** .

Principal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

DZONGKHAG ADMINISTRATION, PARO

DAP/Proc-04/2016-17/7766

Sl no	Particular	Contract	Date of sale	Date of close	Date of submission	Date of Opening
1	1. Package 1: Office/school Stationery, Printing items/forms. 2. Package 2: Computer/Office Equipments/Toner & Cartridges. 3. Package 3: Office/school Furniture 4. Package 4: Vehicle Spare Parts/maintenance/Tyres and Tubes (only for local bidders). 5. Package 5: Grocery Items and Misc. Items.(for local bidders only) 6. Package 6: Catering items 7. Package 7: Hardware Items. 8. Package 8: Electrical Items. 9. Package 9: Maintenance of computer /office equipment (for local bidders only). 10. Package 10: Games and sports items 11. Package 11: Chadi items 12. Package 12: Hiring and transportation services 13. Package 13.vegetable/meat and fruits items (hospital)	FY 2017-18	29th June 2017	31st July 2017	31st July 2017 10:00 AM	31st July 2017 Monday 11:00 AM

The quotation forms and documents to be downloaded from Dzongkhag website www.paro.gov.bt. For further clarification contact Procurement Office at **Ph# 08-272445** during office hours.

Principal

NRDCL

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NRDCL

INVITATION FOR LIMITED BIDDING

THIMPHU THROMDE

Building No.: 08, Gongdzin lam, Thimphu-11001: Bhutan

TT/ID/Taba-dech zone/2016-2017/2603

1. Thimphu Thromde invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works detailed in the table below:

Sl. #	Name of work	Cost of documents (Nu.)	Bid security (Nu.)	Project period	Sale of tender documents	Date of submission of bids	Contract or class	Estimated amount (M)
1	Construction of public toilet at Dechencholing	Nil	33900	Five months	30/06/2017	13/07/2017	Small (s)	Nu. 1.62

- A complete set of bidding documents can be downloaded from Thimphu city website (www.thimphucity.bt). Interested bidders may obtain further information from IT section or ADM section Thimphu Thromde.
- Bids must be delivered to ADM section , room no. 303, Thimphu Thromde on or before **10:00 am on July 6, 2017** respectively and will be opened on the same day at **10:30 am**, in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
- The bidders must visit the site prior to filling up the tender to avoid any inconveniences on the part of the bidders.
- Decision of the Thimphu Thromde Tender Committee shall be final & binding.

Executive Secretary

NRDCL

NRDCL

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE

MoF/HRD/VA/70/2016/1938

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Finance is pleased to announce the following vacancies:

Sl No	Agency/Dept/Division	Position Title	No of post	Minimum qualification
1	Accounting & Auditing Standards Board of Bhutan (AASBB)	Chief Accounts Officer (P1A)	1	Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Commerce/ Economics
2	Central Coordinating Agency (CCA)	Chief Internal Auditor(P1A)	1	

Interested in-service candidates under Finance Superstructure fulfilling the above criteria may apply for the position. Further, applicants are requested to note the followings:

- Selection would be done through open competition with promotion for applicants at position level P2 A with two years of active service and lateral transfer for applicants at position level P1 A.
- Application along with the following documents must be submitted to the HRD, MoF latest by 13th July 2017.
 - Curriculum Vitae (CSIS generated copy)
 - Valid Security Clearance
 - PE ratings of the last two years
 - Certificates of merits/achievements, if any
 - Academic/training certificates and transcripts

For further clarification, please contact the HRD, MoF at **333104/322268** during the office hours.

Chief HR Officer

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES Department of Revenue and Customs



ཕྱུ་འབྲུག་གི་དངུལ་ཁང་ཚོང་འཛིན།

BANK OF BHUTAN LIMITED

OPEN VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bank of Bhutan established in 1968 through a Royal Charter is the oldest and largest bank in the Kingdom with a presence in all Dzongkhags through a network of 29 branch offices and 18 extension counters. As the leading bank, Bank of Bhutan is committed to Diversity and Inclusion, which will enable the Bank to get the best out of the broadest spectrum of people to sustain strong business performance and competitive advantage. We would like to seek applications from highly motivated, result-oriented and dynamic professionals having positive attitude and zeal to work in a team for the following position:

Job Title	Grade	Slot	Qualification	Experience	Salary (Nu.)	Employment Type
Site Supervisor	A3	5	TTI Graduate (Electrical)	Minimum 1 year of experience	Nu. 21,399.00 (Basic+Contract+ Corporate+Project Allowances)	On Contract for 2 Years w.e.f August 2017
		1	TTI Graduate (Plumbing)			

All eligible candidates interested in applying for the above positions may submit application (filled in BoB job application form downloadable from www.bob.bt) to the Human Resource Division, BoB Corporate Office, Babesa, Thimphu latest by **July 14, 2017**. Please visit www.bob.bt for terms of reference and other requirements. The applicants shall be shortlisted based on the above stated criteria and other requirements as per the bob job application form and invited for Personal Interview as appropriate.

For further information, please contact Human Resource division at **02-334333**, IPT no. 0020 (Officiating Head HRD) or 0047 (HRD General).



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www.bob.bt, Dial contact center 1095 for queries

STOCK CLEARANCE OF TATA Spare Parts



STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF BHUTAN LTD.

STCBL is pleased to announce the sale of selected **TATA SPARE PARTS at 50% discounts!!**

The discount offer **w.e.f 1st July 2017 till 30th of August, 2017**

Limited stock!! Hurry up!!

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17358571/17563208 Or Call us at Toll Free No 194
(Phuentsholing, Head Office)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MINISTRY OF WORKS & HUMAN SETTLEMENT

Regional Office, Lobesa

DoR/ROL/Plg-15(A)/2016-2017/2003

The Regional Office, Department of Roads, Lobesa invites sealed bids from qualified Bhutanese medium contractors with valid trade licence, registered with Construction Development Board (CDB) for Improvement works along Wangdue-Wakleytar PNH.

(Package-I) (SH:- Construction of R/wall at various locations along Ch. 36.8-45.1km)

(Package-II) (SH:- Construction of RCC slab culvert and installation of crash barriers at Ch. 42 km)

(Package -III) (SH: Construction of R/wall at various locations along Ch.45.2- 48 km)

(Package-IV) (SH: Construction of R/wall at various locations along Ch. 48-49 km)

For details, please visit www.mowhs.gov.bt

Chief Engineer

BFF suspends Drukpol FC for two years

Nima

Drukpol FC will not play in the Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) competitions until 2020. The club was penalised after its players manhandled and disobeyed the referee during a match on June 29.

BFF Disciplinary Committee announced the decision yesterday.

During the 65th match of the Pepsi Thimphu League 2017 held at Changlimithang, Thimphu City FC and Drukpol FC were tied a goal each until the 54th minute when the City's defender Chencho found the net from a corner kick.

Drukpol FC players refused

to resume the match protesting against the referee's decision and claiming that it was a handball. Then players just sat down on the ground refusing to budge.

The situation worsened when the referee declared the match to be abandoned. The protest escalated and some Drukpol FC players turned to mishandle and abuse the officials on the pitch.

The BFF Disciplinary Committee after reviewing the report submitted by the referee and the match commissioner declared that the Drukpol FC players violated the rules.

As per the federation's competition rules, and competition regulations of the league 2017 all

matches played by Drukpol FC will be cancelled and considered null and void.

The club has to refund club grants and the coach salary provided for the league to the BFF. The refund would amount to Nu 0.32 million.

Drukpol FC player Tenzin Tshering is suspended for two matches and fined Nu 5,000 while his teammates Jampel Sherab, Tandin Tshering, and Kinzang Wangchuk were suspended for four matches and fined Nu 10,000 each. The players were found guilty of physical assault, violence, intimidation, and threats as per the BFF disciplinary code.

Drukpol FC coach Tshering

Chophel said that the goal scored was clearly a handball. He said that the committee would be aware of the rules for referees and the need to seek the advice of assistant referees regarding the incidents he has not seen.

"However, the team would be positive about the decisions made by the committee," Tshering Chophel said.

Competition officer Kinley Dorji said that the referee's decision in the game is final. "It cannot be recalled."

He said that the implementation of video-assisted decisions is a long way.

"We need to learn to respect the decisions made on the pitch,"

he said, adding that the decisions made by referees could be right or wrong.

Thimphu City FC manager said it was unfortunate that the game had to end that way in the presence of spectators.

He said that he did not expect such conduct from the Drukpol FC as they represent the law enforcers of the country in the league. Such conduct does not help to promote the sport in the country, said the manager.

Thimphu City, Transport United, and Thimphu FC are on the top of the league table while FC Tertons, Drukpol FC, and U-19 National team are in relegation zone.



MESSAGE FROM THE HON'BLE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CO-OPERATIVES



I am pleased to join the cooperative community around the world in general and the Bhutanese co-operators in particular in wishing all a Very Happy International Day of Cooperatives (IDC) on 1st July. I am delighted to learn that the theme for this year's International Day of Co-operatives, is inclusion with the slogan "co-operatives ensure no one is left behind". Inclusion is a theme that is heart and soul of the development ethos of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Cooperative enterprises provide livelihoods for millions of people across the globe. Regardless of race, gender, culture, social background or economic circumstance, through the cooperative model, each one can aspire to fulfill their dreams for better livelihood and better communities.

Though the cooperative movement in Bhutan is still at its infancy as compared to

Co-operatives ensure no one is left behind. the movement in some other countries, the cooperative model is very relevant in our setting, particularly in enhancing inclusivity of the poorest of the poor in the country. Though agriculture is a predominant economic sector and we have been farming since time immemorial, our farming community still faces innumerable challenges. The very mountainous topography means our average farm sizes are small and often isolated, mechanization is challenging, irrigation where required is expensive and the costs of transportation to bring in inputs and dispatch final produce to markets can be very expensive. When confronted with such impediments, working together in groups and co-operatives to accrue the benefits of economy of scale is an important development strategy.

This year, in keeping with the theme of inclusivity, the International Cooperatives Day, 2017 will be celebrated with the members of farmers group and cooperatives of Mongar Dzongkhag. The celebration will focus on creating greater awareness on the importance of the cooperatives in fulfilling their socio-economic aspirations.

I take this opportunity to wish all groups and co-operatives in Bhutan a very bright and successful future. For those co-operatives not doing too well, I urge the members not to despair and disintegrate but to seek the support of the government and attempt to turn your group into one that serves its purpose socially and economically.

Happy International Cooperative Day,

Tashi Delek.
Yeshey Dorji

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For further queries, please contact at: 00975-02-330139/ 00975-17959504/17878377/ 77678693 during office hours
Visit us: above 8 Eleven, 4th Floor, Thimphu

Attractive Schemes for booking in the month of July, 2017

Two in One Excavator

Electric Excavator

Mobile Walking Excavator

Sewerage Cleaning, recycling & industrial disposal

Dhaka to enjoy zero duty even after Brexit

The UK will continue to provide zero-duty benefit on import of goods from Bangladesh and 47 other least developed countries even after Brexit.

Bangladeshi businesspeople have hailed the decision of the UK, Bangladesh's third largest export destination after the US and Germany.

"We welcome the UK government's decision as it will have a positive impact on our export, the garment industry, the economy and employment," Siddiqur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, told The Daily Star.

"Since the Brexit last year, we were worried whether the British government would continue to provide us with the zero-duty privilege or not. We are now happy and hope our trade with the UK would increase further," he said.

Bangladesh's exports, especially garment items, to the UK began to slide after the Brexit vote, as the Britons have been facing inflationary pressure.

Garment items, which account for more than 80 percent of Bangladesh's total export to the UK, saw nearly 6 percent negative growth with export earnings falling to \$3.0 billion in the last 11 months of the outgoing fiscal year compared to that in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

In fiscal 2015-16, Bangladesh exported garment items worth \$3.52 billion to the UK.

Year-on-year growth of garment export to the UK hovered around 15 percent over the last few years. However, it is likely to see a negative growth in fiscal 2016-17.

The UK became a major export destination, as Bangladesh has been enjoying duty privilege under the EU's Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme and also because a large number of non-resident Bangladeshis live in the UK.

In the last 11 months of the outgoing fiscal year, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$3.26

billion to the UK compared to \$3.44 billion in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, according to data provided by the Export Promotion Bureau.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said Dhaka would have to watch whether Britain and the EU sign any bilateral free trade agreements with the countries competing with Bangladesh.

If the UK and the EU give the same benefit to those countries, Bangladesh would face tough competition despite having the trade privilege given to the LDCs, he added.

In a statement issued on June 24, the UK government said it would use Brexit to cement Britain's standing in the world and meet its commitment to the world's poorest by securing their existing duty-free access to UK markets and providing new opportunities to increase trade links.

"The commitment means that around 48 countries across the globe, from Bangladesh to Sierra Leone, Haiti and Ethiopia will continue to benefit from duty-free exports into the UK on all goods other than arms and ammunition, known as everything but arms," it read.

The UK government would also explore options to expand its relations with developing countries all of which currently benefit from a mixture of reduced or zero tariffs on the goods they export to the UK and to maintain the existing trade arrangements and avoid costly tariffs, it mentioned.

The UK continues to deliver enhanced support to these countries by helping them break the barriers to trade, supporting critical trade infrastructure like ports and roads, and building trade skills in those countries, so that they can better utilise the trade opportunities, it added.

In the statement, UK's International Trade Secretary Liam Fox said, "Our departure from the EU is an opportunity to step

up to our commitments to the rest of the world, not step away from them."

"Free and fair trade has been the greatest liberator of the world's poor, and today's announcement shows our commitment to helping developing countries grow their economies and reduce poverty through trade."

Behind the duty-free exports are countless stories of people in developing countries working hard to provide for themselves and their families by exporting everyday goods such as cocoa, bananas and roses, resulting in lower prices and greater choice for consumers, added Fox.

In the same statement, Inter-

national Development Secretary Priti Patel said the UK is using its position as a great, global trading nation to seize opportunities to lift countries out of grinding poverty. This will generate wealth, prosperity and investment needed to create millions of jobs and help the world's poorest people stand on their own feet.

"Around £20 billion a year of goods are shipped to the UK from these developing countries, accounting for around half of our clothing, a quarter of our coffee and other everyday goods such as cocoa, bananas and roses.

"Without these trading arrangements, clothing, for example, from some of the poorest countries could face tariffs of

over 10 percent -- which could be passed on to UK consumers through higher prices at the till," Patel said.

Access to the markets of developed countries also provides vital trade opportunities for the world's poorest people and creates jobs.

"For example, two million women work in Bangladesh's garment sector, which is a significant exporter of clothing to the UK. These opportunities help people to work their way out of poverty and build our trading partners of the future," added Patel.

**The Daily Star
ANN**



FLIGHTS

DRUKAIR

Date	Route	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival
July 02	Bangkok to Paro via Guwahati	KB 141	04:30 am	08:25 am
July 02	Paro to Bangkok via Kolkata	KB 120	04:05 pm	09:20 pm
July 02	Paro to Delhi	KB 204	09:25 am	11:10 am
July 02	Delhi to Paro	KB 205	12:15 pm	03:05 pm
July 02	Paro to Dhaka	KB 300	07:00 am	08:00 am
July 02	Dhaka to Paro	KB 301	09:00 am	10:00 am
July 02	Paro to Kathmandu	KB 400	11:55 am	12:40 pm
July 02	Kathmandu to Paro	KB 401	01:40 pm	02:55 pm
July 02	Singapore to Paro via Kolkata	KB 501	06:30 am	11:10 am
July 03	Bangkok to Paro via Kolkata	KB 121	04:30 am	08:10 am
July 03	Paro to Bangkok via Bagdogra	KB 130	04:05 pm	09:20 pm
July 03	Paro to Delhi	KB 204	09:25 am	11:10 am
July 03	Delhi to Paro	KB 205	12:15 pm	03:05 pm
July 03	Paro to Dhaka	KB 300	07:00 am	08:00 am
July 03	Dhaka to Paro	KB 301	09:00 am	10:00 am
July 03	Paro to Kathmandu	KB 400	07:15 am	08:20 am
July 03	Kathmandu to Paro	KB 401	09:00 am	10:35 am
July 03	Paro to Singapore via Kolkata	KB 500	07:30 am	04:10 pm

DOMESTIC

July 02	Paro to Bumthang	KB 1002	11:30 am	12:05 pm
July 02	Bumthang to Paro	KB 1003	12:25 am	01:00 pm
July 03	Paro to Bumthang	KB 1002	11:30 am	12:05 am
July 03	Bumthang to Paro	KB 1003	12:25 pm	01:00 pm

Note : All timings in local. Timings are subject to change. Call Drukair toll free No. 1300 for latest flight information.

BHUTAN AIRLINES (TASHI AIR)

July 02	Bangkok to Paro via Kolkata	B3701	06:30 am	09:55 am
July 02	Paro to Bangkok via Kolkata	B3700	10:35 am	04:05 pm
July 03	Bangkok to Paro via Kolkata	B3701	06:30 am	09:55 am
July 03	Paro to Bangkok via Kolkata	B3700	10:35 am	04:05 pm
July 03	Paro to Delhi	B3773	08:30 am	11:35 am
July 03	Delhi to Paro via Kathmandu	B3774	12:35 pm	04:15 pm

Note : All timings in local. Timings are subject to change. Call Bhutan Airlines toll free No. 1234 for latest flight information.

Water shortage: Slow death of rural communities

From Pg.1

Maybe the nature must be cursing us for some wrong we've done."

For miles, there is not a single water source.

Tshering, mother of eight, goes out with aluminum bowl whenever there is rain.

"If there is no rain there is no water," she said.

What would happen in winter when there is no rain?

According to the National Health Survey reports of 2012, 97.7 percent of the Bhutanese have access to piped drinking water. Here, though, water do not run through the taps.

The villagers have resorted to collecting rainwater in jerry cans, artificial ponds, sintexs and wells. This method does not look safe and healthy.

Talo Gup Dorji Wangchuk is worried about drying water sources.

"I think the extreme weather events could be one of the factors that contribute to drying of water sources," said Dorji Wangchuk. "If timely intervention is not taken, our livelihood could be in danger."

National issue

Drinking water shortage has hit many communities across the country. At Shumar gewog in Pemagatshel, close to a thousand people are sharing water from a few seasonal springs. Gamung and Gompung villages have no fixed water sources. The villagers collect water from temporary springs that hold water in summer when there is rain. The sources disappear in winter.

The dzongkhag administration of Pemagatshel recently initiated an interim measure to supply water. Twice every weekend, water tanker with the capacity of about 9,000 litres come to distribute water to the villagers.

The dzongkhag is studying the possibility of pumping in water from Changche Yejuk, a rivulet that runs below the villages. It is costly.

Shumar gup Sangay Chopel said that the springs and streams that once ran through the villages have dried. "In the recent memory, there's not a single day when people had enough water."

In Phangyul gewog in Wangdue too, people have been depending on a few litres of water every day.

Most of the time, the gewog officials through their own initiative pipe in water from a spring,



Tshering's water taps have dried long ago

which they said is also becoming smaller by the year.

One of the civil servants who works at the gewog centre said that every morning he goes out into the forest to answer nature's call.

"We need to save water for drinking and cleaning," he said.

For the people of the communities where there is acute water shortage, sanitation doesn't come first.

In Kengkhar in Mongar, drinking water shortage has severely affected about 2,212 people of 482 households.

According to a study done by Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conversation and Environment Research, springs such as Bartshang, Drupchhu, Nuputsho, Kumshingree and Demnangree have completely disappeared.

Climate change, in addition to increasing anthropogenic activities, could impact both quality and quantity of water because climate change in the region is occurring at higher elevation. Untimely rainfall, extreme heat, flooding, landslide and windstorm

have become common.

The report says that although Bhutan is endowed with abundant water, seasonal and local water scarcity for drinking and agriculture have been observed due to extreme weather events.

Though it's not easy to ascertain whether the disappearance of water sources is purely because of climate change, most of the villagers who depend on ground water, springs, streams, ponds and wells for drinking said that erratic rainfall could be one of the main factors leading to drying of water sources.

However, no studies have been done so far to understand to what extent the climate change has affected the water sources in the country.

Other possible factors

According to a rural water supply inventory 2014, about 13,732 rural households across the country are facing drinking water problem. With increasing population, infrastructure development and improved livelihood,

demand for water has increased by many folds.

Compared to rural areas, demand for water in urban centres is much higher.

One of the reasons the villagers do not have access to drinking water is because of the geography. Most of the settlements are on the slopes

and terrain where water runs below the settlement making it difficult for them to collect it.

If the government does not find alternative to solve the issue of drinking water shortage, it will be slow death of villages.



TOMORROW'S

Good day

- to perform daily rituals

Bad day

- to consecrate
- to perform *lhasung*
- to appoint to new post
- to start new business
- to marry
- to celebrate
- to roof house
- to shift house
- to venture on a long journey
- to sell land

A good day for rituals (*laza*) for those born in the dog year. Generally a good day (*sogza*) for those born in the sheep year.

JULY 03, MONDAY

Good day

- to make offerings
- to appoint to new post
- to learn astrology
- to start new business
- to marry
- to enter in a new house

Bad day

- to perform *luichoe*
- to roof house
- to hoist *lungdar*

A good day for rituals (*laza*) for those born in the snake and horse years.

Generally a good day (*sogza*) for those born in the rat and pig years.

A bad day (*shedza*) for those born in the monkey and rooster years.

WEATHER		JULY 01		SUNRISE : 5:09 am	
		2017		SUNSET : 7:00 pm	
Thimphu		Max	Min		
	Gasa	20	12		
	Trongsa	21	16		
	Bumthang	21	15		
	Trashigang	28	16		
	Sarpang	30	24		
	Phuentsholing	30	23		

Source: Meteorology Division, DHMS, MOEA | For any weather information: Call hotline 339673

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The Heart of a Healthy Family

* American Heart Association and International Dietary Guidelines for Indian Indians' Institute of Nutrition (IIN)
** For full details on the health benefits of blended oil, visit www.saffola.com
*** Saffola Tasty is a blend of 14 ultra 1.5 times more effective in reducing cholesterol
**** For full details on the health benefits of blended oil, visit www.saffola.com

A step towards preventing **corruption** rather than fighting against it



Social accountability programme in Zhemgang

Photo: BTI

Karma Cheki

“Everyone has noticed and has concerns about corruption in the country, but what we lack is a catalyst and we want to be that catalyst.”

Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index 2016 ranked Bhutan 27 out of 176 countries, meaning Bhutan is 27th least corrupt country of 176.

Howsoever clean a country, though, some form of corruption can and will exist. Bhutan as a young democracy cannot let any form of corruption eat into the society. In the words of His Majesty the King: “I will not be corrupt and I will not tolerate corruption in others.” This message sums up Bhutan’s efforts to remain free of corruption.

We have Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), a constitutional office with the mandate to eliminate corruption in the country by leading through example and mainstreaming anti-corruption measures in organisations. However, because ACC’s central role being to investigate and expose corruption to deter corrupt practices from taking root in the society, fighting corruption not solely the commission’s responsibility. As citizens, it is incumbent on every Bhutanese to resist the temptation to be corrupt and to rise together to cut root and branch of cor-

ruption in the country.

That’s why four individuals came together to start an organisation called Bhutan Transparency Initiative (BTI) in April 2013, to help society fight corruption by increasing transparency, integrity and accountability. In 2014, BTI was registered as a civil society organisation with Civil Society Authority.

BTI’s executive director, Pema Lhamo, said corruption exist everywhere and in many forms, even leaving a family member out of the decisions of a family is a form of corruption.

Although young, the CSO has achieved a lot in the past three years. The office as yet has four full-time employees. BTI strongly believes that fighting corruption is not only the government’s responsibility; it is everyone’s duty. It believes in partnership, collaboration and dialogue among organisations and individuals. BTI is helped by volunteers and volunteer groups to carry out their programmes.

BTI views complacency of people as the biggest challenge while fighting corruption. Recognising the need to create social accountability among citizens, the organisation trained more than 6,000 people how to apply social accountability mechanism at the local government. BTI also piloted feedback system in Zhemgang, Lhuentse, and PG. 4



Vision

A small country of GNH with citizens and governments free from the fear of corruption.

Our mission

Together against Corruption, Strengthening Demand and Participation from Society and the Public to promote:

Transparency

Accountability

Good governance in the country to contribute to the fight against corruption and the promotion of integrity.

Objectives

To diagnose corruption issues and use findings as reference to stimulate more informed debates and to formulate more projects on anti-corruptions;

To build and support partnership and coalition of civil society organizations to fight corruption more effectively

To engage citizens and the youth in promoting integrity more actively

To build governance foundations and operational structures and process for the establishment of TI National Chapter in Bhutan.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Muscle-vegetables relation

Hi Mr Bhutan,

How important is eating vegetable while building muscle?

A big guy at the gym told me that it is really not necessary.

-Tshering Pelden

Hi Tshering,

Listening to and imitating the "big guy" at the gym is the most common mistake most people make. Just because one is big or muscular doesn't mean he or she is qualified and experienced enough to guide and advice other people.

Everything in nature and in our life is interlinked. So is eating vegetable to build muscle.

Benefits of eating vegetables daily to build muscle

1. Maintains a healthy digestive system:

Vegetables are high in fibre which help clean out the digestive tracks while getting rid of toxins and food waste. If your digestive system is not functioning optimally, toxins

level will rise and the ability to absorb nutrients from food will decline, meaning you will not be able to recover and grow from your intense muscle building workouts, increase in toxins will weaken your immunity thereby increasing the likelihood of getting sick, get sick and your progress will stall and than hastily decline.

2. Source of Vitamin and minerals:

Vegetables provide Vit C, Vit A, Vit B, folic acid, magnesium, calcium, potassium. etc. which

will help improve your health, enhanced immunity, better muscle recovery and better muscle contraction.

3. Prevents over eating:

A meal that has vegetables in them will create more satiety and sustain and stabilise blood sugar levels. It creates volume in your stomach, preventing over eating hence preventing the dreaded fat gain.

Consuming vegetables is absolutely important not only to build muscle, but also for overall health and wellbeing.

Tip of the week:

"Eat two servings each of fruit and vegetables a day for an optimal digestive system and general wellbeing."



Tshering Dorji
(Health & Fitness Guru.
Three times Mr Bhutan)

For queries email at
jjwangchuk@gmail.com

Why we do what we do

Tashi Gomang

The Tashi Gomang (འགྲུ་ཤེས་སྐོ་མང་) is a miniature temple and a three dimensional portable shrine, which travelling priests carried around the country for people to see. Tashi Gomang, which literally means one with many auspicious doors, perhaps first referred to the third type of stūpa out of the eight stūpas associated with the life of the Buddha. The third stūpa commemorates the Buddha's teachings, which are presented as myriad auspicious doors leading to enlightenment. Many Tashi Gomang chorten structures and large temples built in the shape of Tashi Gomang such as the Gyantse Kubum are found across the Buddhist Himalayas.

The Tashi Gomang miniature shrines which are popular in Bhutan, however, are different from the general Tashi Gomang chortens. The miniature shrines known in Bhutan as Tashi Gomang are both special portable shrines and examples of outstanding engineering and architectural feat. The structures which are roughly 2-3 feet tall and 1.5 feet wide can contain as many as 108 compartments containing

miniature Buddha statues some of which also open using smart hydraulic pressure or lever. They are commissioned by holy saints and built by highly talented carpenter, silver smiths and sculptors. There are accounts of how Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the founder of Bhutan, commissioned one to be built by the famous carpenter Zowo Balingpa from Punakha, to be kept in Punakha dzong. The original may have been lost to the successive fires of Punakha and the Tashi Gomang which is preserved today is perhaps the one commissioned later by Zhabdrung Jigme Drakpa in the 19th century.

The culture of miniaturized portable shrines were known in many parts of the world and it is still alive in some countries. Contrary to some claims that Tashi Gomang is unique to Bhutan, there were practices of travelling monks carrying portable Tashi Gomang shrines in Tibet and other parts of the Buddhist Himalayas. Bhutan certainly had a vibrant tradition of making Tashi Gomang shrines and of religious bards carrying them from place to place to meet devotees. Most Bhutanese Tashi Gomang

shrines depicted the Zangdog Pelri (ཟངས་མདོག་དཔལ་རི་) or Copper Coloured Mountain, the realm of Padmasambhava. Some are said to be depictions of Sukhāvati (སུཀ་འཁོར་ཅན་), the realm of Amitabha, Potala (ཕོ་བོ་སྐུ་འཛིན་), the realm of Avalokiteśvara, and Abhirati (མཛིན་པ་ར་དགའ་བོ་), the realm of Vajrasattva or Akśobhya. However, the distinction is mainly one of the placement of images and figures than the actual architecture of the Tashi Gomang.

The popularity of the Tashi Gomang shrine in the past was perhaps due to the absence of proper temples in many remote parts of Bhutan. The portable temples were brought to the people for viewing so that people got an opportunity to show their devotion, and worship the shrine. Moreover, travelling religious bards who carried the shrine in a box and exhibited it were also exempted from labour tax and earned a decent living from the rounds they did with the Tashi Gomang. They would sing mantras in long melodious tunes interspersed with hymns and praises of the Buddhas while gradually unfolding the shrine. As the most common mantra they chant is the maṇi mantra

of Avalokiteśvara, they are also commonly known as maṇi (མ་ཤི་ཤི་) or the persons chanting maṇi.

The maṇis were either gomchen (སྐོ་མ་ཚེན་) priests or monks. Sometimes, the job was passed down through family line but one did not need much training to take up the role. They got help from the villagers as part of the labour tax to carry it from village to village. The maṇis often exhibited the Tashi Gomang during religious festivals when there are large gatherings. When they travel from village to village, they would base themselves in the house of the administrative coordinator and then blow a conch to herald their arrival. Families in the villages would flock to the house where the Tashi Gomang is exhibited for viewing and worship, and make offerings of grains, textiles and cash. The people made prayers and offerings for the welfare of the living or as a part of the funerary rite for the dead. The maṇis, dressed in red robes and ceremonial boots, would open the box and gradually reveal the many layers of shrines and images while singing the mantras, with left hand placed near the left ear as gesture of

singing moving hymns and the right one turning a prayer wheel.

The Tashi Gomang shrines were owned by important temples and family establishments. They are either taken by their members or hired to a maṇi to be taken on tours and a bulk of what the maṇis receive as an offering is brought as income for the temple. There is said to be some 30-40 Tashi Gomangs in Bhutan but the exact figure is unknown. From the dozens of maṇis, there are only a few surviving maṇis and the culture of both creating and exhibiting Tashi Gomang has nearly stopped.



(Dr) Karma Phuntsho is the President of the Loden Foundation, director of Shejun Agency for Bhutan's Cultural Documentation and author of The History of Bhutan



ADOPT A DOG!



Kuzu la,
I am just a very small puppy so I hope you will forgive my simple English and lack of literary skills. I am very young and new at the shelter that I did not know we could be featured in an adoption column if we were well-behaved and healthy dogs or cats.

I just arrived at Yusipang shelter a few days ago. I was rescued by a nice couple that called the shelter and asked if they could help. They picked me up from the side of the road where I was lying, dazed and confused. I honestly do not remember what happened to me. I just know that when I was picked up, I had blood in my mouth and was unable to stand and walk properly. Was I run over by a car and had a narrow escape? Nobody knows for sure - I have no wounds, not a scratch on me.

After a good night's sleep in my own private basket in a cool clean sheet, I look and feel perfectly happy and healthy like brand new! I can't say I am sad or anything to have lost my way and my mum to end up alone in a big street in a big city because I am too small to remember much. All and all, I feel I have been very lucky to find really caring people on my way to get me out of trouble.

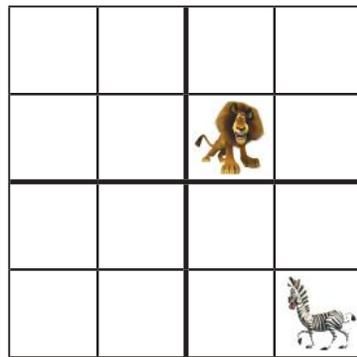
Still I hope my luck continues and I am able to join my own new family soon thanks to the K2 adoption column. My name is Adrian, like the person who rescued me, and I am very loving and playful. And I can be your best friend if you let me be. Just have some patience for my youth and some tenderness for my baby ways. After all, even if I already had a lot happened in my life, I am still a baby who need love and care. I hope to grow up to be the best of companion and the kindest friend. Come to the shelter or phone us and ask for Adrian!

For further information call **17603516** or email at dogadoptionbhutan@gmail.com

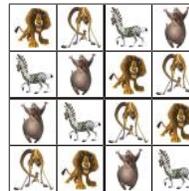
Maze



MADAGASCAR 38th



Answer



Sudoku

Colour me



Literary

Sonnet 32

If thou survive my well-contented day,
When that churl death my bones with dust shall cover
And shalt by fortune once more re-survey
These poor rude lines of thy deceased lover:
Compare them with the bett'ring of the time,
And though they be outstripped by every pen,
Reserve them for my love, not for their rhyme,
Exceeded by the height of happier men.
O then vouchsafe me but this loving thought,
'Had my friend's Muse grown with this growing age,
A dearer birth than this his love had brought
To march in ranks of better equipage:
But since he died and poets better prove,
Theirs for their style I'll read, his for his love.'

William Shakespeare

Birthday

On this beautiful day, we pray to god to bless you with all the joy, happiness and glory in the world. May you sail through all the obstacles and challenges that come in your way to success. We wish you a sensational birthday.

Love from APA, Mummy
TP and Nuchu Penor.



Zhungked

Tshogten

Banquet

Knowing more about Women and Children's rights in Bhutan from Yeshey Dawa



Hi, I am Yeshey Dawa, and you will learn more about Women and Children's rights in Bhutan, Every Saturday with Me!



RENEW Organisation
P.O.Box No. 1404, Phenday Oudpel Lam
Phenday Gatsel, Lower Motithang
Thimphu: Bhutan
Phone +975-2-332159 / 334751 Fax +975-2-332411

A step towards preventing **corruption** rather than fighting against it



YES Members visit Voluntary Action Network in Delhi, India

From K2 Pg.1

Paro, which showed that people are ready and willing to engage in governance.

BTI is working closely with ACC at national level and with Transparency International at the global level. The organisation acts as a complement to the only existing commission that fights corruption.

“To fight corruption,” Pema Lhamo said, “first we need to understand ourselves.”

To understand the status of corruption in the country so, the organisation has carried out research such as Bhutan Corruption Barometer Report, Youth Perception on Governance and Corruption, A background paper on Governance in Public Autonomous Institutions in Bhutan and Citizen’s Perceptions on Implementation of 11th Plan.

BTI initiated Youth Engagement and Support (YES) to involve youth in strengthening the country. Currently, there are more than 270 out-of-school youth volunteers and about 300 gradu-

ate volunteers. YES volunteers play a crucial role in creating awareness among the citizens.

Pema Lhamo said that corruption is the end result of accumulation of many things. BTI believes in making efforts toward positive outcomes rather than getting distracted by the challenges.

“Preventing corruption is more important than fighting corruption,” she said.

BTI as CSO look for the entry points to fight corruption and recommend to the government for implementation.

The transparency initiative plans to work towards creating a platform for accessible justice and to engage youth in decision-making process through the use of mobile apps.

BTI is a guide and a catalyst to fight corruption.

The executive director said: “Everyone has noticed and has concerns about corruption in the country, but what we lack is a catalyst and we want to be that catalyst.”

With support from HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD)

**CHECK OUT BoB's
NEW LOOK CHEQUE!**



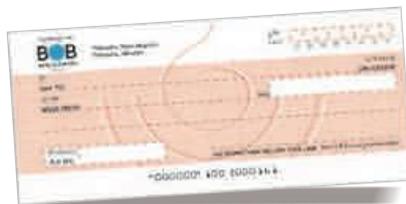
Joenpalekso!

BoB re-designs its Cheques

The fresh thinking and spirit of innovation at Bank of Bhutan, the country's oldest and largest bank, is now reflected in the new-look cheques. Designed with contemporary style and to be clutter free, the cheques have the new BoB logo, Norbu as watermark, boxes for Date and A/c No. for easy use & reference and ample space for filling in the details of "PAY TO" & "AMOUNT". Now, you will be as proud to give the cheques as to receive them.



Savings Account Cheque



Current Account Cheque



Overdraft Account Cheque

To know more, log on to www.bob.bt, visit your nearest BoB branch or dial our Toll Free Helpline No. 1095. Email: customer.care@bob.bt

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