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The sewer pipe under Norzin Lam in Thimphu burst open last week sending sewage spurting out on the road. Built in the early 1990s, Thimphu city's sewage lines are said to be bursting beyond their capacity. Only about 60 percent of the municipal area of the city is connected to the sewage system.

Draft electoral roll for 1,044 chiwogs released

SONAM PELDEN

Thimphu: The election commission of Bhutan (ECB) yesterday released the draft electoral roll (list of voters) of 1,044 chiwogs or gewog tshogde tshogpa demkhongs. The electoral roll for chiwogs under 205 gewogs and 16 dzongkhag thromdes will remain under public inspection and verification before the final one is issued.

Voters can cast their votes only if their names are reflected in the electoral roll. Therefore, it is important that the electoral roll is correct, up-to-date, inclusive and comprehensive, said the chief election commissioner, Dasho Kunzang

Wangdi.

A voter can not only correct any inaccurate details, but also object to any wrong entry in the electoral roll.

The draft list can be viewed in the gewog offices, dzongkhag electoral offices, the headquarters in Thimphu or on ECB's website.

Any claims or objections must be made in the respective dzongkhag electoral offices from March 10 to 20, 2011.

The election commission will publish the final electoral roll upon incorporation of claims and objections received on or before March 20, Dasho Kunzang Wangdi said. The voter's photo identity cards (VPIC)

for eligible voters will be distributed after the final electoral roll is out.

According to the civil registry as on January 1, there were 340,832 eligible voters in the chiwogs, but in the draft list, only 337,168 (177,531 women and 171,929 men) were reflected.

Samtse has the highest number of registered voters of 38,943 and Gasa has the least of 1,675.

For the upcoming elections, a number of voters - dead and religious personalities - have been cleared off the electoral list.

According to Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, the fi-

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ECB considers single-phase LG elections

SONAM PELDEN

Thimphu: The election commission of Bhutan (ECB) is seriously considering conducting all the local government elections in a single go.

The earlier decision was to conduct the election in four phases. Later, it was reduced to two.

After completing the delimitation work and draft electoral roll, they are now considering to conduct the elections in one day.

This will require a huge expenditure and human resource at a time, according to ECB.

The tentative budget allocated for the LG elections is Nu 300 million.

There will be 1,099 polling stations, each one of which will require a minimum of five people excluding the security personnel and extra helpers.

ECB has prepared a rough figure of reliable and trustworthy people to be deployed at the polling stations and constituencies which totals 5,744.

The chief election commissioner, Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, said that if ECB can acquire the required number of people, it will go ahead with the single-phase process. Otherwise, the elections will be conducted in two phases.

"Conducting the elec-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 >>

Two more arrests

TANDIN PEM

Thimphu police this week arrested two more people for breaching the Tobacco Control Act of Bhutan in a raid.

Police confiscated 19 packets and three pieces of cigarettes from a pan shop in the heart of the town belonging to a 30-year-old woman. Officials from Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency, the trade department and police carried out the raid after they received a phone complaint on Monday.

The woman revealed the source of the cigarettes which led to the arrest of

another pan shop owner, a 27-year-old woman. The police raided her shop but found nothing. So, they raided her house and confiscated 12 packets of chewing tobacco (baba) and three pieces of cigarettes.

The Tobacco Control Act of Bhutan states that any person selling tobacco products shall be punishable with misdemeanor if the source of supply is revealed. If the accused fails to disclose the source of supply, he or she shall be liable for the offence of smuggling in addition to the offence of misdemeanor.

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Editorial

Should the government hold itself accountable?

Lately, two issues have dominated discussions at all levels in Bhutan – the Supreme Court verdict and the first person to be sentenced under the tobacco control act. And understandably so. These issues are nationally important and historically significant.

With the Supreme Court upholding the High Court decision on Bhutan's first constitutional case, the government is on morally shaky ground. It stands in breach of the constitution. Its good intentions and deeds notwithstanding, it is guilty of violating the constitution. The first thing we expect the government to do is accept the verdict with humility. Then, perhaps, it should, as prime minister himself put it, think about moral legitimacy.

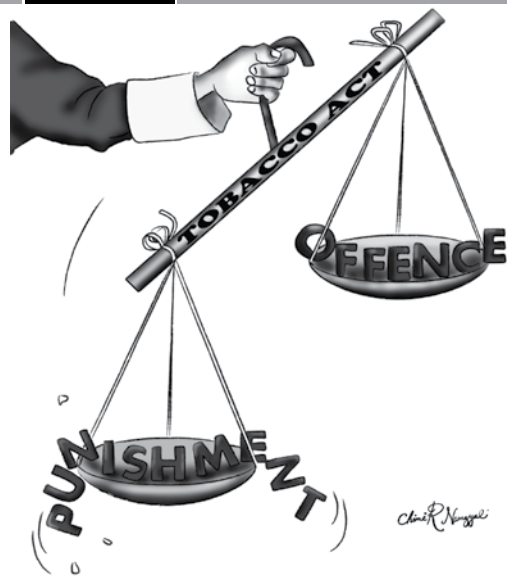
It is no use harping on how the constitution should be interpreted anymore. The guardian and final interpreter of the document has shown us clearly how it should be done. There is no need and time to talk around the issue. The government should get over with the 'shock' and move on in a matter-of-fact way.

Should the government hold itself accountable for violating the constitution? Yes, irrefutably. But how it wants to demonstrate accountability will depend on its sense of responsibility and its view on the court judgement. Some people say that holding the government accountable for its mistake will upset the democratic and political culture in the country that has come a long way on an even keel. It will prove expensive for the nation.

But that argument is rather short-sighted and blinkered. We are not categorically asking the government to step down, but to demonstrate some measure of accountability. As we nurture a vibrant democratic culture, it is crucial to set right precedents. Do we want to set a precedent for not holding the government accountable for breaching the constitution? We must weigh which will be more expensive for the nation in the long run – holding the present government accountable or setting a dangerous precedent for the future of our democracy. We are talking about accountability and right precedents not only in the context of the present government, but also in the long-term interest of democracy.

Monk Sonam Tshering has been sentenced to three years in prison for breaking the tobacco control act. And many more, who are in breach of the same act, are awaiting a similar fate. Now people are beginning to ask, if such a harsh punishment is meted out for breaking a law, what about breaking the mother of all laws?

IN SUMMARY



In summary, this is what the public outcry is all about...



GYEMBO NAMGYAL

Systemic flaws encourage vehicle import

In the 1990s, Pemagatshel town had only one rickety scooter and an equally rickety pick-up truck. Today, the small market with a small road devoid of any parking space is choked with cars and the numbers keep growing by the day. This is surely a sign of growing affluence. But certain policies are also fuelling the growth of car population not only in Pemagatshel but all over the country.

In Thimphu and Phuentsholing, the vehicle number has overwhelmed the existing infrastructures like road and parking space. In order to reduce traffic congestions, different measures have been put in place. But, the traffic congestion continues to be a growing problem.

On the one hand, we have the ever-growing affluence in our society which is fuelling insatiable consumerism. Owning a car is no longer a status symbol. It has become a necessity. On the other hand, we have a government that is desperately trying to find a way of reining in the burgeoning vehicle number.

The urban centres also face the dilemma of parking space because of poor implementation of construction laws which requires

houses and building owners to keep provisions for vehicle parking within the building premises.

We then have flaws in our policies which could have fuelled the growth of vehicle number in some way. For example, a civil servant in grade eight and above is entitled to mileage while on official duty. However, to be eligible for mileage claim, the official must produce documents to prove that he or she owns a car. This has become mandatory says some officials, otherwise, bus fare reimbursement is all he or she gets paid.

The disparity between an official who owns a car and one who does not is quite stark. That is why, even the most reluctant officials are pushed by the apparent flaw in the system to own a car to be eligible for financial benefits.

A teacher confided that the disparity has become evident while he and another friend, who owns a car, were called to attend an important workshop last winter in Thimphu which is about 500 kilometres from Pemagatshel. At the end of the workshop, his friend gets more than Nu 15,000 as mileage while he gets a paltry thousand or so as bus fare. The less payment he received may have been for not polluting the air and for not adding up to traffic con-

gestion, he said in a lighter mood. He said that he will have to buy a car soon to be eligible for mileage claim which can only be possible on production of car ownership documents.

If what the teacher claimed was true, we could have driven a few hundred people to buy cars much against their wish to avail themselves of financial benefits because of the system. The same teacher said that he will not buy a car if he is paid mileage as his entitlement by virtue of having climbed to the eligible grade. This would mean a little reduction in the air pollution and traffic congestion because every single car on the road contributes to pollution and traffic congestion.

It is time that we rectified these flaws in the system. If an official in grade eight is eligible for mileage as per the financial regulations, he deserves to be paid irrespective of whether he owns a car or not because the same government pays to eligible official porter and pony charges irrespective of whether porters and ponies are used. By not owning a car, isn't he helping our environment and easing traffic congestion?

The writer is a reporter of Bhutan Observer



Letters

Dangchu Lobdra's predicament

Sir,

It is regarding the recent predicament at Dangchu Monastic School.

Some of the monks have started leaving the school, while some wander away from school causing anxiety among parents and community people.

The monks state following reasons for leaving the school.

They are denied the customary Nu 500 for toiletries

and 50% of what they earn during religious ceremonies is withheld. They are also not happy with what they learn in the school and question the quality of teachers and their behaviour.

Since the establishment of the school, only a single monk is able to perform ritual properly. That too, the boy had learnt from his uncle, not from the institute.

Eleven monks have already left to pursue educa-

tion in other institutes. But they were denied certificates and NOCs because of which they could not secure admission.

The monks expressed their discontent and blame the principal for all the problems.

According to them, the principal's transfer would be the only option if any improvement is desired.

Yeshey Wangchuk, Thimphu



Ap Tsara
speaks...



Wai! The draconian tobacco control act initially seemed to have its way. Suddenly, there's a hiccup. Suddenly, smugglers are not ordinary folks. What a setback for the implementers of the law! What bad news for the lawmakers! Perhaps they thought that all culprits under the tobacco control act will be taxi drivers and simple monks.

The monk and taxi

It's hilariously sad that the draconian act, which came into force huffing and puffing, can be halted by people at officer's level. It is supposed to go all the way up to lawmakers themselves. The act seems to be ill-fated.

Even as the first victim goes to prison, there's a thriving black market. Apparently, hundreds of people are involved in it. Arrest them all if you can. Other-

IT'S SUDDENLY HALTED

driver were immediately arrested and detained for 'smuggling' tobacco products. The army officer and engineer are not. The police are talking about their jurisdiction and whatnot. And customs officials' mouths are effectively zipped. There's something fishy about the whole affair. It seems there's some leniency in the Paro's case because the tobacco came flying, and ordinary tobacco doesn't come flying.

wise, it's unfair to imprison a few for small quantities of tobacco.

Many countries, including Singapore, have effectively curbed tobacco abuse by taxing tobacco products heavily. But, in its wisdom, the GNH country has found a GNH friendly way of curbing it - by sentencing people to long jail sentences. Hmm. Is that what we mean by happiness?

Time to put GNH in perspective?

Pemagatshel initiative: A worthy one

Ever since the development works began in Bhutan in the early 1970s, the Royal Government has made every effort to reach the most remote chiwogs and gewogs of the nation to take the basic social services like schools and BHUs with the noble vision of making the lives of the people better and enabling the citizens of the country to fend for themselves and not live in poverty, as was the case then.

Even today, the government is pooling resources together from every source possible so as to provide our rural populace the benefits of development just like us the urban residents, in terms of access to services like road connectivity, electricity, water supply, schools, medical centres and now the mobile connectivity.

But after so much concerted efforts together with so much investment pumped in by the state, there are still significant number of people scattered all over the remote corners of the country that still do not have proper water supply service, electricity or the access to medical services.

For a small country like ours with a population of less than a million and the amount of resources we have received and spent over a period of more than three decades to carry out basic developmental activities, it comes as a disappointing fact that we have

still people living in abject poverty scattered over the rugged terrain of the country. This has been the case probably because of the rugged mountainous terrain without any means of access to the scattered sparse population which inflates the actual development cost in terms of transportation and overheads. Furthermore, the investments made for every development activity may not be justifiable from the economic point of view (cost-benefit ratio) but we have always lived by the GNH policy and this means the state will provide the people with every basic source of happiness possible with its limited means, and the material development remains secondary to the spiritual happiness.

In this context, the recent story in Bhutan Observer about the initiative taken by Pemagatshel Dzongkhag to relocate some of the most remote villages to a better place (I presume near the dzongkhag headquarters) comes as a fresh shot in the arm after years of efforts to take development to remote corners which have not been fully effective and successful.

I have a feeling that this may be one of the most fruitful decisions taken by our policy makers in recent times and will go a long way in accelerating the development process and, more importantly, in reducing poverty in the country.

Although we do not know what challenges and bottlenecks it may yield with time, this decision will surely facilitate the achievement of development objectives in 10 years' time which would have otherwise taken 20-25 years more.

I overheard some young mid-level civil servants engaged in casual discussions just two years ago along similar lines. Some of them were suggesting bringing our scattered population to areas where they can have better and immediate access to development benefits rather than government investing so much to take the development activities to the remote population, some of whom lead seminomadic lifestyle. Thank God, the casual discussions reached the right ears even if it means after a few years of heavy investments.

It is obvious to conclude that the Pemagatshel model will be replicated in other parts of the nation if it proves successful in terms of people's willingness to shift from their ancestral lands to a new settlement. But in economic terms, we can say that this will be more than "successful" because then, our investments in development will be concentrated on few settlements rather than the scattered population ranging from the high snow-capped Himalayas to the warm tropical southern foothills.

By Jigme Tshering



BO ONLINE COMMENTS

On 'Officials in Trashigang say no to tshogchhang'

Well done. But where is our culture? Isn't it a part of our tradition which we are trying to preserve for times to come as our national identity? The tshogchhang tradition is one of the basic traditions of Bhutanese and it will be worthwhile to keep it going.

Ara is produced and consumed in small quantities, mostly during occasions. But it is the factory produced alcohol that is taking the toll. If we could use a bit of our common sense to observe, it is the root cause of alcohol problems. Liquor and alcoholic beverages from industries are too concentrated and huge in quantity.

Till the time of death, I'll drink ara and keep alive the tradition.

By Jaytshen (online nickname)
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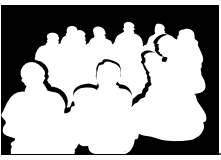
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Samdrupjongkhar farmers to form co-ops

STAFF REPORTER

Samdrupjongkhar: Hundreds of Samdrupjongkhar farmers are joining together to create organic farming cooperatives. The move emerges from two weeks of training just completed by three experts from the Organic Farming Association of India, who met with more than 600 farmers from all 11 Samdrupjongkhar gewogs.

The meetings, organized by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche's Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative (SJI), also included training in solar drying methods by the directors of India's Barli Development Institute. It is now intended to build solar driers at the Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic in Dewathang as part of a new Centre for Appropriate Technology that will be a knowledge base for the SJI.

The SJI, which is Bhutan's first major civil society-based development project, intends to make the dzongkhag a living model of GNH in action – raising living standards in harmony with nature and local culture, fostering self-reliance, strengthening communities, and stemming the rural-urban migration tide. Shifting to organic farming is one key objective of SJI.

On March 22, 22 Samdrupjongkhar farmer leaders – two from each gewog – will go to Dehradun, India, to study at the organic training farm of Dr Vandana Shiva, globally renowned scientist and ecologist and India's foremost pioneer of organic agriculture. The farmers will be accompanied by two Samdrupjongkhar agriculture extension officers, two representatives of Bhutan's National Organic Programme, and a SJI coordinator.

Dr Shiva's Navdanya organization has trained more than 500,000 Indian farmers in organic methods and created India's largest fair trade organic network. Dr Shiva, who will personally meet the Samdrupjongkhar farmers in Delhi and accom-



Ashish Gupta from Organic Farming Association of India dinging a compost pit with the farmers of Samdrupjongkhar

pany them by bus to Dehradun, will lead the March-April organic farm training for Samdrupjongkhar farmers with her highly trained staff.

Navdanya, the Barli Development Institute and the three OFAI trainers are all donating their time and expertise for free. Travel and other training-related costs are being contributed by Canada's International Development Research Centre, which will also fund the research and monitoring dimension of Samdrupjongkhar's transition to organic farming.

Dr Shiva has made a three-year commitment to assist Samdrupjongkhar and Bhutan in the transition to organic farming. On the way to Dehradun, Dr Shiva will also take the Samdrupjongkhar farmers to Punjab for two days to show them the impacts of the 'Green' (chemical) Revolution there in degrading soils, reducing productivity, and disintegrating the social structure. The Bhutanese farmers will engage in a dialogue with Punjabi villagers whose relatives have committed sui-

cide due to excessive farm debt.

GOING ORGANIC A GNH PATH

In a ringing endorsement of Samdrupjongkhar's shift to organic agriculture, Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley said, "Going organic is living GNH and is key to putting GNH fully into practice and action in this country. Going organic is truly a GNH path forward because it strengthens all four pillars of GNH."

Lyonchhen explained, "Going organic will enrich and keep our soils healthy and fertile in perpetuity rather than degrading and depleting them through use of synthetic chemicals. Going organic will protect our precious ground water and surface water from pollution and fertilizer run-off. It will protect our biodiversity and save our birds and animals from the deadly effects of chemical pollution.

"Going organic will create new economic opportunities for farmers and rural communities both by adding value to what they produce and by reducing the costs of farming, since they'll no longer

have to pay for expensive imported pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals," prime minister said. "The Indian demand for organic products is growing so fast that the market will never be satiated."

Lyonchhen also said that going organic will empower farmers by reducing their dependence on foreign farm inputs, chemicals, and imported patented seeds, and

renowned," he said.

"And maybe most importantly, going organic will strengthen our culture and rural communities," Lyonchhen added. "By creating good economic opportunities for our educated youth in rural areas, we can begin to stem the massive rural-urban migration that has created such serious demographic, economic, and social stresses. That in turn



Going organic is living GNH and is key to putting GNH fully into practice and action in this country.

Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley

by creating local seed sovereignty, and increasing reliance on local wisdom, traditional farming methods, and freely available local materials like manure, biomass, and leaf compost that fertilize and enrich the soil. "I don't see us just growing more organic food but developing our own organic fertilizers and pest control agents using natural materials based in the rich medicinal flora for which Bhutan is

will keep our rural communities – with their networks of social supports, vibrant extended families, and mutual dependence – strong and vital."

Lyonchhen vowed that Bhutan will be the first sovereign nation in the world to be fully, 100 percent organic in its food production, with the 'grown in Bhutan' label synonymous with 'organically grown.'



Road to remote Chhimung gewog begins

GYEMBO NAMGYAL

Pemagatshel: On March 5, around 200 people from the two gewogs of Yurung and remote Chhimung gathered at Burna to witness the ground breaking ceremony of the farm road construction to the two gewogs. The ceremony was attended by their MP, Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa.

For the people of Chhimung, it was an arduous three-hour walk from the gewog to the road take-off site, but according to an elderly man named Norzang, the walk on the morning of March 5 was, by far, the most memorable in villagers' lives. "I never felt so light-footed in my entire life because I was on my way to witness and take part in an event that is going to change the course of our lives forever, for good," he said.

"After decades of expectant wait, we are closer to realizing our dreams of a road to our village. And we are doubly blessed to have two different road connections," said Chhanglo, a farmer from Yurung Thungo.

"Road not only means opening up of better opportunities for the people, but



Khar-Yurung MP, Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa, inaugurating the road

it effectively enables reduction of hardship," said Paita, an industrious farmer from Yurung.

Speaking to the people, Health Minister Zangley Dukpa admitted that delivering a road to Chhimung was what had worried him the most. "Let my gewog Dungmin be the last one to get road, but I was worried about Chhimung," he said. "Today, this

is being realized to the joy of all of us."

With this, four of the five gewogs of Lyonpo Zangley's constituency gets road. None of the five gewogs of his Khar-Yurung constituency was connected by road at the beginning of the 10th plan.

"Now that the road is being constructed, I urge you to tell your people, who had left the village, to come back

and help build a vibrant society," Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa told the gathering. "Those peons and menial workers must come back to the village and participate in the development of farm economies."

Kiran Subedi, the dzongkhag agriculture officer, said that there is a good potential for agriculture business, especially in Chhimung. "Ginger, banana and other

tropical fruits can be grown commercially in the gewog," he said.

This would enable the gewog to reduce its poverty which currently stands at 27.8 percent, the highest in the dzongkhag. Yurung gewog, on the other hand, has the least poverty incidence in the dzongkhag at 16 percent.

The road will benefit about 379 households under Yurung and about 201 households of Chhimung Gewog.

The World Bank assisted Khar-Yurung feeder road is also expected to connect Yurung by June this year which will be beneficial for both the gewogs.

At present, Yurung is officially a day's journey from the dzongkhag headquarters while Chhimung is two days' walk.

The total length of the farm road is 42 kilometres – 12 kilometres from Burna to Yurung gewog centre and another 30 kilometres from Yurung to Chhimung gewog centre.

The work has been contracted out to a Construction firm, Pinewood Builders, at a cost of Nu 84.22 million with the contract period of 36 months.

Bhutan's first old age home starts in Radhi

TEMPA WANGDI

Trashigang; Radhi Gewog in Trashigang recently inaugurated a home for the elderly and destitute. Named Drinchen Gatshel, it is the first old age home in the country built by the government.

Supported by Trashigang Dzongkhag Chhoethuen Tshogpa, the district religious association, and Speaker Jigme Tshultrim's constituency development grant (CDG), the home is located near Ugyen Gatshel Lhakhang in Radhi so that the inmates can spend their

time praying.

The old age home was initiated by Trashigang Dzongda Lungten Dorji after his visit to Radhi Gewog last year. During his visit, he came across two elderly women, Abi Palden and Abi Sangay Lhamo, in Dukupooling village eking out a desperate livelihood in a makeshift hut. The dzongda immediately asked the gewog to look for a place to build a home for the two women.

After it was started, two more elderly people from the neighbouring villages joined the home.

Drinchen Gatshel has been electrified. It has four rooms with a kitchen each. Each inmate has been provided a rice cooker but it is not clear who will provide them food rations.

Recently, prime minister's wife, Aum Rinsy Dem, provided the four inmates of the home and an old couple living near the lhakhang a set of clothes each.

The Chhoethuen Tshogpa contributed Nu 200,000 for building the home. Nu 50,000 was used from CDG. Radhi Gup Samdrup said the home will go a long way in helping the elderly people

in the gewog live a peaceful life.

The four inmates said life at their new home is easier and more meaningful, now

that they have enough time to recite prayers. "Before, begging for a living was not only difficult but time-consuming," said Abi Palden.

TSGANGLAJONG

Tshanglajong is a village under Trong Gewog in Zhemgang Dzongkhag. It is 16 kilometres from Tingtibi. The village is once believed to be royal pasture land. Village elders say that, at one point in time, most women from the village married men from the east who are known to them as Tshangla. So, the village was named Tshanglajong (*Tshangla* - people from the east, *jong* - place)

WHAT IS IN A NAME?



Thimphu city's dreaded tramp

Jigme Wangchuk follows a former police clerk, who is now one of Thimphu's growing number of tramps

Straddling and wobbling rather than walking, he tries to find some support in the air while straining to gain footing on the ground, but he loses it all and falls flat on the hard pedestrian walkway, face down. Thud, bang and silence. A waft of dust flies up. But the man is breathing.

"You lesser mortals," he manages to gabble without even a slight stirring. "[Invectives] what do you think you can do?"

By the telltale marks of bruises all over his chapped-brown and sun-scorched skins, the only one who can do anything at all to him seems to be the man himself.

He sits up, dirt-smearred and awfully dazed, and continues murmuring incoherent histrionics at the random passersby, reeking of booze and oozing curses. His hair is a dreadful mess, thin-grey and falling with the prospect of ungainly denudation.

He never changes his clothes, a bluish Jai-Bangla trek and a tattered mathra gho, the folds of which are shining with grease and grime of dirty muck settled and mulched through the years. It doesn't bother him.

He is senseless all day to be bothered. He doesn't wash. He doesn't shower. He is a familiar sight in Thimphu, one of many tramps the city provides for, but a peculiar one.

A group of young boys pass by him and calls out to taunt, "Hey, you Java Man. Get off!" Swaying with quivering steps, he tries to get at them but gives up too soon. "Bugger off, you mannerless brutes!" he responds. "Don't you see I am reading future in the air?" The boys give a quizzical look, laugh and stride past. "Yeah, right!"

In a desultory vacillation like that of a bravely vanquished soldier, Naphey walks into the dusky obscurity with choleric mutterings, often in a com-



Naphey walks across the Clock Tower square

bative tone, more to himself than to anyone. A free-willing vagabond whose avowed intention is only to drink and to show sights more revolting than baleful glances.

He is a dreaded man in the city. "He doesn't care one

bit. The man is gone through and through. He is obscene inside out and abusive," said Tashi Wangchuk, a private employee with Itechnologies. "It is funny and amusing sometimes, but he can be gross at times."

Sonam Yangki, a busi-

ness woman, agrees. "It's so embarrassing to walk in the town with family. I am constantly worried he might show up anytime with his deplorable behavior." Women and girls speed away to avoid the man. People give him not so much as a look

of benignant pity, but duck away with utter abhorrence. A few look on and make fun of him.

In the bleak loneliness of a grudging man, Naphey from Sha Phangyul, Wangdue, sits in a bar opposite the Clock Tower, mumbling ceaselessly and throwing furious invectives at everyone who walks into the bar. A youngish fellow looks on from a table away. Naphey tries to sell a Titan wrist watch to the fellow. The fellow gives in Nu 150, tries it on his left wrist, and with an express look of satisfaction, walks out.

With that money, Naphey buys a shot of whiskey and swigs it up in a gulp.

Slouched and perspiring, Naphey comes out whizzing and breathless, more loud and abusive. A crowd of people look on from across the street. Naphey pulls his pants down dramatically and majestically and flaunts his manhood. A girl goes squealing with embarrassment and horror.

"That's abusive and criminal! It's embarrassing to have him in the town," says Sonam Tashi, a shopkeeper on the Clock Tower side of town.

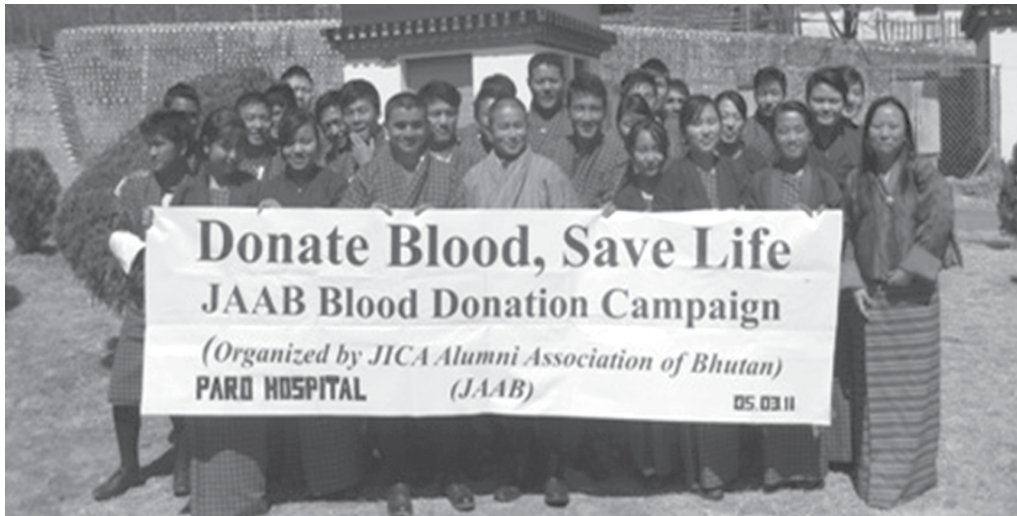
A tourist couple takes a photograph, amused and smiling. "A happy man indeed!"

Naphey was a clerk in the first batch of police personnel in 1965. He was fired because of excessive drinking. His friend, Dorji Wangchuk, a retired police constable, recalls that Naphey was an amiable person and an outstanding clerk with a commendable flair for language. Friends also recall him as a first-class astrologer, whose reliability and standing now no one believes.

"It is sad to see what excessive alcohol can do to a person," said Dorji Wangchuk. "I have never seen him sober in all these years."



JAAB blood donation campaign goes to Paro



PICTURE/Shari Higher Secondary School, Paro

LUNGTEN

Paro: More than 30 units of blood were collected in a three-hour blood donation campaign in Paro hospital last week.

JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) organized the campaign after they were informed that Paro hospital faces acute shortage of blood and often finds it difficult to look for donors.

The hospital management agreed to mobilize donors and give technical support.

Staff members and students of Shari Higher Secondary School joined the group. The donors said they would continue to donate blood in the spirit of volunteerism and selflessness.

Apart from refreshments, blood donors were given take-home nutrients.

JAAB has been conduct-

ing an annual blood donation campaigns at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu since 2000. This year, JAAB decided to go out of Thimphu for the first time.

Expressing its appreciation for the campaign, Paro hospital management said the blood collected from the campaign will greatly address the blood shortage at the hospital.

Confusion reigns among high school graduates

YASUDA THAPA

Thimphu: Class XII graduates in the country say that, once out of school, they find themselves confused and lost. Due to lack of adequate career education, they are at a loss to make the right choice of college or higher studies course. They say their confusion today could lead to a wrong career choice.

Graduates who are eligible for several professional courses say their choice of college or course is largely determined by their parents and friends. They are not sure if they are making the right choice suitable for their interest, aptitude and long-term career choice. "I wanted to take up civil engineering but one of my aunts told me it is not a suitable profession for girls. So, I am planning to study statistics," said Chimmi, a class XII graduate from Yangchenphu Higher Secondary School in Thimphu.

Rohit Adhikari, also a class XII graduate from Yangchenphu HSS, passed the Bhutan Higher Secondary Education Certificate Examination with more than 70 percent. He qualified for many courses. After making a few choices in confusion, he settled for civil engineering.

Rojna Sharma from the same school also faced the same dilemma in choosing the right course.

Most graduates, who do not qualify for professional courses but wish to continue their studies, say they choose a college depending on suggestions from their friends.

High school graduates say the confusion arises from lack of career education. The

once-in-a-week career education class in schools helps little to find a career direction, students say, adding that career education is not taken seriously in schools. "A proper career education lesson would have made me confident about the course I wanted to choose," said Sanjan Gurung, a commerce student, who is currently teaching in a primary school.

"The education ministry should organize career conferences and give us complete ideas on colleges and courses outside Bhutan," a student said. "They should recommend good colleges and courses for us."

Students said the yearly education fair is of little help to them. Most colleges, they say, come for business.

A class XII graduate from Thimphu said the government should help them choose the right courses in view of availability of jobs in the market. "We don't know where jobs are and what courses promise better job opportunities," she said.

According to an official from the Career Education and Counseling Division of the Ministry of Education, career education is clubbed with values education and health education. She said that this confused students further. And exactly. "We were taught about gross national happiness and international organizations in career education classes, not about career opportunities related to our streams," said a class XII graduate from Paro.

"It [career education] needs a whole lot of working, like allocating more time," said the education official. "Career education in schools must be upgraded."



The three-day 2nd annual Nomads' Festival in Nasiphel under Choekhor Gewog in Bumthang ended yesterday. The festival gave a platform for the nomads of the eight northern dzongkhags to showcase their culture and food, among others.



KNOW YOUR LAW

YOU CAN BE STOPPED, QUESTIONED AND FRISKED

Do you know that, upon a reasonable suspicion of involvement in a criminal offence, a police officer or an authorized person may stop, question and frisk you?

The Civil and Criminal Procedure Code of Bhutan says that a person moving about in a public place at odd hours and a person who cannot give a satisfactory account of himself or herself can be stopped, questioned and frisked.

Police can detain a person arrested without a warrant pending police investigation in accordance with the code.

Log on to www.bhutanobserver.bt
for latest news and updates



Reduce alcohol abuse, Lyonchhen urges local leaders



A man in Pemagatshel swigs ara straight from the palang

GYEMBO NAMGYAL

Pemagatshel: The closing remarks of prime minister during the 10th plan mid-term review meeting in Pemagatshel was that there is a serious need to reduce consumption of alcohol in the dzongkhag. He asked the dzongkhag and gewog leaders to do away with alcoholic consumption during tshechus, rimdos, funeral rites and other public gatherings.

"It is both sad and disgusting to see alcohol freely served and accepted in an atmosphere which requires immense dignity and propriety such as bereavement," Lyonchhen said. He urged local leaders to devise ways to deal with the growing menace of alcoholism.

"Yes, alcohol, which is deeply embedded in our society is a serious problem, and based on what Lyonchhen said during the meeting, the issue will be discussed in the forthcoming Dzongkhag Yargye Tshogdu (DYT) and a resolution will be adopted," said the DYT chairperson and Dungmin Gup Tashi Phuntsho.

"Given the kind of response generated during informal discussions in the gewogs, people are now more receptive to the idea of doing away with alcoholic servings in public gatherings. We will never be able to ban it completely in the confines of homes but we

would have made a good beginning if we are able to ban it in public gatherings and religious events."

This would also help in ensuring food security in the villages where substantial proportions of food grains are used for alcohol production. Tashi Phuntsho estimates that as much as 66 percent of grains produced in the villages is used for alcohol production. Alcohol-related disputes are a major issue at the gewog level.

Alcohol abuse is one of the major causes of non-communicable diseases in the country where 27 percent of all inpatient attendance and 58 percent of all inpatient mortality in the hospitals are alcohol-related. Apart from the home-brewed alcohol, there are more than 3,000 licensed bars in the country selling industrial alcohol. This translates into roughly one bar for every 250 citizens.

WHO estimates that about four percent of all deaths or around 2.5 million deaths worldwide are attributed to alcohol each year. Harmful use of alcohol is now the third leading risk factor for disease, according to Shekhar Saxena, WHO's director for non-communicable diseases.

According to National Statistics Bureau (NSB), alcohol liver disease was the second highest cause of in-

door hospital mortality with 90 deaths in 2008 in Bhutan. Last year alone, there were five deaths in Pemagatshel hospital from alcohol-related diseases. The hospital also treated 47 others suffering from alcohol-related diseases, a hospital source revealed.

Researchers say that Bhutan has perhaps one of the highest per capita alcohol consumption in the developing world. It is estimated that there are close to 10 bottles (7.5 litres) of alcohol available for every man, woman and child in Bhutan in a year.

A prevalence study in the country has shown that as much as 50 percent of the population drink. It is higher in the east with 58 percent and nearly 20 percent drink regularly with an average of five bottles (3.75 litres) a week. This constitutes a whopping 195 litres in a year. In Moldova, which is considered world's most bibulous country, on average, every person consumes 18 litres of alcohol in a year.

British researchers say that alcohol is more dangerous than drugs like heroin and crack cocaine damaging nearly all vital organ system when drunk in excess, and it is the leading cause of crime. Experts suggest that, despite the harm, it would be impractical and incorrect to outlaw alcohol. The only way to deal with alcohol is by taxing it heavily and targeting problem drinkers. A review of 112 studies found that when taxes go up, drinking goes down.

However, many people feel that since alcohol causes more harm than tobacco, there is a serious need to deal with alcohol issues. The problems do not lie with home-brewed alcoholic drinks alone. Factory-produced alcoholic drinks are rampantly available even in small shops in the villages which need to be curbed first.

Goods without English labels still sell



Noodles from Bangkok in Thai labels in Thimphu market

TANDIN PEM

Thimphu: More than a year after the food regulatory authority gave notification to the importers to clear their stocks without labels 'readable' to consumers, such goods are still prevalent in the market.

Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (Bafra) had said that shops were not allowed to sell goods with labels in languages not understandable to local consumers such as Thai and Chinese. Such goods, the authority said, would be seized and disposed of according to the provisions of the Food Act of Bhutan 2005.

Bafra had earlier said that it was compulsory for imported food items and local commercial products to have labels in English or Dzongkha. Most local products like eezay, zow and khabzay are labelled while products like cheese, butter and honey come without labels. With an increasing number of Bhutanese importing goods, especially consumables, from Thailand, many goods in the market today have only Thai labels.

"We keep on requesting our suppliers to send goods with English labels but sometimes just the name is in English and other in-

formation are in Thai," said the manager of Tashi Stores. He said that right after they were notified about the labels, they started clearing their stocks without English labels.

One year after the notification, Barfa has taken no action.

An official from Bafra said it is still monitoring products. He said shopkeepers have been asked to clear their earlier stock and import food products labelled in English.

A shopkeeper in Thimphu, who mostly deals in Thai food items, said she sells some goods without English labels. "I have relabelled the goods in English myself," she said.

The goods are relabelled but the most important information such as nutritional value content and expiry dates are not written, said a customer.

The manager of Tashi Stores, however, said that he has not received any complaint from customers so far. "Most customers buy goods which they are familiar with, so even if the labels are not in English, they know what they are eating," he said.

The Food Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2007 states that food should be labelled correctly so that the information on the label does not mislead the pur-



LOCAL

First national cross-country (XC) mountain bike race to begin soon



The bird's eye view of the 7.2 km mountain bike trail at Kabesa

KARMA PALDEN

Thimphu: Wheels for Hills, a bicycle shop in Thimphu, in collaboration with Bhutan Olympic Committee will organise the first ever National Cross-country (XC) Mountain Bike Race with the theme 'Environmental Friendly and Healthy Alternative'.

The race will start at 9 am from Kabesa village, Dechencholing, Thimphu, on March 20.

The event will strive to

promote cycling in the country and also serve as the preparatory point to realization of Thimphu into a bicycle city. It will also look into selecting potential bike riders, who will be trained to represent the country at the international level.

The three laps each of 7.2 km race has four categories; Junior (17-18 years), U-23 (19-22 years), Elite (23-47 years) and Masters (48 years plus) in both male and female category.

The race is based on standards set by the International Cycling Union (UCI). The trail is made up of up climb, downhill, marshy area, jeep track, single track and rock garden stretch according to the required UCI standards.

The race is also equipped with trained, professional chief commissar with a long experience in Europe and about 40 trained marshals who will be stationed at various stages of the trail during the race.

"This race is first of its kind. Participation in the making of history is more important than winning. We have received positive response from many riders and we expect more participants in the coming days," said Sonam Tshering, one of the organizers.

Sonam said that it is a well-made track after the weeklong effort to clear off obstacles and mending the risky trails put in by the organizing team.

Sonam and his group, along with interested participants, gather at 6:30 am each morning at Wheels for Hills, Olakha, for the practice.

"We are willing to take any interested group on test ride at any time of the day," said Sonam.

Attractive prizes and certificates will be awarded to the winners and participants. The registration fee is Nu 500 a person. Registration forms are available at Wheels for Hills, Olakha.

Bhutan ready for the qualifying match of the AFC Challenge Cup

KARMA PALDEN

Thimphu: Bhutan is ready to take on Afghanistan in the qualifying round to reserve a place in the group stage of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Challenge Cup.

The tournament remains a preferred event, boasting Bhutan's best performance till date where they were denied a place in the final by India in extra-time after they remained tied 1-1 in the regular 90 minutes in 2008.

The national squad has been undergoing a single-session training of three hours daily for the last three months.

Eighteen national players along with six techni-



National football squad training at Changjiji football ground

cal staff will leave for Nepal on March 15. The national team will play two exposure matches in Nepal with an aim to instill confidence, raise competitiveness spirit in players and get them adapted to the foreign play-

ing conditions.

The team will then head to Delhi on March 21 to face Afghanistan on March 23 and 25. Both home and away matches will be hosted at Gurgoan football stadium as decided by the AFC due

to absence of standard stadium in Bhutan and security issue in Afghanistan.

"We have a strong squad with a good blend of experience in senior players and youth. We are more than ready. We have good record

against Afghanistan. We are hoping to beat them again," said Chench Dorji, the team manager.

If qualified, Bhutan will be grouped with DPR Korea, Nepal, Laos and Sri-Lanka.

**DANGCHU GEOG ADMINISTRATION
WANGDUE PHODRANG**

Ref. no. Tsa-4/2010-2011/575

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dangchu Geog Administration, Wangdue invites sealed item rate tender/bids from the eligible contractors for the below mentioned work:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Class	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender	Tender Sale	Tender Submission	Tender Opening	Duration
1	Construction of 6 mtr. span RCC Bridge at Dangchu geog	D	2 % of quoted amount	Nu. 500/-	17/02/2011 to 17/03/2011	17/03/2011 2 :00 PM	17/03/2011 2:30 PM	5 months

Tender documents containing detail terms & conditions will be available for sale with effect from the date & time specified above from the Dzongkhag Revenue Section during office hour upon payment of non-refundable fee mentioned against each. Bid security /earnest money must be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Cash Warrant/Bank Guarantee drawn in favor of Gup/Chairman, Dangchu Geog Administration, and Wangdue. The Tender will be opened in the Geog Office in presence of the intending bidders or bidders' representatives on the date & time mentioned above. The bids unaccompanied by earnest money/less earnest money or not conforming to the instruction to Bidders shall be liable for rejection without any explanation. Further, bidders are required to submit a copy of valid Trade License/CDB Certificate/Tax Clearance Certificate.

Gup
Dangchu Geog

**PUNATSANGCHHU-I HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AUTHORITY
THIMPHU : BHUTAN**

PHP/Per (16)/2011/598

VACANCY

Applications are invited on behalf of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority (PHPA) from eligible Bhutanese Nationals fulfilling the requisite qualification and experience criteria for appointment to the following post on contract employment for 3 years in the first instance in the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority (PHPA).

- Sr. Administrative Officer** (PHPA Gr.-C) in the pay scale of **Nu.19,520-490-31,770/-** plus allowances as admissible under PHPA Service Rules with qualification/experience- B.A/B.Com, with a minimum of 12 years of experience in Administration & Public Relations and with good command of written/spoken English, Dzongkha and knowledge of Driglam Namshag & Chadrig.

Interested Bhutanese Nationals meeting the above mentioned criteria only may apply to the **Sr. Personnel Officer, Personnel Wing, Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority, Thimphu** on or before **31st March 2011** with the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of Academic Testimonials
- Copy of Citizenship Identity Card
- Valid Security Clearance Certificate from Royal Bhutan Police, HQ, Thimphu
- Medical Fitness Certificate
- No objection Certificate from the present employer (for in service candidates only)
- Other relevant certificates, if any

Sr. Personnel Officer

STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF BHUTAN LTD.

STCB/HRO-HRAD/2011/1141

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

STCB Ltd. is pleased to announce the following vacancy:

Sl. No.	Post	Slots	Criteria	Remarks	Place/ Posting
1	Human Resource Development Officer	1	BA-ENG Hons.	Minimum 5 years of experience	Head Quarter; Phuentsholing

Interested candidates (**only those who fulfill the above set criteria**) can submit the application in the Regional Office (Thimphu) and Head Office (Phuentsholing) along with the following documents on or before **March 25, 2011**:

- Resume
- Academic Transcripts
- Citizenship Identity Card
- Security Clearance from RBP
- Relevant Certificates
- No Objection Certificate if employed.

For further enquiries, please contact the HRO at **05-252514** STCB Ltd. Head Office (Phuentsholing).

Human Resource Officer



NOTIFICATION



ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic elections & Referendums)

ECB/NOTIF/-1/2011/1607

Issuance of the Draft Electoral Roll of the Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs (Chiwogs) of the 205 Gewogs and 16 Dzongkhag Thromdes for Public Inspection and Filing of Claims and Objections

The Election Commission of Bhutan is pleased to notify the public that the Draft Electoral Roll for the **Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs (Chiwogs)** of the **205 Gewogs and 16 Dzongkhag Thromdes** is hereby being issued for public inspection and filing of **claims** and **objections**.

The Draft Electoral Roll can be viewed in the respective Gewog Office, Dzongkhag Electoral Office or the Election Commission's Head Office in Chang Olakha or **at the Election Commission's website** www.election-bhutan.org.bt/E-Roll.php

All eligible voters are invited to verify and ensure that they are included in the Electoral Roll and all details correctly reflected in it.

A Claim (i.e. corrections against wrongful or non-entry of one's information in the Electoral Roll) and/or an Objection (i.e. objecting to someone who has been wrongfully included in the Electoral Roll) to the entries in the Electoral Roll, if any, must be reported to the respective Dzongkhag Electoral Office from **10th to 20th March 2011**.

The Forms required for submission of Claims and/or Objections are available from the Election Commission Head Office, Dzongkhag Electoral Offices and the Election Commission website www.election-bhutan.org.bt/E-Roll.php

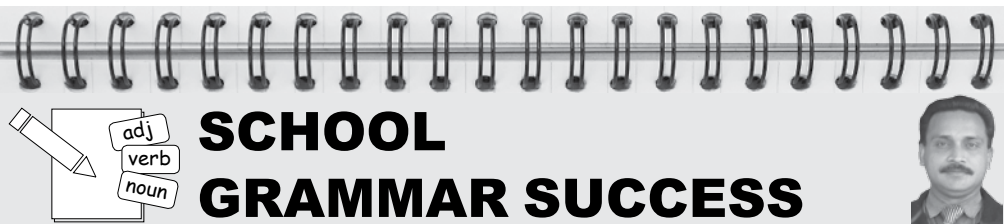
For further information please contact:

Sonam Tobgyal,
Chief Electoral Registration Officer,
Mobile Phone No: 17672062
Or Fax at: 02334763

By Order
Kunzang Wangdi

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

Sale: Dry land at Shaba, Paro accessible to farm road. Contact 17633831.



SCHOOL GRAMMAR SUCCESS



BY KC JOSE

Practices in various language components in different contexts makes 'grammar in context' exercises.

Read aloud the passage below. Slow down at the parts underlined and read them again and again:

Katherine Paterson's Bridge to Terabithia is a good story of two pre-teens. The 11-year old boy, Jess finds great warmth and support in the company of his school mate, a girl, Leslie. Both of them, undaunted by the teasing on their cross-gender alliance, find their own fantasy world in the woods, named Terabithia.

Here are two 'Nobody's, unbothered by the 'Somebody's in the school. The pair of 'Nobody's is happy in each other's company like the pair in Emily Dickinson's poem, I'm Nobody. In this world of 'Somebody's, Dickinson and her friend love to be secluded; they hate to be public. To be public is like the frog in the bog. The frog has to croak on its name to the fickle fans around - 'the admiring bog'. After all, public opinions change fast like the unreliable marsh. The 'Somebody's in the limelight often long for privacy. In that sense, being a 'Nobody' is better though that means being different or exceptional. The world at large may not like it; it may dismiss the 'Nobody's.

A person of Dickinson's make-up, who lives a recluse life-long, would naturally feel it "dreary" to be public. However, companionship - at least to be a pair - is a basic need.

Let's examine the language/grammar in use.

1. Katherine Paterson's Bridge to Terabithia; Emily Dickinson's poem, I'm Nobody... (Notice that titles of poems or novels are underlined or italicized or are put in quote marks. The recent trends in avoiding these punctuation marks - oversimplifications - should be discouraged. For example, I like (Hamlet/ Hamlet); the prince is a wonderful creation. In the absence of the second sentence, the reader will be confused.
2. Bridge to Terabithia is a good story of two pre-teens. (Notice the use of articles and zero articles in the text - 'story' is a countable singular; hence 'a story'; 'warmth' is an abstract noun - like 'privacy' later - and so zero article and so on...) **Qn.** He is ... (an/zero article) uncle of mine with ... (a/zero article) great wisdom.
3. Both of them, undaunted by the teasing on their cross-gender alliance, find their own fantasy world. (Take note that here and elsewhere in the text [unbothered by...], you find phrases or clauses inserted between two commas or dashes - *in parenthesis*. The parts in parenthesis are avoidable, meaning you can read straight, skipping it. **Qn.** The hare and the tortoise had been friends for long. Once they agreed for a running race. (**Combine** the sentences, using a phrase in parenthesis)
4. To be public is like the frog in the bog. (Like this, we can have an infinitive starting. *To be honest can be rewarding.*) **Qn.** It is awkward to imitate the native speakers. (**Start:** To...)
5. After all,... (This is commonly used to mean something like: *in spite of whatever it is...*).
Being a 'Nobody' is better than being a 'Somebody'. **Qn.** (Use 'good')
6. The world at large may not like it; it may dismiss the 'Nobody's. (**Combine** the sentences, using a phrase in parenthesis)

Answers

1. Hamlet
2. an; zero article
3. The hare and the tortoise, having been friends for long, agreed for a running race.
4. To imitate the native speakers is awkward.
5. Being a 'Somebody' is not as good as being a 'Nobody'.
6. The world, not liking it, may dismiss the 'Nobody's.

Grammar curiosity: Correct: Both their son-in-laws came to visit them.

Poem

Lovely Spring

Spring has come
In a wonderful way
Variety of flowers
Have grown in a colourful way.
Bird in the sky
Have started singing
In a melodious way.
Bees in the hive
Have started making honey
In a delicious way.
Insects on the ground
Have started collecting food
In a lovely way.
Oh! Spring you have
Finally arrived
And has made life
On earth more comfortable.

By Dipshika Gurung
Class IX

Shari Higher Secondary School
Paro

THE SECRET OF THE DOG

Art: Kinley Jamtsho. Script: Tsheten Yangzom



Days passed into weeks and weeks into months and so on. Now ...



near by there was a temple. Once a year, all the people stopped working, put on their best clothes, and went to the village festival.



What about you?

Today is our annual festival. So, princess put on your best clothes and go. I will stay at home.

4

Look at the atsara

So, the princess went to the festival.

To be continued

DHI INFRA LTD.

Ref: DHI Infra/HR/2011/267

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DHI INFRA Ltd., a subsidiary company under the Druk Holding & Investments (DHI), has been mandated by the Royal Government of Bhutan to undertake major infrastructure projects such as Education City Project, Amochhu Land Reclamation Project and development of Special Economic Zones.

We are conducting continuous recruitment campaign and seeking to attract the finest talents available in Bhutan with the highest standards of integrity.

Sl. No.	Post	Qualification	Salary
1	General Manager (Corporate Services) - 1 slot	Post-graduate degree (MBA in HR or associated field) with a minimum 10 years experience	Nu.65,000 (Gross and negotiable)
2	Chief Finance Officer - 1 slot	Post-graduate degree (Preferably MBA) in Finance/Accounts or CA/CPA a with a minimum 10 years experience.	Nu.65,000 (Gross and negotiable)
3	General Counsel/ Company Secretary - 1 slot	Law degree (LLB with PGD in National Law) with a minimum of 10 years experience.	Nu.65,000 (Gross and negotiable)
4	Dy. Manager (ICT) - 1 slot	Minimum of bachelors degree in IT with 2 years experience	Nu.25,000 (Gross and non-negotiable)
5	Assistant Manager - 5 slots	Bachelor degree in Commerce/BBM/BBA or related field	Nu.20,000 (Gross and non-negotiable)
6	Assistant Engineer/Architect - 1 slot	Bachelor degree in Engineering (CIVIL) / Architecture	Nu.25,000 (Gross and non-negotiable)
7	Care taker-1 slot	Completion of primary school (preference will be given to people with experience)	Nu.7,500 (Gross and non-negotiable)

For further information please visit DHI website (www.dhi.bt) or contact Kritika Neopaney (kritikaneopaney@dhi.bt)

Head, HRA

Druk Holding and Investments



PRESS RELEASE



ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)

ECB/CEC/PR/2011/1608

Release of the Draft Electoral Roll of the Chiwogs of the 205 Gewogs and 16 Dzongkhag Thromdes for Claims and Objections

The Election Commission of Bhutan is pleased to release vide Notification No. ECB/NOTIF-01/2011/1607 dated 10th March 2011, the Draft Electoral Roll of the *Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs (Chiwogs)* of the 205 *Gewogs* and 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes*.

The Election Laws require the Draft Electoral Roll to be published for public inspection and verification by the voters before the issue of the Final Electoral Roll for any election.

A voter will be able to cast his or her vote only if his or her name is included in the Electoral Roll. Therefore it is important that the Electoral Roll is correct, up-to-date, inclusive and comprehensive and lists all eligible and registered voters with their correct details and photographs.

The Election Commission would like to urge every eligible voter to inspect the Draft Electoral Roll and ensure that your name is included and details are correctly reflected. Further, a voter may not only correct any inaccurate details but he/she also has the right to object to any wrongful entry of somebody else in the Electoral Roll. The Draft Electoral Roll can be viewed in your respective *Gewog Office*, *Dzongkhag Electoral Office* or the Election Commission's Head Office in Chang Olakha or on the Election Commission's website www.election-bhutan.orh.bt/E-Roll.php

Any **Claims** or **Objections** must be made to your respective *Dzongkhag Electoral Offices* from **10th to 20th March 2011** in the prescribed Form which is available at the Election Commission Head Office; *Dzongkhag Electoral Offices* and the Election Commission website.

The Election Commission will publish the Final Electoral Roll upon due consideration and necessary incorporation of the **Claims** and **Objections** received on or before **20th March 2011**, the last date for making any Claim or Objection.

The Voter Photo Identity Cards (VPIC) for all eligible voters of the 205 *Gewogs* and 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* shall be printed in the Election Commission Head Office and distributed thereafter to the voters.

Any voter of the Four Dzongkhag Thromdes of Chhukha, Sarpang, Samdrup Jongkhar and Thimphu who has not yet collected his/her VPIC can do so and participate for the Tshogpa elections in the vacant Demkhongs namely Rabdeyling in Gelegphu, Pekarzhing and Rinchhending in Phuentsholing, Changangkha and Motithang in Thimphu.

We would like to call upon all Bhutanese voters to participate in this electoral process and ensure that you are in a position to exercise your franchise in the upcoming Local Government Elections.

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan



SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

[A Central University established by an Act of Parliament of India, 2007]

SU/2010/Exam-04/Admn-06/ACA Session 2011-12/1103

Dated: 25 February 2011

ADMISSION NOTICE

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY, a Central University, established by an Act of Parliament of India under the SIKKIM UNIVERSITY Act 2006 (10 of 2007) and came into existence on 2 July 2007. SIKKIM UNIVERSITY, is being designed in such a way so as to make it known for academic excellence and innovative interdisciplinary research; its all inclusive institutional character and a strong instrument of regional development and cross-border integration. The University expects to attract students and faculty members from both within India and abroad particularly from the immediate neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand. The University is in the process to bring in the best practices of academic programmes, teaching methods and curriculum designing both from within and outside India.

◆ Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the entrance examination in the following courses for the Academic Session 2011-12:

- BA- MA in Chinese Language, [Integrated 10 semesters programme], Department of Asian Languages, School of Linguistics and Languages.
- BSc- MSc in Psychology, [Integrated 10 semesters Programme], Department of Psychology Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- BA-LLB-LLM in Law and Legal Jurisprudence Studies, [Integrated 14 semesters Programme], Department of Law and Legal Jurisprudence Studies, School of Law and Governance.
- BSc- MSc in Floriculture and Horticulture Management, [Integrated 12 semesters Programme], Department of Floriculture and Horticulture Management, School of Sustainable Development and Livelihood Management.
- BSc-MSc in Earth Sciences, [Integrated 10 semesters Programme], Department of Earth Sciences, School of Environmental Sciences.
- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)- Master of Business Administration (MBA), [Integrated 10 semesters Programme], Department of Management and Commerce, School of Management and Commerce.
- Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA)- Master of Computer Applications (MCA), [Integrated 12 semesters Programme], Department of Computer Sciences and Applications, School of Computer Sciences.
- B. Music and M. Music [Integrated 10 semesters Programme], Department of Music, School of Indigenous and Folk Studies.
- MA in Nepali Language and Literature, Department of Nepali Language and Literature, School of Linguistics and Languages.
- MSc in Physical Sciences (Physics), Department of Physical Sciences, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences.
- MSc in Chemical Sciences (Chemistry), Department of Chemical Sciences, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences.
- MSc in Microbiology, Department of Microbiology, School of Life Sciences.
- MA in International Relations/Politics, Department of International Relations/Politics, School of Global Studies.
- MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, School of Peace, Conflict and Human Security Studies.
- MA in Sociology, Department of Social Systems and Anthropology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- MA in Mass Communication, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, School of Media, Communication and Information Sciences.
- MSc in Geography and Natural Resources Management, Department of Geography and Natural Resources Management, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- M Sc in Economics, Department of Economic Studies and Planning, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- MSc in Ethno Botany and Social Medicine Studies, Department of Ethno Botany and Social Medicine Studies, School of Indigenous and Folk Studies.
- M Phil/PhD in International Relations/Politics, Department of International Relations/ Politics, School of Global Studies.
- M Phil/PhD in Sociology, Department of Social Systems and Anthropology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- M Phil/PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, School of Peace, Conflict and Human Security Studies.
- M.Phil/PhD in Microbiology, Department of Microbiology, School of Life Sciences.
- M Phil/PhD in Physical Sciences, Department of Physical Sciences, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences.

Examination Centres :

In India : (1) Agartala; (2) Ahmedabad; (3) Aizawl; (4) Allahabad; (5) Bangalore; (6) Bhubaneswar; (7) Chennai; (8) Cochin; (9) Darjeeling (10) Dehradun; (11) Gangtok (12) Guwahati; (13) Hyderabad; (14) Imphal; (15) Itanagar; (16) Jammu; (17) Kalimpong (18) Kohima; (19) Kolkata; (20) Lucknow; (21) Namchi [Sikkim] (22) New Delhi; (23) Patna; (24) Pune; (25) Ranchi; (26) Shillong; (27) Siliguri; (28) Srinagar [J&K]; (29) Vishakhapatnam.

In Neighbouring Countries :

(1) Colombo [Sri Lanka] (2) Dhaka [Bangladesh] (3) Kathmandu [Nepal]; (4) Thimphu [Bhutan] (5) Yangon [Myanmar].

- ◆ Candidates can apply for more than one subject in separate application forms provided they are eligible.
- ◆ Last date for the submission of the forms: 31st March 2011
- ◆ Seats Reserved for- SC - 15%; ST - 7.5%; OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)- 27%; DA - 3%
- ◆ Any candidate who is appearing or going to appear the final year qualifying examinations can also apply.
- ◆ Examination Schedules:

Saturday, 7th May 2011 (10 AM to 1 PM)	Saturday, 7th May 2011 (2 PM to 5 PM)	Sunday, 8th May 2011 (10 AM to 1 PM)	Sunday, 8th May 2011 (2 PM to 5 PM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BA- MA in Chinese Language ● B. Music and M. Music ● MA in Sociology ● MSc in Microbiology ● MA in Nepali Language and Literature ● MPhil / PhD in Microbiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BA-LLB-LLM in Law and Legal Jurisprudence Studies ● BSc-MSc in Earth Sciences ● MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and Management ● MSc in Chemical Sciences (Chemistry) ● MPhil/ PhD in Sociology ● MPhil/ PhD in Physical Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BSc-MSc in Floriculture and Horticulture Management ● BBA- MBA ● MA in International Relations/Politics ● MSc in Physical Sciences (Physics) ● M Sc in Economics ● MPhil/ PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies and Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BSc-MSc in Psychology ● BCA- MCA ● MA in Mass Communication ● MSc in Ethno Botany and Social Medicine Studies ● MSc in Geography and Natural Resources Management ● MPhil/ PhD in International Relations/ Politics

◆ Publication of merit list and commencement of admission : 1st June 2011

Detailed information regarding admission procedure and eligibility, etc. is given in the Prospectus-cum-Application Form 2011-12 which can be obtained from the Sikkim University administrative building, located at 6th Mile Tadong, Gangtok from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm till 31st March 2011 against cash payment of Rs.250/-. It can also be obtained by post by paying Demand Draft of Rs.275/- in favour of SIKKIM UNIVERSITY, Gangtok. Applicants can also download the forms from SIKKIM UNIVERSITY website.

◆ Important Dates to remember:

Last date for submission of filled application form along with Demand Draft	31st March 2011
Date of entrance examination	7th and 8th May 2011
Publication of merit list	1st June 2011
Registration of candidates selected (First List)	1st - 15th June 2011
Registration of candidates in Waiting List- I (Second List)	15th - 22nd June 2011
Registration of candidates in Waiting List- II (Third List)	22nd - 29th June 2011
Viva-Voce for the short listed MPhil / PhD candidates	15th - 25th June 2011
Registration for MPhil / PhD Students	15th June 2011- 1st July 2011

More details like eligibility conditions, affirmative policies and Prospectus are available in the University website i.e. www.sikkimuniversity.in

The filled-in applications forms with the entrance examination fee should reach the **Acting Chief of Operations** at the following address by 31st March 2011.

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

6th Mile, Samdur, PO-Tadong, Gangtok-737102, Sikkim, India, Tele-fax : 0091-3592-251438,

Email : suadmissions2011@gmail.com, Website : www.sikkimuniversity.in

Sd/-
Acting Chief of Operations (Registrar)



E-commerce needs regulation

PUSHKAR CHHETRI

Thimphu: Lack of government regulations on e-commerce has thrown online advertisement sites into confusion. Some individuals have invested in advertisement sites, but it is not clear which government agency has the authority to register and licence such sites.

Azhapassa.bt is a website that facilitates online transaction of electronic goods and real estate and gives job alerts. The site was suspended by the Bhutan Infocom and Media Authority (Bicma) because the Bicma act has no provision on e-commerce.

"There is nothing given in our act regarding e-commerce, so we have asked the ministry [the information ministry] to give us directives and we are still waiting," said Bicma's media fo-

cal person, Ugyen Pem. She said that, in order to licence such sites, there needs to be a policy.

Regarding the suspension of the site, Kinley Wangchuk, the executive manager of Radio Valley, who manages azhapassa.bt, said he applied for a licence from Bicma but was told that it is not authorized to issue a licence for such a business.

Then, he applied for the licence to the Department of Trade, which did not know who has the authority to licence or register such sites. "Following that, we just obtained a domain from druknet and launched the site," he said.

Azhapassa.bt was launched as a web-based information platform. Visitors can upload advertisements and subscribe to daily alerts such as tender alerts, job vacancy alerts and schol-

arship alerts. The site has around 10 classified posts that are updated daily. Till date, there have been 5,559 subscriptions for the alerts.

Kinley said that after Bicma suspended the website, he had to make do with one employee managing the day to day service offered by the site. "We spent money in promoting the website through television ads and airing it on BBS radio and advertising on local papers," he said, adding that although the market is small, the business could do well provided that the government creates an enabling environment by licensing such sites.

There are other similar sites that are hosted outside the country such as Tshongs.com. The site, which has similar contents like Azhapassa.bt, has however been licensed by the trade department.

Tshongs Buy and Sell is an advertisement site that links buyers and sellers with new as well as second-hand products. It also serves as a reference guide for current prices of products available in the market. The site has been operational for the last three months and has been registered primarily as an asset brokerage channel.

The manager of the site, Pranim, said it does not sell products directly but acts as a link between the buyers and sellers. "We just charge two percent of sale and purchase value," he said.

Ugyen Pem said Tshongs.com could not be restricted as it is not hosted within the country.

Asked about the licensing of tshongs buyers and sellers, regional trade officials said that they had licensed it as an asset brokerage and that the office is not concerned about the website

tshongs.com.

Meanwhile, the trade department, in order to promote indigenous industries and interested importers, hosts a virtual showroom on their website. The site has a virtual display of various export products from Bhutan. It was launched in 2007.

Pema Khandu, a trade official from the export promotion division, said that the site is an economical way of promoting products. The exporters can advertise their products on the site free of cost.

"In order to encourage our exporters to use the service, we don't charge anything," he said. At present, there are some 20 exporters who have registered on the site.

Authorities are also not clear if such virtual showrooms must be registered and licensed.

B-Mobile to launch Nu 25 voucher

B-Mobile will launch its Nu 25 voucher tomorrow. It is targeted at the youth, rural people and lower income group.

Deo Kumar Biswa, the general manager of the marketing division, Bhutan Telecom, said that the voucher will help increase B-Mobile's customer base "since there is a good chunk of youth who are students, partially employed, dependents and people living in rural areas who do not have a fixed source of income." He said that, since B-Mobile was launched in 2003, customers have always preferred lower denomination vouchers.

The Nu 25 voucher is called Kuenphen as it mainly targets the ordinary mass.

Deo Kumar said that launching a lower denomination voucher was also part of corporate social responsibility. He said,

"Most of the time, we tend to overrule the will of the customers, and by coming up with such strategies, we are giving our customers better choices."

He said that, during the initial stage, customers preferred the Nu 300

voucher, which was then the lowest denomination voucher. "Later we thought that it was too taxing for the customers and came up with the Nu 200 voucher which immediately became very popular among the customers," he said.

ADVERTORIAL

Meanwhile, B-Mobile has discontinued the Nu 2,000 and Nu 1,500 vouchers. "We have also stopped printing Nu 1,000 vouchers and the ones that are

there in the market now are those that were printed earlier," Deo Kumar said.

Presently, B-Mobile has network coverage to almost all parts of the country, except in five gewogs that are inaccessible.

KUENPHEN VOUCHER FOR ALL
 KUENPHEN VOUCHER FOR JUST NU. 25

Always there for you

KUENPHEN RECHARGE VOUCHER Nu. 25



Forecast Broadcast

Between **March 11-17**, the auspicious direction advised before undertaking any important activity are **east and south**.

Friday- March 11



Auspicious For: Making incense-offering and conducting purification rituals, and making daily offerings. **Inauspicious For:** Arranging marriage, celebrating wedding, starting education, starting construction of new house, moving house, handing and taking over anything, making and taking medicine, starting business, and calling upon superiors.

Saturday- March 12



Auspicious For: Conducting chagug-yanglen, conducting jin-seg and sri-nen. **Inauspicious For:** Construction of new ten-sum, conducting consecration and empowerment ceremonies, propitiating gods and deities, arranging marriage, starting business, sowing seeds, planting flowers, entering a new house, moving house, calling upon superiors, starting business, hoisting flags, conducting ritual rites for the dead, taking out dead body, paying grain debts, and welcoming and seeing off guest.

Sunday- March 13



Auspicious For: Carrying out daily chores and offerings. **Inauspicious For:** Propitiating gods and deities, conducting jin-seg and sri-nen, holding discussion, moving house, handing and taking over anything, starting education, starting business, and undertaking a long journey.

Monday- March 14



Auspicious For: Carrying out daily chores and offerings. **Inauspicious For:** Construction of new ten-sum, conducting consecration and empowerment ceremonies, propitiating gods and deities, conducting chagug-yanglen, starting business, holding discussion, sowing seeds, planting flowers, starting construction of new house, making and taking medicine, moving house, conducting ritual rites for the dead.

Tuesday- March 15



Auspicious For: Making incense-offering and conducting purification rituals, and making daily offerings. **Inauspicious For:** Construction of new ten-sum, conducting consecration and empowerment ceremonies, arranging marriage, conducting jin-seg, moving house, starting construction of new house, taking out dead body, starting business, making and taking medicine, calling upon superiors, and holding discussion.

Wednesday- March 16



Auspicious For: Construction of new ten-sum, conducting consecration and empowerment ceremonies, propitiating gods and deities, conducting jin-seg, moving house, starting construction of new house, sowing seeds, planting flowers, starting business, making and taking medicine, calling upon superiors, joining monastic body, and holding discussion. But it is she-za (unfavourable day) for people who are born in the year of Ox, Sheep, Dog and Dragon. **Inauspicious For:** Conducting tor-zor, and welcoming and seeing off guest.

Thursday- March 17



Auspicious For: Construction of new ten-sum, conducting consecration and empowerment ceremonies, propitiating gods and deities, sowing seeds, planting flowers, starting business, learning grammar and astrology, entering a new house, calling upon superiors, and holding discussion. But it is she-za (unfavourable day) for people who are born in the year of Tiger and Rabbit. **Inauspicious For:** Taking newborn outdoors.

From the Bodhi tree



CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF FAITH AND JOY

Faith is based on genuineness, trusting in yourself and your vision. You are not faking anything, and you are not trying to impress anybody. Faith inspires discipline, which is not based on punishment or arbitrary rules and authority, but rather on becoming thoroughly gentle and genuine. Discipline guides you and shows you how to live in the warrior's world. With this unwavering discipline, the warrior takes joy in the journey and joy in working with others. This joy is like music, which celebrates its own



rhythm and melody. The celebration is continuous, in spite of the ups and downs of life.



THE BIOGRAPHY OF ZHABDRUNG NGAWANG NAMGYAL

CHAPTER 2: RECOGNITION AS THE 5TH DRUKCHEN

Recognition as the incarnation of Drukchen Thamche Khyenpa

Just as Kukhyen Pema Karpo predicted, he reincarnated as Yab Tenpai Nyima's son who manifested similar character and intellect. The young incarnate also frequently declared "I am Drukchen Thamche Khyenpa," confirming the incarnation.

His birth took place at a time when the Gadenpa were gradually taking over Tibet's political power from Tsang Desi. It was also a time when the teachings of Kagyu school and particularly the lineage of Palden Drukpa were going through a particularly crucial period. Tsangpa Gyare had once predicated that he would reappear at the time when the lineage felt the need for him most, and his rebirth as Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in the hereditary line of his own nephew, Onre Dharma Senge, fulfilled that prophecy.

Therefore, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the incarnation of Kunkhyen Pema Karpo, emanated as the 5th Drukchen. Former Drukchens like Jamyang Chodrag and Kunkhyen Pema Karpo were incarnations but not hereditary lineage-holders, while the others like Drukchen Ngawang Chogyal and Mipham Chogyal were hereditary lineage-holders but not incarnations. Unlike them, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal was both an hereditary lineage-holder and an incarnation. He therefore, possessed two kinds of greatness.

to be continued...

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NOBODY TOLD ME ANYTHING (as told by Master Sheng-Yen)

A disciple asked his Dharma Master: "How can I calm my mind?"

The master said, "I am too busy to talk to you right now. Why not consult your First Dharma Brother?"

He did as he was told and asked the same question.

The First Dharma Brother

said, "I have a headache. I can't talk now. Why not talk to Second Dharma Brother?"

But the Second Dharma Brother said, "I have a stomach ache, why don't you just go and talk to our Dharma Master?"

So he went back to his master and complained,

"Nobody told me anything. Nobody gave me any answers."

But the master said to him reprovingly, "You really are a stupid fool. Everybody has been giving you the answer."

Because of this, the disciple reached enlightenment.



**HEADQUARTERS
ROYAL BHUTAN ARMY**

**TENDER COMMITTEE
LUNGTENPHU**

Ref. No. RBA/003KA/2011/94

TENDER NOTICE

The Royal Bhutan Army is pleased to invite sealed item rates from eligible registered contractors for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Class of Contract	Contract Period	Cost of Tender	Bid Security	Date of Tender Sale	Last Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
1	Construction of Troops Transit Camp (05 storeys)	Class "C"	18 Months	Nu. 1000/-	Nu. 5,00,000/-	From 14 Mar. 2011 to 13 Apr. 2011	14 Apr. 2011 at 1000 hrs.	14 Apr. 2011 at 1100 hrs.

- (a) Tender documents can be purchased from the Presiding Officer, Tender Committee, Royal Bhutan Army, Lungtenphu upon submission of a written application addressed to Presiding Officer, Tender Committee along with valid CDB License.
- (b) The bid security as specified above should be submitted in the form of Bank Guarantee/Demand Draft/ Cash Warrant in favour of Defence Accounts Officer, RBA from any recognized financial institute of Bhutan.
- (c) Bidders may visit the site for proper costing before quoting the rates.
- (d) The bids will be opened by the Tender Committee, RBA Lungtenphu at the Officers Institute on the above specified date and time in presence of bidders who wish to attend. It is not obligatory for dealers to attend.
- (e) For any query, please call **17655238/17615343/17609156** during office hours.
- (f) The decision of the Tender Committee will be final and binding.

*Presiding Officer
Tender Committee*

**THIMPHU CITY CORPORATION
MINISTRY OF WORKS & HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
POST BOX NO-215, LUNGTENZAMPA
THIMPHU**

03/TCC/WSS/2010-11/122

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Thimphu City Corporation invites sealed Bids from eligible Contractors registered as petty (W-3) for Construction of the following Work:

Name of Activity/Project: Interim Water Supply to South Thimphu from Ngabirongchu

Source of funding: GNHC (SDP under GoI grant)

Sale of Tender Document: From 16th March 2011 to 14th April 2011

Last Date for Submission of Tender Document: 14th April 2011, 12:00 Noon

For further details visit our web-site at: www.tcc.gov.bt

Executive Secretary

**CHHUKHA HYDROPOWER PLANT
DRUK GREEN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**

Ref. No.: DGPC/CHP/CCD/04/2011

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Chhukha Hydropower Plant, CHP invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders (**Class "C"**) for the **Construction of Protection Walls, Saddles and Improvement of Approach Track of Lubichhu Diversion Scheme.**

Bid Documents shall be on sale from **14/03/2011 to 12/04/2011**. Bids shall be received up to **15:00 hours** on **13/04/2011** and shall be opened on same date at **15:30 hours**.

Interested Bidders may obtain Bidding Documents from Chhukha Civil Division (**Phone # 08-478689**) on submission of a written application along with copies of Trade License, CDB certificate and latest Tax clearance certificate and upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Nu.1000.00 (Ngultrum one thousand only)** as cost of Bidding Documents.

Detailed NIT and Bidding Documents are also available at DGPC website (**www.drukgreen.bt**) and can be downloaded for Bidder's information. Decision of the tender committee shall be final and binding.

Executive Engineer

**TALA HYDROPOWER PLANT
DRUK GREEN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
PHUENTSHOLING**

Tender Notice No: THP-05/2011

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Executive Engineer (MMGD), Tala Hydropower Plant (THP), Bhutan for and on behalf of THP, DGPC, invites sealed tenders from interested bidders dealing in appropriate items for supply of stationeries and other office consumables such as Toners & Cartridges for computers/photocopiers/ fax machines etc., of approximate value of **Nu. 2.7 million**. The tender document can be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer (MMGD), THP, Near Bank of Bhutan, Phuentsholing (**Tel. No. 00975-5-254465, Fax No. 253207**) on any working day w.e.f **09.03.2011 to 06.04.2011** (both days inclusive) upto **1700 hrs. (BST)** on payment of non-refundable fee of **Nu./Rs. 1000/-** (Nu./Rs. One Thousand Only), in the form of bank draft drawn in favour of Tala Hydropower Plant, payable at Bank of Bhutan, Phuentsholing. Requisite trade license and supporting document of having been in the similar business shall also be required to be submitted by the bidder at the time of making request for purchase of tender document.

Executive Engineer (MMGD)

**NATIONAL PENSION & PROVIDENT FUND
THIMPHU BHUTAN**

NPPF.HRMD-07/Ad-029/2011/13271

ANNOUNCEMENT

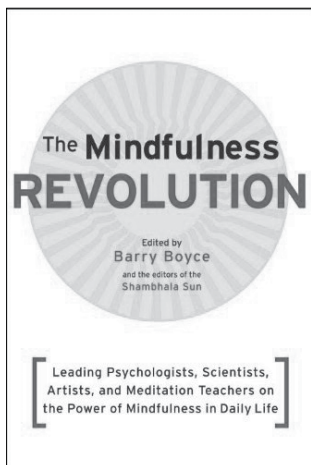
The NPPF record shows that it had received excess repayments against Education Loan Scheme of several clients. As such, the NPPF is in the process of reimbursing the excess repayments. Therefore, all concerned are requested to immediately contact Ms. Karma Chhimi, Credit Department, NPPF to claim the refund. For further details, please visit our website www.nppf.org.bt

Chief Executive Officer



ON THE RACK

THE MINDFULNESS REVOLUTION EDITED BY BARRY BOYCE



A growing body of scientific research indicates that mindfulness can reduce stress and improve mental and physical health. Countless people who have tried it say it's improved their quality of life. Simply put, mindfulness is the practice of paying steady and full attention, without judgment or criticism, to our moment-to-moment experience. Here is a collection of the best writing on what mindfulness is, why we

should practice it, and how to apply it in daily life, from leading figures in the field. Selections include:

- Leading thinking Jon Kabat-Zinn on the essence of mindfulness, stress reduction, and positive change
- Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh on the transformative power of mindful breathing
- Professor of psychiatry Daniel Siegel, MD, on how mindfulness benefits the brain
- Physician and meditation teacher Jan Chozen Bays, MD, on how and why to practice mindful eating
- Pioneering psychologist Ellen Langer on how mindfulness can change the understanding and treatment of disease
- Leadership coach Michael Carroll on practicing mindfulness at work
- Psychologist Daniel Goleman on a mindful approach to shopping and consuming
- Pianist Madeline Bruser on how mindfulness can help us overcome performance anxiety
- and much more

ART WORLD

ATISHA



Atisha (982-1054) escaped an arranged marriage when he was 11 years old after a vision in which the deity Tara appeared to him and warned him against entering into a worldly life. Just prior to his wedding date, he said that he wanted to go hunting and, in fact, went hunting, but for a spiritual mentor, not for game.

The master yogi Rahulagupta saw that Atisha was still under his parents' worldly expectations and after some time of teaching, devised a plan to free him. Rahulagupta sent him back to his parents' palace with 4 men and 4 women, each scantily clad in only bone-ornaments. For 3 months, Atisha and his companions behaved outrageously until his parents finally declared (in effect), "Enough, take your naughty friends and hit the road." Atisha went on to study the middle way, devoting himself to Avalokiteshvara. At the age 59, he wrote his most influential text, Lamp of the Path to Enlightenment. In this text, he organized the many teachings into a pathway for progressive training. When he later went to Tibet, he was so taken with the purity of the water that he sanctioned water as an 8th offering for those in Tibet.

HOUSEHOLD HINT



GENERAL: To keep down the spread of germs always close

toilet lid before flushing.
KITCHEN: Do not put grease down garbage disposals, as it may cause blockage. Grease can also remain in disposal or pipes and cause odors.

LAUNDRY: Salt and lemon juice mixed together remove mildew stains.



LIFE AS MOVIE

Reflective movies

Blindsight is a heartfelt docu-drama that follows the lives of six blind Tibetans. Born into communities that view disabilities as a demonic curse, these teenagers had been confronted with immense discrimination since young.

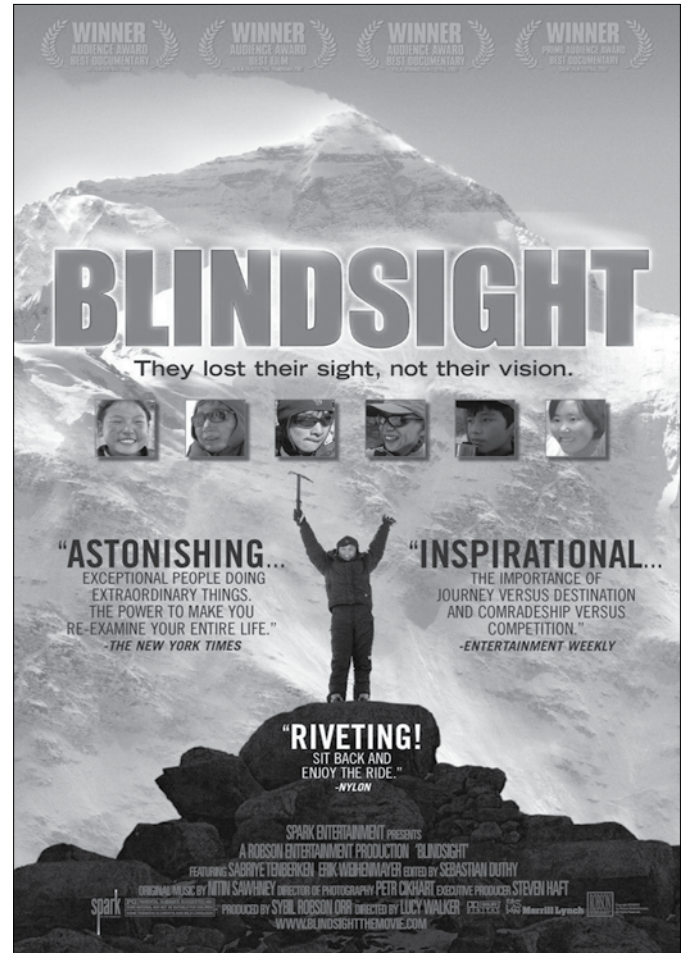
Originally resigned to their fate, the students' lives are dramatically transformed when educator Sabriye Tenberken arrives on the scene and establishes Tibet's first and only school for the blind. Through the school's innovative programmes, the youth learn to overcome their disability and to develop their self confidence.

One year, the students learn of a blind mountaineer (Erik Weihenmayer) conquering Mount Everest, and they invite him to the school. Erik's talk greatly inspires Sabriye and the students, and they decide to test new limits. Under Erik's stewardship the group embarks on a climb to the summit of Mount Lhakpa Ri – a 7,045m mountain north of Everest.

Although characterized by emotion and difficulties, the journey is not without its gentle side and the audience will be deeply touched by the warmth and kindness that the group express towards each other. A liberal sprinkling of humour also lightens an otherwise harsh experience.

The most enduring message of the movie, however, is the spirit of the youth, which is perhaps most aptly conveyed by the movie's official slogan: 'They lost their sight, not their vision.'

Blindsight gained extensive



plaudits in the Western press and is must-see for anyone who feels overwhelmed by the small problems of life.

Movie to be screened

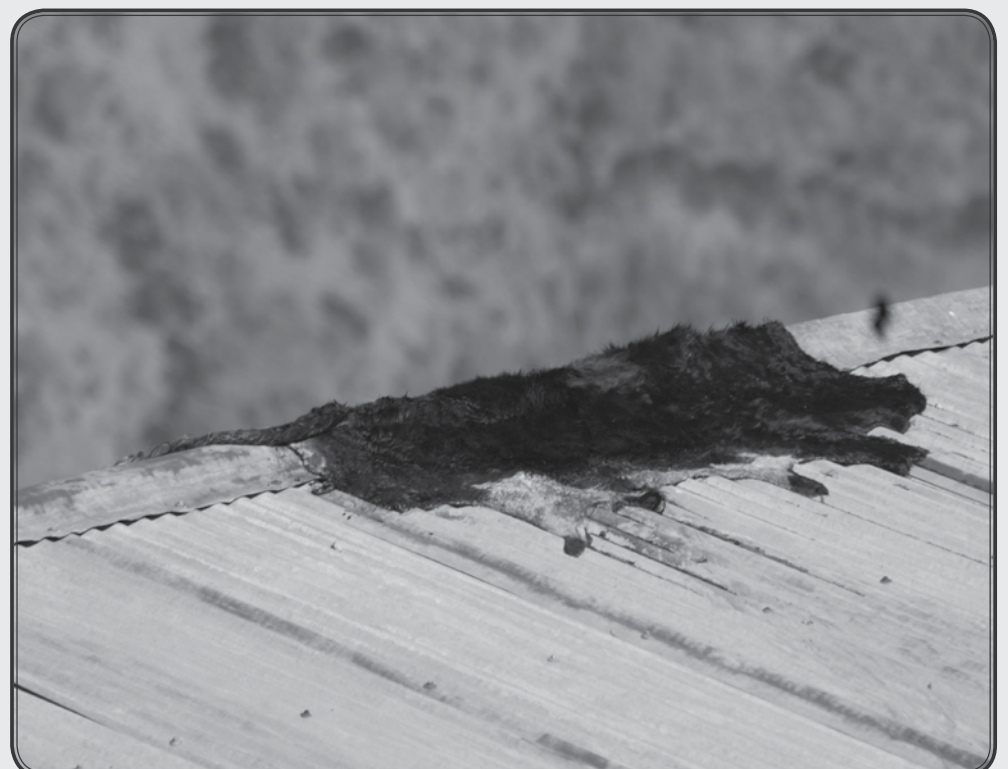
Day: Friday, March 11, 2011. **Time:** 6 pm

Venue: Deer Park, Nazhoen Pelri Centre, Thimphu

Courtesy: www.deerparkthimphu.org

Contemplative Photography

PHOTOGRAPHER: Sushil Mishra



A hairy roof?



» SUDOKU

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number.

	1	5						3
		6		7	2			
4			1					
6		3	9		4			
			6		3	2		8
					9			7
			5	1		6		
7						8	4	

1 HARD

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION 1

2	6	7	3	5	9	1	8	4
5	9	8	7	4	1	2	6	3
3	1	4	6	2	8	7	5	9
9	4	5	8	3	2	6	1	7
1	8	2	9	7	6	4	3	5
6	7	3	5	1	4	8	9	2
7	5	6	2	8	3	9	4	1
8	3	1	4	9	7	5	2	6
4	2	9	1	6	5	3	7	8

8		7		3				
	9	6		7	2			8
	5	2				9		
6	3	4	8	2	1			9
7								1
2			3	9	7	6	4	8
		8				4	7	
	2		7	8		5	1	
					6	8		2

2 EASY

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION 2

2	3	5	4	9	1	6	8	7
4	7	6	8	3	5	1	9	2
9	8	1	7	2	6	3	4	5
5	4	2	3	1	9	8	7	6
8	1	9	6	7	2	5	3	4
3	6	7	5	8	4	2	1	9
1	9	4	2	5	3	7	6	8
7	5	3	9	6	8	4	2	1
6	2	8	1	4	7	9	5	3

CROSSWORD: LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

S	A	L	A	D	I	N	M	E	R	Y	L	S	T	R	E	E	P
C	I	A	U	O	U	E	O	D	I								
R	O	G	E	R	R	N	I	N	J	A	N	E	W	T	S		
A	H	E	E	A	E	D	I	A	T								
P	E	T	E	S	A	M	P	R	A	S	B	O	G	A	R	D	E
I	N	S	B	C	E	H	A	D									
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	S	O	L	I	T	A	I	R	E
N	L	R															
B	I	G	B	A	N	G	T	H	E	O	R	Y	J	U	I	C	E
E																	
S	E	R	U	M	L	E	P	I	D	O	P	T	E	R	I	S	T
O	A	A	P	A	D	N											
M	C	C	A	R	T	N	E	Y	B	A	N	N	I	S	T	E	R
O	O	F															
W	I	N	D	S	O	R	M	U	N	C	H	A	U	S	E	N	
O	T	S	A	O	T	E	G	T	D								
R	E	E	F	S	N	A	T	A	L	I	G	U	I	D	E		
L	U	E	C	O	T	E	S	I	N	A							
D	E	R	M	A	T	O	L	O	G	Y	T	H	O	R	E	A	U

» CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Midi's first trails destroyed by strong wind from the Rhone Valley (7)
- 5 Country of East Africa sheltered by Burkina Faso, Mali, Algeria (7)
- 9 Representative of South Africa - good jumper! (9)
- 10 Los Angeles Police initially need A-Z for South American city (2,3)
- 11/24/23 Crossed by day-trippers in the Pacific? (13,4,4)
- 13 Endlessly easy on a pass through the Bernese Alps (7)
- 15 Bondage deforms terribly! (7)
- 16 Car Alan wrecked in Cyprus town (7)
- 19 Quiet goblins create sandbanks and other shipping hazards! (7)
- 21 Environmental hazard resulting in a rise in mercury? (6,7)
- 25 I have ruined rice, it being more frozen (5)
- 26 Almanac's redistributed by a city of western Spain (9)
- 27 US sheep damaged ancient city of Asia Minor (7)
- 28 Extensive grassland makes air ripe (7)

DOWN

- 1 Take me to South Africa to see flat-topped hill (4)
- 2 Part of famous Ur in America? It's in South America, actually (7)
- 3 Andes possibly somewhere to practise your driving! (5)
- 4 Textile ban only includes this Middle Eastern country (7)
- 5 West Indian island making street gear (back street) (2,5)

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16		17				18		19				20		
	21									22				
23														24
25						26								
27								28						

- 6 Australian city is 75% Italian island surrounded by mountains of County Down! (9)
- 7 Do a circuit then alight in this far northern country (7)
- 8 Sounds like short commercials for an axe-like tool (4)
- 12 Strict US Mennonite sect decapitates Scotsman! (5)
- 13 Fossil totally conceals sedimentary deposit (4)
- 14 Bells Iran forged for place in Snowdonia (9)
- 17 Elizabeth's favourite US state capital (7)
- 18 Large maps of mountains in N.W. Africa? (7)
- 19 Part of mollusc all open? (7)
- 20 A volcano's opening has no right being on the Isle of Wight! (7)
- 22 Unfinished dance by a large venomous snake (5)
- 23 See 11 Across
- 24 See 11 Across

» OPTICAL ILLUSIONS



A perfect way to sleep in classroom



Public cast Nu 7,23,070 worth of votes in Bhutan Star last week

NAMGAY TSHERING

Thimphu: Bhutan Star singing show has reached the last six contestants.

The show last week registered a total of 1, 44,614 SMS votes from the public, which is worth Nu 7, 23,070.

B-mobile users cast SMS votes worth Nu 6, 20,955, while TashiCell users cast votes worth Nu 1, 02,115.

From Nu 7, 23,070, the organizer gets 20 percent, which amounts to Nu 1, 44,614, while remaining

Nu 578,456 will be divided equally between the mobile service provider and Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation.

In the coming week, Bhutan Star will eliminate one contestant which will leave the show with the top five contestants, who will be considered 'super stars'.

Last weekend, Hemlal Darjee from Tsirang and Tenzin Lhaden from Bumthang were eliminated from the show. Hemlal Darjee secured 13,000 SMS

votes worth Nu 65,000 and Tenzin Lhaden secured 12, 702 votes worth Nu 63,510.

Hemlal Darjee, a class X student from Mendrelgang Middle Secondary School in Tsirang, missed his academic session last year because he joined the show. He, however, said, "I am happy with how far I have come and what I have gained from the show, but I am saddened by the elimination." He said he will go back to school to continue his education.

Hemlal plans to bring out

a music album. "Before I join school, I will produce a music album with support from Namgay Jigs," he said.

Bhutan Star has eliminated 24 contestants since it started in November last year with 30 contestants.

Last week, Tashi Tshering from Samdrupjongkhar secured 36,350 SMS votes worth Nu 1, 81,750, several times more than any other contestant. He had been named the Viewers' Choice of the week for three consecutive weeks.

NOW
SCREENING

SACHO GAMI GA



Movie: Sacho Gami Ga

Venue : Trowa Theatre, Thimphu

Time : Weekdays 6:30

: Weekends 3:30 & 6:30

SHARCHOPA ZAMIN



Movie: Sharchopa Zamin

Venue: Luger Theatre, Thimphu

Time : Weekdays 8:30 PM

KARMA WANGZIN



Movie: Karma Wangzin

Venue: Luger Theatre, Thimphu

Time : Weekdays 6:30 PM

Weekends 2:30 PM &
6:30 PM

Interested filmmakers can send in your film posters along with the venue and time of screening to entertainment@bhutanobserver.bt

"Music is a job of creation, not accounting"



Sonam Rinzin in his studio

NAMGAY TSHERING

Twenty-seven-year-old Sonam Rinzin is a singer, songwriter and musician. He is popularly known as SR in the Bhutanese film and music industry.

Groomed by his father, who is a musician himself, Sonam began playing music and composing his own songs early in life. Today, Sonam Rinzin is one of the most sought after musicians in the film industry.

He claims that he gained popularity in film and music industry because he understands directors' choice and people's taste. His efforts have never gone in vain.

Many of the films and songs he worked for have been successful so far.

The guitar was the first music instrument he learned to play. "I learned how to play the guitar as a school boy and started my profession with it," he said.

He left college without a degree to pursue music. However, his hope of studying music was thwarted when he could not get into a relevant music course.

"I could not study music abroad. It was very expensive. India wasn't a choice because there they teach Indian classical, of which I am not a fan. The best op-

tion then was to learn on my own," he said.

Sonam is influenced by a wide variety of music, and unlike many other musicians, he is not limited to listening to one genre. His favourite musicians include Allah Rakha Rahman, popularly known as AR Raman of Bollywood and Red Hot Chili Peppers, an American alternative rock band from Los Angeles.

"The main goal in making music is to inspire positive emotions in listeners, just as I was affected by music at my young age," he said.

Sonam has worked with international band like

BLØF - a Dutch Pop-Rock bands, the best band in the Netherlands. He has also worked with Michael J Fox, a Canadian-American actor, author, comedian, and producer for the documentary project *Adventures of an incurable Optimist*.

After he left college, he returned to open his own studio and started making music for songs and films.

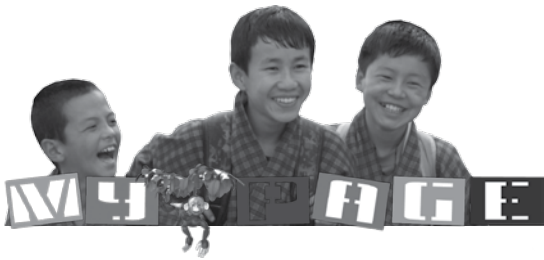
"My taste for music keeps changing. I try to blend the Western instruments with Bhutanese instruments to create a unique music," he said.

Sonam Rinzin laments the Bhutanese music going Bollywood way and fears that the trend might dilute and eradicate our musical identity.

"I believe in excelling in what I do; I concentrate on what I do - music," he says.

Sonam composed and produced his own music album titled *Hey Bumo* in 2005 and is planning to bring out another soon.

To Sonam, making music is a job of creation, not accounting. Much depends on composer's mood. Sonam has contributed music many Bhutanese films including *Sacho Ga Me Ga*, *SharChopa Zamin*, *Nge Hingi Rewa*, *Semgi Damtsi*.

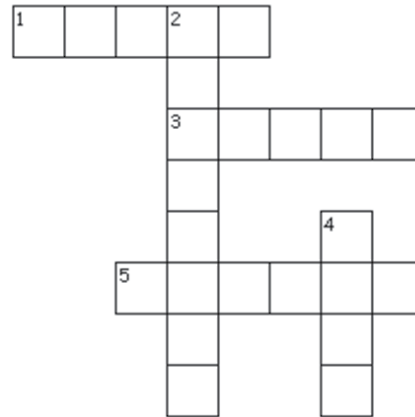


GRANDMA'S STORY

THE GRUMPY TREE

There was once a grumpy tree. It was the biggest tree in the forest, and it didn't need its shadow for anything. However, the tree would never share its shadow with any of the animals, and wouldn't let them come anywhere near. One winter, the tree without its leaves, was going to die of cold. A little girl, found the tree shivering, so she went home to get a great big scarf to warm the tree up. The Spirit of the Forest appeared and told the little girl why that tree was so solitary, and why no one would help him. Even so, the girl decided to put the scarf on the tree. The next springtime, the tree had learned from the girl's generosity, and when she sat next to the trunk the tree bent down to shade her from the sun. The Spirit of the Forest saw this and went to tell all the animals. He told them that from then on they would be able to shade themselves well, because the tree had learned that having kind and generous beings around makes the world a much better place to live in.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Which is the largest type of 'big cat' in the world?
- How many legs does a spider have?
- What does the panda usually eat?

DOWN

- What is the largest land animal in the world?
- What are female elephants called?

ANSWER

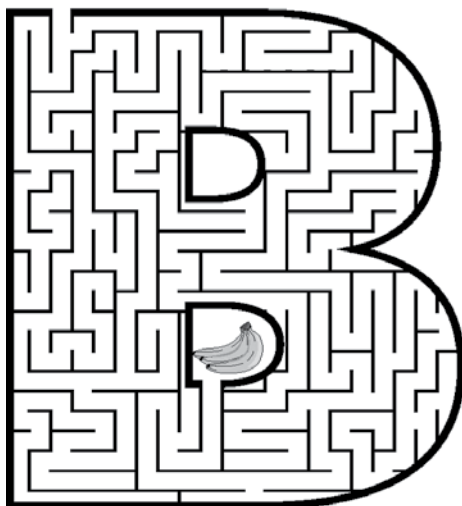
ACROSS

- Tiger
- Bamboo
- Eight

DOWN

- Elephants
- Cows

Help hungry bear find the bananas



MAZE HAZE

Bears have a good sense of smell, and although they are big and walk awkwardly, they can run quickly and are good climbers and swimmers. They sleep in caves and burrows. Bears are solitary and the only times they are in small groups are when mothers are with their young or when there is a lot of food

DRAW THROUGH DOTS & NUMBERS



TO MY BELOVED FRIENDS

I have lots of friends in school
 We play and eat our lunch together
 We study and learn from each other
 To make friends is very good
 If we stay with good friends
 We will become good
 If we make friends with bad persons
 We will become bad
 I love my friends
 Friend are friends
 Not to break
 If to break, why to make?

By Ugyen S. Dolma
 Class II A
 Changangkha Lower Secondary School
 Thimphu

I READ

'The Skin I'm In' by Sharon G Flake

Bullying at school can be a terrible experience, and yet sometimes it can be quite hard to see the reason for the bullying. Why, for instance, would a black boy tease a black girl about being black? This is one of those stories where you can see things going from bad to worse in front of your very eyes. Maleeka is in a difficult situation and there doesn't seem to be anyone she can turn to. She makes some pretty bad mistakes before she finally realises that the new English teacher, the outspoken Miss Saunders, really is on her side.



A TIME THAT WAS

Mmmm Yummy!

Name: Tshewang Tashi	Date of 2 July 2006	Date of Photography 3 March 2011
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"We do not remember days, we remember moments."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MY SUMMER VACATION

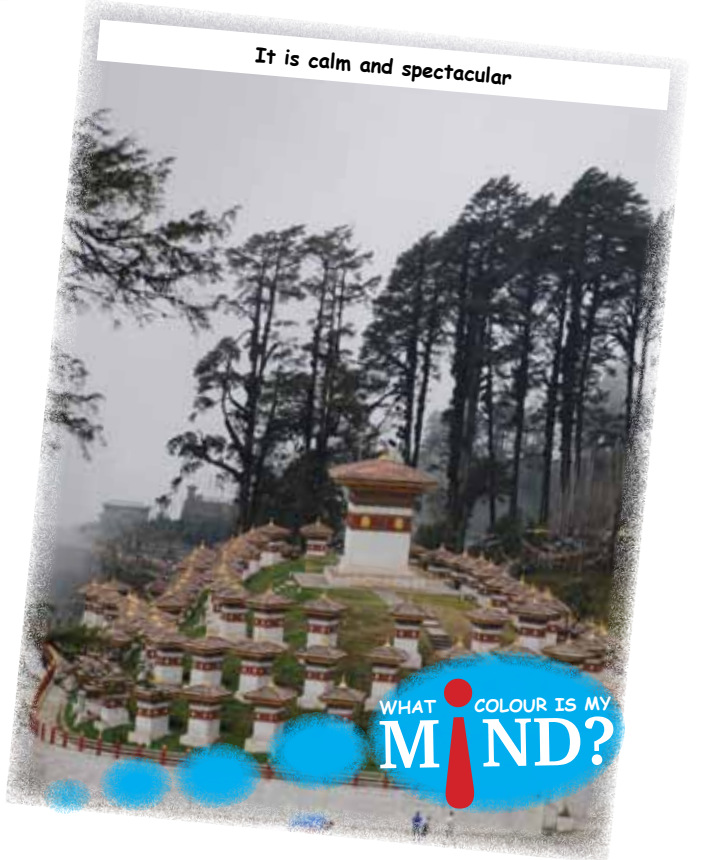
After every mid-term examination we have summer vacations. This is the time when we get a chance to help our parents or do useful activities. This year I enjoyed my vacation. I helped my sister to sell things in her shop. Instead of watching TV, I joined karate and practiced every evening at the Youth Centre. There was simply no time for me to waste.

By Sonam Lhamo
Class VII 'B'
Jigme Namgyel Lower Secondary School
Thimphu



ANSWERS FOR FIND THE DIFFERENCES

1. Color of the basket
2. Missing Tourist
3. Missing girl
4. A dog



My Creations

By Nawang Norbu
Class IV, Thimphu

COLOUR WORLD

Also called papaws, papayas are a tasty tropical fruit. They can be eaten raw or cooked. Quicken the ripening of papayas by putting them in a paper bag with an apple or banana. Pureed with ginger and hot peppers, papaya marinade is a natural meat tenderizer.

Two hundred and forty monks across the country are attending a computer training programme in Dzongkha information technology skills, which started in Thimphu on March 8. The training is part of the government's Chiphpen Rigpel project.

The trade department has imposed a temporary ban on the import of bitumen from the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. The ban will remain in force until the weight inconsistency in bitumen barrels has been resolved.

The Royal Monetary Authority board on March 7 appointed two deputy governors of the central bank. The new deputy governors will be responsible for the financial monetary policy portfolio and financial sector and operation portfolio of the central bank.

The Dzongkha Development Commission on March 9 approved a budget of Nu 840,000 for the Dzongkha Lekchoe Tshogpa (Dzongkha review committee) that will review and improve standard of news published in Dzongkha. The budget will be used to provide Dzongkha language training to 30 participants from 15 media houses for 24 days starting April 16.

A joint research project by the Department of Geology and Mines and JICA/JST Glacial Lake Outburst Floods project will hold a science workshop on March 15. Experts from Japan and Nepal, along with Bhutan government personnel, will present latest outcomes of the research including glacial lake inventory in Bhutan using satellite image analysis.

The Japanese government this week has donated to Bhutan a fleet of farm road machinery worth Nu 311 million to speed up the construction of farm roads in the country.



Roof of a building blown off by a windstorm on Wednesday in Changbangdu, Thimphu. Some people were living in the attic of the house. Strong winds that hit several western dzongkhags on March 8 and 9 damaged several homes, lhakhangs, and schools. The scale of damage is yet to be ascertained.

Propose amendment of act, PM

Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley in a statement to the media this week asked the people to propose amendment of the tobacco control act is they want.

"I can understand why many people feel that the punishment is incongruous to the crime. But then, that is what the law has prescribed," he said. "If the people want the Tobacco Control Act, or any other act, to be amended, there are proper procedures for amendment. No law is perfect and all laws can be changed as compulsions and values of society change. The government encourages the people of Bhutan to express their views and to propose amendments to existing acts through their elected representatives who are duty bound to represent them in parliament."

Kidney day observed



Bhutan observed the World Kidney Day yesterday. The day focused on creating awareness about kidneys with a purpose of reducing the burden of kidney diseases. Although statistics have shown that the number of kidney patients has increased in Bhutan, nothing has been done to observe the day.

In 2007 and 2008, there were 42 kidney patients reported and in 2009 there were 47. In 2010, the number increased to 62 patients and this year, within two months, 12 cases were reported.

Currently, there are 91 kidney patients in the country and 10 dialysis machines.

WEEKLY WEATHER

Contributed by the Metrological Department of Bhutan

Dzongkhag	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Thimphu							
Paro							
Haa							
Gasa							
Bumthang							
Trongsa							
Tsirang							
Wangdue							
Punakha							
Dagana							
Zhemgang							
Chhukha							
T/gang							
Mongar							
T/yangtse							
Lhuntse							
Sarpang							
S/jongkhar							
Samtse							
P/Gatshel							
P/Ling							

Mostly Sunny skies
 Possibility of rain
 Cloudy
Partly cloudy
 Partly sunny
 Partly cloudy chances of snow/sleet



Electoral roll for chiwogs

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

nal number may go up or down depending on the input ECB receives from the public. Some variations are expected within the gewogs and chiwogs in light of mitsi transfers that have taken place.

Meanwhile, the election commission says that any voter of the four dzongkhag thromdes of Chukha, Sar-

pang, Samdrupjongkhar and Thimphu, who has not yet collected his or her VPIC can do so in order to participate in the tshogpa elections in the vacant demkhongs of Rabdeyling in Gelephu, Pekarzhing and Rinchhendling in Phuentsholing, Changuangkha and Motithang in Thimphu.

Since ECB's trial single window system, from which all required documents

could be obtained, failed, interested candidates will now have to process clearances and no objection certificates for contesting the upcoming local government elections from their respective authorities.

However, the final filing of nomination of candidates will take place once the ECB issues the notification announcing the election date.

LG elections in one day

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

tions in one go is the best option as the whole process need not be repeated," he said, adding that conducting the elections in more phases will mean roping in more government officials.

ECB plans to complete the whole election process by June. After the completion of final electoral roll, ECB will announce the election dates and call for nomination of candidates.

If the elections are conducted in two phases, with only three months to reach the June deadline, everything will be tight, according to election commissioner, Deki Pema. She said the nomination period and the postal ballot period, in that case, will become shorter. "If it can be done in one phase, we can take the process more comfortably," she said.

Moreover, since the financial year starts on July 1, ECB says it would like the elected representatives to take of-

fice by the start of the new financial year.

To make the conduct of elections in one day possible, ECB will plan the deployment of every person in every polling station in every constituency. This, Deki Pema said, will make them confident in terms of human resource and materials. "We will have to do that exercise of pinning down every person who is trained as an observer," she added.

If the decision comes

through, the police will be consulted and their advice sought on the deployment of security personnel.

Meanwhile, there are some gewogs with no educated people to contest in the elections. In places like Lingzhi and Lunana, even literate people are unwilling to go outside to attend the functional literacy test. Dasho Kunzang Wangdi said ECB might send its officials to conduct the test in such places.

Human resource requirement for the upcoming LG elections

Designations	Requirements
National observers	55
Micro observers	100
Returning officers	47
Assistant returning officers	47
Presiding officers	1099
Polling officer 1	1099
Polling officer 2	1099
Polling officer 3	1099
Spare officers	1099

Two arrests

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

As of today, there have been four arrests since the tobacco control act came into force from January 1, 2011. A 23-year-old monk was arrested on January 24 followed by a 24-year-old truck driver on January 31.

The monk was sentenced to three years in prison.

Tobacco smugglers in Paro still at large

SONAM PELDEN

Thimphu: The Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC) in Thimphu said it will request the Office of Attorney General (OAG) or Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency (BNCA) to take up last week's tobacco smuggling case in Paro.

Customs officials in Paro last Saturday caught an RBA constable carrying a box of cigarettes. The cigarettes were brought in from Bangkok by a Drukair engineer, Gyeltshen, for an army officer. The army officer, earlier identified as Captain Sonam Tshewang of RBA in Shaba, said he was not at all involved in the case.

Observer has learnt that the officer for whom the cigarettes were brought is Major Karma of RBA, the head of Drukair security personnel. An official from the Drukair office in Paro said that, in the constable's statement to the customs, he mentioned Major Karma's name. But Major Karma said he does not know 'anything about the case' and refused to comment further.

The Drukair official also said that customs officials tried to resolve the case 'internally'. It was only after the media picked up the story that they decided to report the case to the police.

The police refused to take up the case when it was reported on Monday. The chief of police earlier told the media that they could not accept the case as the incident had taken place within the premises of the revenue and customs and was reported only after two days.

According to the director of DRC, they were late to inform the police because they were carrying out an internal investigation. "Moreover, there is

no stipulated timeframe mentioned anywhere to report the crime," he said, adding that he does not understand why the police refused to take up the case.

The assistant legal officer of BNCA, Sonam Tshering, said that BNCA can take up the case provided that they get directives from the OAG.

Meanwhile, a source told *Observer* that the constable had requested Gyeltshen to bring the cigarettes for his boss, Major Karma, who did not meet with Gyeltshen in person to make the request. Gyeltshen was given US \$ 15 for the cigarettes.

Gyeltshen said that he kept one cigarette packet for himself and handed over nine packets to the constable.

The understanding between the two was that the constable would declare the product before customs officials at the airport as the law allows an individual to bring in 200 fag sticks subject to 200 percent tax. But the constable did not declare the cigarettes.

After smoking a piece from the packet in the airport smoking room, Gyeltshen declared 19 sticks to customs. He said his intention was clear and wouldn't risk his job for UD\$ 15.

The source said that, although involved in the smuggling case, Gyeltshen has not received any inquiry from customs officials or police.

The Drukair official said that officers bringing in contrabands is not a new thing at the airport. "But it's unfortunate that this particular case has become public," he said.

The constable was not available for comments. He is reportedly under detention. But the army officer and the engineer are still at large.

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