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Young on the street: Children begging for money from passersby on the Norzin Lam pavement in Thimphu

Land act to be amended to preserve wetland

JIGME WANGCHUK

Thimphu: At the 10th Meet the Press yesterday, prime minister Jigmi Y Thinley said that the Land Act of Bhutan 2007 will be tabled for amendment in the forthcoming session of the parliament.

Although a land act existed for more than 30 years, various rules, complexities and inconsistencies have failed to protect and conserve the fertile agricultural land, he said.

In the last four years, Bhutan has lost close to 700 acres of wetland to infrastructure development and land conver-

sion. This does not include 323 acres of land lost to illegal conversions, land lost to natural disasters and laid fallow.

Lyongchen said the government should have thought about how much agricultural land would be lost to development activities before drafting and enacting the land act.

Loss of agriculture land at this rate, policy makers and members of the public say, will have serious implications on Bhutan's goal of achieving 70 percent food sufficiency and increasing national food production.

Meanwhile, the expansion of agriculture land is

limited by the constitutional need to maintain 60 percent forest cover.

Though the land act says that the conversion of wetland without the approval of the ministry of agriculture is illegal, in the last four years, Wangdue has lost 48.94 acres of wetland and Punakha has lost 87 acres (close to 85 acres lost to Khuruthang township). The Changjiji housing complex and the Thimphu-Babesa expressway in Thimphu gobbled up 327 acres of wetland.

During the same period, the six dzongkhags

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Old age homes, not a solution but a need: PM

TANDIN PEM

Thimphu: With the opening of Bhutan's first old age home in Radhi, Trashigang, recently, Bhutan's old moral dilemma resurfaced – whether old age homes sit comfortably on the GNH country's conscience.

Answering the media's question on this subject at the 11th Meet the Press yesterday, Lyongchen Jigme Y Thinley said old age homes are not the solution, but a need. "That is not what

we should promote, but it is needed right now. It is a temporary arrangement," he said.

Lyongchen said initiatives are being taken by various parties to cater to the needs of the aged people who are abandoned by their families in the GNH country because of rural-urban migration.

Old people in the country, Lyongchen said, are abandoned 'not in a very big

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LG election period begins

TANDIN PEM

Thimphu: The election period of the first local government (LG) elections started Wednesday, April 6, and will last till May 25.

Announcing May 24 as the election date for the 205 gewog tshogdes, 16 dzongkhag tshogdus and five vacant tshogpa demkhongs in the four Class A thromdes on Wednesday, the chief election commissioner, Dasho Kuenzang Wangdi, said that the election code of conduct had come into force from April 6.

"Ministers, members of parliament, religious personalities, officials or members of political parties must refrain from campaigning directly or indirectly for any candidate," he said.

No trips or official tours should be undertaken by a

minister or an MP to his or her constituency during the election period, except to cast his or her vote on the poll day.

On May 24, between 9 am and 5 pm, each voter will cast three votes – one each for the gup candidate, mangmi candidate and tshogpa candidate. Votes will be counted on the same day and the election results formally declared on the following day on May 25.

All existing DYT in the dzongkhags, GYT in the gewogs, and municipal or town committees stand dissolved from today. The new elected LG leaders will assume office on July 1, the start of the new financial year.

A total of 1,101 polling stations will be set up for the elections - 1,080 sta-

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NEW HOLLAND **SAMDEN EQUIPMENTS**

For any inquiries contact Kamal Tiwari at Ph: 02-333333/35/17637889. E-mail: samden_equipment@hotmail.com.
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Editorial

To start old age homes or not

Even as Bhutan makes progress, an increasing number of its citizens find themselves on the fringes of society. This trend is particularly noticeable in the bigger towns. Over the last few years, we have observed the number of homeless people in Thimphu city increase rapidly. The area surrounding the centennial farmers' market has become home many such people. They sit by the bridge all day, every day, whining for money as the passersby strut by hurriedly.

The scene is an eyesore, and it is disturbing. It is disturbing to see our parents and grandparents harshly cast aside in the twilight of their lives. This is happening even as we take the GNH discourse to a higher and more practical level. And there lies the irony – in fact, a moral dilemma.

Trashigang Dzongkhag has built the country's first old age home recently. That, ironically, happens to be in a village where the traditional family values and community spirit are still strong. The first old age home comes at a time when the country is still not sure whether old age homes are the best answer to the growing destitution among elderly citizens in the country.

Some people say that old age homes look out of place in a GNH society. Destitution should not be a GNH society's problem in the first place. But if destitution cannot be prevented, a way to address it must be thought of. And the immediate and most practical way is old age homes.

However, some people, including high government officials, think that old age homes can become a reason for some Bhutanese families to leave their elderly members uncared for. They might also attract 'self-professed' destitute people. Starting old age home, therefore, comes with a big moral question. But the need is written large on the woebegone, emaciated faces of old beggars in Thimphu and a few other dzongkhags.

It is high time that the government put in place a system to address the growing destitution in the country, which should be understood as being symptomatic of the erosion of finer social and family values. Until now, neither the government nor any civil society organisation has made concerted efforts to bring back homeless people to the mainstream society. For how long can we brush off the growing problem? Do we not hear the whine?

IN SUMMARY



Zhungi Dasho, please accept this as my humble gift la...

100,000 tourists, but how many jobs?

The burgeoning Bhutanese tourism industry is moving on the right track since it has been the main driving force for the acceleration of economic development of the nation for the past several years.

Pursuing the goal of attracting 100,000 tourists by the year 2013 seems to be achievable but we are not sure whether the 100,000 tourists are fully aimed at revenue generation.

The various media invariably speak of arrival of many international and regional tourists but the question is how many employment opportunities will be created in the market.

The drawback or the demerit of the Bhutanese tourism industry is that many of the travel agents are family-owned businesses, and such an awkward system has sown seeds of employing their relatives instead of going by the due process of law.

The tourism industry should also focus on the number of jobs that will be

created as a result of expansion of its size. If it is a pragmatic mechanism for socioeconomic development, it must have the potential for generation of sufficient jobs for all jobseekers.

The 10th five-year plan of Bhutan speaks about the prime objectives of promoting Bhutan as a unique, exotic, cultural and unspoilt destination; maximizing the use of resources and capacities; improving the quality of services; and spreading the benefits of development equitably across the country. But these seem to be dubious when the country cannot generate enough jobs.

Aiming for revenue generation alone does not contribute to our journey towards GNH. There is a big number of jobless people wandering in the country like vagabonds. I, as a tourism student, know that Bhutan is a real tourist destination just like Switzerland. Many will visit the country and we will earn hard currency.

If earning more revenue

is the prime focus of expanding the tourism market without job creation, only the richer section of the society will enjoy the benefits.

As of now, there are 287 travel agents in Bhutan as per the records maintained by TCB. Till date, I have never seen job vacancies in the tourism industry being announced in the media. Where is the problem? Where are the jobs our tour agents are supposed to create?

"Low volume and high value" or "low volume and high value and low impact", meaning still remains the same in terms of tourism industry's benefit to the society.

As a concerned citizen, I would like to ask out of 75,000 jobs coming up in the next two to three years, how many would be in the tourism sector? That will give us a taste of how many jobs the industry will be able to create when 100,000 tourists flood the country.

By Kingzang Chopel



Letters

Where are the food labels?

Sir,

We have heard and read over and over again that BAFRA is doing something about the packaged foods from outside that come without English labels. We know that in any country, the law requires the importers and shopkeepers to sell goods with labels in language(s) that can be read by the citizens. This is important for consumers because they need to know what kind of goods they are consuming. The need to have proper and readable labels applies to every consumer good, imported or domestic, in the market. But let's now focus on food items in our market.

Bhutan imports almost

100 percent of packaged foods from countries like India, Bangladesh, and Thailand. Thai packaged foods are proving very popular with the Bhutanese. So our importers bring them in by the tonnes. But most Thai packaged foods carry labels only in Thai.

At the most these food items have only the name of the product in English. Rest, including the nutrition contents, the date of manufacture and expiry date, are all in Thai which no Bhutanese can read.

What the consumer needs is not the name of the food items, but their nutrition contents and date of manufacture. If these are absent or not readable,

food item can prove dangerous to consumers. One need not go far to see this. Just walk into a grocery in Thimphu and you will see hundreds of them.

Now, what's BAFRA doing about it? Why is it taking so long to act on this important issue? This issue concerns the health of thousands of citizens. Every unhealthy or old imported packaged food item that a Bhutanese consumes has a huge impact on his health. We are not talking about a few, but thousands. Our authorities need to act fast before we are all fed with dubious imported food.

Yuden
Thimphu



Wai! Lemme tell you the story of Karma, an imaginary highland girl. Karma lives among the citadels of gods to whom she sings *Nge phayul gangri karmo dra* (my fatherland is like the snow-capped mountains). In winter, she grazes her hairy yaks and wooly sheep by an icy, sparkling brook whose pure stream nourishes and sustains the life of her community.

uncompromising terrain harsh and punishing. She finds her dress more traditional than unique. She finds her community more secluded than peaceful. She thinks that her fatherland may not in fact be like the snow-capped mountains. She hums a modern tune and learns a different song. She follows a modern dream to a bustling town.

This is the story of Karma that the govern-

KARMA'S STORY

Ruddy-cheeked and naturally wholesome in looks, Karma wears a beautiful traditional dress and a gracious smile. Everything about her way of life is unique, even by Bhutanese standards.

Karma goes to an urban high school in a warm valley. She makes friends with the people from low, fertile valleys and instinctively compares her way of life with theirs. She finds her life in the

ment now follows. Karma and her community are endangered. The government thinks that before all Karmas come down to valleys and towns, modern development should go to them. It wants to prove that Karma's fatherland can be indeed as enduring as the snow-capped mountains. Karmas should live in the highland feeling unique, yet modern; far-flung, yet connected. It's not too late. It can happen.



GNH principles in tourism – the Takin festival

Well done! What a sensible thing to do. It will showcase the special heritage of your region in the form of the Takin festival, bring about awareness on the conservation of the rich biodiversity you have, and help preserve and promote the local culture.

And targeted during the tourist off-season? This is certainly an innovative approach to help stimulate opportunities when tourist business is traditionally low invoking the GNH principles in GNH.

The Takin is a special animal only found in Bhutan. Therefore, Bhutanese

port wildlife.

Being proud of your rich cultural heritage through highlighting and showcasing this to tourists is another ingenious way to celebrate local culture. The display of locally produced cultural artifacts, textiles and dairy products, as well as medicinal education on cordyceps, will not only promote and rejuvenate local culture such as khuru, dego and yak and horse riding, but more importantly, this revival will help further sustain the culture. This is yet another significant evidence that the second GNH pillar of preservation and promotion of cul-

the Takin wildlife population, since wildlife needs to be respected and protected. This mindful planning, in my view, suggests good governance, invoking the third GNH pillar.

Whilst tourism provides sources of revenue and job opportunities in helping to improve the economic development of a nation, some caution must be taken. Failure to do so may result in economic exploitation at the expense of its socio-cultural heritage (examples of acculturation exist in Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, to name a few). It would be interesting to see

An excerpt from Observer's story 'Takin festival to attract tourists'

Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Park in collaboration with Tourism Council of Bhutan will organise a two-day takin festival in Tsharjathang, Gasa, in June this year.

The festival, which is the first of its kind, will showcase Bhutan's rich natural heritage, raise awareness on conservation of biodiversity, create avenue and strive towards financial sustainability of the park. It will also help provide off-season eco-tourism and means of alternative income opportunities to park residents, specifically the upland communities.

The festival will be held on June 9 and 10. The locals will put up a variety of stalls for the visitors. The stalls will display cultural artifacts and textiles, dairy products, medicinal plants, including cordyceps and incense, and educational materials on cordyceps, mushrooms and nature conservation. Documentary films on the takin and Jigme Dorji National Park will be screened during the festival.

Cultural programmes like khuru, dego, and yak and horse riding will be organized on the first day. On the second day, visitors will tour the takin congregation ground at Tsharjathang and observe takin behaviours for the whole day. They will be able to take photographs of takins and the saltlick areas. They will also trek around Tsharjathang to see blue sheep and other mammals.

people should be really proud to showcase the national treasure. Whilst other animal species such as the Tasmanian tiger (*Tylacynus cynocephalus*) and the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) are doomed to extinction, the Takin population is healthy and flourishing. Again, this is encouraging evidence that nature conservation has been successful, which is one of the four pillars of GNH, since the natural environment must be healthy in order to sup-

ture is actively pursued.

Such an approach in tourism (Takin Festival) suggests that careful planning has been done to sustain the local environment and businesses in terms of 'low volume, low impact'. As it is a traditionally low season, a small increase in tourist numbers would be welcomed, and at the same time, limiting this to a two-day festival program will have a low impact on the community. And more importantly, low impact on

the outcome of this festival in terms of equitable and sustainable socio-economic development, this being the fourth GNH pillar. For this to happen, there must be a 'balancing act' to spread the socio-economic benefits equitably across sections of the local community. This is the challenge for the Tourism Council of Bhutan and the people of Tsharjathang, Gasa.



BO ONLINE COMMENTS

On "Bhutan's first old age home starts in Radhi"

Let us not be happy with old age homes as some younger generations may put their parents there by compulsion. But let us pray that this should not happen in our Buddhist country where all are kind-hearted and helpful to all sentient beings. May all be happy and fulfil all good ambitions for good causes and results. Thanks.

By Chungdruk

www.bhutanobserver.bt

By Simon Teoh

Via bhutanobserver.bt



Dwindling water sources worsens Pemagatshel's water shortage

GYEMBO NAMGYAL

Pemagatshel: As Lungten, an agriculture extension officer based in Gonpasingma, prepares to go to the dzong about 10 km away, he makes sure to load every empty water container in his van so that he can bring home water on his way back. But, as he prepares to head back, he finds water taps in the main market in Pemagatshel almost dry with a few people waiting for their turns. After a few moments, he decides to drive on another kilometre and gets his empty jerry cans filled at a labour camp.

"This is what we go through each dry season that lasts for about four months," said Lungten. "Unless Khonmari project [which proposes to pump water from Khonmari stream to higher elevations] sees the light of day, drinking water will continue be a big issue during dry months."

Water scarcity is a growing problem in Pemagatshel with sources dwindling to their lowest levels at this time of the year. Vehicles laden with water containers to be filled from every possible source, and some people siphoning water from rural water tanks are common sights in Pemagatshel.

"Every time water in our taps runs dry, we know that our tank has been emptied," said Karma, a farmer.

Villages on the higher ridges in the dzongkhag, for obvious reasons, have water shortages in the winter months but of late, shortages have hit even lower places. Residents of Pemagatshel town say that, while they experience water shortages every winter, the shortage this year was acute prompting them to fix faulty pipes and disconnect some unauthorised connections. Residents said that the water level at the source has substantially dropped this



Vehicles laden with water containers are a common sight in the Pemagatshel town

year.

Nangkor Higher Secondary School, which had enough water until two years back, is now facing a water shortage with the source having dwindled substantially. This has prompted the school authorities to look for an alternative source. The school's location in the lower valley enabled it to find a water source which will soon be piped.

While the growing population leads to the increasing demand for water, there are visible signs of water sources retreating. The integrated fruit processing plant (IFPP) in Shumar has its water source near Yangkhar village with an intake tank built right at the source. Today, the source had retreated by a few metres leaving the water tank empty.

Similarly, a water tank right next to the road at Je-ponbrangsa, which catered to

about 100 households some years back, has also become dry today with water having apparently retreated underground.

Dorji, a farmer, said that he was surprised this week to see almost all the small water sources within Bolepam catchment area are completely dry now. "I was confident of finding those sources, but I was surprised to find all of them dry although there were not much human activity in the area," said Dorji, who spent most of his youth in that area.

Though shifting cultivation was thought to be the main reason for the water sources drying up, it has been years since water sources and catchment areas have been strictly protected. Despite protection of catchment areas, water sources continue to shrink making water a contentious resource. Water related cases flare up in most parts

of the dzongkhag from time to time.

It has been proven elsewhere that blasting at mining and construction sites also cause surface water to retreat underground through cracks created by the impact. Many villages and the dzongkhag headquarters depend mainly on Chherung catchment for water where sources are found

their hope of a lasting solution on the proposed Khonmari project. In view of the increasing water shortage, the dzongkhag administration proposed to the government on the need to pump water from Khonmari stream flowing between Resinang and Zobel villages to a higher point and then distribute to villages in Zobel and Shumar gewogs,

Every time water in our taps runs dry, we know that our tank has been emptied

Karma, a farmer

to be drying slowly by the year. Whether blasting at the nearby gypsum mine has got anything to do with the drying water sources is debatable for want of proper studies. However, its role cannot be ruled out because of the contagious land mass sharing the same bedrock with the catchment area.

Meanwhile, people pin

which have been facing water shortages for decades. The proposal was made in 2009.

"The detail survey was carried out last year and we will be carrying out the work in the next fiscal year provided that we secure fund," said Lungten Thinley, the dzongkhag engineer.



Gups say tobacco control act should not be amended

TEMPA WANGDI

Trashigang: Amid calls for amendment of the tobacco control act, gewog leaders in Trashigang say that the act has effectively reduced the sale and consumption of tobacco products in the villages. Even as the debate on the act rages among educated urban dwellers, the villagers say they are 'comfortable' with the act.

The gewogs in the dzongkhag claim that the number of people smoking and chewing tobacco in the villages has drastically come down since the tobacco control act came into force from January 1 this year. Bartsham and Bidung gewogs claim that now only less than one percent of their population consume tobacco. "My gewog may not even have anyone smoking or chewing tobacco now," said Bartsham gup, Neten Duba.

Gewog officials in Radhi estimate that the number of tobacco users in the gewog has dropped to around 10 percent from 70 percent before the act was enforced. Out of 5,725 people in the gewog, only about 572 consume tobacco products now.

In Phongmey, some 50 percent of the villagers consumed tobacco products before the tobacco control act was enacted. Now, less than five percent of them smoke or chew tobacco, according to gewog officials. Phongmey gup, Dorji Wangchuk, said he no longer sees villagers smoking Bidi or chewing Baba.

Samkhar Gewog also claims that the tobacco control act has been effective in the villages.

Most gups said that, given the effectiveness of the tobacco control act among the villagers who constitute the bulk of the Bhutanese population, the act should remain in force as it is. Most of them said they are 'strongly against' amendment of the



Some of Trashigang gups: (back row from left) Bidung Gup, Lumang Gup, and Sakteng Gup (front row from left) Khaling Gup, Kanglung Gup, Samkhar Gup, Shongphu Gup, Uzorong Gup, and Bartsham Gup

act. They said it was a message to the members of parliament not to yield to the 'pressure from smokers' to amend the act.

"If the act is amended right after its implementation, it will give room for manipulative and influential people to meddle with other laws, even the constitution," said Phongmey gup, adding that it will be tantamount to tampering with the majority's democratic will.

Most local leaders think that the call for amendment of the tobacco act comes only from educated and vocal smokers. Sakteng gup, Phurpa Wangdi, said, "The act should not be amended for a handful of smokers."

The gups say that, although tobacco consumers can assert their individual right enshrined in the constitution, the majority's will rules in a democracy. "I understand that if an individual's right to smoke infringes the majority's right to be free from tobacco, the right to smoke is misplaced," Gup

Neten Duba said.

According to Bidung gup, Karma, an individual's right to smoke cannot be more important than the majority's right not to smoke.

Bartsham gup said that those calling for amendment of the act are a handful of smokers from urban areas. He said, "It is a pity that the educated section of the population is encouraging people to consume tobacco knowing full well that it's bad for health. If that's what our educated people do, what good could they be to the illiterate masses?"

He said the parliament should not change its stance on the tobacco issue and the act should be implemented in the most effective manner. Other gups shared Neten Duba's view.

Regarding the punishment under the tobacco act, the gups said both consumers and smugglers of tobacco products should be 'severely punished' for the act to be effective. "Punishment should be harsh for the

effective implementation of the act," said Phongmey gup. "Otherwise, defaulters will break the law repeatedly."

However, Radhi gup, Samdrup, said the severity of punishment on a consumer and a smuggler of tobacco products should be different. "The punishment meted out to Sonam Tshering [the first person to be imprisoned under the tobacco control act] was disproportionate to the amount of tobacco he was carrying for self-consumption," he said. He added that there is a need to review the penalty section of the act.

Dorji Wangchuk said

the law enforcers need to be firm. "As long as people buy and consume tobacco products legally, there's no confusion," he said. "If law implementers are not firm, it could lead to social disharmony."

All the gups said that the tobacco control act should have been implemented after enough public awareness to avoid ignorant people facing harsh punishments. "Until now, we haven't received even a single circular or public notification on the rules and regulations of the tobacco control act," said Gup Samdrup.

MENDAGANG

Mendagang is the name of a village under Dzomi Gewog in Punakha. According to the local elders, the village was a battlefield during a Tibeto-Bhutan war in the medieval era. During the war, the ancient Bhutanese matchlock guns called *menda* were used. Later, the place came to be known as Mendagang or the hilltop where *menda* was used.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?



“The best time to prepare for death is now”

His Eminence Sogyal Rinpoche, a world renowned Buddhist master, will teach how to prepare to meet death not as a defeat, but as a triumph this weekend in Thimphu. Our reporter Jigme Wangchuk talks to Rinpoche to get a sneak preview of his teaching

What are the bardo teachings? How are they the key to unlocking the mystery of life and death?

The word ‘bardo’ is commonly used to denote the intermediate state between death and rebirth, but in reality bardos are occurring continuously throughout both life and death. They are junctures when the possibility of liberation, or enlightenment, is heightened.

The bardo teachings are extremely ancient. The lineage of these teachings stretches back beyond human masters to the Primordial Buddha Samantabhadra (or Kuntuzangpo). They were later handed down by Guru Rinpoche and then revealed by great tertöns in the following centuries.

In these wonderful teachings, we find the whole of life and death presented together as a series of stages known as ‘bardos’. Bardo simply means a ‘transition’ or a gap between the completion of one stage or situation and the onset of another.

There are, the teachings show us, certain moments that are much more powerful than others and much more charged with potential, when whatever you do has a crucial and far-reaching effect. The greatest and most charged of these moments, however, is the moment of death.

These teachings are the key or tool that enables us to discover and recognize the opportunities for liberation that occur in the bardos, and to make the fullest possible use of them.

Rinpoche, how does an ordinary person prepare for death? Is preparation nec-



H E Sogyal Rinpoche is one of the greatest Dzongchen masters in the Buddhist world

essary?

All too often, it seems, we only start to think about death just before we die. But isn't that a bit too late? The trouble with us is that even though we know we will die one day, because we do not know *when* or *how* we're going to die, we think we have an unlimited lease on life, and so we procrastinate. The best time to prepare for death is now, when we're well and in a happy frame of mind.

Two of the most important ways to prepare for the moment of death are: to realize the ultimate nature of mind through meditation, and to cultivate genuine faith and devotion.

As I explain in my book, the true purpose of medita-

tion is to awaken in us the sky-like nature of mind, and to introduce us to that which we really are, our unchanging pure awareness, which underlies the whole of life and death. It is only through meditation that you can undertake the journey to discover your true nature, the ultimate nature of mind, and so find the stability and confidence you will need to live, and die, well.

Secondly, cultivating faith and devotion allows you to find an inner refuge – even though everything around you falls apart, there is something inside you that never gives up on you, and never lets you down. Practitioners who cultivate this kind of genuine faith and devotion, in the teachings, the

masters, and their own true nature, have an invaluable resource which helps them to face death fearlessly, with great compassion, wisdom and composure.

Then, of course, there is the practice of phowa. The principle of this practice is that at the moment of death, the practitioner ejects his or her consciousness and merges it with the wisdom mind of the buddhas. The Essential Phowa that I will teach on in more depth in Bhutan this weekend (and which is presented in *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*) is easy to learn and can be done by anyone.

How does one help one's dear ones die in peace?

This is one of the main

themes of *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* and there is so much that could be said.

The most important thing when we come to help our dying friends and relatives is to give our love with all our heart, without any conditions, and as free as possible from attachment.

If we have come in touch with the nature of our mind, stabilized it through our spiritual practice, and integrated it into our lives, then the love we have to give can only be deeper, because it comes from a deeper source: from our innermost being, the heart of our enlightened nature. It has a special power to free us, or someone else who is dying.

The more we can embody spiritual practice, the more natural and more effective we will be in giving spiritual care to those who are in need of help. Because it is how we are – our being, our presence – that is so much more important than what we say or do.

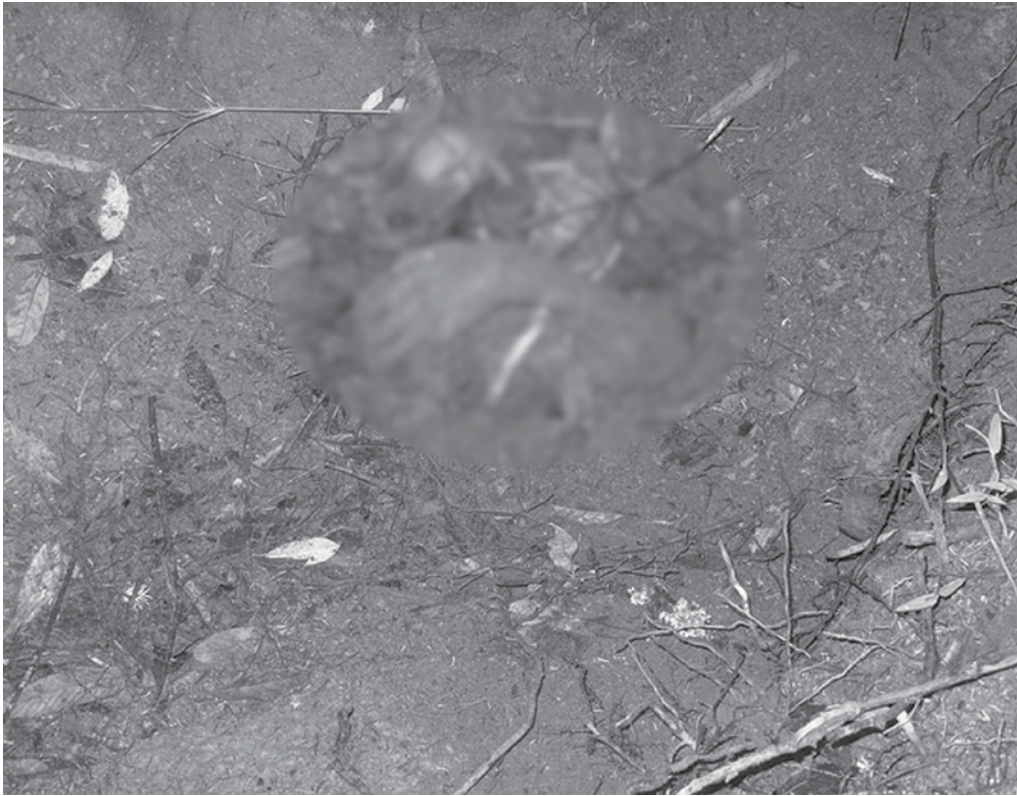
This weekend,
H.E. Sogyal Rinpoche is
teaching in Thimphu on:
**“Compassionate Living,
Fearless Dying”**

Venue: YDF Hall.
Date: 9th Saturday and 10th
Sunday, April 2011
Time: 10 am to late after-
noon/evening with a lunch
break.

Please be prepared to stay
late.

Contact:
rigpa.bt@gmail.com
Tel: 1762 0005,
1798 3740

If you have any other
specific questions besides
registration,
please do revert or call
1798 3740.



A graveyard exhumed by bone hunters

BO File picture

Graveyard may not be cleared soon

TANDIN PEM

Thimphu: The demand made by the people of Toebesa Gewog in Punakha to clear the secret graveyard near Lamperi may not be heard anytime soon.

It has been almost a year since the secret graveyard was discovered near Lamperi, about 5 km from Dochula towards Wangdue. The people of Toebesa have since been demanding the authorities to clear the graveyard since it lies at their drinking water source and the place is considered sacred.

The matter was put up to the dzongkhag administration and Jigme Dorji National Park, but there has been no action from both the sides.

Toebisa gup, Dorji Norbu, said that the authorities have done nothing to address their concern. "We have informed the dzongkhag and the park authorities but they haven't done anything yet," he said.

A frustrated gup added that the community was willing to help if dzongkhag or the park took the initiative to clear the graveyard.

Punakha dzongda, Kuenzang N Tshering, said that the dzongkhag had written to the park authorities because the area belongs to the park. "They had some consultations with the people," he said.

The dzongda said that the park authorities should do something about it. He said he will discuss the issue with the gewog soon.

The director of nature recreation and ecotourism division of the department of forest and park services, Karma Dukpa, said that this is a very delicate issue, so it has been 'left as it is'. "The solution is beyond our authority," he said.

He added that park officials have checked the area and informed people not to bury dead bodies there. "The government is sensitised on this issue," he said.

In May last year, three residents of Lamperi discovered the forest graveyard a few metres away from the Thimphu-Wangdue highway. There were 20 graves with at least eight bodies having been exhumed by thigh bone and skull hunters.

SJI trains farmers in organic farming

NAMGAY TSHERING

Thimphu: Twenty-seven farmers and three agriculture officials are on a 17-day exposure tour to Bija Vidyapeeth, Navdanya's organic seed farm, in Uttaranchal, India, to gain a deeper understanding of organic farming and the impact of green revolution in India.

The training came as part of Navdanya's partnership with Bhutan government to make a transition to 100 percent organic Bhutan. Navdanya is an India-based non-governmental organisation which promotes biodiversity conservation, organic farming, rights of farmers and seed saving.

Karma Tshomo, an official from the agriculture ministry, said Navdanya will train the group on biodiversity-based organic farming.

During the training period, the farmers will visit Punjab district to observe the impact of conventional agriculture and green revolution.

The group will be taught different techniques of or-

ganic farming including composting, vermin composting, mulching, green manuring, importance of pollinators in organic farming, pest management with the available resources, seed selection, and post-harvest management, among others.

The Bhutanese farmers will interact with the farmers of three different agro-ecological zones in Dehradun and Rudrapur districts. The Mahila Anna Swaraj groups of Navdanya will teach the farmers how to make squashes, jams and pickles.

The training is funded by Samdrup Jongkhar initiative, a civil society project initiated by Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche.

Out of 27 farmers in the group, 25 are from Samdrupjongkhar and one each from Punakha and Tsirang. The farmers from Punakha and Tsirang were nominated and funded by the national organic programme under the agriculture ministry.

The group had left the country on March 22. They will be back home tomorrow.

SAARC MEETINGS DISCUSS SAARCPOL AND NETWORKING

The 9th Saarc Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters preceded by the fourth meetings of Saarc Focal Points of Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) and Saarc Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) were held in Colombo on April 4 and 5 with the participation of Saarc member states.

The Saarc focal point meeting of STOMD and SDOMD on April 4 discussed measures to further improve the functioning of the two desks. The focus of the SDOMD meeting was sharing of best practices for drug abuse prevention, drug demand reduction and drug supply strategies and that of the STOMD meeting was sharing of information real time or near real time.

The Saarc Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters discussed the concept paper on SAARCPOL, SAARC Institute of Criminology, networking among police authorities, cooperation in provision of required training, techniques and technology for police investigations, among others. The member states agreed on enhancing the networking arrangements among the police authorities of Saarc member states.



KNOW YOUR LAW

DO YOU KNOW WHAT INDECENT EXPOSURE IS?

The penal code of Bhutan states that a person shall be guilty of the offence of indecent exposure if he or she exposes his or her private part to another person or puts up any obscene act in public a place in the knowledge that it is likely to cause affront or alarm.

The offence of indecent exposure is petty misdemeanor punishable by a prison term between one month and one year.



Still short of tshogpa aspirants

TEMPA WANGDI

Trashigang: At the approach of the local government elections, some chiwogs in Trashigang still do not have a tshogpa aspirant.

Only a few people are interested to stand for the post of tshogpa. While the responsibility of tshogpa has increased, the salary has remained low. Tshogpa's salary was increased from Nu 1,400 to Nu 2,000 last year. But it is still less than the daily minimum wage.

The gewogs are collecting documents like audit clearance certificate, no offence certificate, and asset declaration certificate from aspiring LG election candidates.

No one has taken forms from the gewog office in Bartsham to prepare documents for the elections although April 6 was declared as the last date for submission of the documents. "Until now, no one wishing to stand for the post of tshogpa has come to collect the forms," said Bartsham gup, Neten Duba. "Not many have shown interest even now."

According to the gups, the merging of more than two or three tshog into one chiwog has made the shortage of tshogpa aspirants more acute. Radhi Gup Samdrup said the merging of Dookpuling, Tsangkhar and Jolenla tshog into one chiwog, for instance, has discouraged people from standing for tshogpa's post. A chiwog will have only one tshogpa and a tshogpa now has a bigger area to cover. Samdrup said Radhi's three tshog,

which has now become one chiwog, were difficult to be managed even by three tshogpa. Ten tshog of Radhi have now been merged into five chiwogs. Therefore, tshogpa's responsibility has become doubly bigger.

Previously, Bidung Gewog had at least one candidate from each of its five tshog. Since the tshog have been merged, even lone candidates are now reluctant to contest in the elections, according to Bidung gup, Karma. He said people in his gewog cited low salary as the main reason for not being interested to stand for the tshogpa's post. Even previously interested people are now withdrawing their candidature.

"I am worried about the prospect of my gewog not having anyone interested to contest for tshogpa's post," said Gup Samdrup. He said that, even interested people are discouraged by their family members, friends and relatives from taking part in the upcoming elections.

He said some women tshogpa aspirants are discouraged by their husbands on the grounds of meagre salary. This, he said, will have implications on the elections in which women will be underrepresented.

Trashigang dzongkhag electoral officer, Sonam Wangda, said that tshogpa's post in a few chiwogs in the dzongkhag could remain vacant. Three chiwogs in Thrimshing Gewog do not have a tshogpa aspirant yet. Trashigang Dzongkhag has 79 chiwogs.



Community forest proposal ends in land ownership dispute

GYEMBO NAMGYAL

Pemagatshel: Earlier this year, a member from each household of Nangkhor village attended three days of training on the management of community forests (CF). They were expected to manage two community forests – one under Shumar Gewog and the other under Zobel Gewog.

However, Zobel Gewog raised objection against the proposed site in Zobel. Therefore, the proposal remained stalled. The objection is tantamount to a dispute, so the proposal falls short of a criterion to establish a community forest, said the dzongkhag forest officer of Pemagatshel, Namgangla.

The proposed site under Zobel Gewog was registered grazing land of Nangkhorpas until the government decided to drop registration of such land nationwide during a cadastral survey.

According to Namgangla, if there is no dispute, a

community can have a CF in another gewog provided that accessibility criteria are met. The 220 hectares of land in Zobel extends from Kherigonpa to Monglin.

The Nangkorpas are now left with only 65 hectares of land at Mawa under Shumar Gewog. The forest officer said that, for a village of over 140 households, the area is too small.

Shumar gup, Lepo, insists that, although located in another gewog, the grazing land belongs to the people of Nangkhor because they had paid taxes in the past. "Had the people been compensated, they cannot claim any right, but they were not. Therefore, I think the previous owners still have certain rights over such land," he said.

He also said the proposed forest area in question does not have anything that can be harvested by this generation since it was plundered in the name of logging about a decade back. He said, "We

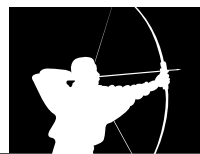
proposed this CF because we do not have forests nearby since our village is surrounded by settlements. And if a day comes when all the government forests within the accessible areas becomes CF, we will be left with no forest to depend on for our needs," said Tshering Chopel, a farmer from Nangkhor.

Pemagatshel has a forest cover of about 54 percent, which is way below the national average of 72.5 percent and is also less than the constitutional requirement of 60 percent forest cover for all time. Today, availability of timber is also a major issue in the dzongkhag. The problem continues to grow by the year.

The dzongkhag has established 14 community forests, including one non-wood based forest products group with a total area of 1,053.6 hectares. It plans to establish 10 more community forests, according to Namgangla.

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LOCAL

Eastern Boys and Druk Chapcha Construction victors yesterday



KARMA PALDEN

Thimphu: Yesterday, Eastern Boys had an easy day as they wrapped up the match against Gangthong in straight sets in the ongoing traditional archery Jigme Dorji Wangchuck Memorial tournament.

Eastern Boys won the first game when Gangthong could only notch mere two points. The second game saw latter coming strong but couldn't withstand the onslaught and surrendered the match 25-16 early yesterday morning after it stretched from the day before.

In the other match, Druk Chapcha Construction also had a straight sets win over Phuntsho Drayang.

They defeated Phuntsho Drayang 25-12, 25-17.

Eighteen teams from

Thimphu, Paro, Gelephu and Phuentsholing are participating in the tournament organized by Bhutan Archery Federation (BAF).

A team is charged an entry fee of Nu 5,000.

Each team comprises 15 players, including four substitutes, and a match is played 25 points best of three.

Tissot watches of different prize range will be awarded.

The tournament began on April 1 and the finals will be played on May 2 coinciding with the birth anniversary of third Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck.

Today, Lungten Automobiles will play Nyamrog Cheynga in pool A while Semthuen Charo will face Central Bhutan.

Street football kicks off this Sunday

KARMA PALDEN

Thimphu: The undeniable popularity of football in the capital among younger people is confirmed by an overwhelming registered participation in the league-cum-knockout Open Street Football tournament scheduled to begin on April 10.

Forty-two teams have registered in the open category while school category has 12 boys' and six girls' teams in the tournament to be held at Changlingmithang parking lot.

Bhutan Olympic Committee and DANTAK are erecting two pitches for the event.

The street football derives its name from being played at any available space on the streets. It is a mini-version of football but played on a hard court on the streets and do not nec-

essarily deploy the requirements of a formal game of football. It is comparable to futsal but not entirely.

Each team comprising eight players, including three substitutes, will play in a match consisting of two periods of 15 minutes each.

A team is charged an entry fee of Nu 500.

"This tournament is first of its kind in country as part of the street football project since Bhutan was nominated by Olympic Consul of Asia (OCA) for the street football project," said Ugyen Dorji, the coordinator of the project. "We hope that it will promote football as many football greats came through this game."

"The popularity of street football can be attributed to love of the game—football and the ease of playing it serve as a plus point," said

Karma Yeshey, a street football enthusiast.

Apart from medals and certificates, the winners and the runners-up will win Nu 30,000 and Nu 25,000 respectively in the open category, while in the school category, the cash prizes will be Nu 25,000 and Nu 20,000 for the winners and runners-up respectively.

To the joy of many enthusiasts, the pitches at Changlingmithang will remain open even after the tournament, except during the occasions, which will greatly help in engaging the youth besides addressing the lack of playground in Thimphu.

The event is organized by Bhutan Olympic Committee (BOC) in association with OCA.

The finals are scheduled for April 24.

Dewangiri crowned the champions

KARMA PALDEN

Thimphu: Dewangiri were crowned the champions of the Traditional Archery Sumzing Tournament in Samdrupjongkhar on April 5.

They won the finals with 23 points from 10 kareys against runners-up Dramzop Transport's 16 points from eight kareys and second runners-up KHPP's six points from three kareys.

The winners collected 16 volumes of religious scriptures, while the runners-up took 15 volumes. Chhoe-long truelsum statues and Jatongpa scriptures went to the second runners-up.

Lobzang Dorji of Dewangiri was adjudged the Man of the Match in the finals. The highest dobji accolade went to Passang Dorji of Dramzop

Transport.

"The tournament ended well. In future, we hope to organize more of such tournaments in block plaster manner in villages and bring the winners to the central district and engage them in a tournament," said Sonam Tobgyel, the assistant secretary general of traditional archery association.

He said that the association hopes to garner more support from the public as well as the sponsors in the future.

The tournament began on March 29 with 12 teams from Gyelpoizhing, Dewathang, Pemathang and Samdrupjongkhar.

The tournament was organized by Samdrupjongkhar Sports Association (SSA).

ARMY WELFARE PROJECT

(An undertaking of Royal Govt. of Bhutan)

AWP/HO/HRD-03/2011/867

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Management is pleased to announce vacancy for the post of General Manager (Finance) for recruitment as mentioned hereunder:

Designation	Grade	Qualification	Experience
General Manager (Finance), Head Office, Phuentsholing	IV	Bachelor in Commerce, Finance, Economics, Business Administration. Preferred CPA/PA/MBA (Finance)	10-15 years of working experience with advance training in Accounting, Public Finance, Financial Management and Managerial Economics with required knowledge and skills in managing corporate finance and accounting

Slot : One (1) each
Employment Statues : Regular
Pay Scale : 30,500-950-54,250 or Commensurate to qualification, skills and working experience/ negotiable

Interested Bhutanese national within the age limit of 18 to 45 years of age fulfilling the above criteria are requested to submit the following documents:

1. AWP Employment Application Form;
2. Resume;
3. Citizenship Identity Card;
4. Copies of academic certificates and transcripts;
5. Work experience certificate;
6. Security Clearance and Medical Fitness Certificate;
7. No Objection Certificate if employed
8. Any other documents and testimonials as deemed fit for the post.

The last date of submission of application is **23rd April 2011**. Only shortlisted candidate/s shall be contacted.

For information and Terms of Reference, please contact Sr. Manager (HR) at **05-251368** or visit website www.awp.com.bt

Sr. Manager (HR)

PUNATSANGCHHU-I HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (E&M)

PHUENTSHOLING

Tender Notice No.PHPA-I/CE (E&M)-22/NIT-02/2011

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Chief Engineer (E&M), Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority (PHPA-I) for and on behalf of PHPA invites **sealed tenders** from authorized Distributor/Dealers in Bhutan/India for supply of office Stationery items of estimated value of **Rs./Nu. 25 Lakhs** (Twenty Five Lakhs) only. The tender document can be purchased from the office of the Chief Engineer (E&M), PHPA-I, Near Bank of Bhutan, Old Hospital Road, Phuentsholing (Tel. 00975-5-252038, Fax. 252841) on any working day w.e.f **04.04.2011 to 18.04.2011** (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 Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority payable at Bank of Bhutan, Phuentsholing and submission of requisite certificate being authorized Suppliers/Dealers, and having supporting document.

The sealed tenders are to be submitted in the office of the Chief Engineer (E & M), PHPA-I, Phuentsholing on or before **22.04.2011 upto 1500 hrs (BST)** and shall be opened on the same day i.e. on **22.04.2011 at 1600 hrs (BST)**

Chief Engineer (E&M)
 PHPA, Phuentsholing, Bhutan

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

THIMPHU : BHUTAN

P.O. BOX :726

7(5) DMS/Pro/2010-2011/5193

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed firms for the supply of following equipments:

Voltage Stabilizer -1 KvA and 2 KvA(20 Nos.) each
Voltage Stabilizer -3 KvA (10 Nos.)
UPS -5 KvA, 2KvA (10 Nos. each)
Surge Protectors -(20 Nos.)

Terms&Conditions can be obtained from the Procurement unit, AFD, MoH from **4th April to 5th May, 2011** on cash payment of **Nu.500.00** which is non-refundable. The last date and time for tender submission is on or before **5th May, 2011 at 11:30 AM** and will be opened at **2:30 PM** on the same day. For further clarification please contact the Head, BES, DMS during office hours.

Adm. Officer, AFD.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

THIMPHU

P.O.BOX-726

MoH/Pro/09-GFATM/2010-2011/8506

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

The Project Management Team (PMT) for Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) under Ministry of Health would like to request for Expression of Interest (EoI) from interested **National Individual Consultant** to work with the PMT, for a duration of 8 weeks to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing reporting mechanism, develop supervision plan for the reporting units, modify reporting tools & software if necessary and conduct training for reporting units and other stakeholders. Interested consultants are requested to submit their expression of interest, no later than **April 18th 2011 at 16:00 hrs**, in a sealed envelop at the PMT's office at Ministry of Health.

The applicants will have to submit the following documents along:

1. Expression of Interest
2. Brief CV of the Consultant
3. Methodology
4. Work plan with time line for the assignment
5. Cost break down

Detailed scope of work available at www.health.gov.bt/announcement or Contact Mr. Kinley Dorji, Sr. Project Coordinator, PMT, MoH at 321935

Adm. Officer, AFD

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bhutan Observer is pleased to announce the following vacancies for immediate recruitment:

- 1 News Editor
- 1 Bill Collector

For further information, please contact the Editor at 02-336041 or the Adm. Manager 02-334891.

Management



SCHOOL GRAMMAR SUCCESS



BY KC JOSE

Let's practise grammar in the deductive way – examples first and then, analysis and application

- Twenty kilometres (is/are) good distance for a good marathoner.
- I who ... (is/am) poor cannot afford a car now.
- He thanked me for ... (a/the/ zero article) help I had given him.
- Then 'Bhutan idol' fans wait in line for tickets. But some don't get. (Join the two sentences into a single sentence.)
- I saw the teacher busy; so I did not disturb her. (Combine into a simple sentence)
- Let's not consider the matter now, ... we?
- In order to discipline himself, Damber decided to forgo a meal a day. (Use 'so that')
- Did you bring the book? (Use 'brought')
- Chador is a slow learner; but I'm sure he will catch ... by the end of the semester.
- Don't worry; Deki will catch ... soon. After all, we are just 5 kilometres ahead of her.

Answers

- is (Measurements of time, money, distance, and weight etc. take singular verbs. Similarly, we say, 'Nu. 100/- is...', 'Five litres is ...' and so on.)
- am (The verb after **relative pronouns** agrees with its antecedent. 'Am' agrees with its antecedent, 'I' before the relative pronoun, 'who')
- the ('The' is used to refer to particular things. Here, 'I had given him' makes the 'help' particular.)
- Some 'Bhutan idol' fans, who wait in line for the tickets, don't get them. (Hint: As both the sentences have the same subject, we can join them using a relative pronoun, 'who') Finding the teacher busy, I did not disturb her (Hint: One short cut making a simple sentence is to convert one of the verbs into its '-ing' form [here, 'finding']. The '-ing' part of the sentence up to the comma is called a 'participial phrase'.)
- Shall. (Statements starting with 'Let's' – be it positive or negative -, take the question tag, 'shall we?')
- Damber decided to forgo a meal a day so that he could discipline himself.
- Was the book brought (by you)?
- on
- up (Here, 'catch on' means 'understand the matter gradually' whereas 'catch up' means 'be with at the same speed')

Now, read the passage below and see how the grammar items above are being used.

"When I took serious interest in runs, I was 85 kilos," said Tashi, the best athlete of our school. "85 kilograms was not a matter of joke, you know, for a sportsman," Tashi continued. "Then, my younger brother would run faster, I would catch up with some difficulty. I who am now only 65 kilos am thankful to the guidance my games teacher, Mr. Pema gave me."

Before we started our rigorous practice in runs, Mr. Pema advised me, "Let's run at least 10 kilometres daily, shall we?" I soon found my stamina stabilize. Seeing my stamina improve and my weight lose gradually, I was thrilled and motivated. At first, I was not convinced of the benefits of daily practice, though soon I caught on and thus I started putting in all my heart and soul into it.

The other day, when the Principal awarded me the 'best marathoner' award of the year, I became nervous. I asked myself, "Was I awarded the prize medal?" The experience was so unbelievable.

Grammar curiosity. Use 'incredible' and 'incredulous' in sentences of your own.

Poem

Emo Girl

There she stands all alone
In the cavern of darkness and sorrow
Waiting for someone to come
But helping hands seem to be far
Rain pours over her
Her eyeliner starts to spread
As she cries it smears like
The darkness engulfing her life
She tries to find light
She tries to find love
But all she finds is the betrayed darkness
Hatred and loneliness
She cries in pain
She wishes someone would hold her hand
Forever and ever
Trying to have love
But all she gets is hate
Now her heart is broken
She goes to the corner
Where no one can see her
She cries in pain
But smiles at people
Yet no one knows her
She cries inside
Her heart is filled with much pain.

By Razmee Subba

Nima Higher Secondary School

Thimphu

The story of Khan Tshering of Bartsam in Trashigang who works for Ap Zangpo, a rich landlord.

Based on true characters



PROJECT DEPARTMENT DRUK GREEN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

DGPC/PD/CM&PD/Office Equip/2011/983

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC), Thimphu is pleased to invite sealed bids from the interested Bhutanese National Licensed Suppliers for supply and delivery of following item:

Sl. No.	Item	Cost of Bidding Document (Nu.)	Date of Sale of Tender Documents	Submission Date and Time	Bid Security (Nu.)	Date of Opening
1	Office Equipments	Nu.1000 (non-refundable)	08/04/2011 to 06/05/2011	At or before 1500 hrs. on 09/05/2011	Nu.50,000/- (fifty thousand only)	1530 hrs. on 09/05/2011

A complete set of bidding document can be purchased from the office of Manager, Contracts Management & Procurement Division, Projects, Department, DGPC, Changzamtog, P.O Box 1351, Thimphu: Bhutan. Phone: +975-2-339875 and Fax +975-2-323853.

The bidding document can also be downloaded from DGPC website at www.dgpc.bt/tender. The bidding document downloaded from the website has to be regularized through payment of cost of bidding document along with the bid submission in a separate envelope (marked as "Cost of Bidding Document"). All bids must be accompanied with the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee or Bank Draft in favour of DGPC, Thimphu. No cash is acceptable.

DGPC reserves the right to cancel/withdraw the invitation for the bids.

Manager, CM&PD

BHUTAN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED REGIONAL CORPORATE OFFICE, WEST, THIMPHU

BPC/D&CSD/ESD/Tech-4/2011/53

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Bhutan Power Corporation Limited (BPC) SMD, TD Semtokha invites sealed quotations for the supply and delivery of goods (**Supply & Delivery of Electrical Miscellaneous items, T&P, Furniture and Civil items**) from eligible suppliers/dealers who hold valid trade license issued by Ministry of Economic Affairs of RGoB.

Sl. No.	Bid Details		Bid Security	Cost of Tender (non-refundable)
1	Package 1	Supply & delivery of electrical miscellaneous items	Nu. 10,000	Nu. 200
2	Package 2	Supply & delivery of Tools & plants, furniture and civil items	Nu. 10,000	Nu. 200

Bidding documents with detailed terms and conditions can be purchased from the office of **Regional Manager, Regional Corporate Office, BPC, Thimphu** from **7th April, 2011 upto 30th April, 2011** during office hours on payment of **Nu. 200** (non-refundable) to **Assistant Finance Officer, Regional Finance and Account Division, BPC, Thimphu**.

Sealed bids complete in all respect must be submitted to the **Regional Manager, Regional Corporate Office, West, BPC, by 3rd May, 2011 upto 12 noon**. The bids shall be opened in the presence of bidders representative who choose to attend at on the same day at **15:30 hrs**.

BPC reserves the right to reject or accept the tenders.

Regional Manager

ROAD SAFETY & TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HEAD OFFICE, THIMPHU

RSTA/AF/11/2010-2011/662

NOTIFICATION

This is to notify all concerned involved in carrying out various construction works that many incidences of vehicular accidents have been reported due to **stacking and spillage of construction materials along footpaths and other road space**.

Therefore, keeping the safety of all road users in mind, it is hereby notified that under no circumstances road space or footpaths shall be allowed to be used as space for stacking of construction materials. All concerned are therefore, requested to arrange appropriate sites for stacking of construction materials and also refrain from spilling construction materials along the road or footpaths.

RSTA and concerned agencies shall take serious action against those who do not comply with this notification.

Further, it is also notified that many drivers are found driving at very high speeds with complete disregard to other road users. The RSTA and Traffic Police shall be conducting surprise inspections and if caught, besides imposing the applicable penalty, the driver license of the offending driver shall be suspended or cancelled on the spot.

All concerned are therefore requested to take serious note of this and co-operate with us for ensuring safety of the general public.

Director

BHUTAN TRUST FUND THIMPHU

BTF/F&A/01/10-11/989

RE-SUBMISSION FOR PROPOSAL

The Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation wishes to inform potential grantees that the conservation grant proposal should reach our office by **31 May 2011**. For information on the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation's mandate, please visit: www.bhutantrustfund.bt or call us at **339861/339862**.

Officiating Director



FOR SALE

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PUNATSANGCHHU-II HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AUTHORITY
THIMPHU: BHUTAN
POST BOX NO. 908

PHPA-II/Per/5/2011/45

INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRE OF BUILDING

Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Authority (PHPA-II) intends to hire two buildings at Phuentsholing for the purpose of establishment of office (8 units of 24 rooms) and for transit camp (8 units of 24 rooms) on rental basis. The lease shall be approximately for 7 years. Each unit shall have one attached and one common toilet.

The interested building owners may submit the following details for appraisal and final consideration of the proposal latest by **30th April 2011** to the Labour Officer, PHPA-II, Phuentsholing.

- Name of the owner, Plot No., Thram No.
- Location of the building
- Year of construction
- Number of units (with no. of room) and total floor area with drawings
- Parking area of each unit with full details
- Expected rent per month
- Any terms and conditions

The PHPA-II reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereto.

For further queries, please contact Labour Officer at **Tele. No. 05-253512, Mobile No. 17115412, Fax No. 05- 253511.**

Sr. Personnel Officer

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

Ref. MoLHR/HRD/Inst-1/10-11/1905

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sl. No.	Position Title	Position Level	Place of Posting/ Dept./Div.	No. of Vacancy	Remarks
1	Jr. Instructor III (Contract)	S2A	Sershong Institute of Civil Engineering, Gelephu	1	Contract Term for 2 years.

1. Minimum Qualification/ Experience required

- i. Diploma in Upholstery Works awarded by recognized Polytechnic/university
- ii. For non-diploma holder:
 - a. Certificate in Furniture & Wood Working Machine Operation with minimum of two years' of work experience.
 - b. Certificate in upholstery & related work with minimum of two years' work experience.

2. i. Applicant should be between 25-45 years

- ii. Applicant should have read and understood the "Agreement on Service terms & Conditions for Contract Employee: PART I" (available as Annexure 5/1 of BCSR 2010, CHAPTER 5.)

3. Documents:

- i. An Employment Application Form duly completed.
- ii. Copy of Security Clearance Certificate
- iii. Copy of CID
- iv. NOC from employer, for employed applicants
- v. Other relevant documents

4. Teaching allowance and Contract allowances would be paid as per existing rules

5. Last date of application: **April 22, 2011** (Monday)

6. Shortlisted result will be made available on www.molhr.gov.bt on **April 25, 2011**

7. Time, Date & Venue of Interview : **10 a.m, April 29 2011** (Thursday) at Ministry's Conference Hall.

Sr. HRO

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTS
TASHICHHODZONG
THIMPHU: BHUTAN

PPD/PEP/8/261

NOTIFICATION

This is to inform that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) is in the process of drafting the Bio-safety Act of Bhutan. Until the Bio-safety Act is enacted and the Bio-safety Rules and Regulations come into force, the MoAF would like to issue the following notification as an interim measure for strict compliance.

1. All Genetically Modified Organisms/Living Modified Organisms (GMOs/LMOs) that are capable of reproducing shall be banned. This will refer to import of GMOs/LMOs into the country, transit through the Kingdom, intentional release into the environment and contained use within the country. This has reference to the pursuance of power given to the Minister of Agriculture and Forests under Section 4 of the Seeds Act of Bhutan 2000.
2. GMO/LMO products in semi processed/crushed form shall be permitted for the purpose of consumption and raw materials but not with GMO content greater than 1%.
3. No research on Genetically Modified Livestock, embryo and semen shall be carried out. This is in line with Section 4 of the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001.

However, the notification has the following exceptions:

1. Traditional and domestic methods of animal and crop breeding and selection.
2. Traditional and domestic small-scale exchange and local sale of seeds, plants and livestock.
3. Genetically modified organisms for pharmaceuticals for human and veterinary use, which are regulated by the Drug Regulatory Authority.

This notification has reference to the Cabinet's directives issued as per letter no. C-3/832 dated **19th January 2011.**

Minister

BO BUSINESS BULLETIN

Rent

- Shop available for rent at proper Ura, Bumthang. Contact at 17815019.

books for school going children and for school stationeries. Contact 321044

Sale

- Land on highway near Thrimshingla Park. Contact at 17815019.

Garments

• Sangay Bidha Tshongkhang deals in all kinds of Dress Materials, Brocades, Carpets, School Uniforms & also in other general supplies. Contact 323135

Books

- Visit KMT Yangkhil for ChoBhum, Dhomang, Khu Zhung, Mani Dunkur and stationeries. Different Dzongkha story books are also available. Contact 336272
- Visit DSB Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. for different

• Kids Corner located in Karma Khamzang Building deals with different Garments for Kids and for new born babies. Contact 17786771



Toyota imports delayed

PUSHKAR CHHETRI

Thimphu: The State Trading Corporation of Bhutan Limited (STCBL), the only Toyota dealer in the country, has notified Bhutanese customers that the production of Toyota vehicles for the global market in Japan and Thailand will be delayed due to the damage caused at the production plants by the recent calamities.

STCBL says that, although the manufacturers are putting their intensive efforts to restore the production plant as early as possible, it seems that the production of vehicles within the time frame would not be expected. Hence, it will be unable to deliver vehicles on time.

According to officials of the Toyota Division of STCBL, out 60 to 70 orders for Prados, Land Cruisers and Hilux, Toyota can deliver only 20 to 25 in May.

However, the production for Hilux, officials said, would not be affected as much as that of Prado and Land Cruiser.

"For Hilux, the parts are made in Japan and assembled in Thailand so we do not have much problem with that but Land Cruisers and Prados are fully manufactured in Japan so it might be delayed by a month or two," said the officials.

According to a popular US-based automobile mag-

azine, Auto Observer, on March 23, statements from Toyota officials said that the company-wide shutdown would end by March 17 but the company left open the likelihood for further extension saying, "A decision on when the vehicle production will resume in Japan has yet to be made."

Sources at the STCBL, however, added that there was no major problem at the production plant in Japan. They said the manufacturers had promised to catch up with the supplies.

Asked if the delay had led to any cancellation in orders, officials said that, since STCBL received the notice from Japan only on March 31, they are still informing the clients.

On the Toyota vehicle spare parts, Ugyen Rinzin, the assistant manager of the STCBL service centre in Thimphu, said that they were 'lucky enough to receive one consignment just two weeks ago' and that it would serve the purpose for the next four or five months.

Toyota is one of the highest revenue generators of the STCBL. Toyota generated a total revenue of Nu 470 million for STCBL in 2010. Over the last three years, the total revenue generation from Toyota amounted to Nu 1,710 million. According to records, around 260 to 270 Toyota vehicles were

imported to Bhutan in 2010.

It has been estimated that the world's largest car maker could lose output of at least 40,000 vehicles after the earthquake damaged factories and crippled nuclear power plants causing electricity shortages.

Following the disaster, Toyota shut down 12 plants and estimated that the manufacturers' profits would drop by US\$ 72 million for each day of lost operations in Japan.

Meanwhile, according to foreign media reports, Honda Motors has most of its key facilities in the destruction zone. Honda officials had said that vehicle production would be suspended until March 20 but has reportedly extended the shutdown.

They indicated a longer-term effect on production when they informed some US dealers that the company was going to temporarily block orders for some Japan-sourced vehicles.

However, Chuki Wangmo, the general manager of Dejung Honda, said they had already imported the vehicles in demand and that there were no official notifications from Honda Motors in Japan.

"The last time I spoke to the official concerned in Japan, I was told that the productions would resume by April 4, so we don't have any problems," she said.

T-bank and DPNB shares most actively traded

PUSHKAR CHHETRI

Thimphu: Tashi Bank Limited and Druk Punjab National Bank shares are the most actively traded in the secondary market, according to the latest updates from the Royal Securities Exchange.

On Friday, March 25, a total of 36,335 shares amounting to Nu 9.098 million were traded in the secondary market.

Out of a total of 36,335 shares, Tashi Bank Limited traded the highest number of 36,187 shares at a market price of 250 and a total value of Nu 9.046 million.

Druk Punjab National Bank (DPNB) traded 148 shares at a market price of 350 at a value of 51,800.

Initially offered at Nu 100 a share, the DPNB shares were last traded at Nu 350 while Tashi Bank Limited shares were traded at Nu 275 against an initial value of Nu 100.

OVERALL SHARE MARKET

Since RSEBL started operating in 1993 with only four listed companies and a net worth of Nu 393 million, the number of companies has now increased to 21 thereby increasing the net worth of the company to Nu 8 billion.

The number of shareholders increased from 12,851 in 2008 to 17,654 in 2009. The value and volume of transactions in the secondary market also grew from 77,123 shares valued at Nu 30.04 million in 2008 to 261,983 shares valued at Nu 132.4 million in 2009.

Share trades in the secondary market were high-

est in 2004 when 284,075 shares valued at Nu 108.81 million were traded. In 2006, a total of 133,387 shares valued at Nu 36.55 million were traded.

This, according to officials at the RSEBL, was because in 2004, around 19 to 20 percent of BNB shares held by the Asian Development Bank and City Bank, India, were divested for the public. "Since then, there have not been any such divestments," said an official.

TREASURY BILLS

Meanwhile, this year, the government has issued 50,000 units of T-bills treasury worth Nu 500 million for 90 days. The bills were auctioned in March 21 and will mature by June 20 this year.

The participants were Bank of Bhutan, Bhutan National Bank and the Association of Bhutan Tour Operators. The bills were oversubscribed by a 100.2 percent.

The government issued the bills on a short-term basis in order to regulate money supply and raise funds through open market mainly to finance its deficits for a particular period.

There are no interests paid on T-bills but are sold at discount rates, the yield being the difference between the purchase price and the actual par value. This time, the bills were issued at a discount of 0.50 percent, 1.39 percent and 4.50 percent. In 2010, the government had issued two series of treasury bills worth Nu 1,000 million each.

Security	Broker	Number of shares	Market	Price Value
TBL	BOB Securities Ltd	4600	250	1150000
TBL	RICB Securities Ltd	2790	250	697500
DPNB	BNB Securities Ltd	148	350	51800
TBL	BNB Securities Ltd	28797	250	7199250
Total	36335	9098550		



Forecast Broadcast

Between **April 8- 14**, the auspicious direction advised before undertaking any important activity are **south and west**.

Friday- April 08



Auspicious For: Since the stars are favourable from 10.30am onwards, it is auspicious for propitiating gods and deities, conducting chagug-yanglen, entering a new house, handing and taking over anything, holding discussion, sowing seeds, and planting flowers.

But it is she-za (unfavourable day) for people who are born in the year of Rat and Hog. **Inauspicious For:** Arranging marriage, and paying grain debts.

Saturday- April 09



Auspicious For: Making incense-offering and conducting purification rituals, conducting jin-seg and sri-nen. **Inauspicious For:** Starting construction of new house, sowing seeds, planting flowers, entering a new house, moving house, calling upon superiors, starting business, conducting ritual rites for the dead, taking out dead body, and paying grain debts.

Sunday- April 10



Auspicious For: Making incense-offering and conducting purification rituals, and making daily offerings. **Inauspicious For:** Propitiating gods and deities, conducting jin-seg and sri-nen, arranging marriage, moving house, handing and taking over anything, calling upon superiors, starting education, and starting business.

Monday-April 11

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, welcoming and seeing off guest, and undertaking long journey.

Tuesday- April 12



Auspicious For: Carrying out daily chores and 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 superior, holding discussion, and conducting ritual rites for the dead.

Wednesday- April 13

Auspicious For: Since the stars are favourable till 10am, it is auspicious for the construction of new ten-sum, conducting consecration and empowerment ceremonies, arranging marriage, 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 superior, and joining monastic body. 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 holding discussion.



Thursday- April 14



Auspicious For: Making incense-offering and conducting purification rituals, and making daily offerings. **Inauspicious For:** Conducting consecration and blessing ceremonies, propitiating gods and deities, starting construction of new house, moving house, handing and taking over anything, undertaking a long journey, making and taking medicine, welcoming and seeing off guest, organizing and celebrating events, calling upon superiors, and paying grain debts.

From the Bodhi tree



THE SACREDNESS OF SOCIETY

Society contains profundity and sacredness. The sacredness of society is potent and powerful. I'm sure many people would not accept such an idea. They would think that we are trying to sneak something into the

idea of society, to impose some foreign element or idea on it. However, it seems genuinely important to see the spiritual aspect, the visionary aspect, of society. We have to see not only the basic happenings but also

their basic quality of energy, the energy that they contain. Work, sex, and money are actually the energy outlet of society, its energy radiation, the expression of its sacredness.

-Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche



THE BIOGRAPHY OF ZHABDRUNG NGAWANG NAMGYAL

CHAPTER3: EDUCATION AND ENTHRONEMENT

Enthronement at Druk Ralung

When Zhabdrung Rinpoche was thirteen years old in the Fire Horse Year (1606), full preparations were undertaken to enthrone him on the throne of his grandfather, Mipham Chogyal (1604), as throne holder of the Kagyu tradition at its seat at Druk Ralung. All teachers, students, patrons and members of the monastic community of the Drukpa Kagyu tradition, great masters of the different traditions of Buddhism flourishing in Tibet, as well as lords and chiefs of various regions assembled at Ralung. Elaborate preparations were made. Zhabdrung Rinpoche was received by performing an exquisite serdeng and chipdrel to the throne of Fearless Lions. Zhabdrung Rinpoche was offered a bell and a drum, symbols of Buddha Vajradhara, and he was thus enthroned as the supreme head of Drukpa Kagyu teachings.

The thri dar and the prayer for long life were first offered by Sakya Dagchen Sonam Wangpo (1559-1621). The prayer read as follows:

From the Lord of the World's dances of great compassion,
The incarnate being, renowned for his lineage and tradition,
On the throne of Fearless Lions, may Ngawang Namgyal
Live for as long as a hundred aeons!

Together he also offered a congratulatory letter addressing him as the "Bodhisattva Prince, Lord of Speech, Youthful, Joyous, Renowned in All directions, All-Victorious, Fortunate Famed Victory Banner, Glorious and Excellent" (rgyal sras ngagi gi dbang phyug gzhon nu kun dga' phyogs thams cad las rnam par rgyal ba bkra shis grags pa'l rgyal mtshan dpal bzang po).

to be continued...

©KMT Publishing House, Thimphu

THE WORM, Ajahn Brahmavamso

There is a wonderful little story about two monks who lived together in a monastery for many years; they were great friends. Then they died within a few months of one another. One of them got reborn in the heaven realms, the other monk got reborn as a worm in a dung pile. The one up in the heaven realms was having a wonderful time, enjoying all the heavenly pleasures. But he started thinking about his friend, "I wonder where my old mate has gone?" So he scanned all of the heaven realms, but could not find a trace of his friend. Then he scanned the realm of human beings, but he could not see any trace of his friend there, so he

looked in the realm of animals and then of insects. Finally he found him, reborn as a worm in a dung pile... Wow! He thought: "I am going to help my friend. I am going to go down there to that dung pile and take him up to the heavenly realm so he too can enjoy the heavenly pleasures and bliss of living in these wonderful realms."

So he went down to the dung pile and called his mate. And the little worm wriggled out and said: "Who are you?", "I am your friend. We used to be monks together in a past life, and I have come up to take you to the heaven realms where life is wonderful and blissful." But the

worm said: "Go away, get lost!" "But I am your friend, and I live in the heaven realms," and he described the heaven realms to him. But the worm said: "No thank you, I am quite happy here in my dung pile. Please go away." Then the heavenly being thought: "Well if I could only just grab hold of him and take him up to the heaven realms, he could see for himself." So he grabbed hold of the worm and started tugging at him; and the harder he tugged, the harder that worm clung to his pile of dung.

Do you get the moral of the story? How many of us are attached to our pile of dung?

**DECENTRALIZED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (DRDP)
DZONGKHAG ADMINISTRATION
CHUKHA**

Ref. No: CDA/AGRI-76/2010-2011/9656

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

1. The Royal Government of Bhutan has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Decentralized Rural Development Project (DRDP) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed below. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *IBRD Guidelines for Procurement*. Bidders from Bhutan should, however, be registered with the Construction Development Board (CDB). Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to **Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract**.
2. The Dzongkhag Administration, Chukha invites bids for the construction of works detailed in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from the office of **Dzongkhag Engineering Section from 11th April 2011 to 10th May 2011**, for a non-refundable fee as indicated, in the form of cash or Demand Draft on any Scheduled bank payable at Tshimasham in favour of **Dasho Dzongda, Dzongkhag Administration, Chukha**. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids must be accompanied by security of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of **Dasho Dzongda**. Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid.
5. Bids must be delivered to **Dasho Dzongda, Dzongkhag Administration, Chukha on or before 1000 hours on 11th May 2011** and will be opened on the same day at **1000 hours**, in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Package No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (Nu.)	Bid Security (Nu.)	Cost of Document (Nu.)	Period of Completion
DRDP- FR1	Construction of lined V- shaped drain and retaining wall for Silly-Sinchula farm road	2.6 million	54,000.00	500.00	10 months
DRDP- FR2	Construction of lined V- shaped drain for Pakshikha – Zomgang farm Road	2.00 million	40,000.00	500.00	8 months

*Dzongdag
NCB/DRDP/Chukha*

**BHUTAN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
THIMPHU : BHUTAN**

BPC/PSD-TU/Notification/564

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIQ)

1. Tender No. and Date

BPC/PSD-TU/T&P/2011/09 dated 8th April 2011

2. Bid Details:

a) Cost of Bid Document	Nu.5000.00 (Non-refundable)
b) Date of Sale	8 th April 2011 to 9 th May 2011
c) Place of Sale	PSD, BPC, Thimphu
d) Date of Submission	17 th May 2011 (15:00 hours)
e) Place of Submission	PSD, BPC, Thimphu
f) Opening Date	17 th May 2011(15:30 hours)
g) Place of Opening	BPC Conference Hall, Thimphu
h) Items	Tools and equipments.

The details of the items that will be procured are available in the bid document which can be obtained from the office of the Procurement Services Department, BPC or can also be downloaded from BPC website www.bpc.bt but for reference only. However, the Bidder/Supplier who all have downloaded the Bidding document and intend to participate are required to deposit the cost of the Bidding document along with the written application and a license copy at BPC's office prior to Bid sale closing date. Further, BPC would like to notify the Bidder's representative attending the Bid opening to bring an Authorization Letter from the Bidder, without which the representative will not be permitted to attend the public Bid Opening.

General Manager, PSD

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ON THE RACK

THE CREATIVE FAMILY

By Amanda Blake Soule



Embraces a new way of living that will engage your children's imaginations, celebrate their achievements, and help you to express love and gratitude for each other as a family. When you learn to awaken your family's creativity, wonderful things will happen: you'll make meaningful connections with your children in large and small ways; your children will more often engage in their own creative discoveries;

and your family will embrace new ways to relax, play, and grow together. With just the simple tools around you—your imagination, basic art supplies, household objects, and natural materials—you can transform your family life, and have so much more fun!

Amanda Soule has charmed many with her tales of creativity and parenting on her blog, SouleMama. Here she shares ideas and projects with the same warm tone and down-to-earth voice. Perfect for all families, the wide range of projects presented here offers ideas for imaginative play, art and crafts, nature explorations, and family celebrations. This book embraces a whole new way of living that will engage your children's imagination, celebrate their achievements, and help you to express love and gratitude for each other as a family.

ART WORLD

WHITE MAHAKALA



A white Mahakala standing upon two prostrate emanations of himself as Ganesha, the elephant-headed Hindu wealth god. He holds a skull, a trident, a vajra chopper/goad, a dorje and a bell. The White Mahakala is more unusual

than the customary black form: he was given the distinction of protector of Mongolia by the 3rd Dali Lama. The third Dali Lama converted Altan Khan in the late 1570's.

A note on Mahakala, the term Mahakala many times is translated as Great Black One, however kala means time and therefore Mahakala would be better translated as Great Time. Time is seen as the destroyer of everything and everyone, and therefore can be equated with death. On one hand time is eternal, however in our perspective, we get little bits of this eternity that are finite in which to grow and reach enlightenment.

HOUSEHOLD HINT



GENERAL: Used dryer sheets are great for polishing chrome

bathroom fixtures.

KITCHEN: If you place a tray of water on the bottom oven rack when broiling, the drippings will fall in the water, making clean up easier.

LAUNDRY: Zippers last longer if they are zipped shut before laundering.



LIFE AS MOVIE

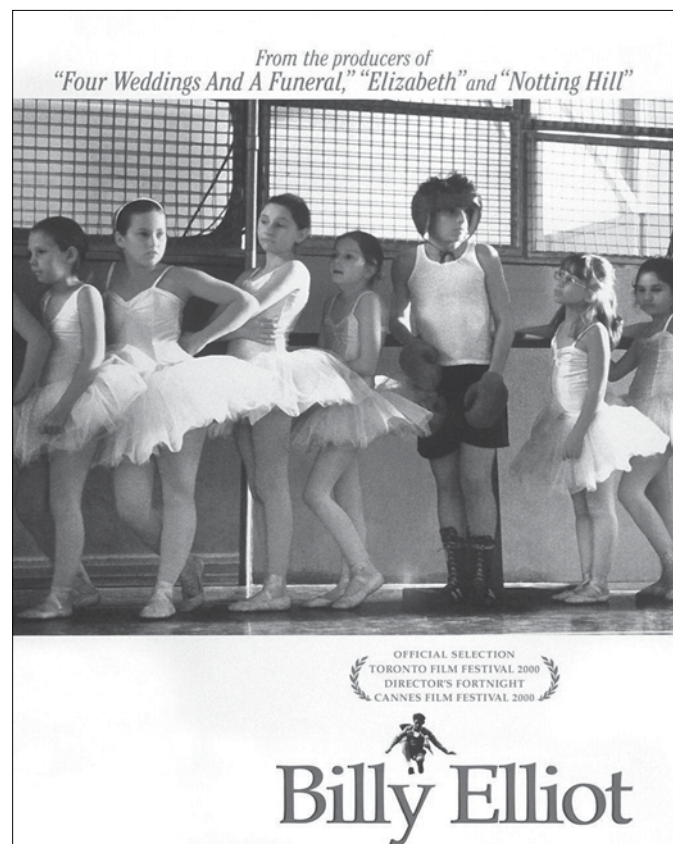
Reflective movies

Billy Elliot is a movie about determination and fulfilment of dreams. Born in into a family of miners in a working class English town, Billy was expected to take an interest in 'manly' sports. He is eleven years of age when his dad (Jackie) enrolls him at boxing classes. Billy, however, proves poor at the sport, whereas he excels in dance – a recreation that he takes up secretly.

Billy's dance teacher feels that he is good enough to study at a prestigious school of dance in London. She speaks with Jackie, but he flatly refuses to allow Billy to attend the audition. Furthermore, he forbids his son from continuing with the dance classes.

Later, by chance, Jackie happens to see Billy going through a dance routine, and the boy's articulate movements leave a deep impression on him. He has a major change of heart. Not only does he drop his opposition to the dance classes, but decides that he will do whatever he can to help his son develop his skills.

From this moment, Billy's ambition flies and his father's self-imposed limitations are transcended. Father and son enter a sphere of existence that is far removed from the



closeted world of their small mining community.

Billy Elliot is a passionate movie about family relationships and the importance of parental support. Although brought up in a macho world, Jackie was bold enough to step outside the box. And, at a time when it most mattered, he was there to support his son and help him realize his dream.

The final scene of the movie is particularly moving and is a must-see for any parent who feels they have a right to force a career decision on their child.

Movie to be screened

Day: Friday, April 08, 2011. **Time:** 6 pm

Venue: Deer Park, Nazhoen Pelri Centre, Thimphu

Courtesy: www.deerparkthimphu.org

Contemplative Photography

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lhaki Wangchuk



Feeding frenzy



» 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.

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

1 HARD

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION 1

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

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

2 EASY

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION 2

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

CROSSWORD: LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

			D		Y		B	B
J	A	C	Q	U	E	S	C	O
E	A	S	A	S	O	A	S	
T	I	B	E	T	A	N	E	X
S	O	B	D	M	M	V		
T	A	T	T	O	O	S	I	C
R	E	A	T	W	L	A	R	S
E	A	T	W	L	A	R	S	E
A	Y			A		U		R
M	O	N	S	O	O	N	C	A
C	A	S	S	I	N	O	A	H
U	I	U	O	A	A	T	I	
S	E	D	I	M	E	N	T	A
P	E							N

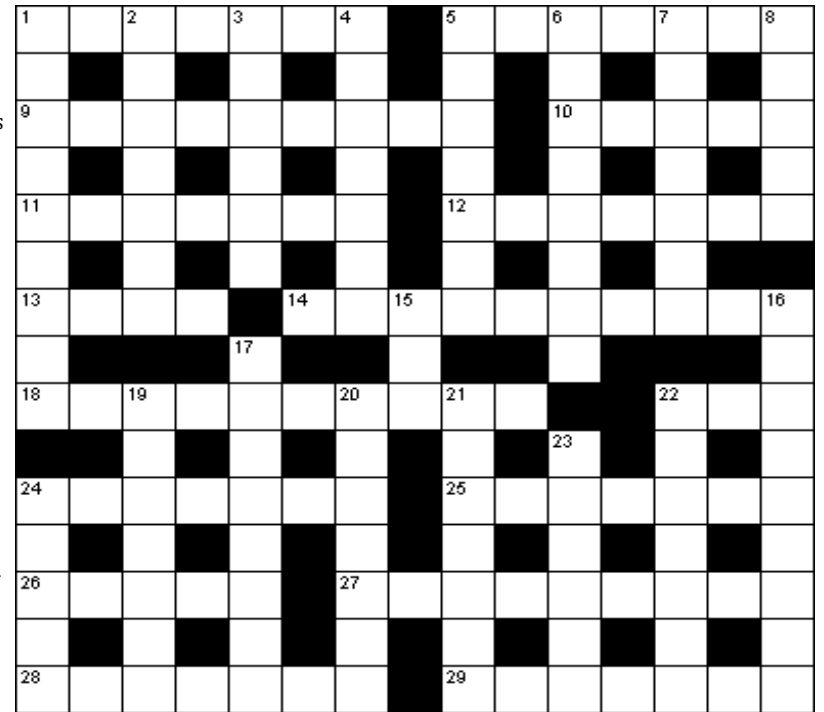
» CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

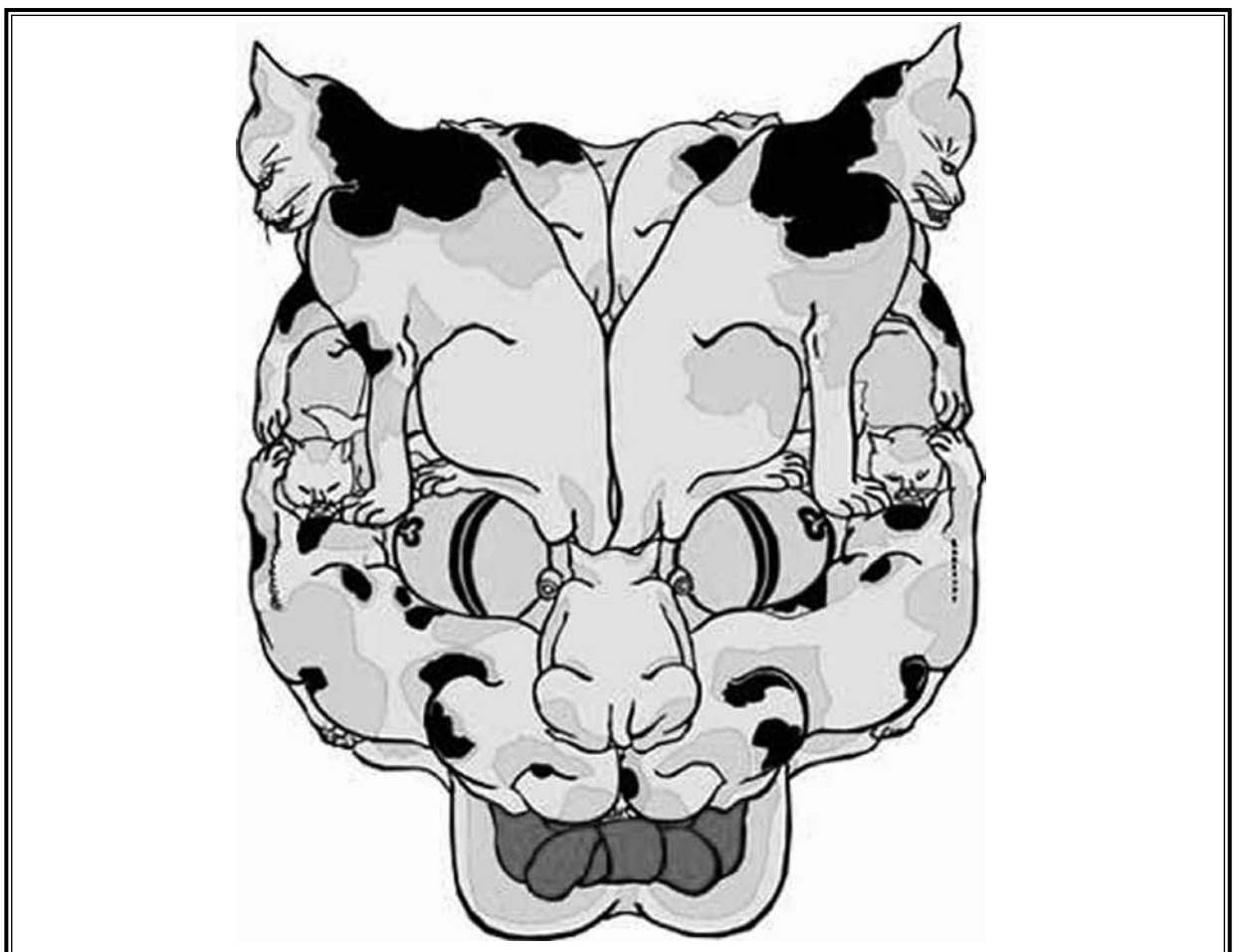
- 1 Arctic transport team organised hikes around America (7)
- 5 Legendary giants whose world view was rather singular (7)
- 9/7 Super ceramic divider as could be seen by observer on the moon? (5,4,2,5)
- 10 Burundi clearly holds back Spanish hero (2,3)
- 11 In steamer, I cabled the continent (7)
- 12 Note in a bar about a horse breed (7)
- 13 There's a lot of this in a desert in Hindustan (4)
- 14 Awfully far trek, say, for a female traveller (5,5)
- 18 Its aim is a better understanding of why the earth moves for some! (10)
- 22 Greece, we hear, is part of Athens! (3)
- 24 Energy surrounds volcano in this SE Asian country (7)
- 25 Barnsley endlessly excited by this massive ice shelf! (6,1)
- 26 Aquatic mammals impressions (5)
- 27 Not a single degree ascribed to this London borough (9)
- 28 Good man dines out in Paris suburb (2-5)
- 29 This cetacean's an integral part of sonar whaling (7)

DOWN

- 1 The most elevated aspect of a major uprising in South America (4,5)
- 2 Middle Eastern currency is quiet and sort of sleek (7)
- 3 Its air polluted a European peninsula (6)
- 4 Airline out of Canaries (not eastern) (7)
- 5 N. American city's an amalgam of California, Georgia and outskirts of Rugby! (7)
- 6 Carves out south-eastern fissure (8)
- 7 See 9 Across
- 8 US and possibly African republic (5)
- 15 Ode about Tokyo in the old days (3)
- 16 "Blitz UK!" he snarled from this winter sports resort (9)
- 17 Possibly makes amends about United Nations explorer (8)
- 19 Service LandRover more than covers this country (7)
- 20 Go miles off course for this French administrative centre (7)
- 21 A long turning going round the French ship (7)
- 22 I'm about to enter the bodily substance of this European language (7)
- 23 Scandinavian crowns in Gdansk - Ron erupts! (6)
- 24 Avis reorganised to a point but they'll get you into some countries (5)



» OPTICAL ILLUSIONS



Calculate the number of cats you see in this illusion.

Hint : The number is more than 7



THE HIGHLAND GIRL



Movie: The Highland Girl

Venue : Trowa Theatre, Thimphu

Time : Weekdays 6:30

: Weekends 3:30 & 6:30

SHARCHOGPA ZAMIN



Movie: SharChogpa Zamin

Venue: Lugar Theatre, Thimphu

Time : Weekdays 8:30 PM

JALAM GE ASHI



Movie: JALAM GE ASHI

Venue: Lugar 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@bhanobserver.bt



Actor Pema Yangkey receives her certificate from the head of International Academy of Film and Television in the Philippines

Actors and filmmakers bring home a degree of professionalism

NAMGAY TSHERING

Six actors and 15 filmmakers from the Bhutanese film industry are back in the country after receiving two-month training in the International Academy of Film and Television in the Philippines.

The actors and filmmakers said they had picked up lessons indispensable for the film professionals. They shared with Bhutan Observer what kinds of skills and knowledge they brought home from the Philippines.

Lessons learnt

Tandin Bidha, a budding actor, was part of the team that underwent the training. She said that training helped her find the real actor in her. "Until I went for this training, I was a raw actor but the training made me confident and ready to act even in Hollywood, if I'm given a chance," she said.

She said there are many things the Bhutanese film industry workers have got to learn from the Philippines. The Filipino film industry has a lot to offer. "Acting is not simply 'acting' in front

of the camera as directed, but it's about understanding the role and character one is playing," she said with an air of a professional actor.

Phuntsok Rabten, a film producer and director who was part of the group, said the training exposed the Bhutanese filmmakers to many new things in filmmaking, more importantly, sophisticated modern technologies.

"Everyone can be an actor as everyone has a talent, but not everyone can be a professional," Pema Yangkey, another actor, said. "They [trainers] not only taught us how to look at and face the camera but also how to look through it."

"Acting today seems to be a fashion and a way to popularity. It's professionally not correct. Creativity is an identifiable aspect and we see it on the screen, big or small, all the time. Acting is emotional rendition of a writer's work in line with a director's vision," a film director said.

Bhutanese and Filipino films - what sets them apart?

"In the Philippines, the actors and filmmakers are professionals, but in our country, anyone can make a film if one has a little knowledge of direction," Thinley Dorji, a director, said. That's a striking difference between the Bhutanese and Filipino film industries.

Thinley said that, while the way the Bhutanese make films is 'informal', Filipino filmmakers use sophisticated ways. The Bhutanese film industry is young and growing whereas Filipino film industry is well-established and uses advanced technologies.

According to him, the Filipino film industry enjoys a huge market. He, however, said that combining talent with professionalism to gain global popularity is the aim of both the industries.

Challenges to overcome

The Bhutanese filmmakers say they need to combine intelligent storylines with great film techniques and professionalism in order to make a mark.

"In Bhutan, in the true sense of filmmaking, we don't have professional-

ism. With the advancement of modern technologies in filmmaking, such kind of training is really helpful," Thinley Dorji said.

According to Phuntsok Rabten, most Bhutanese films not only lack great storylines, but also professional direction, screenplays, sound design and lighting.

"A film maker can't make money without making a credible art, and artist can't claim popularity without performing professionally," a director said.

Most of the actors and filmmakers, who received training in the Philippines, said catching up with the latest technologies is a challenge for the Bhutanese film industry. Modern technologies are expensive, yet they are required for better products.

Funded by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, the certificate course was the first of its kind given to the Bhutanese film fraternity. The training was recommended by the Motion Picture Association of Bhutan to Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



GRANDMA'S STORY

THE PROUD PEACOCK

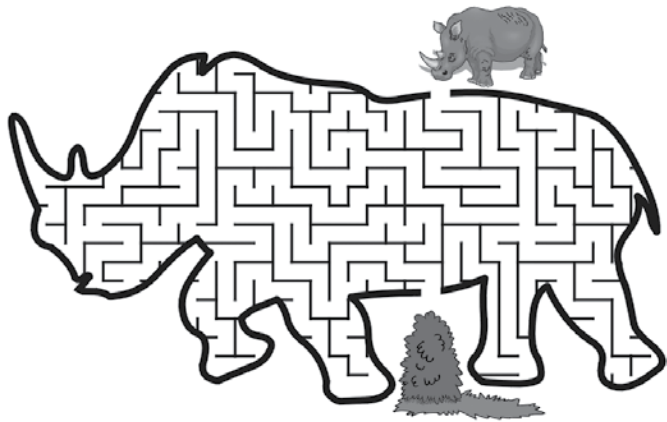
One day a peacock met a crane and said, "So sorry for you. You have so dull feathers. Look at the fine colors of my feathers." "Well!" replied the crane, "your looks are brighter than mine, but whereas I can fly high up into the sky, all you can do is to strut about on the ground."

Moral: Never find fault with others.



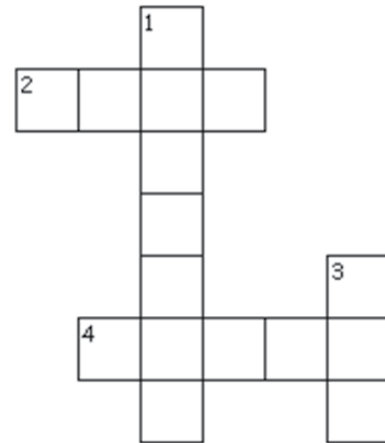
Guide rhino to find a bush to eat

MAZE HAZE



African species white rhino is the second largest animal after the elephant. They live up to 35 years in the wild and 40 years in captivity. They eat only plants. They rank among the most endangered species on earth. Valued for their horns, some cultures believe that the powdered rhino horn will cure everything from fever to food poisoning.

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

2. Past tense of 'bear'
4. Opposite meaning to fresh

DOWN

1. What is the name of the force holding us to the Earth?
3. The gemstone ruby is typically what color?

ANSWER

ACROSS

2. Bore
4. Stale

DOWN

1. Gravity
3. Red

TO MY BELOVED

My Father

My father's name is Sonam Wangchuk
He works in SPBD
He is very good and kind
He buys and gives anything
My sister and I want
He is tall and strong
He can drive a car
I love my daddy very much
He is the best daddy.

By Dema Tshogyal
Changangkha Lower Secondary School
Thimphu

DRAW THROUGH DOTS & NUMBERS



I READ

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang by Ian Fleming

The Pott family is not rich, even though Pott is an explorer and an inventor. But one day he invents Crackpot Whistling Sweets and sells his idea to the sweet magnate, for one thousand pounds. The first thing they spend their money on is a new car for family outings. When they see Gen II on the scrap heap, rusting and forlorn, they set their hearts on her immediately. Pott repairs her, and when he has finished, she is spectacular with magic powers. The car is so grateful to be rescued from the scrap heap, that she grows wings and flies! The car and the Pott family have some amazing adventures together.



A TIME THAT WAS



Fresh air, open space and friends!

Name: Tandin T. Dorji	Date of 16 October 2007	Date of Photography 28 March 2011
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"Life is not measured by the breaths you take, but by its breathtaking moments."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MY DREAM PLACE

Mountains are high here. When we feel sad and look at the mountains it refreshes our mind and clears all our doubts. They are green and it gives us clean water to drink. Many animals and birds live there. If we do not cut down the trees, our mountains would look more green and clean. My request to everyone is to keep our mountains and forests always green and clean.

By Pema Zangmo
Class VI 'B'
Wangdichhoeling Lower Secondary School
Bumthang

FIND THE DIFFERENCE




ANSWERS FOR FIND THE DIFFERENCES

1. Missing moustache
2. Missing Bell
3. Colour of the drum
4. Colour of the wall

It is entertaining!



WHAT COLOUR IS MY
MIND?

My Creations

The Hare and the tortoise



By Sangay Zangmo, Class V 'C'
Jigme Losel Primary School, Thimphu

COLOUR WORLD




Hummingbirds can fly right, left, up and down, backwards and even upside down. They hold their bodies upright and move their wings in a thin figure eight. They move their wings about fifty times a second. They are the smallest birds measuring about three inches long. They eat every ten minutes, mainly sugar.

Prime Minister Jigmi Y. Thinley has officially taken charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering, the foreign minister, is undergoing medical treatment. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, the minister of economic affairs, will represent Bhutan as the foreign minister for Saarc activities and Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, the minister of works and human settlement, will represent Bhutan for BIMSTEC.

Agriculture Minister (Dr) Pema Gyamtsho on April 6 graced the ground breaking ceremony of a 24-km park road along Jigme Dorji National Park at Barshong under Naro Gewog in Thimphu. An estimated Nu 111 million budget road will be the first of its kind and will serve as a model for environmentally-friendly road construction.

Director of the department of forests and park services and officials from the wildlife conservation division attended an International Conference on Tiger Conservation held from March 28 to 30 in New Delhi, India.

Paro College of Education will observe a five-day 'Reading Festival' beginning April 11. The reading week will cover poetry, short stories, humour, folk tales and media.

Some 500 experts from Saa-rc countries will meet in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from April 4 to 7 to discuss the sanitation needs of South Asian countries and methods to improve sanitation.

Bafra's the 7th Annual Refresher Course is underway in Gelephu. The course aims to improve the expertise of livestock inspectors in implementing government directives.

DANTAK will be organizing an Open Mountain Bike Race on the Thimphu-Paro-Thimphu highway on April 17.



The managing director of Greener Way, Bhutan's first private waste management firm, talked to the students of Chhoden Lower Secondary School in Thimphu yesterday on waste management practices. Greener Way, which promotes the concept of 3 Rs - reduce, reuse and recycle - has plans to take its education programme nationwide. Greener Way had conducted a similar programme for all the sweepers of Thimphu city on March 7.

U S ambassador in Bhutan



Yesterday, Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley met the ambassador of the US to India, Timothy J Roemer, who is on a three-day visit to Bhutan. The ambassador also met MPs and senior government officials.

Later in the afternoon, Ambassador Timothy talked to the editors of four newspapers on a range of issues including Bhutan's leadership in environment, democracy and education.

Tata CEO meets Bhutanese



The managing director and director of the Indian Steel & Wire Products Limited, Pradeep C Srivastava, on Tuesday met and interacted with people from a cross-section of society in Thimphu. Interacting with MPs, corporate heads, private sector employees and private individuals, Pradeep C Srivastava, who is among the top 10 CEOs of Tata Group, expressed his business interests in Bhutan. The Indian Steel & Wire Products Limited is a subsidiary of Tata Steel.

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**



NEC assesses Bhutan's technology needs for combating climate change

NAMGAY TSHERING

Thimphu: The national environment commission (NEC) yesterday brought together stakeholders in a consultative workshop on Technology Needs Assessment (TNA). TNA is a process of identification and transfer of the right technologies for mitigating the effects of climate change.

The workshop discussed the objective, methodology and time line of the TNA project to generate ideas on technology innovation and transfer at the local level.

Jyoti Prasad Painuly, a senior energy planner from UNEP Risoe Centre in Denmark, who was a consultant at the workshop, said that, from a climate change and developmental perspective, TNA prioritises technologies, practices, and policy reforms that can be implemented in different sectors of a country to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to adapt to the

impacts of climate change by enhancing resilience, and contributing to sustainable development goals.

He said that technology transfer depends crucially on the existence of local abilities to assess and acquire technology. It is largely country-driven and must be done through a consultative process that engages all relevant stakeholders.

The workshop focussed on two major areas of GHG emission mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the country.

Thinley Namgyel, the head of climate change unit of NEC, said many of the applicable technologies for mitigating GHG emissions and adapting to climate change have to be well-suited to sustainable development priorities in a broad sense. "Assessing technologies for mitigating GHG emissions is fairly straightforward," he said. "In Bhutan, the GHG emitting

sectors are industries and transportation."

A participant at the workshop said that many of the technologies developed in response to the needs of GHG mitigation, especially those related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, will help produce and consume energy in a sustainable way.

Dr Prabhat Kumar, a resource person from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, said Bhutan needs to identify its indigenous knowledge and capacity to identify existing gaps so that it can ask for appropriate technology from the global community to combat adverse impacts of climate change.

TNA, an 18-month project, is undertaken by the NEC to assess the technology needs of the country under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to facilitate the implementation of climate change objectives.

Land act amendment

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

of Thimphu, Wangdue, Punakha, Trashiyangtse, Trashigang, and Chukha have lost 583.33 acres of wetland to construction and development activities like schools, power projects, roads, and housing. Thimphu alone has lost 401.42 acres of wetland in less than a decade's time.

This, prime minister said, is the biggest concern of the present government. There is a strong and valid pressure from both the government and public to carefully amend the act to make it more stringent and robust so that there is virtually no possibility of encroachment and

misuse of wetland in future, he said.

"The lack of commitment to the act, various loopholes in the implementation and erratic interpretation of the law has given rise to the failure," he added.

Lyonchhen said that construction of infrastructure and other development projects could be easily taken to surrounding hillsides but there is the question of trade-off. Geotechnical reasons inhibit the placement and construction of big cities on the hillsides.

According to the 1997 land use survey, the total arable land in Bhutan was only 7.8 percent.

Election period begins

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

tions in the 1,044 chiwogs, 16 stations in the 16 dzongkhag thromdes and five vacant thromde tshogpa demkhongs. There will be at least one polling station in every gewog tshogpa demkhong.

A postal voter must apply to the returning officers for the postal ballot on or before April 29. The ballot must reach the returning officer before May 23.

Yenlag thromdes or satellite towns will be declared only after the second parliamentary elections in 2013. After that, another round of delimitation exercise for the 16 dzongkhag thromdes and review of the chiwog numbers and boundaries affected by the declaration of the yenlag thromdes will take place.



A candidate contesting for the LG election should not belong to a political party

A candidate shall have 26 days for campaigning, which stops 48 hours before the start of poll.

A candidate will not receive state funding for the election campaign but can spend up to Nu 50000, the accounts of which has to be submitted to the national observers within 30 days of declaration of the election results.

A common gathering will be arranged for public address by all candidates in each chiwog, dzongkhag thromde, and thromde tshogpa demkhong.

Door to door campaigns shall not be conducted before 7 am and after 8 pm.

The first voting compartment is always for gup, second for mangmi and the third for the gewog tshogpa.

Old age homes

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

way, but the trend is beginning to emerge; the number is enough for us to worry."

Lyonchhen added that the solution must be one whereby, as in the past, the aged will continue to be the object of reverence and respect within the family. He said the government will make it worthwhile, not only socially and emotionally, but even financially for families to look after their aged folks.

Meanwhile, there are plans to establish another old age home in Bidung in Trashigang. Speaker Jigme Tshultrim said the new home will take in old people from all parts of Bhutan. He said, "This has become a necessity in view of GNH."

One of the mandates of the recently registered civil society organisation called Royal Society for Senior Citizens (RSSC) is opening old age homes. Pema Tenzin, the vice president of the organisation, said old age homes are necessary for people without siblings and family members.

Opposition Leader Tshering Tobgay said that, if old

age homes give the senior citizens a sense of dignity and security in their final years, he fully supports the idea. But he asked why old age homes are needed in the first place. He asked, "Why don't our senior citizens have homes? Are our communities failing? Are we abandoning our parents? If so, why? Is it urbanization? Or are our values declining?"

Sangay Khandu, the National Council member from Gasa, said old age homes would generally benefit the Bhutanese society. "As a compassionate society, and a small one at that, we have always taken care of our own," he said, adding that the subject of old age home is a 'very emotional one to each one of us'.

Meanwhile, eighty-year-old Phurba from Dagana, who has been living in the patients' guest house at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu, said there is a genuine need of old age homes in Bhutan. Phurba is a father of six children, all of whom died young. His wife also died young. He has no siblings.



Prime Minister Jigme Y Thinley and cabinet ministers at the 11th Meet the Press yesterday afternoon

Good support for Bhutan's UN bid

PUSHKAR CHHETRI

Thimphu: Bhutan has got commitments from 22 countries from the Saarc, European, Latin American, African and Middle Eastern regions for its membership on UN Security Council.

At the 11th Meet the Press yesterday, Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley said that Bhutan had received verbal commitments from four countries from the Saarc region and 18 countries from other regions. This, he said, was very high by any standards. Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan are yet to make their positions known. Lyonchhen said they had asked for some time to decide.

He said he had had substantive discussions with the heads and leaders of over 60 key countries so far. The canvassing, he said, will continue during the forthcoming UN General Assembly. "We will also now elevate our canvassing process and write formally to every member state of the UN system," he said.

Lyonchhen said that, since securing a seat on the Security Council is a national effort, it will not only involve the prime minister, but

everybody. He said, "When ministers and government officials participate in various conferences and meet their counterparts, especially if they happen to be at the decision-making levels, we campaign."

However, he admitted that securing a seat on the Security Council is not a simple process.

Prime minister said it is difficult for countries to make commitments, especially in writing, unless they enjoy 'really close relations'. Some countries, he said, are 'very brash' about making their positions and support for one country and end up in difficult diplomatic situations with those that are contending as well.

Certain powerful countries, Lyonchhen said, even 'arm-twist and pay' their way through. "They make payments in very transparent and appropriate ways such as upping their development assistance and opening their markets to certain goods," he said.

Bhutan's formal campaign for the UN Security Council was launched in September last year during prime minister's participation in the UN General Assembly.

LG offices stand dissolved from today

TANDIN PEM

Thimphu: Starting today, all existing dzongkhag yargay tshogdus in the dzongkhags, gewog yargay tshogchungs in the gewogs and the municipal or town committees stand dissolved in the lead up to the first local government elections on May 24.

The serving gups and mangmis will be considered as having resigned from their posts upon the dissolution of the present local government offices. However, any formal or informal

non-elective positions in the existing municipal or town committees of the 16 dzongkhag thromdes will not be affected.

"Incumbent gups, mangmis and tshogpas, who decide not to contest the local government elections, may be treated as being in service till May 31, 2011," said Dasho Kuenzang Wangdi, the chief election commissioner.

The planning officer of the election commission, Tshering Dorji, said that, now that their offices stand

dissolved, the serving gups, mangmis and tshogpas will not be allowed to hold meetings and make decisions for the people.

The director of the department of local governance said that incumbent gups, mangmis and tshogpas, who are contesting the elections, will be paid for working until today, while others, who are resigning for good, will be paid full salary for April.

The new elected LG leaders will assume office on July 1.

World Health Day highlights grave health concern

UGYEN WANGCHUK

Thimphu: Bhutan observed the World Health Day yesterday in Thimphu. With the theme 'Combat antimicrobial resistance', the day focused on creating awareness on using antibiotic rationally.

Growing threat of antimicrobial resistance or AMR (microorganisms developing the ability to withstand the effects of drugs) is cause of a grave health concern for nations around the world. The practice of self-medication, not completing a prescribed course of treatment, access to antimicrobials from shops without prescription, overprescribing of antimicrobials, unnecessary treatment of viral infection with antibiotics, and extensive use of antibiotics as growth promoters and preventive agent by animal health professionals are some of the causes of AMR.

Speaking to a gathering of health officials and members of the public, the health minister, Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa, said AMR is a problem with common cause and common solution. So, everyone in the country - including policy makers and planners, practitioners and prescribers, the public and patients, pharmacist and



Health Minister Zangley Dukpa addressing the World Health Day gathering at the RIHS in Thimphu yesterday

dispensers, and health professionals - should think, act, and take moral, social and professional responsibilities to combat AMR in Bhutan. He added that Bhutan requires collective and well-coordinated national efforts to combat the problem.

Medical professionals say that the microbes or disease-causing microscopic organisms are becoming increasingly resistant to most of the available antimicrobial medicines such as antibiotics. Now the problem is the production of new antimicrobials to replace increasingly ineffective drugs.

In recognition of the looming threat of AMR in Bhutan, the ministry of health undertook some measures like putting in place legal and regulatory instruments such as the

Medicine Act of Bhutan, Bhutan medicine rules and regulations, national drug policy, and the national guideline for rational use of antibiotics.

Besides, the Drug Regulatory Authority monitors medical practices, provides mandatory training to all new doctors and health workers on rational use of antibiotics, and revises the essential drug list every two years.

The advent of vaccination and subsequent discovery of antimicrobials are among the greatest achievements in the field of medicine, primarily in the areas of infectious disease prevention and control. However, AMR, medical experts say, is now threatening to reverse all the achievements made possible by antimicrobials in the past half century.



NOTIFICATION



ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

ECB/NOTIF-01/2011/1814

Local Government Elections, 2011:

First Local Government Elections under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan

The Election Commission of Bhutan, in pursuance of Section 197 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 and under the conditions set forth in the **Announcement No. ECB/NOTIF-01/2010/945** dated **25 November 2010**, calls the first Local Government elections under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan for the:

1. *Gewog Tshogdes* of the 205 *Gewogs* of the 20 *Dzongkhags*;
2. *Dzongkhag Thomde Thuemi* to the *Dzongkhag Tshogdu* of sixteen *Dzongkhags* of Bumthang, Dagana, Gasa, Haa, Lhuentse, Monggar, Paro, Pema Gatshel, Punakha, Samtse, Trashigang, Trashy Yangtse, Trongsa, Tsirang, Wangdue Phodrang and Zhemgang; and
3. *Dzongkhag Thomde Tshogde* for the five vacant *Tshogpa Demkhongs* of *Rabdeyling* of Sarpang *Dzongkhag Thomde*, *Pekarzhing* and *Rinchhending* of Chhukha *Dzongkhag Thomde*, *Changangkha* and *Motithang* of Thimphu *Dzongkhag Thomde*.

The Election Schedule and the details concerning *Demkhongs*, Selection Procedure for Nomination of Candidates, Electoral Rolls, EVMs, Polling Stations, Polling Officials, Polling Management, Security and other arrangements are hereby being notified as follows:

(A) Election Schedule

1. The Schedule of Dates and time for the *Local Government Election 2011* shall be as follows:

Date and Time	Remarks
6 April 2011	- Issuance of Notification calling for Elections for <i>Gewog Tshogdes</i> , <i>Thromde Thuemis</i> to <i>Dzongkhag Tshogdus</i> and in the vacant <i>Dzongkhag Thomde Tshogpa Demkhongs</i>
7 April 2011	- Candidates to initiate process for clearances required for filing Nomination (No Single-Window Service for issue of Clearances)
15 April 2011	- Commencement of the selection procedure (Zomdu) for Gup and Mangmi - Commencement of the signature process by eligible persons for post of <i>Thromde Thuemi</i> , <i>Gewog</i> or <i>Thromde Tshogpa</i>
24 April 2011	- Freezing of the Electoral Roll (Section 125 of the Election Act 2008 authorizes temporary embargo on entries in the Electoral Roll for a period of thirty days before the date of poll)
25 April 2011	- Last Date for filing of Nominations of Candidates for <i>Gup</i> , <i>Mangmi</i> , <i>Gewog Tshogpa</i> , <i>Thromde Thuemi</i> and <i>Thromde Tshogpa</i>
26 April 2011	- Scrutiny of Nominations of Candidates & Commencement of the Election Campaign
28 April 2011	- Last date for withdrawal of Candidature
22 May 2011 (9.00 AM)	- End of Election Campaign
24 May 2011	- Poll Day and Counting of Results
25 May 2011	- Declaration of Results & Submission of the Results to the Druk Gyalpo - Start of Election Petition Period
27 May 2011	- Issuance of the Certificate of Election
3 June 2011	- End of Election Petition Period

(B) Polling Hours

- The polling hours shall be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(C) Demkhong

- The Local Government *Demkhongs* and the names to be used shall be as written in the Final Delimitation Order issued for the *Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs* vide **Order No. DC/CHAIR/2011/1520** of 27 February 2011.
- The *Thromde Thuemi Demkhong* shall be the area declared as the boundary of the respective *Dzongkhag Thromde* for the 16 Dzongkhags as signed by the Hon'ble Speaker and conveyed vide **letter no. NAB/-NAS-5/2010/1454** dated 26th July 2010.

(D) Selection Process of the Gewog Tshogde Candidates

- A *Gup, Mangmi* and a minimum of five and maximum of eight *Gewog Tshogpas* elected through direct election shall constitute a *Gewog Tshogde*.
- A registered voter who fulfills the criteria laid down in Section 178 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate for election to the post of *Gup, Mangmi* or *Gewog Tshogpa*.
- The selection process of the *Gewog Tshogde* candidates shall be as follows:

Gup/ Mangmi

- Every *Chiwog (Gewog Tshogpa Demkhong)* is entitled to nominate one Candidate each to contest the election for *Gup/Mangmi* of the respective *Gewog*.
- A *Zomdu* will be called by the Dzongkhag Electoral Authority in every *Chiwog* for the purpose of selecting a Candidate to contest in the elections to the post of *Gup/Mangmi*. The *Zomdus* shall be conducted as outlined in the *Strategy for the Conduct of the Local Government Elections 2011* issued by the Election Commission of Bhutan.

Gewog Tshogpa

- A Registered Voter aspiring to contest the *Gewog Tshogpa* Elections shall produce signatures and details as in the Voter Photo Identity Cards of at least 5 percent of the Registered Voters from the respective *Chiwog* supporting his/her nomination to the post of the *Gewog Tshogpa* but from at least 5 different *Gungs* provided no voter or a *Gung* supports more than one nominee.
- In the case of small *Chiwogs* with few households and voter population, the Election Commission will decide on a case-by-case basis.

(E) Selection Process of the Candidates for Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thuemi to the respective Dzongkhag Thromde (in 16 Dzongkhag Thromdes)

- The *Dzongkhag Thromde* shall elect one *Thromde Thuemi* to the *Dzongkhag Tshogdu*.
- A registered voter of a said *Dzongkhag Thromde* fulfilling the criteria laid down in the Electoral Laws is eligible to be nominated as a candidate for election to the post of *Thuemi*.
- For the first Local Government Elections being conducted as a one-time measure, a registered voter interested to contest *Thromde Thuemi* elections must produce signatures of at least 5 percent of the Registered Voters from the *Thromde* supporting his/her nomination to the post of *Thromde Thuemi* provided it is from at least 5 different *Gungs* and no voter or *Gung* has supported more than one nominee.

(F) Selection Process of the Thromde Tshogpa Candidates

(For the remaining vacancies of *Thromde Tshogpas* of the *Dzongkhag Thromdes* of Chhukha, Sarpang and Thimphu Dzongkhags)

- A registered voter of a said *Thromde Tshogpa Demkhong* who fulfills the criteria laid down as per Section 178 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 is eligible to be nominated as a candidate for election to the post of *Thromde Tshogpa*.
- A registered voter aspiring to contest *Thromde Tshogpa* elections shall produce signatures of at least 5 percent of the Registered Voters from the *Thromde Tshogpa Demkhong* supporting his/her nomination to the post of *Thromde Tshogpa* provided it is from at least 5 different *Gungs* and no voter or *Gung* has supported more than one nominee.

(G) Electoral Roll

- The qualifying date shall, in relation to the preparation of the Electoral Roll for the *Local Government Elections 2011*, be the 1 January 2011. Therefore, all those who are not younger than eighteen years of age as on 1 January 2011 shall be deemed to meet the minimum age requirement to be a voter.
- In order to encourage more aspiring and potential candidates to participate in the Local Government Elections 2011, a voter whose *Mitsi* is confirmed to be registered in the constituency as of the date of filing the nomination paper shall be considered eligible to vote in that constituency and/or be nominated as **a Candidate for the first-ever Local Government Elections**.
- The Draft Electoral Roll for the *Local Government Elections 2011* was issued vide Notification No. ECB/NOTIF-01/2011/1607 dated 10 March 2011 for public inspection and to invite the public to file Claims and Objections.

20. No changes shall be made to the Electoral Roll of the *Local Government Demkhongs* after 24 April 2011, thirty days before the date of poll. However, the respective Dzongkhag Election Office shall continue to distribute the Voter Photo Identity Cards to those who were unable to collect it earlier even up to the Poll Day.
21. The Final Electoral Rolls for the Elections shall be published and provided to the Returning Officers by 15 April 2011 and the Candidates will be given their copies on 28 April 2011.

(H) Election Campaign

22. A Candidate shall have up to 26 days for campaigning, which must stop 48 hours before the start of Poll.
23. No Minister, Member of Parliament, official or member of a political party shall campaign directly or indirectly for any candidate. No trips or official tours shall be undertaken by a Minister or Member of Parliament to a *Demkhong* during the Election Period except to cast their votes on the Poll Day should they wish not to use the Postal Ballot facility extended to them and their spouse under Section 331 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008.
24. All Banks or financial institutions will report any abnormal transaction of money, including in the account of a candidate contesting the Local Government Elections in the *Gewogs* and *Dzongkhag Thromdes*, to the Election Commission.

Election Campaign Finance

25. A Candidate for the *Local Government Elections* cannot exceed his/her election campaign expense beyond the ceiling fixed in Section 59 of the Public Election Fund Act 2008 i.e. total of Nu. 50,000/-.

Election Campaign Returns

26. A Candidate must submit accounts of campaign to the National Observers for his/her scrutiny and file Election Returns within thirty days of declaration of the Election Result as per the prescribed procedures.

Common Gathering for Public Address by All Candidates

27. The Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer, in consultation with the respective Election Coordinator and Security Coordinator shall arrange a common forum in each *Chiwog/ Dzongkhag Thromde /Thromde Tshogpa Demkhong* to provide the candidates of the concerned *Gewog/Dzongkhag Thromde* equal opportunity to address the electorate eliminating the necessity to call for public meetings in a *Chiwog, Gewog* or *Dzongkhag Thromde* by each candidate separately and thereby avoiding inconvenience to voters of attending multiple sessions.

(I) Postal Ballots

28. The schedule for the processing of Postal Ballots for the *Local Government Elections 2011* shall be as given below:

Date and Time	Remarks
7 April 2011	- Eligible Postal Voters to initiate application for Postal Ballot to respective Returning Officer
28 April 2011	- Returning Officer to commence sending Postal Ballot to registered Postal Voters
29 April 2011	- Last date of receipt of Application for Postal Ballots by Returning Officer
23 May 2011 (5.00 PM)	- Last day/ time for receiving Postal Ballots
24 May 2011	- Poll Day and Counting of Results

29. A person who applied for Postal Ballot shall not be allowed to vote in person as his/her name will be included in the Postal Voters' List and struck off from the Voters' List sent to the Polling Station by the Returning Officer.

(J) Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC)

30. Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC) issued by the Election Commission shall be the valid document for identification of voters at the polling stations during the Elections.
31. However, all voters must carry with them the Citizenship Identity Card issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. In the event of any dispute related to the VPIC, the Citizenship Identity Card will form the basis for taking decision by the Presiding Officer.

(K) Electronic Voting Machines

32. The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for polling in all *Demkhongs*.

(L) Indelible Ink

33. Quality indelible ink shall be used during the elections and care must be taken in applying the indelible ink as a line running from top of the nail to the bottom of the first joint of the left forefinger.

(M) Polling Stations

34. The List of Polling Stations for Local Government Elections 2011 shall be as indicated in the Annexure of the Final Delimitation Order and in the Final Electoral Roll for the *Local Government Elections 2011*.

(N) Election Officials**Chief Election Coordinators**

35. The *Dzongdags* shall be appointed the Chief Election Coordinators, Dzongrabs/ Dungpas as the Deputy Chief Election Coordinators and the Gewog Administrative Officers as the Assistant Chief Election Coordinators for the respective Dzongkhag, *Dzongkhag Thromde* and Gewog. They shall be responsible for carrying out the roles, responsibilities and duties as provided in the Electoral Laws and in accordance with the Appointment Order issued by the Election Commission on 6 April 2011.

National Observers and Micro Observers

36. The Election Commission shall appoint 47 National Observers and 8 Micro Observers for observing the Elections.
37. Observers are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Observers.

Returning Officers

38. The Election Commission shall appoint 47 Returning Officers and 55 Assistant Returning Officers for the *Local Government Elections 2011*.
39. Returning Officers are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Returning Officers.

Presiding Officers

40. The appointment of Presiding Officers for the Elections shall be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer on or after 21 May 2011 i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorised.
41. Presiding Officers are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Presiding Officers.

Polling Officers

42. The appointment of Polling Officers for the Elections shall be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer on or after 21 May 2011 i.e. three days before the day of Poll.
43. Polling Officers are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Polling Officers.

Counting Supervisors & Counting Assistants

44. The Presiding Officers shall serve as the Counting Supervisors and a Polling Officer as the Counting Assistant authorized as such in the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer.
45. Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants.

Assignment of Duty Stations

46. The Observers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants shall not be posted to the Gewog where his/her *Gung* or *Mitsi* is registered.

(O) International Observers & Media Relations

47. The Policy and Planning Division of the Election Commission shall coordinate and liaison all matters that concern the International Observers, National and International Media permitted to observe the Elections as provided in the National and International Observers Guidelines and Media Coverage of Elections Rules and Regulations.

(P) Law and Order & Deployment of Forces

48. The *Dzongdags* of all twenty *Dzongkhags* and the Gewog Administrative Officers/ *Gedrungs* in the *Gewogs* shall serve as the Focal Points for all administrative matters in the *Dzongkhags* and *Gewogs* respectively for the election period.
49. The *Dzongdags* and the Gewog Administrative Officers shall be responsible in ensuring that their respective jurisdiction are conducive and congenial for the conduct of free and fair Local Government Elections 2011.

50. The Royal Bhutan Police and the Royal Bhutan Army shall deploy security as per the Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
51. They shall deploy adequate numbers of men and officers so that there is no possibility of any security threat to the electoral process.
52. The Election Security Focal Officers of the concerned Dzongkhag shall work in close coordination and cooperation with the election officers as a team towards conducting the elections smoothly.

(Q) Election Control Rooms

53. Control Rooms shall be established in the Office of the Returning Officers and at the Election Commission Headquarters to effectively supervise, direct, monitor and backstop the conduct of elections.
54. The Control Rooms shall be set up and function in the manner detailed in the *Manual for Control Rooms*.
55. All concerned officials shall be provided with a copy of the Bhutan Election Directory to facilitate effective communications during the elections.

(R) Election Code of Conduct

56. The Election Code of Conduct shall continue to be in force until the completion of the Election Period i.e. from 6 April 2011 to 25 May 2011.
57. All election officers, candidates and voters must comply with the Election Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Electoral Laws, Rules and Regulations and Guidelines.

(S) Poll Day - A Public Holiday

58. The Poll Day, 24 May 2011, shall be declared a national holiday in the 20 Dzongkhags. All employers are required by law to grant required number of days as election leave for any voter wishing to go to vote in person.

(T) Demkhong with No or Only One Candidate

59. In a *Demkhong* where there is no candidate after the last date for filing of nomination of candidates notified herein, the election will be postponed till further notice by the Election Commission.
60. In a *Demkhong* where there is only one candidate after the last date of filing of nomination of candidates announced herein, an uncontested election, in accordance with Sections 575 and 576 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, will be conducted in that *Demkhong*.

(U) Other Reference

61. Election Officials shall, besides the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Handbooks, Orders and Notifications, also refer to the "*Strategy for the Conduct of the Local Government Elections 2011*" for additional information and guidance in the conduct of the Elections.

(V) Dissolution of the Dzongkhag Yargay Tshogdus (DYTs), Gewog Yargay Tshogchhungs (GYTs) and Municipal & Town Committees

62. All the existing *DYTs* in the Dzongkhags and *GYTs* in the Gewogs and the Municipal or Town Committees shall stand dissolved as of 8 April 2011 in the respective Dzongkhags and Gewogs as required under the Notification calling the *Local Government Elections 2011*.
63. The existing and serving *Gups* and *Mangmis* shall be deemed as having resigned from their posts upon the dissolution of the existing *DYTs* and *GYTs*, while any formal or informal non-elective positions in the existing Municipal or Town Committees of the 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* shall not be affected. However, the incumbent *Gups*, *Mangmis* and *Tshogpas* who decide not to contest the Local Government Elections 2011 may be treated as being in service till 31 May 2011.

Now, thereof, from the day of issue of this Notification, the Election Commission of Bhutan notifies the general public on the Election Schedule of the Local Governments and all matters relating to it.

Issued on the Third Day of the Second Month of the Iron Rabbit Year corresponding to 6 April 2011.

By Order,



(Kunzang Wangdi)
Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN										
PLACEMENT OF NATIONAL OBSERVERS, MICRO OBSERVERS, RETURNING OFFICERS & ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS - 2011										
Dzongkhag	Sl. No.	Parliamentary Constituency	Gewogs to be Covered	Sl. No.	Returning Officer	Contact Number	National Observer & Micro Observer	Contact Number	Assistant Returning Officer	Contact Number
Samdrup Jongkhar	1	Dewathang-Gomdar	Dewathang, Gomder, Orong, Phuent-shogthang & Wangphoog	1	Tenzin Wangchuk	17662187	Dorji Gyalpo	16471213	Sonam Tshering	17683107
	2	Jomot-shangkha-Martshala	Langchenphug, Lauri, Serthig	2	Ugyen Wangdi (RO)	17706966	Lobzang Dorji (NO)	17662240	Jigme Wangchuk D	17981790
			Martshala, Pemathang & Samrang	3	Jigme Samdrup (ARO)	17727077	Karma Tshering (MO)	17640574		
Pema Gatshel	3	Nanong-Shumar	Nanong, Shumar & Zobel	4	Phuntsho Tobgay	17114004	Lham Dorji	17689711	Lakjey	17659900
	4	Khar-Yurung	Chhimoong, Chongshing, Dungmaed, Khar & Yurung	5	Jigme Tshewang	17522918	Ugyen Thinley	17689711	Tshering Dorji	17453041
	5	Nganglam	Choekhorling, Dechhenling & Norboogang	6	Tandin Dorji (RO)	17633910	Toula Dukpa (NO)	17606698	Sonam Tobgay C	17646989
				7	Jigme (ARO)	17973812	Kinga Gyeltshen (MO)	17544788		
Trashigang	6	Bartsham-Shongphoog	Bartsham, Bidoong, Yangnyer, Shongphoog	8	Bumpa Tshering	17701507	Choki Gyeltshen	17651682	Dawa Tshering	17655784
	7	Thrimshing	Kangpara & Thrimshing	9	Chhimi Dorji	17651682	Anok Kr. Rai	17660369	Pelden Choeda	17116226
	8	Kanglung, Samkhar & Udзорong	Kanglung, Samkhar & Udзорong	10	BN Sharma	17632068	Nima Damdul	17629304	Kesang	17682268
	9	Wamrong	Khaling & Lumang	11	Gopal Hingmang	17605824	Sangay Tenzin	17713069	Sonam Tobgay	17810364
	10	Radi-Sakteng	Merag, Phongmed & Radi	12	Tsheten (RO)	77230355	Karma Phuntsho (NO)	17688698	Karma Cheda	17609545
			Sagteng	13	Chimmi Namgyel (ARO)	17973812	Dema Wangdi (MO)	17600001		

INSERT VII

BO FRIDAY APRIL 08 - 15 2011

Trashi Yangtse	11	Boomdeling-Jamkhar	Boomding, Jamkhar, Tongmizhangsa & Yangtse	14	Kiran Subedi	17603254	Pema Jungney	17640711	Ugyen Dorji	17645266
	12	Khamdang-Ramjar	Ramjar, Khamdang, Toedtsho & Yalang	15	Dendup Tshering	17732042	Sangay Dorji	17651809	Tashi Rapten	17616246
Lhuntse	13	Gangzur-Minje	Gangzur, Kho-ma, Kurtoed & Minje	16	Rinchen Samdrup	17670774	Lepo	17703630	Ugyen Dorji	17994332
	14	Maenbi-Tsenkhar	Jarey, Maenbi, Maedtsho & Tsaenkhar	17	Pem Kenley	17614187	Phuntsho Wangdi	77237186	Sangay Khandu	17621536
Monggar	15	Dramedtse-Ngatsang	Balam, Chag-sakhar, Dram-etse, Na-Rang, Ngatsang, Shermung & Thang-Rong	18	Sonam Penjor	17666671	Phuntsho Wangdi	17818685	Dorji T	17752944
	16	Monggar	Chhaling, Drepoong, Monggar, Tsakaling & Tsamang	19	Dendup Tshering	17646894	Phuntsho Tobgay	17613828	Bettu	17750177
	17	Kengkhar-Werringla	Gongdue, Saling & Silambi	20	Sherub Gyeltshen (RO)	17805241	Phuntsho (NO)	17660007	Phub Dorji	17683107
			Kengkhar & Jurmed	21	Galay Rabten (ARO)	17818528	Suraj Gurung (MO)	17623651		
	18	Chhoeckhor-Tang	Chhoeckhor & Tang	22	Pema Khandu	77234772	Sangay Wangdi	17607857	Jigme Tenzin	17654529
Bumthang	19	Chhumig- Ura	Chhumig & Ura	23	Chador Wangdi	17660193	Pema Chopel	17978185	Chime Tenzin	17645343
Trongsa	20	Nubi-Tangsibji	Nubi & Tangsibji	24	Dorji Drukpa	17684630	Yeshey Ngedup	17670916	Ugyen	17755934
	21	Draagteng-Langthil	Draagteng, Korphoog & Langthil	25	Dawa Zangpo	17971533	Ngawang	17619607	Rinzin Norbu	77600673
Zhemgang	22	Bardo- Trong	Bardo, Nangkor, Shingkar & Trong	26	Tobgay	77206362	Dorji Namgyel	17110331	Kuenga Lhendrup	17665554
	23	Panbang	Bjoka, Goshing, Ngangla & Phangkhar	27	Yeshe Namgyel (RO)	17692115	Tshering Chopel (NO)	17608889	Sonam Tenzin	17516664
					Langa Dorji (ARO)	17562755	Demay Wayzair (MO)	17620678		
Sarpang	24	Shompangkha	Dekidling, Chhudzom, Gakidling, Sen-Gey & Shompangkha	28	Sangay Dorji	17117702	Chimi Tenzin	17623629	Gyembo	17634535
	25	Gelephu	Samtenling, Chhuzaggang, Gelegphu, Jigme Chhoe-ling, Serzhong, Taraythang & Umling	29	Dorji Namgyel	77340304	Lemo	17631883	Sonam Yangzom	17788829

Tsirang	26	Sergithang-Tsirang Toed	Doonglagang, Gosarling, Sergithang, Pungtenchhu, Semjong & Tsirang Toed	30	Sangay Phuntsho	17551971	Sangay Wangdi	17631860	Dorji Lham	77612838
	27	Kikhorthang-Mendrelgang	Barshong, Patshaling, Kikhorthang, Mendrelgang, Rangthangling & Tsholingkhar	31	Passang Tshering	17976737	Singay Phub	17613462	Nima Tshering	17907515
Dagana	28	Drukjeygang-Tseza	Drukjeygang, Gozhi, Karna, Khebisa, Lajab, Tshangkha & Tseza	32	Tshering Tashi	17637786	Dawa Zangpo	17831859	Sangay Tshering	17622607
	29	Lhamoi Zing-kha- Trashid-ing	Karmaling, Gesarling, Tashiding, Tsenda-Gang	33	Tsheltrium Dorji (RO)	17669420	Gyeltshen (NO)	17607135	Kuenzang Gyeltshen	17762843
			Doerali, Lhamoi Zing-kha & Nichula	34	Ugyen Rinzin (ARO)	17692977	Leki (MO)	17631433		
Wangdue Phodrang	30	Nyishog-Saephoog	Dangchhu, Gangteng, Kazhi, Nyishog, Phangyuel, Phobji & Saephoog	35	Ngawang Chopel	17616184	Choney Dorji	17654806	Chemi Namgay	17799033
	31	Athang-Thedtsho	Athang, Bjedna, Darkar, Gase Tshogongmm, Gase Tshowogm, Nahi, Thedtsho & Ruebisa	36	Lok Bdr. Ghallay	17623684	Chimi Dorji	17602595	Ugyen Dema	17742473
Punakha	32	Lingmukha-Teodwang	Chhuboog, Dzomi, Lingmukha, Shelnga-Bjemi & Teodwang	37	Gunja Raj Gurung	17627282	Phurba Wangdi	17621579	Chedup Dorji	17696879
	33	Kabisa- Talog	Barp, Guma, Goenshari, Kabisa, Talo & Toepaisa	38	Dechen Zangmo	17544705	Sherap Dorji	17607187	Rinchen Dorji	17684100
Gasa	34	Khatoed-Laya	Khatoed & Laya	39	Kinley Wangchuk	17763397	Pema Dorji	77206362	Kuenley Dorji	17648454
	35	Khamaed-Lunana	Khamaed & Lunana	40	Sangay Needup	17944858	Namgay Dorji	17697405	Leki Dorji	17621007

Thimphu	36	North Thimthrom-Kawang- Ling-shi- Naro- Soe	Kawang, Lingzhi, Naro & Soe	41	Dorji Lethro	17703592	Tshering Penjor	17681671	Phuntsho Namgay	17742368
	37	South Thimthrom-Chang-Darkarla-Ge-Nyen-Maedwang	Chang, Darkarla, Ge-Nyen & Maedwang	42	Gyem Dorji	17619605	Jigme Dukpa	17614215	Tshering Dorji	17537478
Paro	38	Lamgong-Wangchang	Dopshar-ri, Doteng, Hoongrel, Lamgong, Tsento & Wangchang	43	Pema Tenzin	17697171	Dorji Tshering	17625675	Choki Tashi	17425423
	39	Dokar-Sharpa	Dokar, Loongnyi, Nagya & Sharpa	44	Garul Dhoj Bhujel	17785098	Pema Wangchuk S	17645603	Lekey Khandu	17635375
Haa	40	Bji- Kar-Tshog- Uesu	Bji, Kar- Tshog & Uesu	45	Tshering Dorji	17609798	Choeki Khorlo	17636387	Sonam Tshokey	17607705
	41	Sombaykha	Gakidling & Samar	46	Sangay Tenzin (RO)	17763006	Sangay Tenzin (NO)	17602611	Sangay Tenzin	17117400
			Sangbay	47	Birkha Bahadur Gurung (ARO)	17403482	Thinley Penjor (MO)	17669690		
Chhukha	42	Bongo-Chapcha	Bjagchog, Bongo, Chapcha, Darla & Getana	48	Kaka	17609550	Sangay Dorji	17602611	Ugyen Dorji	17417878
	43	Phuentshोगling	Doongna, Geling, Loggchina, Metakha, Phuentshogling & Samphelling	49	Nima Tshering	17606471	Passang Dorji (NO)	17622015	Ugyen Tshomo Ghalley	77653457
				50			Langa Dorji (MO)	17562755		
Samtse	44	Ugyentse-Yoeseltse	Sang-Ngag-Choling, Namgaychholing, Ugentse & Yoeseltse	50	Kelzang Lhamo Dorji	17115117	Karma Dorji	77223031	Tow Tshering	17709948
	45	Phuentshog-pelri - Samtse	Norboogang, Phuentshog-pelri & Samtse	51	Chimi Rinzin	17606872	Leki Tenzin		Sonam Jamtsho	17942612
	46	Trashichholing	Norgaygang, Pemaling, Tashichhoeling & Tendruk	52	Sonam Thinley	17629459	Tsheten Dorji	17978185	Gyeltshen	17638237
	47	Do-phoogchen-Tading	Duenchukha, Dophoogchen, Doongtoed	53	Phuntsho Norbu (RO)	17630936	Tandin Wangyel (NO)	17904902	Dakpa Gyeltshen	17623811
			Tading	54	Dorji (ARO)	77234772	Dorji Wangchuk (MO)	17643071		

1. Total National Observers Appointed = 47 2. Total Returning Officers Appointed = 47 3. Total Micro Observers Appointed = 8
4. Total Assistant Returning Officers Appointed = 47 + 8 = 55 5. Total Electoral Officers Appointed = 157

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
THIMPHU
P.O. BOX 726**

MoH/Pro/06-VPDP/2010-2011/1435

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ministry of Health would like to inform the general public that after the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination campaign in 2010, from March 2011, the HPV will be provided through routine immunization schedule. Those girls out of school aged 12 years should get HPV vaccine from nearest Hospitals, BHUs and Out Reach Clinics.

It is important to receive all three doses of HPV vaccine for protection against Cervical Cancer.

For detailed information, Please contact the nearest Hospital or BHU.

Chief Adm. Officer



Ref: DHI/HRA/REPT/2011

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DHI invites eligible candidates interested in applying for the following posts:

Position	Slot	Qualification
Head – Accounts, Corporate Services Division	1	- Post-graduate in related fields (Preferably CPA/CA or any equivalent diploma in accounting) - Min. 2nd division in Bachelor's degree - Min. 5 years of relevant experience in business sector - Required knowledge, skills in managing corporate finance/ accounting
Driver – Corporate Services Division	1	- Class X passed with driving certification from a recognized driving institute - At least 5 years of experience

Candidates are requested to check the eligibility criteria and conditions given in the ToRs at www.dhi.bt (Go to **Announcements** and click on **career**) and then apply latest by **April 18**.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Head- HR & Adm



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**ROYAL BHUTAN ARMY
HEADQUARTERS**

**TENDER COMMITTEE
LUNGTENPHU**

Ref.No.003/Q/2011

AUCTION NOTICE

- The disposing of Wing 1, CCW stores items will be sold through open auction on **29 April 2011**.
- The bidders may inspect the above items during office hours.
- Terms and Conditions**
 - As is where is basis
 - An earnest money of **Nu. 10,000.00** should be deposited in the form of cash to the Auction Committee, Wing 1 not later than **10 AM** on the day of auction.
 - The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned at the end of the auction.
 - A non-refundable entry fee of **Nu. 200.00** shall be deposited in cash per participant/ bidder.
 - The successful bidder must deposit **25%** of the offer including the earnest money immediately in cash. **NO CHEQUE WILL BE ACCEPTED**. Balance of **75%** must be paid within 7 days from the date of auction prior to taking over of the items, failing which the deposited money shall be forfeited.
 - The decision of the Auction Committee to accept/reject without assigning any reason thereof shall be final and binding.

Presiding Officer

BHUTAN BROADCASTING SERVICE CORPORATION

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- Post** : Managing Director (MD)
- Qualification** : Minimum of a Bachelors Degree, preferably in media, business, commerce, public administration and management
- Experience** : Minimum of 15 years work experience
- Tenure** : On contract for an initial period of **3 (three)** years which may be extended up to a period of **5 (five)** years in total depending on the performance of the incumbent and mutual agreement
- Remarks** : Bhutanese Nationals may apply for the post with the following documents:
- Resume
 - Academic transcripts/certificates
 - Citizenship ID card
 - Valid Security clearance
 - Recent medical certificate
 - No objection certificate from the employer, if employed
 - Recommendation letters from two referees
- Application deadline** : April 25, 2011 at 5 pm
- Apply to** : **General Manager,**
Human Resource and Administration Division,
Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation Ltd.,
P.O Box 101,
Chubachu, Thimphu.
Tel : +975-2- 339812; 323071; 323072
- The short listed candidates shall be called for selection interview.**

Please visit BBSC website at www.bbs.com.bt for the Terms of Reference of the MD.

Chairperson, BBSC Board of Directors



ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN



Keynote Address

On the Occasion of Calling the Local Government Elections 2011

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

Background

The Election Commission of Bhutan today calls for the Elections to the *Gewog Tshogdes* of the 205 Gewogs of the 20 Dzongkhags; *Dzongkhag Thromde Thuemi* to the *Dzongkhag Tshogdu* of sixteen Dzongkhags of Bumthang, Dagana, Gasa, Haa, Lhuentse, Monggar, Paro, Pema Gatshel, Punakha, Samtse, Trashigang, Trashigang, Trashigang, Trongsa, Tsirang, Wangdue Phodrang and Zhemgang; and *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa* for the five vacant *Demkhongs* of *Rabdeyling* of Sarpang *Dzongkhag Thromde*, *Pekarzhing* and *Rinchhending* of Chhukha *Dzongkhag Thromde*, *Changangkha* and *Motithang* of Thimphu *Dzongkhag Thromde*.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind ourselves that once the local governments and elected local leaders are in place, the transition of Bhutan to a Democratic Constitutional Monarchy will be complete notwithstanding the fact that the first-ever Local Government elections are a special one-time measure with exceptions being made to the specific and comprehensive requirements being made to the Constitutional provisions and vision of the Local Governments.

We are well aware of the inconsistencies of the Local Government Act and the Parliamentary Decision on declaration of *Thromdes* with the Provisions of the Constitution and the Election Act. However, in view of the inordinate delay in the conduct of elections that we were ready for in 2008 itself, and the mounting urgency for the elections to be conducted and local governments put in place, we have had to seek an option to ensure that the general public do not bear the brunt of a situation that was clearly avoidable but which nonetheless emerged in the process.

Therefore, the Election Commission is pleased to be calling the Local Government Elections today and to announce that the local governments and elected leaders will be in place to start the new Financial Year starting from 1st July 2011. We are confident that the Royal Government will also honour the conditions and initiate amendment to relevant Sections of the Local Government Act 2009 such that these amendments would ensure that the next Local Government Elections would be in complete fulfillment of all the Constitutional conditions. The declaration of the *Yenlag Thromdes* will only take place after the second Parliamentary elections in 2013 and thereafter another round of delimitation will be undertaken for the 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* and review of the *Chiwog* numbers and boundaries in those Gewogs affected by the declaration of the *Thromdes*.

Election Strategy and Schedule

The poll for the *Local Government Elections 2011* is to be conducted in all 20 Dzongkhags at the same time rather than in different Phases as had been considered earlier. The main benefit of holding the Polls at the same time is that even with the completion of the elections well in time of the new financial year, we can provide a longer nomination period with adequate time to process the necessary papers. This is of particular importance as the Single Window System could not materialize and the general public had been advised through **Notification on 10 March 2011** that all voters interested in contesting the Local Government Elections 2011 should start processing the necessary clearances and documents.

The Election Schedule includes more than a week for the processing of papers and over ten days for the selection and nomina

tion process and over 25 days for election campaign. The Day of Poll is on **24 May 2011** and the polling hours from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The results will be counted on the same day with the formal declaration of the results on the following day on **25 May 2011**.

Selection Process and Required Criteria for Candidates

The selection of candidates for *Gup* and *Mangmi* is through a *Chiwog Zomdu* while for *Gewog Tshogpa*, *Thromde Tshogpa* and *Thromde Thuemi*, an eligible voter has to produce the signature of 5% of the voter population of the concerned *Demkhong*.

All aspiring candidates will have to fulfill the required criteria set out in the Laws. However, in order to encourage more aspiring and potential candidates to participate in the Local Government Elections 2011, a voter whose *Mitsi* is confirmed to be registered in the constituency as of the date of filing the nomination paper shall be considered eligible to vote in that constituency and/or be nominated as a Candidate for the first-ever Local Government Elections. We would like to state that this helped the situation in the recent *Dzongkhag Thromde* Elections and will also prove beneficial for the Local Government Elections 2011. As a matter of fact 226 voters and candidates have to date transferred their *Mitsi* to the *Demkhong* of their choice which will have a positive effect on the *Dzongkhag Thromdes* and *Chiwogs* which could have been otherwise without an eligible candidate or with a small electorate. The situation of *Chiwogs* without eligible candidates is arising despite the fact that the allocation of *Gewog Tshogpa* Seats was done very conservatively and kept at the minimum as far as possible. We hope with this arrangement more voters could be able to take advantage towards a successful election.

It is also required that a candidate interested to contest Local Government election does not belong to a political party. In the case of a candidate who had been a member of a political party, a copy of the resignation or removal from Party Membership as notified by the concerned party office in the print media with a copy submitted to the Election Commission in accordance with Section 206 of the Election Act 2008, attested by the Chief Election Officer, Department of Elections must be produced.

In terms of the Asset Declaration, attestation by the ACC shall no longer be required, while all such papers filed by the Candidates shall be displayed and made available for viewing by the general public for their comments and information.

While the scrutiny of Nomination papers is the responsibility of the Returning Officer concerned, we would like to urge voters to be more responsible and vigilant in the process as in small communities like ours, voters would know if candidates did not meet the criteria. At the same time we also ask that aspiring candidates participate in the electoral process in an upright and sincere manner just as Election Officials must fulfill their responsibilities with due diligence and in an intelligent manner to ensure that we have credible, lawful, free and fair elections.

Election Campaign

A Candidate shall have up to 26 days for campaigning, which must stop 48 hours before the start of Poll. A Candidate for the *Local Government Elections* will not receive State funding for election campaign but can spend up to Nu. 50,000/-, the accounts of which has to be submitted to the National Observers for scrutiny and Election Returns filed within thirty days of declaration of the Election Result.

While a Candidate is required to open a campaign account in a Bank for the campaign purposes, this requirement will not be made mandatory in case of the absence of banking facility in a *Gewog* and/or if a candidate gives a written undertaking stating that he/she does not intend to incur any expenditure for his/her election campaign.

All Banks or financial institutions are required to report any abnormal transaction of money, including in the account of a candidate contesting the Local Government Elections in the *Gewogs* and *Dzongkhag Thromdes*, to the Election Commission.

A new feature in election campaign which had been implemented during the recent *Thromde* Elections is the arrangement of a

common gathering for public address by all candidates in each *Chiwog/ Dzongkhag Thromde /Thromde Tshogpa Demkhong* thereby eliminating the necessity to call for public meetings by each candidate separately and thereby avoiding inconvenience to voters of attending multiple sessions.

Door-to-door campaigns or rallies are subject to the provisions of the law, code of conduct and as per the campaign schedule and use of vehicles as approved by the Returning Officer. Specifically, door-to-door campaign shall not be conducted **before 7 a.m.** and **after 8 p.m.**

We would like to bring to the notice of the public that the Election Code of Conduct shall come into force from the date of the Notifications calling for Elections issued by the Election Commission and shall continue to be in force until the completion of the Election Period i.e. from **6 April 2011** to **25 May 2011**.

Apolitical, Non-Partisan and Secular

As the Local Governments are required to be apolitical and non-partisan, Ministers, Members of Parliament, religious personalities, officials or members of a political party must refrain from campaigning directly or indirectly for any candidate. No trips or official tours shall be undertaken by a Minister or Member of Parliament to a *Demkhong* during the Election Period except to cast their votes on the Poll Day should they wish not to use the Postal Ballot facility extended to them and their spouse.

A civil servant should not campaign or attend campaigns or political meetings except in the capacity of an Election Official. Civil servants and their spouses can also avail the privilege of the postal ballot.

Similarly, we would like to advice that no events or meetings, including religious events involving gathering of people be organized in the Gewogs and Thromdes during the Election Period.

Postal Voters

We would like to remind all eligible postal voters that they have to first register with the Election Commission as a postal voter, either through the respective Dzongkhag Election Office or with the ECB Head Office through the parent agency. Thereafter, a postal voter must apply to the respective Returning Officer for Postal Ballot on or before **29 April 2011**. Once a Postal Ballot is received, a voter must cast his/her vote and send it back to the Returning Officer such that it is received by **23 May 2011**.

A person who applied for Postal Ballot shall not be allowed to vote in person as his/her name will be included in the Postal Voters' List and struck off from the Voters' List sent to the Polling Station by the Returning Officer.

Electoral Roll

No effort is being spared to ensure that the Electoral Roll is complete and free of error. The draft Electoral Roll for the *Local Government Elections 2011* was issued on **10 March 2011** for public inspection and to invite the public to file Claims and Objections and the Roll is being closely scrutinized at the local as well as central levels to ensure that there are no errors. The Final Electoral Rolls for the Elections shall be published and provided to the Returning Officers by **15 April 2011** and the Candidates will be given their copies on **28 April 2011**.

As required under the Laws, no changes shall be made to the Electoral Roll of the *Local Government Demkhongs* after **24 April 2011**, thirty days before the date of poll. However, the respective Dzongkhag Election Office shall continue to distribute the Voter Photo Identity Cards to those who were unable to collect it earlier, even up to the Poll Day to ensure desirable voter turnout.

Voter Photo Identity Card

The VPIC issued by the Election Commission is the valid document for identification of voters at the polling stations during the Elections. However, all voters must carry with them the Citizenship Identity Card issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. In the event of any dispute related to the VPIC, the Citizenship Identity Card will form the basis for taking decision by the Presiding Officer.

Polling Stations and Electronic Voting Machines

There shall be at least one Polling Station in every *Gewog Tshogpa Demkhong* for *Gewog Tshogde* Elections, *Thromde Thuemi Demkhong* and *Thromde Tshogpa Demkhong* so that managing a Polling Station would be simple and also convenient for Voters.

A total of **1,101 polling stations** will be set up for the Local Government Elections 2011, with 1,080 polling stations in the 1,044 Chiwogs; 16 polling stations in the 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* and 5 vacant *Thromde Tshogpa Demkhongs*. The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for polling in all *Demkhongs*.

Election Officials

The *Dzongdags* are being appointed as the Chief Election Coordinators, Thrompons/ Dzongrabs/ Dungpas the Deputy Chief Election Coordinators and the Gewog Administrative Officers the Assistant Chief Election Coordinators for the respective Dzongkhag, *Dzongkhag Thromde* and Gewog.

The Election Commission is appointing a total of 47 National Observers for groups of Gewogs corresponding to the 47 National Assembly *Demkhongs* and 8 Micro Observers to assist the National Observers in the bigger or remote Gewogs. The Observers shall also serve as the Campaign Expenditure Observers.

The Election Commission is appointing a Returning Officer and an Assistant Returning Officer in each of the 47 National Assembly *Demkhongs* and an additional 8 Assistant Returning Officer to assist the Returning Officer in the bigger or remote Gewogs.

The Returning Officers are responsible for the appointment of Presiding and Polling Officers for the respective Polling Stations which shall be on or after **21 May 2011** i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise required for distant polling stations.

The Presiding Officers shall also be authorized to serve as the Counting Supervisors and a Polling Officer as the Counting Assistant after the Poll when the Polling Stations convert into Counting Centres.

A Media Arbitrator vested with the authority and have the responsibility to fulfill the roles and responsibilities as provided in the Electoral Laws is also being appointed for the Local Government Elections 2011.

Media

The Commission urges the media to be vigilant and fearless in exposing any electoral frauds or wrongdoings and be proactive in informing the public. At the same time, the media must be fair to all candidates and be responsible to not *mis*-inform the public.

Polling Station and Counting Centre

The polling and counting of the election results shall take place on the same day as per the procedure adopted under the Rules and Guidelines.

The counting, consolidation and announcement of results will take place in the Polling Station cum Counting Centers and the Counting Centre at the Returning Officer's level while the declaration of results and the awarding of the Certificate of Election to the elected candidates shall be done by the Commission.

Law and Order & Deployment of Forces

The *Dzongdags* of all twenty *Dzongkhags* and the Gewog Administrative Officers/ *Gedrungs* in the *Gewogs* shall serve as the Focal Points for all administrative matters in the *Dzongkhags* and *Gewogs* respectively for the election period.

The Royal Bhutan Police shall be responsible for liaising with the Royal Bhutan Army towards provision of adequate security for the safe conduct of the Local Government Elections 2011.

The local administration or election security personnel must deal appropriately and reasonably at any sign or incidence of potential for violence or disruption at a polling station, place of counting etc. by any individual or group including by detention of any miscreants.

Surprise inspections of persons, vehicles and properties at entry points and within a *Demkhong* shall also be conducted to prevent or check movement of unauthorized persons, documents, money, alcohol, arms and ammunitions and other restricted items.

Wherever relevant, arrangements for the sealing of the borders for the poll period shall be made to ensure smooth conduct of the Elections.

Election Disputes and Complaints

Two Election Dispute Settlement Bodies – one at the Central and one in each *Dzongkhag* – is being appointed for the Local Government Elections. The Election Dispute Settlement Bodies may direct an Investigation Committee; hear investigation report of the Committee and arguments of the concerned and give a reasoned decision.

An election complaint must be filed in the prescribed Election Complaint Form which is available at all Election Offices and the investigation, hearing, decision and appeal process shall be as per the Election Act and the Rules and Regulations.

Election Representatives

Candidates can appoint election and polling representatives under the Electoral Laws. However no person other than a person lawfully appointed shall relay the results from a Counting Centre to the media or any third party.

Voter Education and Training

A comprehensive voter education and training programme was implemented **from 1st March 2011 onwards** to prepare the voters to take part in the Elections effectively. In particular, every effort has been made to familiarize the voters with the sequence of voting on multiple EVMs for multiple posts at one visit to a Polling Station in the *Gewog Tshogde* Elections i.e. first voting compartment is always for *Gup*, second for *Mangmi* and the third for the *Gewog Tshogpa*.

Election Control Rooms

Control Rooms shall be established in the Office of the Returning Officers and at the Election Commission Headquarters to effectively supervise, direct, monitor and backstop the conduct of elections.

Poll Day - A Public Holiday

The Poll Day **24 May 2011** shall be declared a national holiday in the 20 Dzongkhags. All employers are required by law to grant required number of days as election leave for any voter wishing to go to vote in person.

Demkhong with No or Only One Candidate

In a *Demkhong* where there is no candidate after the last date for filing of nomination of candidates notified herein, the election will be postponed till further notice by the Election Commission.

In a *Demkhong* where there is only one candidate after the last date of filing of nomination of candidates announced herein, an uncontested election i.e. "Yes" or "No" vote, in accordance with Sections 575 and 576 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, will be conducted in that *Demkhong*.

Dissolution of the DYT, GYT, Municipal and Town Committees

All the existing *DYTs* in the Dzongkhags and *GYTs* in the Gewogs and the Municipal or Town Committees shall stand dissolved as of **8 April 2011** in the respective Dzongkhags and Gewogs as required under the Notification calling the *Local Government Elections 2011*.

The existing and serving *Gups* and *Mangmis* shall be deemed as having resigned from their posts upon the dissolution of the existing *DYTs* and *GYTs*, while any formal or informal **non-elective positions** in the existing Municipal or Town Committees of the 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* shall not be affected. However, the incumbent *Gups*, *Mangmis* and *Tshogpas* who decide not to contest the Local Government Elections 2011 may be treated as being in service till **31 May 2011**.

Conclusion

I would like to ask all public and private agencies to render support and cooperation to the Election and Polling Teams in the field. In particular, use of vehicles is of particular relevance to this election as we have a spare EVM set aside for each EVM in use only for the distant and remote Polling Stations which are difficult to access and would require time to reach. For other polling stations, the Returning Officer will immediately commission an EVM as and when required and reach it to the needing polling station in the shortest time possible.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work being put in by the staff of the Election Commission in the 20 Dzongkhags and at the Head Office to reach this stage of preparedness and readiness for the conduct of the first Local Government Elections. We must keep up the present momentum to complete the Local Government elections successfully.

Above all, the Election Commission urges all voters of the 205 Gewogs, 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* and 5 *Thromde Tshogpa Demkhongs* to participate actively in the electoral process so that we can together realize the Vision of a vibrant democracy of our Beloved Monarchs.

Tashi Deleg!