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HRH The Gyalsey named Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck

Staff reporter

An air of jubilance filled the corridors and courtyards of Pungthang Dewachenpoi Phodrang as thousands of excited Bhutanese from all walks of life from across the country, dressed in their best finery, gathered to witness the Naming Tendrel of His Royal Highness The Gyalsey.

Outside in the public ground, thousands of Bhutanese had come to partake in the celebration.

The occasion was doubly auspicious since the Naming Ceremony coincided with Zhabdrung Kuchoe.

The Naming Ceremony of His

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British royal couple leaves after a memorable visit

Pema Seldon
from Thimphu

At the invitation of His Majesty The King, Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge of the United Kingdom, Prince William and Kate Middleton, arrived on Thursday for a two-day visit in the country.

Accompanied by the British High Commissioner to India, Sir Dominic Asquith and other senior officials of the British High Commission in New Delhi, this was the first vist to Bhutan by Their Royal Highnesses.

Her Royal Highness Princess Chimi Yangzom Wangchuck received Their Royal Highnesses at Paro

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS *The Gyalsey*

On the auspicious occasion of the Naming Ceremony of
His Royal Highness The Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck
coinciding with the sacred occasion of Zhabdrung Kuchoe,
the management and staff of
Tashi Commercial Corporation
would like to offer our sincere prayers and good wishes for the
wellbeing of the Son of Pelden Drukpa.

TASHI DELEK!

from page one

HRH The Gyalsey named

Royal Highness The Gyalsey took place in the sacred Machhen Kuendhuen of Punakha Dzong. His Holiness the Je Khenpo administered the Thruesel Ceremony, followed by the Naming Ceremony. His Majesty The King and His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo attended the ceremony at the Machhen Lhakhang.

His Majesty the King introduced His Royal Highness Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck to a historic gathering of Royal family members, spiritual and government leaders, and representatives of all sections of the Bhutanese society as well as to a crowd of about 10,000 people on the grounds outside the Dzong.

Addressing the people of Bhutan at the main courtyard of Punakha Dzong, His Majesty The King announced the name of His Royal Highness The Gyalsey.

His Majesty said, "As I have said before, the Gyalsey is not just the prince of the King and Gyaltsuen, but a son to all the Bhutanese people. After profound contemplation, he has been named Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck in the sacred Machen Lhakhang."

His Majesty The King explained that 'Jigme' means fearless and it symbolizes great courage to overcome any challenge that he may confront in future as he serves our country.

'Namgyel' means victorious in all directions and victory over all obstacles. "It is a name taken from the revered Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, who enabled the Dharma to flourish in all directions as prophesied by Guru Rinpoche.Wangchuck is the name of the royal lineage and dynasty.

His Majesty The King also said that it is most auspicious for all of us to have gathered here today to observe the sacred occasion of Zhabdrung Kuchoe at Pungthang Dewachenpoi Phodrang, the principal seat of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel. "All the people of our country were joyously united in offering prayers when our son was born in February this year. I express my appreciation to all the people of twenty dzongkhags for your prayers, support and love, and wish you Tashi Delek on the auspicious occasion of Zhabdrung Kuchoe," said His Majesty.

His Majesty said today is a very significant day in an exceptional year filled with propitious events. The year marks the birth anniversary of Guru Rinpoche and the 400th anniversary of Zhabdrung's arrival in Bhutan.

"Along with His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, I and my son offered our prayers today to Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in the sacred Machhen Lhakhang for the present and future wellbeing of our people and country," said His Majesty. "Never before has there been a time when the royal grandfather, father and son of the Wangchuck Dynasty came together at the same time to offer prayers in the sacred temple of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel. This has come to signify a most fortunate event on a most auspicious day."

His Majesty said when the time comes for Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck to serve the country, he must always place the concerns of his country above all else and serve his people justly with great love and dedication. "It will be his sacred responsibility to build a harmonious and just society, and thereby, fulfill all the aspirations of his people," said His Majesty. "He must live such a life as a good human being and serve his country in a manner that it will be exemplary and worthy of emulation."

He will also have the responsibility to preserve and foster the legacies and teachings of Guru Rinpoche and Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, said His Majesty.

"My heartfelt prayers and aspirations are that during his reign, our people will be able to enjoy even greater peace, security, prosperity and happiness than they have in the past," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed deep appreciation to all the people of the 20 dzongkhags for their continued support, loyalty and dedication.

Outside the Punakha Dzong, His Majesty The King met with thousands of people gathered to celebrate Zhabdrung Kuchoe at the Thangzona and granted Tokha. The people offered their wishes to His Royal Highness The Gyalsey.

Chhams related to the Zhabdrung were performed at the ground along with an entertainment program, as part of Zhabdrung Tsechu. Relics of the Zhabdrung from across the country will be displayed at the Dzong from 17 to 22 April.



On the auspicious occasion of Zhabdrung Kuchoe and coinciding with the Naming Ceremony of His Royal Highness The Gyalsey, His Majesty The King granted the Red Scarf to three individuals in recognition for their services to the country and people. The recipients are Lyonpo Dorji Choden, Karma Penjor, and Dr. Tobgyel Wangchhuk. Zhabto Lyonpo Dasho Dorji Choden is the minister of Works and Human Settlements. Dasho Karma Penjor is the secretary of Dratshang Lhentshog. Dasho Dr. Tobgyel Wangchhuk is the Royal Physician.

Local industries earn more than hydropower: ABI

According to the Bhutan Trade Statistics 2014, local industries contributed Nu 13.8bn and hydropower contributed Nu 10.6bn to the economy

Dechen Dolkar
from Thimphu

The total revenue generated last year by local industries amounted to around Nu 14bn while hydropower contributed Nu 12bn to the country, disproving the popular notion that hydropower is the highest source of revenue for Bhutan, according to the General Secretary of Association of Bhutan Industries (ABI), Jochu Thinley.

The Bhutan Trade Statistics 2015 states that industrial revenue includes revenue earned through export of Ferro Silicon, Cement, Gypsum, Calcium Carbide and semi-finished products of iron.

Jochu Thinley also said that the industrial sector has more employment opportunities than hydropower.

"We have huge stakeholders and earn a vast reserve of foreign currency than hydropower," said the General Secretary.

As per the Bhutan Trade Statistics 2014, local industries contributed Nu 13.8bn and hydropower contributed Nu 10.6bn to the economy.

The Royal Monetary Authority's (RMA) annual report shows that hydropower export decreased from Nu.11.2bn in 2013 to Nu. 10.6bn in 2014 owing to a combination of lower production from delayed monsoons, and increased domestic consumption. However, there was an increase in export of hydropower from 2014 to 2015 from Nu 10.6bn to Nu12 bn.

Meanwhile, industries exported goods worth Rs 14.8bn to India and USD 24.94mn to third countries in 2013 while the next year they exported goods amounting to Rs 15.2bn to India and worth USD 48.01mn to third countries.

Hydropower continues to remain Bhutan's largest export with a share of 29.9%, followed by ferro-alloys with a share of 24.8% worth Nu 8.8bn. The export of articles of base metals and mineral products also continue to feature in the top 20 commodity list of exports, along with agro-products such as cardamom, potatoes and oranges.

The hydropower sector has a total of 18,906 employees, out of which 11,324 are non-Bhutanese. Druk Green Power Corporation has 1,710 employees while Bhutan Power Corporation (BPC) has 2,248.

Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Project Authority-I (PHPA-I) employs 1,345 Bhutanese workers and 2,695 non-Bhutanese workers while Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Project Authority-II (PHPA-II) employs 1,224 Bhutanese and 4,599 non-Bhutanese workers. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA) employs 579 Bhutanese and 4,027 non-Bhutanese workers.

Meanwhile, the industrial sector consumed energy worth Nu 1.3bn in 2013 and energy worth Nu 2.9bn in 2014.

As of last year, there were 73 large and 101 medium production and manufacturing industries in the country.

However, as per ABI records, around 3, 249 Bhutanese and 876 non-Bhutanese were employed with the industrial sector in 2013 and 3,864 Bhutanese and 701 non-Bhutanese in 2014.

Vice president of ABI, Chimi Dorji Norbu said that in order to help the industrial sector that is such an important contributor to the country's revenue, domestic power tariff should always be lower than export power tariff so that local industries have an advantage to compete with foreign manufacturers.

Chimi Dorji Norbu said: "This is the only resource that is available in our country and we must use it to strengthen and diversify the economy."

The next power tariff revision would be from July this year.

However, the Bhutan Chamber for Commerce and Industry (BCCI) would intervene once the proposal for power tariff revision is in public domain.

Deputy Sectary General of BCCI, Kesang Wangdi said that the only advantage for manufacturing industries in Bhutan is excess to cheaper power tariff compared to the power prices in the region.

He added this in a way provides competitive edge for local industries in the neighboring market.

He said in support of manufacturing industries, the BCCI initiates and carries out policy intervention, advocacy, lobbying government and creating business linkages in the regional market.

More than Nu 2mn transacted through BoB CDMs

The tellers at the deposit counters are able to provide better quality service as the rush at these counters is gradually reducing

Krishna Ghalley
from Phuentsholing

Since Bank of Bhutan Limited (BoB) introduced a Cash Deposit Machine (CDM) last month in Phuentsholing and Thimphu each, more than Nu 2mn has been transacted so far in both the machines.

Customers had used the machines 1,361 times as of last week.

Thimphu's CDM is used more as compared to that of Phuentsholing's with an average of 365 hits a week. In Phuentsholing, it is used 70 times a week.

An official from the bank said that the difference in the hits is due to the variance in population of the two cities.

She said that the CDM services offered have been beneficial for both the customers and the bank. Also the deposit queues have decreased at both the branches as the customers can now deposit their cash at any time as per their convenience. "The tellers at the deposit counters are able to provide better quality service as the rush at these counters is gradually reducing," she said.

As of now, BoB has been receiving positive feedback, according to the official. "There are no complaints from any customers using CDM," she said adding that curious customers visit the banks with queries about the machine.

Asked whether Bhutanese customers need such services, she said that inferring from the positive feedback and increasing machine usage trend, "Bhutanese customers are indeed ready for such innovative banking services."

On an average, only about eight people use Phuentsholing's CDM with more preferring to be in queue.

"Maybe they are unaware of the facilities. It is really comfortable as we don't have to wait in queue for the service. It's easy here," Dorji Wangchuk, a CDM user said.

Meanwhile, the bank also faces technical issues, and co-ordination and communication with vendors are always a challenge as these parties usually reside out of the country.

"Apart from working on the stability of this service, we are also currently working on developing an effective awareness and communication program about this unique service from BoB," the official said.

BoB introduced the CDMs a month ago in Thimphu and Phuentsholing. It will be constantly monitoring and examining the existing machines and the transactions. If the data and feedback on CDM continue to be positive and the customers are comfortable and happy, "we will then definitely work towards extending this service in other locations of BoB," she said.

Number of Drinchen Ama saving account holders crosses 3,000

This BDBL scheme was initiated to inculcate financial discipline and saving habits at the household level



Dechen Dolkar
from Thimphu

Bhutan Development Bank Limited's (BDBL) Drinchen Ama (Beloved Mother) saving scheme for women and homemakers had 3,220 account holders as of March this year.

The Drinchen Ama saving scheme was launched on 17 December 2014 to commemorate the 60th birth anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

The scheme aims to inculcate financial discipline and saving habits at the household level.

When someone opens a Drinchen Ama account, a safe box with Nu50 in it and a *khaddar* is provided to the mother or homemaker.

An official from BDBL said that mothers sacrifice their own comfort and happiness for their children and families, and mothers in particular set aside savings for their children's future.

Studies on micro-finance customers worldwide including Bhutan has reported that women are more financially disciplined and better savers than their male counterparts.

Thus, in order to recognize and honor this compassionate figure that has shaped the household and family's lives and to further inculcate saving habits amongst the households, the Drinchen Ama Saving, loosely translated as Beloved Mothers Saving was introduced.

The scheme is operational in the 33 branches of BDBL in all the dzongkhags.

"Women will develop saving habits. They will have savings which they can use when they need it in the future for their children, for themselves or their household," said the official.

The branch assistant of Tsirang, Dorji Wangchuk said that on the 25th of every month, bank officials visit the gewog center to collect cash from the account holders.

The BDBL official said the safe box is kept in secured locations at the homes of the customers and they can put in money anytime.

The keys of the safe box are maintained with the BDBL bank branch and officials open the box in the presence of the clients or representatives, count the cash, issue receipts and update the passbooks. The safe box is then handed back to the customers, the official added.

The customers have the option to make direct deposits into the Drinchen Ama saving account when visiting the branch office or they should bring the safe box to the gewog center during Farmers' Outreach Banking days.

The interest rate 6% per annum for the saving scheme is 0.5% more than the normal saving deposit interest.

Dorji Wangchuk added that an individual deposits an average of Nu500 to Nu600 every month.

For instance, there are around 30 account holders for the scheme in Barshong gewog, Tsirang.

There are five chiwogs in the gewog which is located 28 kms away from Damphu town. Barshong gewog has a population of 2,300 with 248 households.

Tshering Om, 40, a mother of four from Barshong Maed under Barshong gewog, a member of the scheme, said that it has been only one month since she opened her account but she saves whenever she gets notes of small denomination while shopping.

"For this month the amount must have reached around Nu400-Nu500," she said, adding that the saving will help her family be self-sufficient gradually.

Similarly, Dhan Maya Subba, 40, from Barshong Toed said she deposits the money in the safe box every day after selling vegetables worth Nu50-Nu100.

She said it has been two months since she started saving money.

"It is very important to save money for villagers like us and it will help meet our family expenses," said Dhan Maya Subba.

editoria

OUR **VIEWS** & **PERSPECTIVES**

The Royal Visit and Bhutan

Bhutan has come in the global limelight in recent years for a host of good reasons. And now, making the international headlines is the visit of the celebrity British Royal Couple, Prince William and Kate Middleton to the country on the invitation of His Majesty The King.

This we can say is our good fortune. Bhutan and Britain have always been in each other's good books since the time of the British Raj when Bhutan signed the Treaty of Sinchula in 1865 and the Treaty of Punakha in 1910 to consolidate peaceful bilateral relations.

When Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck was crowned the first King of Bhutan in 1907, British political officer, Sir Claude White represented the British government at the enthronement ceremony.

His Majesty the First King was conferred many titles like the Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire during his reign.

Thus, the centuries-old relationship between the two countries came to a fruitful culmination when Their Royal Highnesses visited Bhutan last week.

Though the two countries do not yet enjoy formal diplomatic relations at present, the significance of this visit cannot be underestimated.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were welcomed in typical Bhutanese tradition of ceremonial hospitality.

Also, close parallels can be drawn from the fact that in 1988, the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles was hosted by His Majesty the Fourth King and less than three decades later, his son was accorded a warm welcome by His Majesty The King.

Further, both countries have a Royalty that is loved and revered by their people.

His Majesty The King and His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo also share a close connection to Britain because of their education at Oxford.

Many Bhutanese continue to pursue their higher education in the UK, and indeed some of the best Bhutanese scholars we have today have been polished and groomed at British educational institutes.

We can only hope that this cross-cultural exchange will produce more Bhutanese who are equipped for a greater task and purpose, seeing that Britain has some of the finest universities in the world.

The Royal visit can be seen as a means to further facilitate this. It has also opened the gateway to fostering friendly relations between the two countries and its people. Just one day into their visit, the foreign ministry issued a press release stating that in May this year, a visa application center for Bhutanese wishing to visit Bhutan will be opened in Thimphu.

But this is just the beginning. Considering the widespread international coverage the event drew, this will benefit Bhutan by boosting its image and promoting its rich cultural, traditional and natural heritage.

This in the long term will serve to boost the tourism industry which means added economic benefits for the country.

All this goes to show that ties of friendship can be developed between two very different peoples: a developed European nation and a tiny Asian kingdom that is putting forward tentative yet steady steps towards development.

We should appreciate such kind of positive changes taking place on the global landscape and especially the fact that our visionary leaders have at every turn been wisely steering the country towards an era of prosperous and prudent international relations that serve to reinforce it as a peaceful, friendly nation with an untainted image.

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Please send your opinions and commentaries to businessbhutan@gmail.com or kelly.shering@gmail.com

Kinga CHODEN

THE NEED FOR REMINDERS

The pressure in my head was mounting and if it were a cooker, it would start whistling anytime soon, attributable to both personal and professional issues added by other insignificant birds pecking on my brain. So, I had the strangest moment one day last week. I ran home and demanded to have a discussion with my dad. For a split second, his expression was somewhat quizzical which if translated into words could be something like "O.M.G. What in the heavens name!".

You see there are two classes of proud people – ones whose pride is gained through achievements and the others, like me, are born obnoxiously proud with no reason whatsoever. In my entire life so far, I have never demanded a discussion with my dad. I never felt the need to. I made my own decisions, learnt my own lessons and sought my own directions, and informed my dad about them.

But that day, a cerebral volcanic eruption would have been inevitable had I decided to contain the burning lava. Within the next half hour, I explained my situation caused by my sense of ownership over everything I do with such boring seriousness. For the first time, my dad perhaps understood some things more than besides just my workplace.

I have known many people but never quite a listener like him. He squinted his one eye and listened to each word I uttered. Then in response he narrated the following story to me:

"There were once two boys in Tibet – one was born into a rich family and the other into a poor family.

His doting parents gave the rich boy the best of things in life. With a happy and smooth childhood having never had to face any scarcity of sorts, he marched effortlessly into adulthood.

The poor kid however toiled through his childhood days to make ends meet on his own. His childhood days were long and perilous.

Then a day came when the parents of both the boys left this world and the tides turned. The son of the rich parents suddenly found himself alone and lost and unable to find his way in life, for that was not a skill he learned. Ultimately he turned to rags.

The lessons of the son of the poor parents however were enriched through his hardships during his childhood that his life skills kept getting better and sharper until as an adult, it turned to brilliance and he became a very rich person. "

With that my dad said, "Learn your lessons for they will enrich your journey forward. There is never a victory without a fight."

I thought inwardly "Ah, you don't even need to tell me that story. It's common knowledge" but knowing how much better and more determined I felt post that narration, I realized sometimes knowing is simply not enough…we do need reminders from time to time.

The writer works at Bhutan Telecom and describes herself as "a hopeless recluse".

opinion

YOUR **VOICE** MATTERS



By Jurmi Chhowing

Dead Man Talking

Wanting what you don't need and needing what you can't afford is the old goat grazing on a meadow he never appreciates. And the quest for greener pastures keeps the old goat preoccupied, ridden with anxiety. No matter how green, such a meadow can't keep up with the incessant greed and graze.

The elites are to blame. Partly. For becoming elitists. And some might even add, for becoming the 'Forced Few'. But just what is an 'elitist'? In the Bhutanese context, an elitist is a person who lives beyond his needs and means and somehow manages to pay for it all. How he does it is a secret only he and his fellow-elitists are privy to. The rest of us must give them the benefit of the doubt and keep groping for flashlights in the dark.

So if you wake up on a soft bed and a good pillow with a warm breakfast tray by your bedside, you're an elitist. If you enter a bathroom the size of a bedroom you're an elitist. If you open a closet the size of a hermitage hut you're an elitist. If you then decide to drive your second or third favorite car you're an elitist. If you then spend the day juggling your apples from the Pad to the Mac to the iPhone you're an elitist.

And if none of these leaves a good taste in your mouth you're really an elite elitist.

Being rich is a subjective description, but we keep mixing the material and the immaterial. And in that respect the poor are dying in expectations of becoming rich. And the rich aren't helping themselves, continually raising the bar on what it takes to appear rich. I'm certain the man found dead in Bangkok did it only for the money, and the imagined lifestyle it would help foster.

A lifestyle of grandeur. Nice house, big car, the trappings of success, and the allure of prosperity.

It seems, unfortunately, peer pressure of the young takes on just another shape and form when you get older, and the aspiration to have and own what the richer neighbors do becomes an emergency. Nothing exceeds like excess, and excess of anything becomes excessive by nature. Realty then becomes stark, and what you have is nothing compared to what you could own.

Our man found dead stuffed in a duffel bag with a bellyful of meth in Bangkok last week has been a conversational ice-breaker. Since that story broke, talk has become drugged. His trip may have been cut short, but the high has not. Double entendre notwithstanding, drugs are being vilified, together with the inability of the said dead man to stay alive; preferably undead, uncaught or in the light of recent findings, untouched. See, the picture-perfect image of the country's projected state of happiness abroad is a bother to many a happy Bhutanese at home.

It seems, image, after all, is stronger than reality. And such twists and turns does not help the narrative we are trying to build.

Call it whatever you will, the dead man's story echoes and resonates. Globalization is here to stay, and the ignorantly blissful keepers of the farms and fields are aware of the new measures of success and prosperity. The cabled-telly brings daily reminders of all the things they could have had, and now aspire to. Journeys to the capital will no doubt turn them green with envy at the many other readily available goodies they could so easily call their own.

Unless you are a spiritually grounded practitioner of resistance, samsara is a pretty desirable place. And that's where the majority of us want to live in. We see the residents and they don't look too miserable. Surely the pursuit of money and the possession of wealth can't be as awful as the scriptures make out?

Justification in any sphere is the supreme negotiator, and justification on a worldly scale is a humdrum daily affair. It's what drives anything; from righteous morals to empty ethics, and petty theft to grave murders.

If the dead could talk, the living would have to chop-off their ears.

But the dead man is a smaller symptom of a greater malaise. He paid the ultimate price, but one can't begrudge him the effort to get-rich-quick. Everyone I know seems to be on that fast lane. But what's this feeling of richness? And where's all that feeling of poverty coming from?

The people I meet are shocked, and surprised. Shocked a man will take such risks and go to such lengths to make a quick buck, and surprised that he actually did it. I'm neither shocked nor surprised. It's just another timely sign. And the billboards are hanging everywhere- the pursuit of happiness begins and ends with money. The aspiration to get there is strong, and in more ways than one, the standards of success and prosperity are being set by the haves, even as the have-nots drop dead trying to climb that ladder.

Dead men don't talk. The living have to. Talk's cheap. But talk's all we can do. So let's talk a little more talk; see where it walks. As far as the common folk is concerned, the lifestyle of the elite is the aspiration. They would love to inherit the luxurious problems of the rich. Or the seemingly wealthy. Seemingly, because the origins of wealth is prone to a lot of mixed sources, many of which flow from questionable pools. But in a society where first impressions are solid appearances, everything that glitters is gold, and the lure of the yellow dust is an irresistible siren.

There're exceptions to the rule. People who have left the rat-race. Dropped-off the bandwagon. Decided keeping up with the Wangmos is futile vanity. They retain a certain humility. Or whatever feels deprived. But that's a drying minority in a widening cesspool of acquisition, consumption, and exhibition. It seems the onus is on the affluent. Restraint sounds like a good motive, without sounding sacrificial. We have kings to inspire us, along with a rich tradition of renunciation. But that's squeezing the lemon dry.

For now just a little refrain in self-indulgence will do. The haves should now try raising their bars of contentment. Not even spiritually. Just plain materialistic resistance. If nothing, try it out as an experiment. Bring a little excitement to that stiff boredom. Deny yourself. Fast. Go slim. Do 'less is more'. Drive the smaller car. Build a smaller house. Use a cheaper phone. Surprise the poor. Stay rich whilst looking cool. Be cool. Go cool. Live cool.

Give the old want, need and profit and loss a whole new twist. The potential happiness of all Bhutanese hangs and hinges in the way the elites conduct their lifestyles, and then exhibit it. Remember, what happens in Thimphu does not stay in Thimphu; it goes out of Bhutan, as the dead man in Bangkok will tell you.

(The writer is a freelance journalist. He blogs at iamdrukpa.blogspot.com)

Business Bhutan provides this vital public space to citizens from cross section of the society to encourage free and frank debate, dialogue and discussion. Views and opinions expressed here are that of the writer. If you wish to contribute, please email your opinions, views, and commentaries to businessbhutan@gmail.com or kelly.shering@gmail.com.

Phuentsholing Thromde expansion poses safety hazards

This is due to the land gradient and soil instability at Kabreytar



Krishna Ghalley
from Phuentsholing

The expansion of Phuentsholing Thromde towards the north poses risks and safety hazards to future occupants considering the landscape and soil instability.

The land in the area is mostly steep and the quality of the soil unstable. Compounding the problems are construction works that are in full swing in the area where the roads are built on the steep slopes at Toe (Kabreytar).

The Toe area is particularly prone to landslides during the heavy monsoon rains which have resulted in damage to several households.

Phuentsholing Thromde has seen an overwhelming development over the years. Branded as the commercial hub of the country, the city has witnessed infrastructural growth across the city.

Without the scope to expand south where the city borders with the Indian town of Jaigaon, the only option to expand is towards the north and east. Towards the west, the Amochu land reclamation project will kick off soon.

The Thromde extends from the core city area to Toe, Nyedrag (Damdara) towards the north and till Pasakha to the east covering Rinchending. The city covers a total area of 51 m2.

Speaking to *Business Bhutan*, some residents said that the expansion which is currently seen as a boon could prove to be a ban instead considering the land instability.

"The land here is too sloppy and construction of buildings is not favorable, still with the developments taking place, we have to go ahead with works," said D.K. Gurung, a construction worker. He further said that there would not be many adverse effects as the infrastructures are built with better precautions like retaining walls and strong foundations.

P.B. Ghalley's land which borders with the Thromde's boundary at Khariphu is almost eroded so he resorted to land replacement. "Building a residence on the land is not favorable since the slide is expanding northward which could affect the buildings," he said.

Though the area is hoped to grow into an economic hub once all the infrastructures are in place, some residents fear occupying the flats on rent.

The checkpoint at Rinchending was shifted a decade ago due to increasing landslides and the road was also relocated. Still the land keeps eroding during heavy monsoon rains.

Meanwhile, Phuentsholing Thrompon Uttar Kumar Rai said that the activities are being carried out according to the town plan. The Thromde does not allow the people to construct larger infrastructures if the stability of the land does not permit. For the sloppy areas, the Thromde permits construction of E4 or two-storeyed buildings.

The authorities are also trying to mitigate the landslides wherever necessary. They have carried out more than three mitigation activities so far. "We carry out the mitigation activities according to the need of the soil as some require retaining walls while others don't," he said.

The Thromde also tests the soil quality and approves the construction of houses according to the results they obtain.

Phuentsholing Thromde however also extends east towards Pekarzhing where the lands are considered stable. The area is mostly plain with gentle hills and possibility of landslide is much less as compared to Khariphu, Toe and Nyedrag. The Thrompon said the Thromde has approved the construction of 'Urban Valley' buildings in the area.

The construction of a bailey bridge across Omchhu towards Khariphu for a small settlement is also in progress. Later, the road from the Royal Bhutan Army camp's junction will be built to connect the area. A bigger and stronger bridge over the river will be built then, added the Thrompon.

"The construction will start soon. We are in the tendering process," said Uttar Kumar Rai.



BNBL to buy its shares back from IFC

Dividend and return of equity will improve while buying back the share: BNB CEO

Krishna Ghalley
from Phuentsholing

The expansion of Phuentsholing Thromde towards the north poses risks and safety hazards to future occupants considering the landscape and soil stability.

The land in the area is mostly steep and the quality of the soil unstable. Compounding the problems are construction works that are in full swing in the area where the roads are built on the steep slopes at Toe (Kabreytar).

The Toe area is particularly prone to landslides during the heavy monsoon rains which have resulted in damage to several households.

Phuentsholing Thromde has seen an overwhelming development over the years. Branded as the commercial hub of the country, the city has witnessed infrastructural growth across the city.

Without the scope to expand south where the city borders with the Indian town of Jaigaon, the only option to expand is towards the north and east. Towards the west, the Amochu land reclamation project will kick off soon.

The Thromde extends from the core city area to Toe, Nyedrag (Damdara) towards the north and till Pasakha to the east covering Rinchending. The city covers a total area of 51 m2.

Speaking to Business Bhutan, some residents said that the expansion which is currently seen as a boon could prove to be a ban instead considering the land stability.

"The land here is too sloppy and construction of buildings is not favorable, still with the developments taking place, we have to go ahead with works," said D.K. Gurung, a construction worker. He further said that there would not be many adverse effects as the infrastructures are built with better precautions like retaining walls and strong foundations.

P.B. Ghalley's land which borders with the Thromde's boundary at Khariphu is almost eroded so he resorted to land replacement. "It is not favorable since the slide is expanding northward which could affect the buildings," he said.

Though the area is hoped to grow into an economic hub once all the infrastructures are in place, some residents fear occupying the flats on rent.

The checkpoint at Rinchending was shifted a decade ago due to increasing landslides and the road was also relocated. Still the land keeps eroding during heavy monsoon rains.

Meanwhile, Phuentsholing Thrompon Uttar Kumar Rai said that the activities are being carried out according to the town plan. The Thromde does not allow the people to construct larger infrastructures if the stability of the land does not permit. For the sloppy areas, the Thromde permits construction of E4 buildings or two storeyed buildings.

The authorities are also trying to mitigate the landslides wherever necessary. They have carried out more than three mitigation activities so far. "We carry out the mitigation activities according to the need of the soil as some need retaining walls while others don't," he said.

The Thromde also tests the soil quality and approves the construction of houses according to the results they obtain.

Phuentsholing Thromde however also extends east towards Pekarzhing where the lands are considered stable. The area is mostly plain with gentle hills and possibility of landslide is much less as compared to Khariphu, Toe and Nyedrag. According to the Thrompon, the Thromde has approved the construction of 'Urban Valley' buildings in the area.

The construction of a bailey bridge across Omchhu towards Khariphu for a small settlement is also in progress. Later, the road from the Royal Bhutan Army camp's junction will be built to connect the area. A bigger and stronger bridge over the river will be built then, said the Thrompon.

"The construction will start soon. We are in the tendering process," said Uttar Kumar.

ABOUT THE TATA PRIMA RANGE

A multiple award-winning range of trucks from Tata Motors, the Tata **PRIMA** is today available in different trims, including multi-axle trucks, tractor-trailers and tippers, apt for several applications, thus meeting varied end-user requirements. A combination of increased productivity and longer life makes the Tata **PRIMA** range an indispensable asset – be it to large captive users, miners, transporters or owner-drivers, who operate small fleets. With the range extending upto 49 tonnes and engine options upto 380 bhp, the Tata **PRIMA** is an ideal work horse for movement of goods and material across distances and terrains.

ABOUT TATA GENUINE SPARE PARTS

Tata Motors recently also launched another initiative for its commercial vehicle customers, called **TATA GENUINE PARTS (TGP)**, selling genuine Tata Motors commercial vehicle spares, in Pilfer proof packaging. TGP offers long life and reliable performance to owners, of single trucks and fleets as its parts are made of superior quality material and conform to OE (Original Equipment) specifications. Not only is every part designed as per exact vehicle specifications, but has to pass multiple quality control checks. Every Tata Genuine Part is packaged and branded to ensure customers get the right quality part, also enabling them to identity with the package.

About Tata Motors

Tata Motors Limited is India's largest automobile company, with consolidated revenues of INR 2,62,796 crores (USD 42.04 billion) in 2014-15. Through subsidiaries and associate companies, Tata Motors has operations in the UK, South Korea, Thailand, South Africa and Indonesia. Among them is Jaguar Land Rover, the business comprising the two iconic British brands. It also has an industrial joint venture with Fiat in India. With over 8 million Tata vehicles plying in India, Tata Motors is the country's market leader in commercial vehicles and among the top in passenger vehicles. Tata cars, buses and trucks are being marketed in several countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia, South America, Australia, CIS and Russia.

About State Trading Corporation of Bhutan Ltd.

STCBL is a major player in Automotive & Allied business and is one of the largest and most prestigious brands in Bhutan. 48 years down the line, STCBL is growing rapidly in automotive, lubricant, explosives, construction materials & IT services. It has more than 176 employees working to a common goal to deliver quality products and services while adding synergy to the growth of overall brand value. STCBL is an ISO 9001:2008 and 10002: 2004 certified company. STCBL sells and services the full range of Tata Motors' commercial vehicles. STCBL has been the dealing in Tata commercial vehicles in Bhutan over 30 years. The company has the largest sales and service distribution network throughout across Bhutan.

About SamdenVehicles PvtLtd.

Samden group is one of the major players in Automotive & Allied business and one of the reputed brands in Bhutan. Seven years down the line, Samden group is growing rapidly in automotive, lubricant, heavy equipment businesses and in the organic coffee. Samden Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. (SVPL) under SAMDEN Group is distributor of Tata Motors in Bhutan from 2009. SVPL sells and services the full range of Tata Motors commercial in Bhutan. SVPL also boastsa sales and service distribution network,across Bhutan.

(www.tatamotors.com ; also follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/TataMotors)

Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held in New Delhi

During the conference, the Minister for Agriculture and Forests assured that Bhutan's tiger conservation effort will be further enhanced by the establishment of the National Tiger Research Centre in the Royal Manas National Park.



MoAF Minister Yeshey Dorji with Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India.

Alka Katwal
from Thimphu

More than 700 tiger experts, scientists, managers, donors and other stakeholders from all Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) including Bhutan attended the third Asian Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation in New Delhi from 12-14 April to review and endorse the national and global priorities related to global tiger conservation.

The team from Bhutan was led by Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji, the Minister for Agriculture and Forests, who also chairs the Global Tiger Forum (GTF). In his statement, Lyonpo thanked the Government of India (GoI) for organizing the third Asian Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation. Lyonpo informed the conference that Bhutan has 103 tigers as per the recently completed national tiger survey. He also mentioned the significance of Bhutan's protected areas and biological corridors which cover over 50 percent of the country's area and emphasized the role of visionary policies promoted by Bhutan's beloved monarchs.

Further, Lyonpo assured that Bhutan's tiger conservation effort will be further enhanced by the establishment of the National Tiger Research Centre in the Royal Manas National Park.

Tiger Range Countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, Vietnam, besides Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan participated in the conference.

According to the press release of the event, while several TRCs like India, Nepal, Russia and Bhutan have registered an increase in tiger population, the status of Tiger still remains "endangered".

The need for more reliable estimates was greatly felt when 13 TRCs reaffirmed their commitment to double the number of tigers by 2022 during the 2010 Global Tiger Summit in St.Petersburg, Russia and adopted the Global/ National Tiger Recovery Programme.

This was in response to the shocking news that 97 percent of all wild tigers had disappeared in the last century, with only around 3,000 left alive.

During the conference, the representatives from TRCs shared their milestones, challenges and future commitments towards the common goal of doubling tiger numbers by 2022 throughout the TCRs.

The conference concluded with the adoption of a Delhi Declaration which further aims to strengthen the earlier declarations and commitments on tiger conservation.

Hosted by the Government of India (GoI) and co-organized by the GTF and the Global Tiger Initiative Council (GTIC), the third Asian Ministerial Conference was convened at a time when global media reported the first increase of global wild tigers by 20% from the 2010 baseline of 3,200 tigers.

Today, the population of global wild tiger is estimated at 3,890.

The conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

འབྲུག་གོང་འཕེལ་དངུལ་ཁང་གིས་ དྲིན་ཅན་ཞ་མ་ཟེར་མི་ དངུལ་གསོག་འཛོག་གི་ ལས་རིམ་གསར་པ།



འབྲི་མི་.....ཡོན་ཏན་འཕྲིན་ལས།

 འབྲུག་གོང་འཕེལ་དངུལ་ཁང་ནང་ དྲིན་ཅན་ཞ་མ་ཟེར་མི་ ཞཱལ་སྣ་དང་ཁྱོད་ཚིན་དོ་ཡོད་པ་ཞིན་པས།

 འབྲུག་གོང་འཕེལ་དངུལ་ཁང་གི་ འཕྲིན་ཡིག་ཅ་ཅིན་ ཞཱལ་སྣ་དང་ཁྱེད་ཀྱི་ཡིན་པས། ཁྱེད་ཀྱི་ཞལ་ནས་ ཐུགས་དགྱེས་པ་ཞིན་ཡོད་ཀྱང་ ཁྱེད་ཀྱི་ཕྱག་ཡིག་ཚ་ཚ་ཡིན་ཏེ

Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Works and Human Settlement
Department of Roads
Regional Office: Lingmethang

"Construction Industry: Solution through innovation and improved technology"

DoR/ROL/Plg.-15/2015-2016/

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Chief Engineer, DoR, Lingmethang invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified National Bidders as per the IFB data given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Contract Package	Estimate without the cost of Bitumen	Contract Category	Contract Duration	Bid Security (Nu.in Millions)	Last date of Submission
1	Black Topping of Balam GC Road (12.90 km)	DoR/ROL/ Plg-15/2015-2016/25	39.21	W1-Large	16 Months	0.838	16/05/2016 at 1:00 PM
2	Black Topping of Challi GC Road (7.371 km)	DoR/ROL/ Plg-15/2015-2016/26	22.557	W1- Large	12 Months	0.541	16/05/2016 at 1:00PM
3	Black Topping of Silibi-Gorsum GC Road (15 Km)	DoR/ROL Plg-15/2015-2016/27	37.061	W1-Large	18 Months	0.906	16/05/2016 at 1:00PM
4	Black Topping of Minji GC Road (8.10 Km)	DoR/ ROL Plg-15/2015-2016/28	23.408	W1-Large	13 Months	0.566	16/05/2016 at 1:00 PM
5	Black Topping of Tsakaling GC Road (11.30 km)	DoR/ ROL Plg-15/2015-2016/29	34.25	W1- Large	14 Months	0.838	16/05/2016 at 1:00 PM
6	Black Topping of Jurmey GC Road (11.30 Km)	DoR/ ROL Plg-15/2015-2016/30	44.487	W1-Large	20 Months	1.10	16/05/2016 at 1:00 PM

1. Biddings will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the RGoB Procurement Manual and is open to all eligible bidders from Bhutan.

2. The interested Bhutanese Contractors registered with CDB and valid trade license may download complete set of bidding documents from the Ministry's website **www.mowhs.gov.bt** with effect from **15/04/2016**.

3. Bid must be delivered to the address indicated in the bidding document on date and time specified above.

4. All bids shall be accompanied by the bid security as specified in the bidding document.

5. Integrity pact form given in the bidding document must be submitted dully filled and signed by the bidders or his authorized representatives.

6. Form of bid must be dully filled and signed.

7. Technical specification and Drawings can be downloaded in separate volume.

8. All bidders are requested to check our website **www.mowhs.gov.bt** on daily basis or follow print and broadcasting media for any addendum issued.

9. All the bidders are requested to submit the rate analysis for **DBM** and **AC** with the bids. In the rate analysis of **DBM** and **AC**, the bidders are advised to put the cost of Bitumen as "Zero"**.**

Chief Engineer,
Regional Office, DoR, Lingmethang.

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Royal Bhutan Lottery to start operating phase-wise

The office still needs more staffs who will be recruited as per requirements

Krishna Ghalley
from Phuentsholing

Though Royal Bhutan Lottery Limited (RBBL) officially launched by opening its office in Phuentsholing last week, the actual operations are yet to kick off phase-wise, according to the RBBL's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Phenphay R Drukpa.

In the first phase, RBBL will establish the office and employ a few core officers. Also RBBL will buy office equipment and computers to start the business. "Although the royal lottery office was officially launched last week, the actual operations may take some time," he said.

The second phase will follow the launch of paper lotteries within the country as soon as the employee recruitment and office establishment are completed. Daily or weekly draw lotteries and special bumper lotteries will be sold. However, the CEO did not mention the exact time when it will start.

Also additional divisions will be opened and existing divisions will be strengthened with more staffs followed by product diversification and market expansion in this phase. Currently there are no staffs except the CEO. The number of required staffs will be recruited after having a board meeting next week. "We don't want to recruit more staffs unnecessarily. After studying the needs and opening its divisions, staffs will be recruited," he said.

The CEO said that initially, the government made a very minimum investment in the business. "But the government will be making available the initial fund requirements as government equity," he said.

Asked whether the business is operated only within Bhutan, Phenphay R Drukpa said that currently it will be within Bhutan but RBBL has plans to expand the business across India in the future. "It will take time as we have to come out with proper rules and regulations to minimize problems if agents are to be appointed," he said. RBBL will introduce the business first in the bordering Indian towns and will expand slowly to other parts of the country.

Also RBBL is yet to determine at what rate these lotteries will be sold to the customers. The CEO said that everything will be finalized after a series of board meetings which will start next week.

Considering that there are still many bogus websites that promote Bhutan Lottery in India, the CEO said that RBBL's organizational structure including information and technology (IT) and legal divisions will look at it once the office is established.

"Though the sole motive of starting the lottery is to generate government revenue, it needs to be done carefully," Phenphay R Drukpa said.

RBBL was officially launched by finance minister Namgay Dorji last week in Phuentsholing. The launching ceremony was attended by the board directors of RBLL, representative from various government sectors and business communities based in Phuentsholing.

RBBL has been established as a State Owned Enterprise (SOE) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF). A multi-sectorial board of directors chaired by the Finance Secretary with senior representatives from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home and Cultural Affairs and Economic Affairs has been formed for the SOE.

Women make up less than half of those registered for FLT

The results of the functional literacy test for the second round of LG elections will be announced on 20 May



Dechen Dolkar
from Thimphu

Of 2,960 voters registered for the Functional Literacy Test (FLT) for the second phase of Local Government (LG) elections as of 8 April this year, 1,085 of them, making up less than half the total were female and 1,875 male.

The last date for FLT registration is 15 April and the test will be conducted on 30 April.

The Chief Election Officer of the Department of Elections, Phub Dorji, said the FLT is a basic test conducted for aspiring candidates to contest for LG elections.

He said they should be able to read and write. "We have made it easy and accessible for people by opening registration centers in gewogs," he added.

Registered voters should be aged 25-65 years of age.

The Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test would comprise a written test of 60% weightage and viva voce of 40% weightage.

The CEO said that the two-hour written test would assess computational, analytical, managerial and correspondence skills.

The 10 minutes' viva would assess reading, analyses, language and personality.

He said the plan is to conduct the test in all 205 gewog centers and dzongkhag thromdes unless there are no voters registered for the test in that gewog or thromde or very few in which case it may be combined with the nearest test centre.

"We would like to encourage candidates to take the FLT successfully to fulfill one of the criteria to stand as candidates in the LG elections and likewise prepare the other required documents," he said.

In the 2011 LG elections, the test was conducted till the fifth round. Of the total 7,514 hopefuls registered for FLT, 5,133 were awarded certificates that ensured their eligibility to contest for the first round of LG elections.

The result for the FLT will be out on 20 May this year. The second phase of LG elections will held in July this year.

Stock indexes

STOCK INDEXES

Trading days - Mon | Wed | Fri
21 Listed Companies as on 16th- Apr 2016

SYMBOL	O	H	L	C	V
BBPL	10	10	10	10	1000
BCCL	75	75	75	75	300
BFAL	60	60	60	60	0
BNBL	28	27	27	27	5000
BPCL	10	10	10	10	0
BTCL	40	40	40	40	3200
DFAL	24.5	22	22	22	30000
DPNB	21	21	19	21	2320
DPOP	20	20	20	20	0
DSCL	30	30	30	30	0
DWAL	38	38	38	38	1050
EBCC	40	40	40	40	1000
JMCL	71	71	71	71	450
KCL	12	12	12	12	4320
PCAL	60	60	60	60	17000
RICB	40	40	40	40	1500
STCB	20.5	17.2	17.2	17.2	85500
TBL	16	14	14	14	1500
BIL	21	22	22	22	1000
DPL	19	19	19	19	1460
GBRL	12	12.25	12.25	12.25	36400

BBPL- Bhutan Board Products Limited
BCCL- Bhutan Carbide & Chemicals Limited
BFAL- Bhutan Ferro Alloys Limited
BNBL- Bhutan National Bank Limited
BPCL- Bhutan Polymers Company Limited
BTCL- Bhutan Tourism Corporation Limited
DFAL- Druk Ferro Alloys Limited
DPNB- Druk PNB Bank Limited
DPOP- Druk Plaster And Chemicals Limited
DWAL- Druk Wang Alloys Limited
EBBC- S.D. Eastern Bhutan Coal Company Limited
JMCL- Jigme Mining Corporation Limited
KCL- Kuensel Corporation Limited
PCAL- Penden Cement Authority Limited
DSCL- Druk Satair Corporation Limited
RICBL- Royal Insurance Corporation of Bhutan Limited
STCBL- State Trading Corporation of Bhutan Limited
TBL- T Bank Limited
BIL- Bhutan Insurance Limited
DPL- Dungsam Polymers Limited
GBRL- GIC-Bhutan Re Limited

OHLC (O-Open | H- High | L- Low | C- Close | V- Vol)

WEATHER FORECAST

17th April, 2016

Thimphu	Max: 23 °C Min: 6 °C	**Chhukha**	Max: 26 °C Min: 14 °C
Paro	Max: 22 °C Min: 5 °C	**Trashigang**	Max: 28 °C Min: 11 °C
Haa	Max: 18 °C Min: 2 °C	**Monggar**	Max: 27 °C Min: 15 °C
Gasa	Max: 18 °C Min: 5 °C	**T/Yangtse**	Max: 24 °C Min: 9 °C
Bumthang	Max: 21 °C Min: 6 °C	**Lhuentse**	Max: 31 °C Min: 15 °C
Trongsa	Max: 22 °C Min: 7 °C	**Sarpang**	Max: 28 °C Min: 20 °C
Wangdue	Max: 22 °C Min: 7 °C	**S/Jongkhar**	Max: 27 °C Min: 18 °C
Punakha	Max: 29 °C Min: 14 °C	**Samtse**	Max: 30 °C Min: 21 °C
Dagana	Max: 21 °C Min: 10 °C	**Pemagatshel**	Max: 23 °C Min: 14 °C
Zhemgang	Max: 23 °C Min: 12 °C	**Phuentsholing**	Max: 31 °C Min: 20 °C

Source: Meteorology Division, DHMS, MoEA,
Hotline : 339673

LOCAL MARKET PRICES

DAMPHU-TSIRANG AUCTION PRICES

Commodity	Unit	Maximum	Minimum
Cauliflower	kg	100.00	50.00
Brinjal	kg	40.00	40.00
Potato	kg	35.00	30.00
Pumpkin	Kg	23.60	17.60
Mushroom	kg	10.00	10.00
Chilli Big	Kg	150.00	100.00

INTERNATIONAL PRICES

GLOBAL COMMODITY PRICE

Commodity	Unit	Price
Orange	Kg	43.21
Barley	Kg	9.10
Wheat	Kg	13.33
Maize	Kg	12.12
Rice	Kg	26.17

INDIAN COMMODITY PRICE

Commodity	Unit	Price
Orange	Kg	24.85
Apple	Kg	50.75
Rice	Kg	20.25
Maize	Kg	14.00
Wheat	Kg	17.00

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND COOPERATIVES



མཐོ་སྡོང་ཁག།

བཀྱིས་ལེགས་སྨོན་ཞུ་བ།

རྒྱ་མཚན་ཆོས་ཀྱི་རྒྱལ་པོ་ ཞབས་རྡུང་རིན་པོ་ཆེ་ འབྲུག་ལུ་ཕེབས་ཏེ་ མི་ལོ་ ୪୦୦ འགོར་བའི་ དུས་ཆེན་དང་འབྲེལ་ འབྲུག་མི་བསོད་ནམས་ གཅིག་མཚན་གྱི་བགོ་སྐལ་ལུ་འགྲུངས་ཡོད་པའི་ མི་དབང་རྒྱལ་སྲས་ རིན་པོ་ཆེའི་མཚན་གསོལ་གྱི་ཉིན་མ་འདི་ལུ་ སྤྱིར་ མཐོ་སྡོང་ཁག་ གི་རབ་སྟེའི་བློ་སྨོན་ ཞི་གཡོགས་དང་མི་སེར་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་ཁ་ཐུག་ལས་ བཀྱིས་ལེགས་སྨོན་ཕུལ་ནི་དང་ ལྷག་པར་དུ་ མི་དབང་ཡབ་སྲས་རྣམ་ གསུམ་ མཛད་པ་འཕྲིན་ལས་ཚུ་དང་ཞིང་རྒྱས་ཀྱི་ འབྲུག་མི་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་ སྐྱབས་མགོན་སྟེ་ བཞུགས་བཅུག་ཟེར་བའི་ སྨོན་འདེབས་ཕུལ་ཞུ་ཡིན།



The NPPF family would like to extend our joy and heartfelt prayers on this auspicious occasion of the naming of the Son of Nation, HRH The Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck, coinciding with the 400th year of the arrival of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and the birth of Guru Rinpoche.

May the rays of peace and happiness always shine upon the kingdom of Bhutan

NATIONAL PENSION AND PROVIDENT FUND

www.nppf.org.bt

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REGIONAL OFFICE - P/LING **Phone No:** 05-253533/253532 S/JONGKHAR **Phone No:** 07-251153 GELEPHU **Phone No:** 06-252034 MONGAR **Phone No:** 04-641520



On this auspicious occasion of the naming of the Son of the Nation
HRH The Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck
coinciding with the 400th year of the arrival of the Zhabdrung and the birth year of Guru Rinpoche, the
BUSINESS BHUTAN
family would like to express its joy and offer heart-felt prayers.

businessbhutan

Dealing home

from page one

British royal couple leaves after a memorable visit

international airport. The Duke and Duchess were welcomed in a traditional Chipdrel procession at Tashichhodzong.

Audience with His Majesty
His Majesty The King granted an Audience to Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at the Golden Throne Room of the Tashichhodzong.

His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen offered prayers at the Grand Kuenrey of the Tashichhodzong along with the Duke and Duchess, following the audience. Their Majesties and the Duke and Duchess lit 1,000 butter lamps at the Grand Kuenrey.

His Majesty conveyed His wishes to Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom for her 90th birthday celebrations which is on 21 April through the Duke and Duchess.

Their Majesties also hosted a private dinner later in the evening for the Duke and Duchess.

Duke and Duchess interact with children
It started to drizzle when His Royal Highness Prince William and Kate Middleton met local children at the Changlimithang ground. However, Their Royal Highnesses interacted with students from Ability Bhutan Society and the Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth.

"It was a wonderful experience to see the Duke and Duchess though we did not get the opportunity to interact with them directly. But two of our students spoke to Prince William," said Draktsho's Deputy Director Deki Zam.

Ugyen Wangchuk and Tandin Tshering, 16 and 17 years old respectively, special needs students of Draktsho Vocational Center had the opportunity to talk with Prince William as he walked along the way up to them. He asked them their names and asked whether they liked archery? Both responded with an affirmation.

Prince William asked the students "In England we like football. I like football, too. Do you?"

Both children got excited and said "yes". He further asked questions about their school and their favorite subject. As Ugyen was not able to answer, Tandin answered most of the questions. He said he liked studying and his favorite subject was Math. Upon hearing this, the Duke said, "Then you are very clever because to like Math you have to be intelligent. Well, I don't like Math."

All the students were visibly very happy to see the oyal couple and few of them also mentioned that "Kate is very slim and beautiful".

According to British Honorary Consul to Bhutan, Michael Rutland, the Duchess is concerned with the welfare of children with mental and physical disabilities and she is the patron of a charity called Place2Be, which provides counseling services to young people with problems.





Prince William interacts with students of Draktsho Vocational Center

Trying out traditional games
The rain didn't stop the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge trying their hand at archery. After getting instructions on how to use the bow and arrow from His Royal Highness Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, Prince William shot an arrow from about 50 yards away. However he missed the target.

The crowd cheered when the Duchess took bow and arrow in her hand. Kate Middleton burst into laughter when she missed the target and even apologized when the arrow went haywire

They were given their own traditional bamboo bows and arrows to take home as souvenirs. After the archery match, they moved on to a game of khuru.

Visit to Taktsang Monastery
The next day, Their Royal Highnesses trekked to the Taktsang Monastery in Paro.

In 1988, Prince William's father, the Prince of Wales, had planned to make the same hike but due to injuries, he couldn't complete his hike tp Taktshang. Instead he stopped before the ascent and painted a scenic water color picture.

As their Royal Highnesses walked back down the mountain, the Duke told reporters: "With mountains like this and the temple at the top it was just stunning to walk up there and see all the scenery and to listen to some of the history and religion of the country."

Later in the evening they met with Bhutanese who studied in the United Kingdom.

Significance of Their Royal Highnesses' visit
Their Royal Highnesses went back to India on Saturday. According to the secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC), Dasho Kinley Dorji, this was a very special visit and for the people of Bhutan the Royal visit is a story of profound importance and consequences. "The meeting between Their Majesties the King and Queen of Bhutan and Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will re-define the bilateral relations between two kingdoms and also draw global attention," he said.

He further stated that the chemistry between the Royal couples from an important Western country and a tiny Asian country illustrates the fact that the world is changing, is becoming more cosmopolitan, and the differences between East and West are gradually diminishing.

The visit is expected to help tourism in Bhutan with publicity for the country as a holiday destination and add to the international image of the country.

According to Michael Rutland, "The visit is a symbol of the centuries-old relationship between Bhutan and the UK."

Following the visit, the United Kingdom announced the opening of a new Visa Application Center, which is expected to start operating from May this year. The center will be located in Thimphu and provide Bhutanese nationals the opportunity to apply for UK visas in Bhutan. "I am so pleased we are able to build on the strong relationship between our two countries by opening the UK's first Visa Application Centre in Bhutan. I hope it encourages more Bhutanese to visit the UK, where they are sure to receive a warm welcome," said British High Commissioner Sir Dominic Asquith.

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