SATURDAY

KUENSEL

THAT THE PEOPLE SHALL BE INFORMED

JANUARY 2, 2016 · Nu 10

BRIEFLY

Fuel price drops

>> Price of diesel and petrol has dropped for the second time in the last two months. Diesel in Thimphu is cheaper by Nu 1 and petrol by Nu0.56. The new price came into effect from this morning.

What's Inside

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Pg.9: Q&A: "I'll take all the qualities I learnt here with me to Pakistan": Ambassador Gautam Bambawale

Pg.10: PERSPECTIVE: The Global Goals: Why it matters for Every Child

K2 Little ravens learn useful skills every winter

FOCUS Point





Happy New Year: Lyonchoen Tshering Tobgay and members of the media fraternity celebrate the first meet-the-press session of 2016 yesterday

Did ECB breach Election Act?

Notification calling the thromde election was issued four days before the nomination zomdu

MB Subba

In what could be a breach of the Election Act, the Election Commission of Bhutan issued the notification calling the thromde elections a month later than the expected date.

ELECTION

The election Act prescribes that the notification calling a local government election should be issued not later than 90 days before the expiry of the term. However, the notification was issued on December 25, about two months before the expiry of Thimphu Thromde's tenure.

The term of the Thimphu Thromde ends on February 19, according to former thrompon Kinlay Dorjee. This leaves roughly 57 days from the date of the announcement of the notification to the expiry of the term. **Pg.2**

RCSC yet to decide when to begin new maternity leave

The government is also not sure if the private sector will respect the recently endorsed six-month paid leave once enforced

Nirmala Pokhrel

Although Cabinet endorsed the six-month paid maternity leave and six-month flexi-time for mothers in the civil service, the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) is yet to decide the date of implementation.

MEET-THE-PRESS

At the 21st meet the press session yesterday, Foreign Minister Damchoe Dorji, said while the proposal was discussed in the Cabinet, an understanding was reached that the proposal will come into effect from January 1, 2016.

He said the implementation would then logically apply to mothers who are currently on maternity leave.

Pg.2



Did ECB breach Election Act?

From Pg.1

Section 196 of the Election Act 2008 states, "The Election Commission shall, not later than ninety days, before the date of expiration of duration of a Local Government, announce the date on which the Commission shall issue the notification calling the election and setting the process of election in motion." This is to ensure that each local government is reconstituted on the date of expiration of the existing local government."

A local government will continue for five years from the date of the first sitting, which should be convened within 30 days of declaration of election results.

Former Thimphu thrompon Kinlay Dorjee took office on February 18, 2011 and the first sitting was held on the next day. His term expires on February 19, 2016. He resigned on December 28 to re-contest, a day before the zomdu.

The election commission is yet to respond to Kuensel's query on the issue, but Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in an earlier interview told that the notification would be issued in consonance with the electoral laws.

"Specific announcement and notification regarding poll dates will be issued not later than 90 days before the tenure ends, as per our electoral laws," the CEC had said. This, he said, was to ensure that the local governments are reconstituted on the date their term expires.

The National Council (NC) recently reviewed the election Act and proposed it for amendment. The council's Deputy Chairperson Tshering Dorji said the election Act should be harmonized with the Constitution to prevent such problems in future.

Pointing out an inconsistency in the Constitution and the election Act, he said while the Constitution says that a local government election can be held within three months from the date of expiry of their terms, the Act states that it should be reconstituted on the date of expiry.

"The election Act treats the local government elections like that of NC, which has to be reconstituted on the date of expiry of its term," he said. "As a law making body, we have written to the election commission regarding the inconsistency," he said.

He said should a disputed arise because of such inconsistencies, the provisions of the Constitution will prevail. "Anything that is inconsistent with the Constitution will become null and void," he said.

Article 24(5) of the Constitution confirms the Deputy Chairperson's statement. The Article prescribes that the ECB shall ensure that the election commission holds elections so that the National Assembly and the local governments are reconstituted within ninety days after the dissolution.

The issue arose after some candidates complained of lack of adequate time to prepare after the notification. For instance, a nominee from Phuentsholing, Sangay Tamang, said he could not produce all the required documents because of lack of time. The nomination period ended on December 31. "I could not produce the documents on time," he said.

The Phuentsholing Maed candidate, Tandin Wangchuk who lost to former thrompon Tsheten Dorji had said the zomdu had happened in a haste calling the conduct of election a "hide and seek" game.

There are now 24 days before the poll day. The result will be announced on January 26, and the first sitting should be within 30 days from the date of declaration of the election results.

A candidate will be given up to 22 days for campaigning, which will start from January 1 and end at 8am on January 23.

RCSC yet to decide when to begin new maternity leave

From Pg. 1

"As long as mothers have not completed their three months maternity leave, it should apply to them. They can continue to stay on maternity leave until six months," he said. "This was our understanding while endorsing the proposal and RCSC was of the view it should apply retrospective."

> "We're yet to discuss with the government and yet to decide date for implementation,"
>
> Dasho Karma Tshiteem, Chairperson, RCSC

But in RCSC's point of view, it is likely to take some more time before the implementation comes through.

"We're yet to discuss with the government and yet to decide date for implementation," RCSC chairperson Dasho Karma Tshiteem said.

As of June this year, there are 9,210 female civil servants, which constitute 34.4 percent of the total 26,699 civil servants. Of that, 8,847 females are regular civil servants, and 363 are on contract. During the last eight years, almost an equal number of females and males entered the civil service.

The sector with the lowest number of female civil servants falls under the arts, culture and literary groups, which includes culture officers and translation services, among others, at 0.02 percent.

As per the labour force survey 2014, a majority of women are employed in the agriculture sector at 101,425, followed by 36,238 in the private sector, while the armed forces employ 562 female, and 236 are in the non-government organizations.

Labour minister, Ngyeema Sangay Tshempo, said the ministry is concerned about mothers in the private and corporate sector and that the two sectors in the long run may not be willing to employ women.

He said that since all private and corporate sectors are profit driven, they need efficient people who can perform more than eight hours a day.



At the moment the govt. has not thought about the private and corporate sector

"To begin with, Cabinet has endorsed the maternity leave extension for civil servants," he said. "At this moment we do not know what corporate and private sector would do."

Asked what cost implications will the government have to bear for extending the maternity leave, Finance Minister Namgay Dorji said it would be difficult to arrive at a fixed amount of cost implication.

"I accept that there will be an additional cost. Now that the Cabinet has endorsed, we'll go into the system and analyze but the amount we work out will still be a projection," he said.

Lyonpo Namgay Dorji added it will be difficult to work out the cost implications because the number of people the government may have to employ in absence of mothers on leave will have to be calculated. Moreover, the civil service follows a system where the responsibilities of an absentee is handled by another civil servant, serving as a substitute.

E-Waste to be properly managed from next year

A study found that Bhutan generated between 1,105 – 1,810 metric tonnes of e-waste in 2014

Gyalsten K Dorji

Bhutan will handle and dispose off its e-waste in an environmentally friendly way from the next fiscal year, according to the Department of Information Technology and Telecom (DITT).

WASTE

The department has floated a request for proposals to recruit an e-waste entity to handle and manage e-waste in Bhutan. The process is in its final stage.

"The department will recruit e-waste management entity in the next fiscal year 2016-2017 upon the government's approval, who will be responsible for collecting, sorting and disposing e-waste in an environmentally safe and secure manner," a DITT official said.

Despite Bhutan being a signatory to the Basel Convention and having necessary regulations in place, the government is yet to dispose of its e-waste in an environmentally friendly way.

The Basel Convention is an international treaty that limits the movements of hazardous wastes across borders and their disposal.

The Waste Prevention and Management Act, 2009 also requires that e-waste is disposed off in an environmentally sound and safe manner using a system of collection, treatment and self-disposal.

Currently, e-waste generated by the government is dumped at the warehouse of the Department of National Properties (DNP) located in Chamzamtog.

This e-waste includes desktop and laptop personal computers and their associated devices like keyboards, printers, scanners, and interruptible power supply units, among others.

Other e-waste like radiator heaters, telephones, and fridges can also be found dumped at the warehouse.



E-waste at a dump site in Thimphu

The DNP then auctions this e-waste to scrap dealers, both local and from India.

A very small portion is sent to schools and shedras in Bhutan.

While the Waste Prevention and Management Regulation 2012 requires that government agencies bring their e-waste to the DNP, which is then permitted to auction them to e-waste management entities or any other entities deemed appropriate by the DITT, it is not known whether these scrap dealers handle and dispose of these e-waste in an environmentally friendly way in India.

The Waste Prevention and Management Regulation 2012 also requires that the e-waste management entity besides being collected, transported, sorted and recycled in an environmentally sound way, also ensure the occupational health and safety of personnel handling e-waste.

It is also not known whether those handling the e-waste in India are being ensured of their health and safety by their employers.

A survey carried out by NIIT which implemented the recently concluded 5-year Chiphen Rigpel IT project, estimated that e-waste generated in Bhutan ranged from 1,105 – 1,810 metric tonnes in 2014, according to DITT.

More detailed statistics on the amount of e-waste being generated by the government on an annual basis, could not be published as the finance ministry was yet to approve its release in time for the writing of this article.

"Although correct inventorization of e-waste (hazardous & non-hazardous) is a very difficult task, the department is working on broad inventorization of e-waste in collaboration with relevant stakeholders that will give clearer figures on hazardous and non-hazardous e-waste," the DITT official said.

> "The department will recruit e-waste management entity in the next fiscal year 2016-2017 upon the government's approval..."
>
> DITT official

While the survey carried out by NIIT also found that e-waste generated by the private sector is usually repaired and reused which extends the lifespan of the appliances, appliances beyond repair are sold to scrap dealers, said the the DITT official.

However, the Waste Prevention and Management Regulation 2012 requires producers and importers of electronics to set up collection centres or drop-off sites for e-waste owned by individuals and bulk consumers like the government.

The IT park is perhaps the one of the larger private entities to have imported a large quantity of electronics. The IT park's chief operating officer, Tshering Cigay Dorji, said as the park was relatively new, the issue of e-waste was not an issue yet. He said no large scale disposal had to be carried out by the park yet. But he acknowledged that with more than 400 employed at the park, the issue of e-waste will arise. He added that while the issue had not received much thought, the IT park will collaborate with relevant agencies to ensure its e-waste is handled and disposed off in an environmentally safe way.

Not a good trend to set

Earlier this week we saw the worst voter turn out in any of the elections we have had so far. In fact, in one of the seven constituencies we had no *zomdu* (meeting) to nominate a candidate. Election officials outnumbered voters at the polling stations.

And this is at the thromde election. The capital city's residents were nominating their mayor and his team. The team that will have a huge say on how the city shapes up, expands or develops in the next five years. Yet going by the views of residents it was worse than a school prefect election.

The capital's population is guesstimated at about 100,000 or more, but not all can stand or vote. The responsibility falls on those that are registered in the thromde, on about 7,300 people. Because the rules allowed, the *zomdu* went ahead and we have a lone thrompon candidate and a thuemi nominee.

Not to deride the candidature of those who were nominated on Tuesday, the thromde that extends from Changtagang in the North to Ngabirongchu in the south should have seen more candidates and of course, more people at the *zomdus.* It is their responsibility to ensure that we have good candidates in running the affairs of the thromde. A thrompon election shouldn't be a piece of cake.

Knowing this, before the first thromde election in 2011, both the government and the election commission had been encouraging people with property and land to transfer their census to the thromde. This would enable them to have a say in how the thromde is planned or developed.

There is a grand plan for Thimphu. It is to become a dream city by 2027. It is growing fast and already one fourth of the population lives in the city. More are coming in droves to the city. This will exert pressure on the existing infrastructure. The fast growing city has to balance development with nature, traditional architecture and affordable housing.

Then we hear complaints of garbage, traffic, parking and many more. We can find solutions to these issues when people take responsibility. A big responsibility is coming forward to stand for elections, nominate or vote. This has not happened. Perhaps the election is not important to them.

What has happened nobody knows. Some who expressed interest are complaining that the election commission had delayed in announcing the dates of the election. Would that have made a difference? Some preparations should have done even without knowing the dates. But if the election commission had messed up with the dates, there are some concerns.

We are just with the first round of the local government elections. We will have another 16 thrompons and a few hundred tshogpas and thuemies to be elected. We can only hope that the rest of the thromde election will not take any cue from the capital's election.

MY COUNTRY, MY TOWN



Not scary: A dog will always stray even if it is in leopard clothing. Photo Tandin Wangchuk, Paro

MY SAY

Prioritize Dzongkha

Sir,

To prioritize to our national language by the National Assembly's Social and Cultural Committee, which appeared in Kuensel's October 27's issue, is timely. Pointing fingers at each other will not make Dzongkha popular and it is also unfair to blame the policy makers for allowing all the official correspondence and meetings to be held in English language.

Rather it is the lack of implementation from the bureaucrats and stakeholders who are to be held accountable for the decline in speaking, writing and use of the national language in the country.

Therefore, I would suggest if the government and education ministry could establish separate Dzongkha Language School from Class XII to Masters level similar to the central school in each dzongkhag. If Dzongkha was also calculated for the overall pass percentage of Class XII, it could improve the use of our national language especially among youth.

Stocking up the issue for discussion and recommendation of eight points by the National Assembly is not enough until and unless more priority is given to Dzongkha in schools. It is also painful to point out that in the ongoing HAIKU camp at Pelkhil School in Thimphu, Dzongkha is not provided in the entire camp though being inspired by the philosophy of Gross National Happiness.

Let us start focusing and give real priority to our national language from now.

Tshering Dorji
Olakha

Send your letters and pictures to
pemadkuensel@gmail.com
Letters will be edited for space and clarity

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No haste in reforming tourism sector

Gov.t to study all recommendations before taking a decision

Kinga Dema

The government will decide on the proposed changes in the tourism sector after studying the recommendations of the National Council, draft Economic Development Policy (EDP) and Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB).

MEET-THE-PRESS

Economic affairs minister Norbu Wangchuk, at the meet-the-press session yesterday, said the government would examine and get a comprehensive perspective after it has all the three recommendations.

"Firstly we need to see if there is a need for reform and if so, what is the path that we tread and the strategies that we would adopt," lyonpo said, when asked about the government's view on whether its time for a change in the tariff system as recommended by the Council and proposed in the draft EDP.

Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk is also the vice chairman of the TCB.

He said it's interesting that currently the tourism sector is looked at from three fronts referring to the Council, the EDP and the TCB's review of tourism policy.

While the National Council probably focused on the tariff structure, lyonpo said a group of civil servants from the economic affairs ministry are working on the EDP.

"As part of the comprehensive EDP, they have also looked at how to revamp and reform the tourism sector where they have also included the tariff structure," lyonpo said.

Most importantly, lyonpo said TCB with support of expertise from the World Bank is developing a comprehensive recommendation on the tourism strategies and policies as a whole that would capture the structure as well.

"The government would be much wiser with three different recommendations perhaps with some convergence," lyonpo said. "We'll entrust all the recommendations to the civil servants who would then give a reasoned judgment."

Lyonpo said that essentially for the government, it works with relevant civil servants to whom all the recommendations would be entrusted.

"So until it comes to the Cabinet, we will not be able to take any decision," lyonpo said, adding that right now the government has the Council's and the EDP recommendations and that TCB recommendation is expected soon.

The National Council during its 16th session resolved to recommend the government to reform the "archaic tourism pricing mechanism by moving from the fixed minimum daily tariff system to a more transparent pricing system that provides tourists greater value for money and discourages the malpractice of undercutting and improves higher value tourism."



Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk is TCB's vice chairman

> "The government would be much wiser with three different recommendations perhaps with some convergence,"
>
> Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk

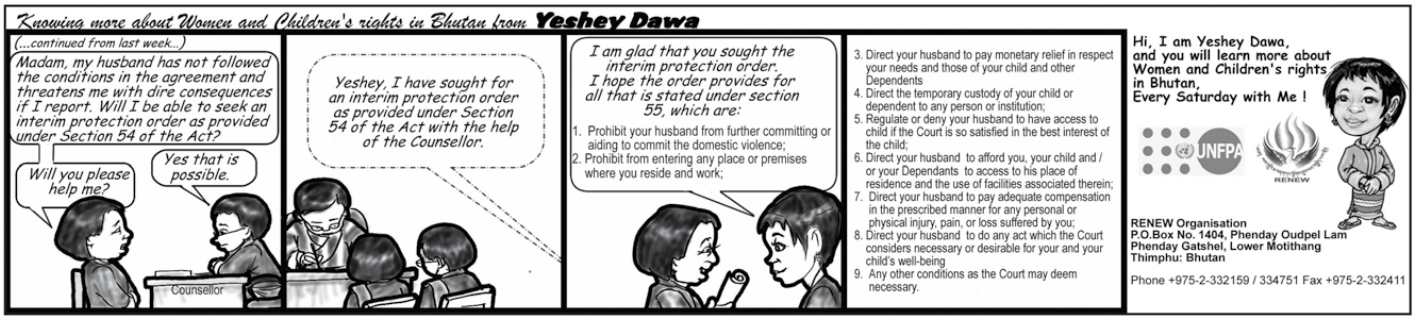
"This recommendation would entail retaining or even increasing the royalty component (sustainable tourism fee) and requiring tourists to be routed through local tour operators and using local tour guides," the resolution states.

Terming Bhutan as an exclusive tourist destination, the draft EDP states that tourists will no longer be required to come through a travel agency. Instead tourists are required to pay a sustainable development fee (royalty) and show the confirmations of guide, vehicle and hotel reservation, airline booking, and travel itinerary before they are issued visas.

The draft EDP states that tourists would be provided with visitors card at the point of entry that provides access to all historical, cultural and other tourist sites. The value of the card will be equivalent to the visa fees and the sustainable development fee (SDF). The SDF shall be the sole mechanism to promote high value low impact tourism.

The draft EDP also states that TCB would set the SDF on a monthly basis at the beginning of the year to ensure distribution of the tourist inflow throughout the year and by region. The draft also recommends lower fees in the months when the tourist arrivals are low and higher fees during peak season.

For tourists staying longer than 10 days, lower fees would be levied and a discount on SDF would be offered for repeat visitors from their second visit. However, the government can exempt or lower the SDF to visitors from select countries during lean seasons for a fixed duration.



Delhi begins car rationing to curb pollution

Authorities in the Indian capital, Delhi, have launched major restrictions on private cars to curb alarming levels of pollution.

POLLUTION

Private cars with even and odd number plates are being allowed on alternate days from Friday in an initial two-week trial.

Emergency vehicles like ambulances, police cars, fire engines and taxis have been exempted from the order.

Delhi has experienced hazardous levels of pollution this winter.

The local government announced the scheme after a court ordered authorities to tackle pollution levels more than 10 times the World Health Organisation's safe limits.

The government has made several exemptions to make it easier for people to follow the restrictions. The plan will be imposed between 8am and 8pm from Monday to Saturday.

Women will be allowed to drive their cars on all days but they can only be accompanied by women, and children below the age of 12. Cars carrying disabled people will also be allowed on all days.

Along with two wheelers, cars operating on natural gas have been exempted. In cases of medical emergency, people will not be stopped from taking patients to hospitals.

The government has hired around 3,000 private buses to provide shuttle services into the city from residential areas to ease the extra pressure on the public transport network.

Schools have been also shut until the trial ends on 15 January so that their buses can be used as public transport.

The government has launched an app that people can use to book tuk-tuks to improve last-mile connectivity from the Metro stations.

Traffic policemen and several thousand volunteers will check cars at intersections and violators will be fined 2,000 rupees ($30; £20) and asked to return.



Private cars with even and odd numbers plates are being allowed on alternate days

"The biggest challenge is to make people realise that this fight against pollution is for them, for their health, for their own good," Delhi Transport Minister Gopal Rai told AFP news agency.

Critics, however, say the plan is not practical - they say that in a city with an inadequate public transport system and poor last-mile connectivity, the new measures are likely to inconvenience commuters.

"Let's not convince ourselves wrongly that a simple odd-even policy will solve the overall air pollution issue," AFP quoted Arunabha Ghosh, head of the Delhi-based Council on Energy, Environment and Water, as saying.

"Otherwise, we will be simply kicking the can down the road and we will create a feeling of distrust among citizens and the government machinery."

Delhi resident Pankaj Mehta, who drives 45km (30 miles) to work daily, told AFP that the restrictions would make commuting difficult.

"Rickshaw, then metro, then feeder bus, then walk - back and forth. A travel nightmare," he said.

"But if it makes breathing easier, then it may be worth it."

Environmental activists have welcomed the decision, saying the situation is so grim that urgent drastic steps are needed.

New car sales are soaring in India, with 1,400 extra cars taking to the capital's streets every day.

BBC

CLASSIFIEDS

Automobiles

Sale: AMW 10 wheeler tipper with loan, Hyundai Getz. Contact 17117540.

Sale: Low roof Hiace bus '15 August model, fitted with Bangkok seats. Contact 77201444.

Sale: Alto '03. Contact 77689409/17946994.

Sale: HI bus 2012 model, second option. Contact 17464409.

Sale: Celerio ZXI. Contact 77494287.

Sale: Honda VX (full option) @ 13 lakhs. Contact 17150571.

Housing

Sale: Shop at main town, Thimphu. Contact 77416800.

Rent: Half acre fully fenced and secured space with semi permanent office and godown at Toorsa, Phuentsholing. Contact 17507070.

Rent: Commercial space suitable for showroom, institute, shop, office for immediate rent in prime location, Thimphu. Rent thirty five thousand, negotiable. Contact 17629011.

Sale: Empty shop at town, Thimphu. Contact 77239190.

Sale: Restaurant near Call Centre, Changzamtok. Contact 16916055.

Sale: Shop space at Changjalu. Contact 77621001.

Sale: 3 bedroom flat located below Babesa Pry School @ 39 lakhs (50% loan transferable). Call at 17174747.

Required: Big space for grocery and wine shop in Thimphu. Interested sellers/rentals may contact 17141778.

Land

Sale: Land at Basochu @ 15,000/ decimal. Contact 17974562.

Sale: 1 acre dryland adjacent to Gaselo Higher Secondary School. Only serious buyers may contact 17659249.

Sale: 170 decimal above Pekarzhing next to Rinchending-Pasakha road @ forty five thousand. Contact 17914804.

Sale: Land at Thimphu, Phuentsholing, Tsirang and Gelephu. Contact 17687034.

Sale: 1 acre land Satsam Chorten, Paro. Contact 17562075.

Sale: 15 decimal land above RBG camp, Dechencholing. Contact 17923649.

Sale: 7508 SqFt land at Jungshina; 6.29 acres at P/ling. Contact 17792772.

Vacancy

Vacancy: One waitress for a cafe in Thimphu. Contact 17776749.

Vacancy: Site inspector/ engineer with diploma/ degree in civil engineering (minimum 5 years experience in road works) @ Nu. sixty thousand (allowances included). Contact 02-324226/17609392/ e-mail gcybhutan@gmail.com. Gyaltshen Consultancy.

Vacancy: HR and administration-1, security guard-1, front office staff (male)-1 and front office supervisor-1 for Hotel Pedling. Contact HR @ 17129902/02-325714.

Vacancy: For immediate recruitment at Xpress Carwash, Babesa, Thimphu for 10 car cleaners. Qualification class VI and above. Students applying for temporary job can also apply. Contact 17601932.

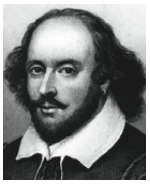
Vacancy: Office assistant for Niche Finance. Please contact 17115554.

NU. PER UNITS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY
as of yesterday

	NOTES	
	Buy	Sell
US $	65.15	67.30
POUND	96.60	99.30
EURO	71.10	73.10
YEN (100)	54.10	55.60
HK $	8.40	8.65
AUS $	47.65	48.95
SING $	46.15	47.45

Courtesy BNB

Wisdom wise



William Shakespeare

Like as the waves make towards the pebbl'd shore, so do our minutes, hasten to their end.

A WORD a day

Caustic.

adj. 1. Sarcastic in a scathing and bitter way; 2. Able to burn or corrode organic tissue by chemical action.

A caustic cleaner.

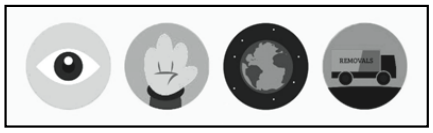
BHUTAN 25 YEARS AGO

Civil servants enjoy new benefits

A new comprehensive rule book, released by the Royal Civil Service Commission, announces several new benefits for civil servants from January 1, 1991. For example, civil servants will enjoy more leave than in the past, casual leave has been increased from five days to 10 days in one calendar year.

Other interesting changes include administrative rules and regulation, rules for medical treatment outside Bhutan, performance evaluation rules and regulations, organisation development and job responsibilities and accountability of civil servants, superannuation, resignation and retirement benefits.

REBUS



ANSWER: I Feel the Earth Move

Health Capsule



Poem

Into My Own

ONE of my wishes is that those dark trees,
So old and firm they scarcely show the breeze,
Were not, as 'twere, the merest mask of gloom,
But stretched away unto the edge of doom.
I should not be withheld but that some day
Into their vastness I should steal away,
Fearless of ever finding open land,
Or highway where the slow wheel pours the sand.
I do not see why I should e'er turn back,
Or those should not set forth upon my track
To overtake me, who should miss me here
And long to know if still I held them dear.
They would not find me changed from him they knew--
Only more sure of all I thought was true. _

Robert Frost

Tech Tricks

MS EXCEL

Copy and insert a column, row or cells:

Hold down the **CTRL+SHIFT** keys while hovering your mouse over the edge of the selected area.

Then drag the cells (while holding down the **CTRL+SHIFT** keys) and release the mouse where you want to insert your data.

Medical Terminologies

Compiled by KUENSEL

- བཙན་དུག། Aconite
- ཀ་ལི་སྦྱོ་ནི་དང་ ཚ་ཤུགས་རྒྱབ་པའི་ནད་གཞི། Aconites
- སྨན་བཅོས་འགོ་དཔོན་ལས་རོགས་སྡོད་ཁང་ Aco's chamber
- སེན་མོ་ཤ་ནང་འཛུལ་ཏེ་སྐྱེས་མི། Acronyx
- གསེར་ཁབ་སྨན་བཅོས། Acupuncture གཏེར་སྲེག་སྨན་བཅོས།

To be continued...

Wizard



eco tip: WINTER

Buy recycled products

Many items can be purchased with recycled content, so look for the recycling symbol when you shop. For instance, recycled paper products include tissues, paper towels, greeting cards, writing paper and computer paper. Fleece jackets, carpets and decking are made from recycled plastics.

Govt. confident of Rupee reserve

Tshering Dorji

Reminiscing the year that passed, the government claims that it took the economy from the "brink of crisis" to a "full-blossomed" one.

ECONOMY

It is confident to embrace the New Year with enough Rupee in its coffer.

The country's Rupee reserve increased from INR 9.7B in July to INR 20.3B in September, which again dropped to INR 18.8B as of October, figures from the Royal Monetary Authority reveal.

Such an amount of Rupee reserve, economic affairs minister, Norbu Wangchuk said has never been the case in last five to six years.

"The whole idea of having Rupee reserve is to spend it wherever necessary so that we don't have to borrow," the foreign minister, Damcho Dorji added.

However, even when the government boasts of a huge Rupee reserve, the pressure seems to be building.

For instance, the budget size for the 11th Plan is around 46 percent more than the last Plan and the investment in developmental activities would translate into more government spending resulting into more imports.

The hydropower construction is in full swing demanding more Rupee. The Kholongchhu project alone is estimated to spend around Nu 1.6B this year.

Since the lifting of restriction on vehicle imports, 11,395 vehicles worth Nu 3B were imported into the country indicating a surge in private consumption.



Finance Minister Namgay Dorji

While all these factors combined could again cause Rupee shortage, the finance minister, Namgay Dorji said the government would facilitate the central bank's move to open Rupee counters. "It indicates that we have enough Rupee," he said.

As for the vehicle import, he said huge demand for vehicles were created in the economy when its import was banned for two years and consequently more vehicles were imported since lifting the ban.

"From here, we don't expect that much import," lyonpo Namgay Dorji said. Should the import of vehicles continue at this rate, he said the government would hold a dialogue with the central bank and stiffen it through monetary policy.

Lyonpo Damcho Dorji said if there is any indication of Rupee reserve entering into negative balance, measure ought to be taken. "But reckless measures such as borrowing excessively and imposing bans should not be the remedy."

Connecting through WeChat to uplift communities

Dawa Gyelmo, Wangdue

For some 52 people from Taksha-Silli and Tsara villages in Daga gewog, Wangdue, the popular mobile application WeChat has become a crucial platform to give back to their community.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Having formed a group on WeChat named phayul-phenday tshogpa since March 2014, the group generated about Nu 156,000 as seed money to uplift the communities of Taksha-Silli and Tsara villages. The members, however, live in different parts of the country but communicate through the mobile application.

The three villages in Daga gewog remains mostly cut off given its remoteness and poor road conditions.

The group coordinator Kencho Namgay, a schoolteacher, said the initiative started as suggested by former Tango's vice principal Lopen Lhendup Rinchen. He said that they bought a 100-volume gyalye-kanjur-chhenmo worth Nu 65,000 and offered it at the Taksha-Silli lhakhang about a few months ago.



Villagers of Taksha-Silli at a gathering in Taksha Lhakhang

"Unlike other villages, the community has a long way to go. The platform serves as a forum for important discussions," he said.

"Our priority is to help destitute people and those who has the ability to purse higher studies but are unable to do so owing to financial constraints," a group member said.

Kencho Namgay said that the group would also keep track of the government projects and constructions in the community, as most projects are not carried out properly given the involvement of corrupt practices.

Similarly, members want to educate and provide counseling to the villagers to reduce alcohol consumption as the Taksha-Silli community has a high rate of alcoholics.

Members said that people in the community drink right from the morning besides serving guests and even to children as young as two-three years old.

Meanwhile, the members also started a sub-group comprising 29 members. It's a voluntary group and members pay an entry fee of Nu 1,000 each besides a monthly installment depending on the member's income.

The fund would be used for destitute people back in the villages.

"We are in the process of developing terms and conditions of the group, to keep it sustainable and strong," Kencho Namgay said.

"I'll take all the qualities I learnt here with me to Pakistan"

Ambassador Gautam Bambawale is leaving Bhutan for Pakistan after being the Indian Ambassador to Bhutan for the past two years. He spoke to Kuensel's Gyalsten K Dorji.

You are leaving Bhutan after being here for a little less than two years, which is a shorter time period than previous ambassadors. Did you have enough time to meet your goals? What were your major achievements?

The period I have spent in Bhutan has been packed with action. To describe just some of the important events during this period, I would like to mention the visit to Bhutan of the President of India, the January 2015 visit to India of the Prime Minister of Bhutan where he delivered a brilliant speech at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, the signing of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement at Thimphu on 15 June 2015, the visit to India of a delegation from Bhutan's Parliament led jointly by the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairman of the National Council and the successful visit to Bhutan of the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

The main goal during my period here in Bhutan as India's Ambassador was to leave India-Bhutan relations stronger and more consolidated than when I first arrived. I think I have achieved this objective. What is more important is that many people in Bhutan are of the same opinion.

What tasks remain to be continued by the next ambassador? How do the two countries continue to maintain and evolve this strong and close relationship?

The job of continuing to build on the strong friendship and partnership between India and Bhutan is an ongoing one, which needs to be worked at by people in both our countries. I have always believed that a friendship between nations needs to be continually tended to.

You leave Bhutan, one of India's closest partners and ally, for Pakistan, a sensitive area of diplomacy for India. Is there anything you might take from your time in Bhutan?



Ambassador Bambawale with the first batch of recipients of the Ambassador's scholarship

I have learnt a lot from the very nature and approach to life of the Bhutanese people. I have learnt that it is very important to do your work quietly but steadily, remain levelheaded with your feet planted firmly on the ground. I have also learnt the virtue of patience from the people of Bhutan. I will be taking all these qualities with me from Bhutan to Pakistan.

The BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement, which the Parliament deferred prompted you to urge our parliamentarians to ratify it as soon as possible. This is perhaps the first time an ambassador has directly advised parliament here. Why do you feel that Bhutan should be a part of the BBIN MVA when the majority of our trade is with India?

The BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement represents a very important concrete and practical step towards sub-regional integration. I believe that this is important for all the four countries involved since all the evidence points to the fact that such regional economic integration benefits all countries involved. Smaller countries also benefit proportionately more than larger countries through such integration. Therefore, the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement is good for Bhutan and it is also good for India, Bangladesh and Nepal. It is a win-win situation.

Some in the tourism sector feel that regional tourists should be accompanied by guides as well. Do you think this is the way forward? And Do you think Bhutan should do away with the tariff?

Tourism is a very important sector of Bhutan's economy. Many people earn their livelihood from this sector. While it is for the Bhutanese people to decide themselves what is the best tourism policy to adopt and follow, I would like to point out that regional tourists increasingly are willing to visit Bhutan and pay for good amenities in terms of hotel accommodation, tourist guides and good transportation. Rising incomes of regional tourists must be factored into your decisions. I agree that Bhutan must leverage growing regional tourism for its own benefit.

One of the major events during your tenure was relocating the Air Force Element camp at Paro airport. What role did you play in this compromise and what advice would you have for your successors?

With regard to the relocation of the Air Force Element Camp at Paro airport, it was important to realize that this was not merely a matter of Civil Aviation but it also impinged on the security of India and Bhutan that is common and indivisible. When viewed from this perspective, it became very easy for our two governments to sort out the issue of relocating the Air Force Element Camp in a mutually acceptable manner.

What is your stand on the debate on the pursuit of hydropower projects in Bhutan, e.g. the Chamkharchhu debate?

I have repeatedly stated that it is entirely up to the people of Bhutan to decide how much hydropower Bhutan should generate. If the people of Bhutan decide that they would like to set up a few more hydropower projects, India would be happy and willing to assist in establishing such projects on a self-sustaining basis. It must also be kept in mind that hydropower is clean power which contributes to reducing the carbon footprint in the world. India-Bhutan cooperation in hydropower benefits both our countries. It is a two-way street.

India's assistance to Bhutan for all the planned activities has been substantial. In which areas do you consider India's assistance most important?

As I have said on many occasions earlier, India is happy to assist in Bhutan's economic development because a strong, stable and peaceful Bhutan is in India's interest. While Indian assistance to Bhutan does focus on the hard aspects of infrastructure development such as roads and buildings, the most important area of our cooperation with Bhutan is in developing the soft side of human resources. Therefore, India has very readily assisted in projects such as the School Reform Programme, professionalizing the Civil Service and in providing scholarships for Bhutanese students to study at the best educational institutions in India.

As you leave Bhutan, what are some of your fondest memories that you will take away? And will you ever return sir?

I have, on many occasions, told visitors to Bhutan that your country is beautiful not merely because of its verdant, green and clean environment but mainly because of the friendly nature and gentle behavior of the Bhutanese people. Therefore, my fondest memories are my interactions with thousands of Bhutanese people across the length and breadth of your country. In these past months, I have had the privilege of visiting and travelling to 17 out of 20 dzongkhags.

I look forward to continuing my association with my many friends in Bhutan. So through your newspaper I would like to say to the people of Bhutan "see you again, soon"!

The Global Goals: Why it matters for Every Child

As we embark 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals becomes the `new-normal' providing the renewed vision and pathways to speed up our efforts towards achieving child rights and children's well-being.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an ambitious and universal "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity". It represent an historic opportunity to advance the rights and well-being of every child.

Achieving the SDGs can only be possible if we make concerted efforts to address the issues that continue to leave children vulnerable. This includes tackling the unfinished business from the Millennium Development Goals. It will require effective and equitable investment in the most disadvantaged children through focused partnerships with governments, development partners, academia and civil society. UNICEF is committed to that vision, joining with others to scale up what works, innovate for improved solutions and results, measure progress and share lessons learned.

The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets. All are relevant to children's lives. But some explicitly tackle issues at the centre of UNICEF's work in 190 countries, including Bhutan.

About a billion people worldwide live in extreme poverty. Nearly half of them are children. The explicit mention of children and poverty and the call to end extreme poverty are critical steps forward. The goal on poverty recognizes the myriad dimensions of poverty and urges countries to develop and strengthen social protection systems.

Nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 are attributed to undernutrition. Globally, one out of every four children under 5 had were stunted in 2013. In Bhutan, according to Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS) 2010, one in three children are stunted. The goal on nutrition calls for an end to malnutrition, which threatens children's lives and undermines their health and physical growth, education and futures. It includes a child nutrition target and a commitment to achieving targets on stunting and wasting by 2025.

By the end of 2015 year, nearly six million children globally will have died before their fifth birthday. The goal on health renews commitment to child survival and health and continues the focus on diseases that remain a challenge around the world including HIV/AIDS and malaria. In addition, the targets aim for a reduction of neonatal mortality of at least 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality of at least 25 per 1,000 live births by 2030. The targets also recognize non-communicable diseases as a growing global health issue and acknowledge the importance of social determinants of health and the need to strengthen health systems and social safety nets.

The goal on education acknowledges the importance of improving education quality and recognizes that learning should begin early and continue through at least secondary school. It adds early childhood care and education to the global development agenda, acknowledging the crucial role it plays in providing every child a fair start in life, and aims to ensure that education is accessible education for all children – whether girl, boy, disabled, indigenous or living in a vulnerable situation. Early childhood care and development is an important area of UNICEF's work in Bhutan, with only 17 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 years attending some form of organized early childhood education in 2015. The percentage is much lower if the children are from the poorest households (3 per cent) – they are almost ten times less likely to have access to early childhood education compared to children from the richest households (27 per cent).

The goal on gender equality provides strong targets on critical gender equality issues that affect children including empowerment, discrimination, violence against women and girls and child marriage. It calls for policies and legislation that protect and empower girls and women, and for boys and men to play a critical role in changing attitudes and behaviours that harm women and girls.

Investing in children's access to water, sanitation and hygiene enables them to be agents of behaviour change in families and communities. The goal furthers the efforts of the Millennium Development Goals by clearly stating the need to achieve universal and equitable access to clean and safe water and sanitation. For example: In Bhutan 58 per cent of population have access to improved sanitation facility, however for the poorest households (32 per cent) access to improved sanitation is three times less compared to the richest households (95 per cent). The goal calls for an end to open defecation and acknowledges the dangers it presents, especially for girls and women.

Economic growth and employment directly affect the financial stability of children and families. In addition, as children grow up and enter the workforce, they will need to find jobs – an increasingly difficult task in a world where young people aged 15 and 24 make up 36 per cent of unemployed people worldwide. The goal calls for a global strategy on youth employment. It also aims to end child labour, starting with its hazardous forms, including recruitment and use of child soldiers – a critical addition to the global development agenda.

The poorest children are not getting a fair chance to survive, thrive and reach their full potential. Discrimination based on factors like ethnicity or geographic location reinforce poverty across generations. For example: In Bhutan only 34 per cent of women from the poorest households deliver with skilled birth assistance compared to 95 per cent of women from the richest households. The goal on inequalities calls on countries to enact policies that narrow the gaps between rich and poor, and to dismantle ones that exclude groups of children from societies, politics and economies.

The number of people, including children, living in cities and towns is growing every year. For many children, urban life increases access to education, medical attention and recreation. However, too many are denied the basic necessities, including clean water and health care. Every child has the right to a living environment that is safe and services that are central to their health, mobility and well-being. The goal on human settlements calls for access to green and public spaces by 2030, as well as access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, better road safety and more public transport that provides for the needs of women and children and the vulnerable populations.

For children, this goal on climate change is an important environmental advancement as it affects children in many ways. It is linked to Goal 7, which calls for universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030. For example: Lack of modern energy sources in the home exposes children to household air pollution such as soot that can affect their health, safety, education and well-being. The goal calls for integrating climate change policies into national strategies and plans and ensuring access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all by 2030.

Violence threatens the lives and futures of millions of children and damages the social fabric of communities and nations. One of the major achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals is the introduction of violence and protection to the international development agenda. The targets include ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children.

This new phase of development presents a holistic opportunity to advance the rights and well-being of every child, especially the most disadvantaged. What we decide to do for children and how we engage them in building the future will ultimately determine whether we are successful in creating a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

In the words of UNICEF Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake, "the true measure (of progress) will be in every child lifted out of poverty; through every mother who survives childbirth; every girl who does not lose her childhood to early marriage. By helping the most disadvantaged children today – by giving them a fair chance in life – we can help break the bonds of extreme poverty tomorrow."

As we embark on this new collective journey, we wish years of optimism and hope for all children everywhere ensuring no one regardless of where they live is left behind. Bhutan too is all set moving forward to accelerate its efforts on SDGs as an incentive for measuring progress for its children.

Contributed by
Shaheen Nilofer
UNICEF Representative
Bhutan

Parents-children conflict: A reflection

In the recent years I have been witnessing a rapid rise of conflict among children and their parents. These conflicts are leading to various behavior issues in the children and young adults. Many youth are seen to be frustrated, depressed, anxious and at times outright violent against self. Frequency of attempted suicides has increased over the years and many young people have perished. Postmortem psychological assessment of those who have committed suicides most of times fails to reveal the psychological issues. There are many instances of impulsive acts of self-harm. A minor reprimand, scolding or interception has led to the drastic consequence like suicides.

The psychological resilience of our youth seems to have reduced to a bare minimum. They don't seem to be able to accept anything which is beyond their liking. They seem to be all the time rebellious against the parents, the teachers and the society at large. We are facing a big challenge of frustrated and angry new generation. The religious values and protective cultural norms are no more effective. I have been having lots of questions, and most of these are unanswered. What is the root cause for all this! Where are we going wrong and who is at fault? Seriously, it is high time that we did a psychological anthropological study to find this out, but still lack the capacity.

Being a Psychiatrist working at the National Referral Hospital, I have been faced with a lot of issues related to the youth and children. On many occasions I have been put in a dilemma to strike a balance. I Just sit and reflect! Someday my reflections may generate a hypothesis for a more scientific study.

Recently I was invited to a panel discussion for celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Yangchenphug Higher Secondary School and I was one of the panelists from the adult-side. The topic for the discussion was **"It's my life. Let me have it my way"**. Very bold but a nice topic; it was the voice of the youth asking for their rights. They have been educated, they know their rights, they want freedom and they want to question and resist the age-old techniques most parents resorted to in order to discipline their children. While we agreed to the children's view, we also quizzed them if they also knew their responsibilities? Sir Michael Rutland summarized this beautifully with an analogy of the driving culture that is evident in Thimphu. He said, the topic reminded him of the motorists in Thimphu where everyone thought **"It's my life. Let me have it my way".** He said, "If this was the case, there would be no traffic rules or policemen, people would be hitting each other and the result be disastrous!" He reminded the children to exercise their rights within a limit and to be cognizant of their responsibilities.

From this panel discussion I came to realize that while most of the children have now learnt their rights from the western perspectives, the parents have not evolved according to the needs of the time. To me, most parents lack parenting skills. We try to use the same old disciplining techniques that our parents used on us. We still believe that physical punishment is needed to correct a child; we still believe that we can impose our views onto our children and they will believe blindly. The most affected are those parents who are residing at the cities because most children back in the villages are still listening to their parents without much questioning. They still adjust to the village life and are not very alien to their parents in their views.

I can recollect those days when we were children how we were punished physically in every setting, from home to the school. We were made to "grow up" into adults much faster than the modern children. We are made responsible at a much younger age. We learnt a lot of survival skills that a farmer needed in life. Every child from the age of 8 or so had an assigned chore which was expected to be carried out without any cue or question. If we failed to perform our assignments, we would invite punishment. We grew up believing that our parents and our teachers had the right to discipline us! We believed that we deserved punishment if we deviated from our responsibilities, unlike the current generation that believes that they have the right "NOT TO BE PUNISHED". In fact, sometimes I feel that those punishments "immunized" us to become mentally stronger and made us more resilient to stresses in life. Of course, I don't believe physical or corporal punishments should be used as means of "psychological immunization".

On the other hand, we as parents do not realize that ours was a totally different life in those days. Most of us grew in the villages, for we didn't actually have any cities until the last two decades or so. Therefore, we didn't have the distractions that are prevalent these days, especially in the cities. We didn't have social functions that attracted us; we didn't have "downtowns" to hit after schools; we didn't have internet, televisions or computer/video games to entice us; we didn't have discotheques, restaurants or other hangouts, nor did we have the pressure of drugs. The overall competitiveness in life was less tough, jobs were readily available and **our needs were bare minimum.**

Our children and youth are in a different world all together, they have all these; besides they also have the "rights" that most of us never heard of as children. Pressure to perform well in school is very high; they have to compete for limited seat available for scholarships. Many parents still are financially challenged to educate their children's privately. They, therefore, pressurize their children further to exhaustion. Some parents still secretly wish their children to fulfill some of their unfulfilled dreams. The education system has become academic oriented and every child is expected to at least complete Middle secondary school. We don't acknowledge the fact that every individual is unique in his/her abilities and mental capabilities; we expect every child to be the same in intelligence and skills. We have a tendency to compare our children with the children of relatives and neighbours; we don't mind demeaning them in front of their peers or embarrass them in the public. We don't realize that our children are more sensitive to these issues than we were when we were younger! We are highly judgmental and don't communicate effectively with our children. When a child expresses that he/she is depressed, we try to ask "WHY?" rather than listening and trying to help. We sometimes even tell them to "die" if they cannot do what is expected of them. Children are not allowed to make their own decisions and parents impose their decisions onto them. We want to create the hierarchical boundaries in the family and refuse to take into confidence the opinion of our children thus alienating them further from us. Our children have to fall back on their peers for a lot of things because we are too busy to sit with them and listen to them. Peers can be helpful but they can also be harmful, especially if they happen to be into drugs or alcohol.

While I fully acknowledge that the children are right in saying **"It's my life. Let me have it my way",** I also want to caution that rights without responsibilities can ruin anyone. An individual is but a unit of a society at large, thus an individual cannot exist in isolation. Society runs on rules and regulations, families have their own unwritten rules that a child must respect. An immature mind of a child may not be able to make a correct decision; therefore, guidance from elders and more experienced people in their lives is necessary. There are multiple examples to prove that immature decisions are detrimental to a child and can ruin the life. These are manifested in the form of teenage pregnancies, delinquency, criminalities, theft, murder, substance use, alcohol use, gang fights, personality problems, etc., and the list can be exhaustive!

We need to strike a balance in order avoid conflict between the parents and children. There is no other way to improve our younger generation. Blaming each other is not going to lead us anywhere. The need of the hour for all of us is to reflect on how we deal with our children. The Home environment is the most immediate environment for a child. It needs to be peaceful, safe, friendly, accommodating, loving and caring and most of all very comfortable for a child. For a child the parents should be like friends, protectors, facilitators, teachers and confidantes. Our children have become modernized; they are more aware, very sensitive and highly impulsive. As parents, we must not expect our children to revert back to our generation but we must evolve forward and learn parenting techniques that are practical and suitable to the current generation. We are the bridge between the old and the new generation and we must teach our children to be better parents to their children. We must help them grow mentally healthy so that at no point in time should they have despair and opt to leave this beautiful world prematurely!

Contributed by
Dr D K Nirola
Psychiatrist
JDWNRH

Welcoming 2016

Celebrations around the world



A couple embraces amid confetti as the clock strikes midnight during New Year's Eve celebrations in New York



Fireworks explode off the Sydney Harbour Bridge during the midnight fireworks display on New Year's Eve in Sydney, Australia



A sea of smartphones photograph the Moscow New Year fireworks in Red Square



Fireworks set off from the Taipei 101, a skyscraper, to mark the New Year's Day in Taiwan



Fireworks explode over Big Ben and the London Eye in central London as 2015 is welcomed in the UK



Indian artist Harwinder Singh Gill displays his new vegetable artwork made with vegetables on New Year's Eve in Amritsar, India

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

PHUENTSHOLING THROMDE

PT/Env-02/2015-2016/2610

Sealed item rates are invited from the eligible supplier holding valid trade licence for the following work:

Sl. #	Name of the work	Cost of tender	Tender sale date	Last date of submission	Tender opening date	Bid security amount	Time for completion of work
1	Purchase of SP pumps	Nu. 1,000/-	4/1/2016 to 29/01/2016	29/01/2016 (1:00 pm)	29/01/2016 (2:30 pm)	Nu. 28,000/-	3.5 months

Bidding documents can be purchased from the office of Phuentsholing Thromde, Procurement Section, on submission of the written application and upon cash payment of the non-refundable fee mentioned above. Earnest money should be in the from of demand draft in favour of the Executive Secretary, Phuentsholing Thromde, Post Box # 02, Pelkhil Lam, Phuentsholing: Bhutan.

PT/Env-02/2015-2016/2611

Sealed item rates are invited from the eligible bidder (Small) having valid trade licence, CDB certificate and tax clearance certificate for the following work:

Sl. #	Name of the work	Cost of tender	Tender sale date	Last date of submission	Tender opening date	Bid security money	Time for completion of work
1	Construction of RCC base supplying & erection of prefabricated Zincalume water storage tank capacity of 100 cu.m at MSD	Nu. 1,000/-	4/1/2016 to 29/1/2016	29/01/2016 (1:00 pm)	29/01/2016 (2:30 pm)	2% of quoted amount	3.5 months

Bidding documents can be purchased from the office of Phuentsholing Thromde, Procurement Section, on submission of the written application and upon cash payment of the non-refundable fee mentioned above. Earnest money should be in the form of demand draft in favor of Executive Secretary, Phuentsholing Thromde, Post Box # 02, Pelkhil Lam, Phuentsholing; Bhutan.

Executive Secretary

CALL FOR TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT TREASURY BILLS

ROYAL MONETARY AUTHORITY OF BHUTAN

Treasury Bills of Nu. 3 billion in the name of the Royal Government of Bhutan is offered for sale. The Bills shall be auctioned under Multi-price Method and issued through the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.

Submission of Tenders : Tenders must be submitted in sealed envelope to the **Banking Department, RMA** not later than **9:30 AM on January 6, 2016** and tenders shall be irrevocable after submission.

Treasury Bill Serial No.	R 249
Auction/ Settlement Date	January 6, 2016
Days to Maturity	61
Maturity Date/ Settlement Date	March 7, 2016
Amount	3 billion

Eligibility : **Any Bhutanese persons including firms,companies, corporate bodies, financial institutions, trusts etc. can subscribe the Bills.**

Tender forms are available at the RMA (Office & website: **www.rma.org.bt** under Govt. Treasury Bills) and **www.mof.gov.bt**.

The RMA will have the full discretion to accept or reject any or all the bids either wholly or partially, without assigning any reason.

Governor

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NOTIFICATION

BHUTAN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Registered Office, Thimphu)

Distribution & Customer Services Department, Thimphu

47/BPC/DCSD/MEDIA/2016/01

This is to notify the general public that BPC has introduced a new web based service, Utility Customer E-Services. This service shall allow the customers to view their monthly bills and payment history. All the valued customers of BPC are requested to register for this service.

For further information, please visit our website **www.bpc.bt** or visit our nearest Electricity Services Division office.

Offtg. General Manager

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

STATE MINING CORPORATION LIMITED

SMC/2015/HRAD/PROC-02/

Tender No. SMCL/PMD/BCMP/2015/02

State Mining Corporation Limited, Samtse invites sealed bids for the following:

1	Description	Bid for supply of skilled and un-skilled labours specialised in extraction and handling of coal for the Habrang Coal Mine Project in Bhangtar, Samdrup Jongkhar
2	EMD	Nu. 50,000/-
3	Cost of Bid document	Nu. 500.00
4	Sale of Bid	2nd to 16th January, 2016
5	Last date of submission of bid & opening	1st February 2016 at 1400hrs & shall be opened on the same day at 1430 hrs in Conference Hall
6	Contact person	Dy. Manager – Procurement /05-365885/ 86/17743273

Detailed bid document can be downloaded from **www.smcl.bt** or **www.dhi.bt** or obtained from the office of SMCL, Samtse.

Management

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN

Office of the Vice Chancellor, Lower Motithang, Thimphu

RUB/PLG/Cons-17/15-16/2394

The Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) has received a Grant from the Government of India (GoI) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant for the ***Development of Infrastructure at College of Natural Resources, Lobesa***. The Royal University of Bhutan invites sealed bids from eligible bidders registered with Construction Development Board (CDB) as Large Category in W3 to participate in the following tender:

Sl.#	Name of the work	Bid security	Tender sale	Last date and time of submission	Date of opening	Contract duration
1	Construction of Academic Buildings and its site development work at CNR, Lobesa, Punakha	Nu. 2,300,000.00	30/12/2015 to 25/01/2016	01/02/2016 before 12:30 PM	01/02/2016 at 3:00 PM	22 months
2	Construction of MPH, Student Centre and its site development work at CNR, Lobesa, Punakha	Nu. 900,000.00	30/12/2015 to 25/01/2016	01/02/2016 before 12:30 PM	01/02/2016 at 2:30 PM	12 months

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Nu.1,500.00** from the Accounts Section of the office of the Vice Chancellor, Motithang, Thimphu. For further information, please contact us at telephone no. **02-336454**.

Director

KEEP THIMPHU CLEAN & GREEN

ADDENDUM

THIMPHU THROMDE

Post Box-215, Thimphu-11001

TT/ENG/(BUDP-II)WB-24/15-16/1067

SECOND BHUTAN URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (BUDP-II)
Contract Title: Construction of Urban Infrastructure at Lower Taba LAP
Reference No.: TT/ENG/(BUDP-II)WB-24/15-16/1023

Since there is an addendum to the tender documents, the Thimphu Thromde would like to notify that the tender submission deadline for the construction of urban infrastructure at Lower Taba LAP, Thimphu is extended to on or before **1300 hours of January 22, 2016** instead of January 15, 2016. The bids will be publicly opened on the same day at **1400 hours (BST)** in the office of the Executive Secretary, Thimphu Thromde.

For further clarification, please contact Mr. Kinzang, Project Coordinator at **17601601** or e-mail: **kinzang@thimphucity.gov.bt**.

Executive Secretary

KEEP THIMPHU CLEAN & GREEN

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN

Institute of Language and Culture Studies, Taktse

ILCS/Adm.01/2014-2015/973

Institute of Language and Culture Studies, Taktse, Trongsa is pleased to announce vacancy for the post of an Accounts Assistant. Interested Bhutanese citizens who fulfill the set eligibility criteria (available on the website: **www.ilcs.edu.bt**), may apply to the Director on or before **January 15, 2016**.

Selection interview will be held on **January 18, 2016 at 10:00 am** in ILCS, Taktse, Trongsa. For further information, contact Singye Wangchuk, Adm. Officer at **17791016**.

Adm. Officer

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & HUMAN RESOURCES

Department of Employment

MoLHR/ESED/05/2015-2016/76

The Department of Employment, MoLHR in collaboration with BOiC will conduct a two month long entrepreneurship course for graduates interested in setting up manufacturing unit beginning from **January 18, 2016** in Thimphu.

The following documents are required for registration:

1. University degree transcript & certificate
2. Be a registered jobseeker with MoLHR
3. CV

The application can be accepted via fax (**02-326731**) or through email to **ldorji@molhr.gov.bt** . The last date of registration is on **January 8, 2016**.

For further information, kindly contact Entrepreneurship & Self Employment Division, MoLHR at **326733**.

Offtg. Director General

NOTIFICATION

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Regional Trade & Industry Office, Thimphu

RTIO/THP-02(I)/2015/165

The Regional Trade and Industry Office, Thimphu would like to inform all the licence owners of Thimphu, Paro, Haa, Gasa, Punakha and Wangdue Dzongkhags that the office will be strictly scrutinizing the operational status of licence declared on tax clearance certificate issued by the Regional Revenue and Customs Office (RRCO) during the annual licence renewal.

In the event of any business licence producing non-operation tax clearance certificates, the licence shall be cancelled or a penalty amounting to double the amount of licence fee shall be levied during the licence renewal. The Micro Trade Registration Certificate with non operation tax clearance will be autonomically cancelled.

Regional Director

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

Tashichhodzong, Thimphu

AFD/PRO/DoFPS/MoAF/2/1069

The Watershed Management Division, Department of Forests & Park Services under the Ministry of Agriculture & Forests would like to invite Sealed Quotations from the eligible bidders having valid trade licence for the supply of High Speck Laptop, Workstation, Monitor & Dual Monitor Stand for REDD+ Project, WMD, DoFPS, MoAF, Thimphu.

Tender submission date & time: ***January 18, 2016 at 2:00 pm***

Tender opening date & time: ***January 18, 2016 at 2:00 pm and will be opened on the same day at 2:30 pm.***

For any clarification, please contact: Ms. Sigyel Delma, Project Focal at # 17617321 or Mr. Rinzin Dorji # 17608599, Project Procurement Officer, REDD+ Project.

Deputy Chief Procurement Officer

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

Tashichhodzong, Thimphu

AFD/PRO/DoFPS/MoAF/6/1068

(CORRIGENDUM for the advertisement appeared in Page No. 8 of the Kuensel issue dated 30/12/2015)

The Watershed Management Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests would like to hire two individual consultants (one international and one national) for carrying out studies on **'drivers of deforestation and degradation and the barriers to conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks'** for the **REDD+ program**.

In this regard, we would like to invite **'Expression of Interest'** for carrying out the above consultancy services from the eligible consultants **(National and International).**

The ToR can be downloaded from **www.moaf.gov.bt**. The EoI should be submitted to **WMD**, Office of DoFPS, MoAF, Thimphu before **2:00 pm** on **February 1, 2016** and will be opened on the same day at **2:30 pm**.

The Expression of Interests shall include the following documents but not limit to:

1. Copy of valid individual/ firm's registration certificate.
2. CV and Nationality Identity Card copy of the key personnel **(National and International)** for the assignment.
3. Professional experience statement of the key personnel for the assignment.
4. List of current assignment at hand.
5. Reference from agencies if assignment were carried out in the past.

For any clarification, please contact: **Ms. Sigyel Delma # 17617321 or Mr. Rinzin Dorji # 17608599 Focal Procurement Officer REDD+ Project**.

Deputy Chief Procurement Officer

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNDP, Thimphu

Position title : National Project Coordinator (Local)
Pre-classified Grade: Service Contract/ SB-5 (PEG4)
Supervisor : Portfolio Manager, Economic Integration and Innovation
Duration : 1 Year

Duties and responsibilities:

UNDP is looking for a dedicated person as a National Project Coordinator to manage the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Project under the direct supervision of the Portfolio Manager for Economic Integration and Innovation. The project coordinator will assist the country and global BIOFIN team in undertaking (1) biodiversity and climate finance policy and institutional review; (2) biodiversity, climate and poverty expenditure review; (3) finance needs assessment; (4) resource mobilization/ finance plan; and (5) Implementation of the finance plan within a broader context of Sustainable Development Goals.

Minimum Qualification and competencies:

- Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in environment/natural resource management, biodiversity or economics/finance.
- At least 3 years of experience, preferably in the implementation of environment/ biodiversity/finance projects, prior experience with UNDP projects would be an asset.

Post Title : Project Officer (Local)
Pre-classified Grade : Service Contract/ SB-5 (PEG4)
Supervisor : Portfolio Manager, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management
Duration : 1 Year

Duties and Responsibilities:

UNDP is seeking to recruit a Bhutanese National as Project Officer for the Project Preparation Phase of a GEF-LDCF Project on **Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods** under the direct supervision of Portfolio Manager, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Portfolio. The Project Officer will perform the following tasks:

- Support project formulation team with development of ToRs for the project baseline assessments;
- Coordinate stakeholder workshop, field visits, bilateral meetings for the project formulation team;
- Maintain a calendar of events related to the project development and ensure implementation and coordination; and
- Other related policy and project development tasks in the areas of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management as required.

Minimum Qualification and competencies:

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in environmental sciences, earth sciences, natural resource economics, biodiversity, agriculture, or related development studies; and
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience in policy analysis, development work in the area of climate change, biodiversity and related issues.

Closing date: COB 15 January 2016 (Friday)

Instructions: For further details of the job descriptions please refer to the links below and submit (1) application letters(2) CV & (3) Personal History Form (P11 Form) to:

1) http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=62777 **(National Project Coordinator Post)**
2) http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=62778 **(Project Officer Post)**

Personal History form is available at the HR unit at **http://www.bt.undp.org**

Incomplete submission of documents will be rejected.

FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

NOTE: ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW

Nuns trained in basic teaching skills

Her Majesty Gyalyum Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck graced the graduation ceremony of the 10-day basic skills training course for nuns and granted certificates at the Paro College of Education yesterday.

TRAINING

The training, conducted by the lecturers from the college, focused on four areas; teaching skills, teaching strategies, assessment for learning, and basic skills in counselling and learning process.

The 20 participants were equipped with basic skills like making lesson plans, writing objectives, organizing learning activities and introducing them to contemporary methods and strategies in delivering content and assessment tools.

The training also focused on basic counselling skills such as attending, listening, speaking and questioning skills. The participants were also introduced to developmental and learning theories, which provide participants with vital insight in understanding and acknowledging the existence of different learning styles and different strength in their students.

The training included lectures, discussions and role-playing. The participants were engaged in vigorous discussion and learning tasks such as writing home works, initiating group activities and doing individual and group presentation.

The training was conducted by Paro College of Education and Bhutan Nuns foundation with support from United Nations Population Fund.



Her Majesty Gyalyum Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck awards certificate to a participant

CORRIGENDUM

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

Agriculture Machinery Centre, Paro

AMC/AMSC-12/2015-2016/

The tender opening for the **WORKSHOP TOOLS & EQUIPMENT** published in Kuensel issue on **January 1, 2016** will be held on **February 1, 2016 at 3:00 pm** and the last date of tender submission is on **February 1, 2016 before 11:00 am** at **AMC, Paro**.

Management

ANNUAL QUOTATION

NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION, THIMPHU

NLCS/PROC/NCRP-II/2015-16/447

The National Land Commission Secretariat, Thimphu is pleased to invite sealed quotations from interested suppliers holding valid trade licence for the supply of following items:

Sl. #	Particulars	Sale of bid documents	Last submission/ opening date	Remarks
1	Supply of antivirus software	1/1/2016	29/1/2016	Limited enquiry
2	Supply of photocopy machine and printer	1/1/2016	14/1/2016	Limited enquiry

Interested suppliers can collect the tender document from the Procurement Section from **1/01/2016** on payment of **Nu. 500/-** (non-refundable) to the Account Section. The bids should be submitted to the Procurement Section on or before **11:00 am** on the date noted above and will be opened on the same day at **11:30 am**.

For clarifications, please contact Procurement Section at **336397** during office hours.

Dy. Chief Procurement Officer

COLSTON FOR ELEGANT BATHROOMS
laila
Colston bathroom accessories
Colston steam sauna jaquazee

AO Smith
Innovation has a name.
AO Smith Geyser

SYSKA LED
Syska LED

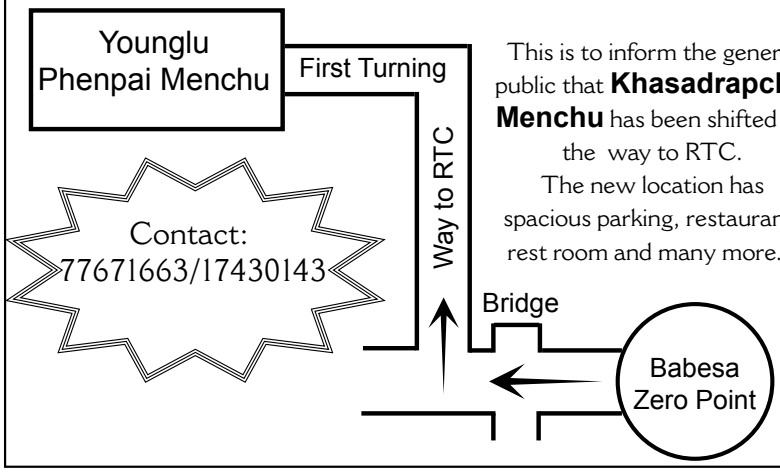
GREEN FLOORMAX WOOD FLOORS
Green floormax- laminated wooden flooring

KAFF
KAFF kitchen

For all your furnishing requirements,
Contact: JYD Enterprise (Dealer and Retailer)
at (+975) 17605872/ 77605872/ 17601415/ 77601415
GCL India, Jaigaon : +919933789999 or
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PUBLIC INFORMATION



This is to inform the general public that **Khasadrapchu Menchu** has been shifted on the way to RTC.

The new location has spacious parking, restaurant, rest room and many more...

Green transport not picking as desired: minister

Tshering Palden

While the effort of the government has been to reduce pollution as much as possible, going electric in the transport sector did not progress as desired, said information and communication minister DN Dhugyel.

E-CAR

"It was desired to pick up in a much better way than it is today but it couldn't happen as we anticipated," he said.

While electric vehicles confronted quick charging issues, import of fossil fuel vehicles rose steadily.

After the lifting of restriction on vehicle imports in July 2014, 11,395 vehicles worth Nu 3B were imported in to the country, about 13 vehicles entering the country everyday.

There were 77,392 vehicles in the country in November last year Thimphu alone had 41,289.

The government plans to establish 150 quick charging stations across the country expanding the green transport sector out side urban areas.

"We're hopeful that we'd be able to garner the support from JICA and we'll be started these charging stations," Lyonpo DN Dhungyel said.

Appointing the operations and maintenance contractor recently, the government has overcome the first challenge in implementing green transport, the minister said.

From the beginning the government had concerns as to who would look after the quick charging stations once built.

"It was not possible for government to do it or just give it away to private sector," Lyonpo DN Dhungyel said.



An electric taxi charges at the Thunder Motors' showroom in Thimphu

The ministry through an open tender selected Thimphu Home Care Services to take care of the present and future quick charging stations. The contractor will be paid for operation and maintenance services rendered on monthly basis.

Japan International Cooperation Agency has helped establish four quick charging stations, two in Thimphu, one in Paro and another one at Chuzom on the Paro-Thimphu highway.

The only electric vehicle dealer in the country, Thunder Motors, has set up one such station each at Paro airport, Thimphu Centenary Farmers' market, and its showroom.



Trashigang achieves more than 60 percent of APA targets

Tshering Wangdi, Trashigang

As the financial year 2015 ended, Trashigang dzongkhag is well on track to achieve the targets set in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) signed with the Prime Minister.

APA

Education sector is steadily seeing good progress with the primary enrolment at 98 percent. Adult literacy and learning outcomes have improved. Two schools are setting up poultry farms under the "3 eggs per week per child" programme. Two central schools have also been established.

In the health sector, 99 percent results have been achieved in terms of providing clean rural drinking water, while 94 percent of the rural households have improved facilities.

Livestock sector is already on the verge of meeting its target of milk production. So far, 3,229MT of milk was produced against the target of 4,025 MT. More than 50 percent results have been achieved for egg and meat (pork) productions.

Although agriculture officials were concerned about paddy and maize productions because of the hailstorm, the yield was good. Despite the harvest being affected by the incident, Radhi gewog produced 908Kg of paddy against a target of 1,000Kg. About 97 percent of maize production in the dzongkhag was achieved.

Meanwhile, the forestry sector is lagging behind.

Officials said the targets would be achieved since most of the activities would be carried out at the final quarter of the financial year.

"For instance, activities like planting of trees starts at by April and the growth should be observed for a couple months before we count the survived ones. Hence, the work is seasonal and takes time," an official said. " We are limited to working on few indicators alone at this time of the year."

In the last six months, four new community forests were established against a target of 11 while the management of these forests is improving. Currently, officials are preparing more community forest plans and training farmers.



Radhi gewog is only short of 92kgs to meet their 1,000kg target despite hail affecting harvest

"Overall, Trashigang is making a good progress with all the sectors. Most of the farm road constructions are complete and 100 percent safe drinking water supply in the urban areas has been achieved," Trashigang planning officer, Wangchuk said.

On the other hand, he added that the progress rating in the agreement for infrastructure construction like buildings gets delayed. For instance, the progress of buildings is rated after the constructions complete while it takes more than a year to complete the work.

"Hence works are spilled over to the next financial year and the progress for the year is not reflected in agreement. This affects our performance score," Wangchuk said. "Instead of counting the buildings once complete, the progress should be rated in percentages. The issue was raised and changes should follow."

Samdrupjongkhar: BNCA fines defaulters

Yangchen C Rinzin, Samdrupjongkhar

Bhutan Narcotics Control Agency found that many restaurants, bars and hotels in Samdrupjongkhar that do not have designated smoking room. A total of Nu 26,000 fines were collected.

TOBACCO

One of the bars was fine Nu 10,000 for allowing a customer to smoke inside the bar, and two individuals for smoking in the no smoking zone.

Among others, a total of 1,134 packets of baba, cigarette sticks were seized.

Individuals were fined Nu 500 each for carrying tobacco products. Many were found within permissible goods.

Deputy chief programme officer, Dorji Tshering, said many restaurants, bars or hotels, including karaoke don't have separate smoking zone. All they have is a "no smoking" on the walls.

"Although it's not compulsory, owner should make sure that no customer smokes in the open and it's their responsibility to inform them," he said. "If the customer don't listen, they have the right to call law enforcement agencies."

Dorji Tshering said that people knew about the inspection which is why number of defaulters was less.

FLIGHTS

DrukAir

Date	Route	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival
January 03	Bangkok to Paro via Bagdogra	KB 131	10:00 am	01:10 pm
January 03	Paro to Bangkok via Guwahati	KB 140	02:00 pm	07:40 pm
January 03	Paro to Delhi	KB 204	09:10 am	11:00 am
January 03	Delhi to Paro	KB 205	12:05 pm	02:55 pm
January 03	Paro to Kathmandu	KB 400	08:25 am	09:30 am
January 03	Kathmandu to Paro	KB 401	10:30 am	12:05 pm
January 03	Singapore to Paro via Kolkatta	KB 501	06:30 am	10:50 am
January 04	Bangkok to Paro via Guwahati	KB 141	09:30 am	12:50 pm
January 04	Paro to Delhi	KB 204	09:10 am	11:00 am
January 04	Delhi to Paro	KB 205	12:05 pm	02:55 pm
January 04	Paro to Dhaka	KB 300	07:30 am	08:50 am
January 04	Dhaka to Paro	KB 301	09:30 am	10:50 am
January 04	Paro to Kathmandu	KB 400	12:35 pm	01:40 pm
January 04	Kathmandu to Paro	KB 401	02:20 pm	03:55 pm
January 04	Paro to Bangkok via Bagdogra	KB 130	02:00 pm	07:15 pm
January 04	Paro to Singapore via Kolkata	KB 500	07:20 am	03:40 pm

Domestic

January 03	Paro to Bumthang	KB 1001	12:45 pm	01:20 pm
January 03	Bumthang to Paro	KB 1002	01:40 pm	02:15 pm

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

Bhutan Airlines (Tashi Air)

January 03	Paro to Bangkok	B3702	10:35 am	04:05 pm
January 04	Bangkok to Paro via Kolkata	B3701	09:20 am	12:45 pm

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

Scouts build house for abandoned couple



Tobgay and his wife

Yangchen C Rinzin, Samdrupjongkhar

Two boxes. Three pots. Four plates. Two mattresses. A blanket. A dog and two hens.

SOCIAL SERVICE

That is all Tobgay, 75 and his wife Tshewang Choden, 60, possess.

But the couple are all smiles and happy these days.

From today, they will have a new home to live in, possible because of the community based scouts in Samdrupjongkhar.

Life has been rough for the couple.

They have been living in a make shift house, that was once a quarantine unit for animals in the dzongkhag, for the past two years, located outside Samdrupjongkhar town. They own no land.

According to the couple, they lost three daughters and one son a few years ago. They have one more son who is still living but do not know where he is or what he is doing.

Tobgay who is from Bartsham gewog in Trashigang said they have had no one with them for many years.

The couple have had to shift home many times. "It was never easy to live because of elephants and then we shifted to our present house," he said. "We're poor, we cannot afford a rented house nor can we earn an income or depend on relatives."

The couple depend mainly on people, some of them their relatives, living nearby and in Samdrupjongkhar who provide them with the essentials and firewood for their earthen stove.

"Sometimes we feel very sad because we have been living in darkness at night without electricity and no proper water supply," Tobgay said. "Now that we're old it's difficult to fetch water or firewood, but some people have been very kind and give us at least one litre of kerosene to light a lamp."

The couple joked about how they sometimes argue about the amount of kerosene used, fearing it may finish and there would be no more contributors.

Tshewang Choden who is from Decheling gewog in Pemagatshel has been sick for the past 13 days.

"Sometimes when we sleep it hurts to think about how life has become," she said, her voice barely audible. "Of course, it also worries us that if we eat rice for breakfast then what if we don't get food for lunch," she added.

They have a few relatives in Samdrupjongkhar who provide them with food and vegetables but do not visit.

The couple never looked forward to the summer. They did not own a fan. Even if they did, they had no electricity.

In the monsoon, they lived with the rain leaking through their roof. In the winter, the wind passed through the gaps in the planks bringing with it, the cold.

The couple are happier these days. A few officials visited them and told them they would be moved into a proper structure with a kitchen and toilet.

"Maybe we'll have the same life as now because we cannot work to earn but at least we'll have a better home to live," Tshewang Choden said. "We haven't packed our things and I hope they will not charge us to transport our things, this has worried me a little."

Scout focal person Sangay Tempa said its members that comprises dzongkhag and thromde officials, corporate employees, police personnel and a few housewives came forward to help the couple build a house located near the Samdrupjongkhar dzong.

He said the house will benefit not only the couple but also an anim. The scouts were initially constructing the house for anim Cheki, a physically challenged woman, when they learned of the couple.

"Then we decided to render our service to all three of them," he said. "Our service will not stop there but we will plan and try to look for donations or contributors who could help supply rations, some have already volunteered."

The dzongkhag officials helped them to get permission to construct the house on a government land and police personnels constructed the house.

ZAKAR

TOMORROW'S

Good day
- to perform daily rituals

Bad day
- to consecrate
- to perform *lhasung*
- to appoint to new post
- to learn astrology
- to roof house
- to enter in a new house
- to hoist prayer flags
- to start new business
- to marry
- to celebrate

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

JANUARY 04, MONDAY

Good day
- to make daily offerings
- to learn astrology
- to appoint to new post
- to hand and take over office
- to start new business
- to shift house
- to enter in a new house
- to sow seeds
- to plant trees and flowers

Bad day
- to perform *lhasung*
- to marry

A good day for rituals (*laza*) for those born in the snake and horse years.
Generally a good day (*sogza*) for those born in the rat and pig years.
A bad day (*shedza*) for those born in the monkey and rooster years.

JANUARY 02, 2015

WEATHER

	Max	Min
Thimphu	16	-3
Gasa	8	-4
Trongsa	16	2
Bumthang	13	-3
Trashigang	21	4
Sarpang	23	15
Phuentsholing	25	10

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

Two health officials appeal to High Court

10 convicted so far in the health procurement scam of 2007-8

Rinzin Wangchuk

After almost three years of court proceedings in connection with the health procurement scam, two of the four health officials appealed to the High Court last month after they were convicted for bribery and official misconduct.

PROCUREMENT

Dissatisfied with the lower court judgment, health ministry's chief procurement officer, Rinchen Dorji, and Dr Samdrup of Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) appealed to the High Court in December after the Thimphu district court sentenced them two years each for bribery and official misconduct. Rinchen Dorji was charged for bribery, official misconduct and having disproportionate asset and the court ordered him to restitute USD 6,000, Nu 0.5M and a Toyota Prado worth Nu 1.3M.

Dr Samdrup, who was charged for bribery, was asked to restitute USD 7,000 and Nu 0.5M.

The trial court also sentenced two other defendants, Nado Dukpa to three years and one month, and Norbu to six months. Nado Dukpa who was the ministry's administration and finance head was given a concurrent sentence for bribery, official misconduct, embezzlement and owning disproportionate asset. He was also asked to refund Nu 1.454M while JDWNRH's Norbu was found guilty of accepting bribe. Norbu was asked to restitute Nu 0.172M.

About 14 health officials including three health liaison officers in Kolkata, India, were charged for offence of bribery, embezzlement, official misconduct, aiding and abetting and disproportionate income.

In the first group in 2013, six health officials were sentenced to six months to more than10 years in prison. They were made to restitute Nu 6.473M.

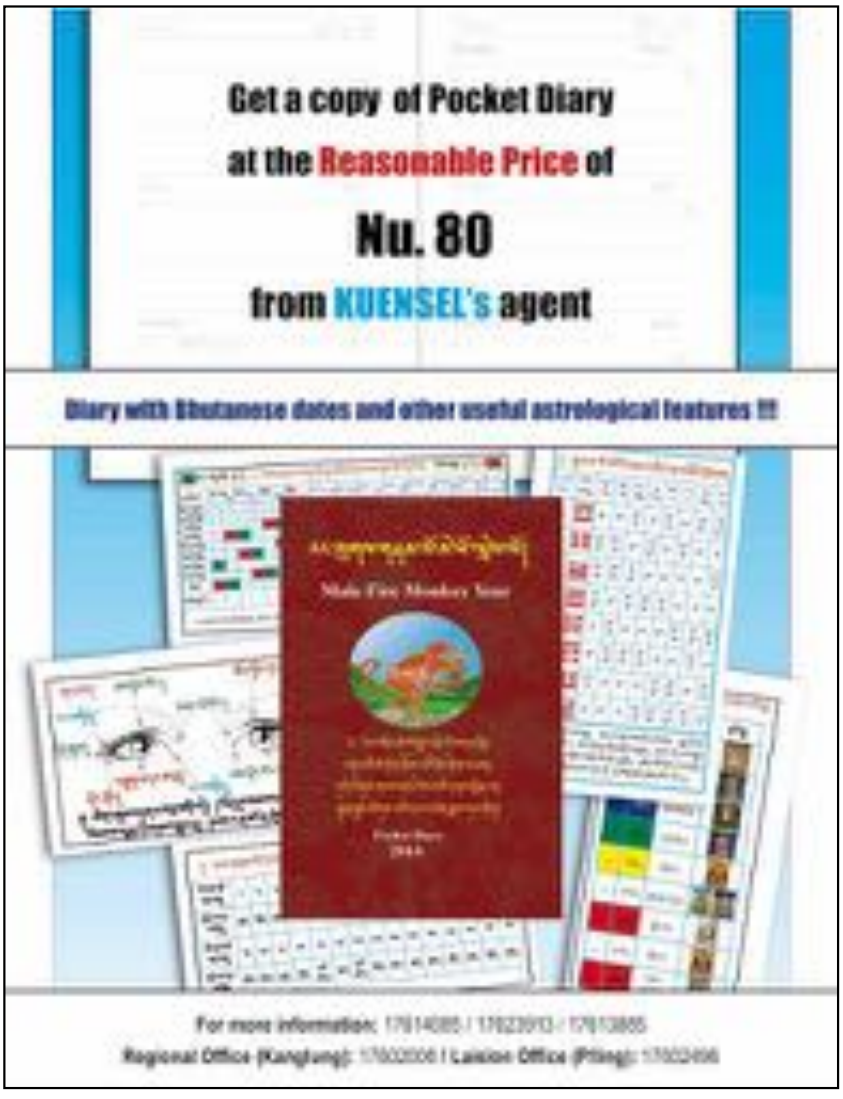
However, verdict against four health officials have been deferred due to the suppliers implicated in the case not being available for prosecution.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has reportedly requested the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to follow up with the courts to pass judgment of four deferred cases in absentia of two suppliers, Pasricha Surgical and Vikas Medical, from India. The OAG charged both suppliers for bribery and requested the court to restitute Nu 7.733M.

ACC began its investigation in September 2009 after receiving allegations of health officials being offered paid trip to Germany and China amid bidding process. The scope of the ACC investigation extended to cover fraud and corruption in Government of India funded supply tender in connection to new JDWNRH and MRRH in 2007-08 as well as its annual tenders.

The commission found that the ministry's procurement fraught with corruption, inefficiencies and mismanagement with many procurement officials in Drugs, Vaccine and Equipment Division (DVED), administration and finance division and JDWNRH having accepted pecuniary advantages in relation to supply tenders on various occasions. Corruption found to be more evident in medical equipment procurement than in drugs procurement.

ACC also found there was collusion between DVED and selected suppliers.





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Little ravens learn useful skills every winter

Thinley Zangmo

Tshering Dorji gets up early even as it is winter break.

The 14-year-old rushes to the bathroom along with his older brother. They wash their faces, get dressed and eat breakfast. Both wear a navy jumpsuit with a logo that says Camp Raven.

Holding a sketchbook in his hands, Tshering Dorji rushes outside where his friends are waiting for him. They don't seem to mind the cold at all. They reach the Royal Bhutan Army's (RBA) officers' mess at Lungtenphug where more than 200 students are waiting for the day's programme to begin.

It's the eighth day of Camp Raven. All the students are divided into several groups. Tshering Dorji is in the art group along with 36 other student.

With the help of artists from Voluntary Artists' Studio in Thimphu, Tshering Dorji starts learning how to draw a face in five steps. A few struggles and repetitions, and he's got it how to draw a proper face. It looks almost professional.

Tshering Dorji likes drawing and painting. Even at home, whenever he has free time, he is engaged in drawing cartoon characters and making tattoo designs.

"Although drawing and sketching is not easy, with practice it always turns out good at the end," Tshering Dorji said.

His best friend, Choki Dorji, 11, who is sitting next to him, says his favourite time in the art class is colouring the drawings. "I am interested in drawing action figures and colouring them." He grins.

When the boys are not practicing their art skills, they practice basketball and football with other students in the camp.

In Dechencholing, at the Royal Body Guard's (RBG) officers' mess, Dechen Namgyel, 15, is busy polishing his dance skills. A volunteer from Thailand is the dance tutor.

A loud hip-hop music blares through the sound system. The boys and girls move around in a synchronized order. They are practicing diligently with the hope that they won't make any mistake at the final day of performance.

I have always loved dancing, especially the modern dance, which is popular these days, Dechen Namgyel said. "The camp helps us to spend our time wisely. We are able to engage ourselves in the activities that we love."

This is the first time Dechen Namgyel is participating in the Camp Raven and he hopes to join next year as well.

Leading the art class at the Camp Raven in RBG campus is Nima, 18, who is participating in the camp for the fourth time along with his twin brother, Dawa. Having learnt a lot of soft and hard skills through the camp, Nima, said the camp prepares him to become a better person in the future.

Pg.4>>



Tshering Dorji shows his art skills

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Turning your dreams into **reality**

Dear Sir,
As the year is rounding up I want to make a resolution to join a gym. How can I motivate myself to keep working out?

Lhaden, Thimphu

Dear Lhaden,

Every year millions of people postpone all types of positive commitments up until New Year.

To truly keep the promises you make to yourself and to others, you must be ready to endure the effort and sacrifice it takes to fulfill them.

1. Visualize a goal:

You need to make short-term goals for yourself, or else you will be haphazardly moving through motions without a clear motif. It's like trying to find your way in the dark. Your "goal" is the light that will direct you and keep you going.

For instance, your goal could be to lose 5 kilograms of fat in two months, or it could be to complete a 5km run in 30 minutes. It doesn't matter what the goal is, but it should be something you sincerely need or desire. Visualizing yourself achieving and relishing that goal is what will keep you highly motivated.

2. Positive ambiance:

You need to choose a place that exudes energy and positivity. You need to be exposed to positive people and energy to enjoy the process of exercising.

So, for example, you want to join a health club that is run and frequented by passionate, positive and healthy people. No matter how strong you are, it's just a matter of time before you absorb what you expose yourself to. So choose a space to train carefully.

3. Have fun:

Find an exercise routine that you find joy in. There are so many ways to achieve the same goal, so why force feed yourself what you can't stomach. Never be afraid to try something new. Your exercise should evolve with you. The better you understand your body, the more joy you will find in exercising.

4. Training partner:

It is not absolutely necessary, but if you can find a good training partner with similar goals, it is always good.

You can feed on each other's energy to lift each other on bad days. You can learn faster and better from each other. Overtime, a healthy competition will develop and this will bring about a lot of joy, excitement, thrill and, above all, good results.

4. Embrace the pain:

Resuming exercise after a long haul or beginning can be extremely stressful. So preparing yourself mentally is paramount. You cannot get to the promise land without effort.

Tip of the week:

"Every single moment at hand is an opportunity for positive progression."



Tshering Dorji
(Three times Mr Bhutan and Health & Fitness Expert)

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Why we do what we do

Salang Choga: The Ritual of Taking Land

One of the first and most common rituals for the construction of a house in Bhutan is *salang choga* (ས་བླང་ཆོ་ག) or the ritual for the taking of land. Bhutanese believe that the land is possessed by the terrestrial spirits, the most important of them being *Sadag Tochye* (ས་བདག་ལྷོ་འཛེ). To maintain harmony with nature, one has to obtain the permission of the landowners or the earth spirits to use the land.

The ritual of *salang* takes place after the process of evaluating the site of the construction. In addition to studying the landscape and the orientation of the land, small amounts of the soil from the site are taken in order to carry spiritual and geomantic analysis to check if the land is suitable for the person. Rituals to avert the negative consequences are carried out if there are problems.

After the site of the construction is confirmed, the ritual of *salang* normally takes place on a day, which is auspicious and appropriate for such activities. The astrologer does the calculation to get an auspicious convergence of stars, planets and other astrological factors in relation to the owner of the construction to obtain the land from the earth spirit. On such a day, the Buddhist practice of *salang* ritual starts with Taking Refuge (སྐྱབས་འགྲོ) and Cultivation of Bodhicitta (སེམས་བསྐྱེད) intention. This is often followed by the ritual of *lhabsang* (ལྷ་བསང) or incense offering and fumigation and *thruesol* (ཁྲུས་གསོལ) or purification through ablution. Through these rituals, one clears the obstacles and invokes the blessings of the deities and spirits. Often a fire from an auspicious house is taken to burn incense in a container of precious metal. The direction in which the smoke rises is used as a sign to read the future and, if the omens are not auspicious, rituals to avert misfortunes are recommended.

However, the main part of the ritual is the stage in which one takes the land from the earth spirit. This spirit, *Sadag Tochye*, is represented in an iconographical form of a serpent, which resembles a mermaid. Its upper torso is a human body and the lower half that of a fish. It has a hood of snakes and carries



a treasure vase on the right hand and the left hand covers the nose. Sometimes it is portrayed with a human body with a bull head, golden right horn and turquoise coloured left horn. The spirit is believed to possess many miraculous powers and appears also in other forms.

The astrologer carries out detailed calculation of the position of the earth and the time of the ritual using standard astrological formulas to find out the exact location of the earth spirit. The precise verification of *Sadag Tochye's* position on the land is important as one must know the exact spot to start digging. It is considered inauspicious to take land from any other parts of the spirit's body, except the belly, which is considered as opening for its boon. With the help of a compass to verify the cardinal direction and a chart with the image of the earth spirit, an astrological calculation is done to pin point the belly of the earth spirit. A young person or persons of noble birth with right stars and no physical defects is then employed with an ornamented digging tool to make the first dig on the belly of the earth spirit.

The soil, which is dug up, is further analysed for its quality and milk or water is poured into the spot after digging to check the soil. If the signs are not positive, rituals for improving the quality of the land and for averting mishaps are recommended. In the final act of the ritual, ritual vases filled with the essence of four elements, minerals, precious metals, cereals, etc. are then buried in the centre and four corners of the site to inject the land with power.

The *salang* ritual represents the respect Bhutanese have towards the earth and their deep belief in the power of the natural environment, its non-human denizens and the importance of harmony between nature and human life.



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

K Junior

ADOPT A DOG!



Kuzuzangpo-la!

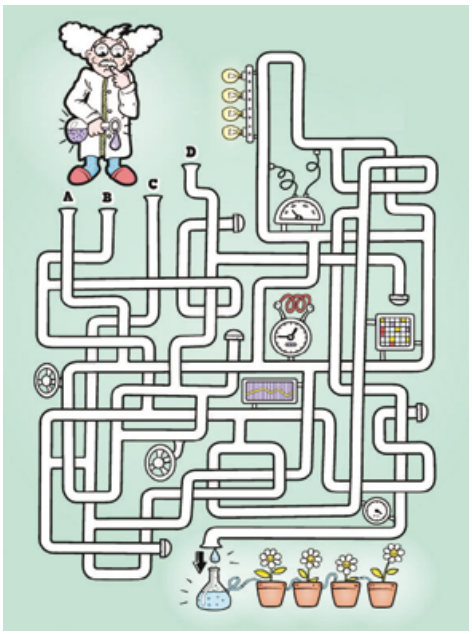
Hi! So nice to meet you! We're very interested to know more about you and your family. We're a great bunch—there are 15 of us puppies running around here, all around the same age (3-4 months), and we get to wrestle and snuggle and play together. Some of us are family, some from other rescued litters, but we all get along great with each other and the big dogs. The best is when the humans come play with us because they give sweet tickles and scratches behind the ear and tummy rubs! We all talk about how great it would be to each have our very own human to scratch our tummies every day. We'll repay you with little wet nose kisses, entertaining games, and unconditional love. We're all super cute and super soft with our thick winter coats. Most of us can't remember our names yet so if you want, you could give us a name!

If you would like to come visit me you can call **17605878** or
Email: **dogadoptionbhutan@gmail.com**
Please come meet us and our friends, we promise you'll fall in love.

Colour me



Maze



Sudoku

It is Winter, *version 2.2*

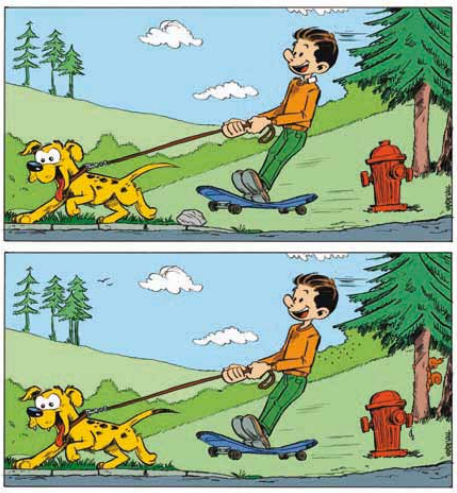




Answer



Spot the difference



Literary

Make Your Laziness Be Real Rest

Make your laziness be real rest; why
should you throw out useful sloth—
it's there because you need it; you
should think about practical emptiness.
About what? Make your loafing real
rest, make a deliberate ruin for it.
Make a ruin and be its anchorite in
empty time; make a run for it.
Make a rune for your laziness, and now
with your ears you
hear the breath of grass and wind, of
stones turned to water
in lazy time. Heed the numinosity of a
laziness rune; it's imperative to
see a rune with your eyes shut, holding
the shaded image
in a historical light! Fallow earth is lazy
and productive when we
touch it, knowing its rest in time, and as
we remember it from youth.
The sun makes laziness volatile. Rays lift
the air everywhere somehow,
harsh- and/or sweet-smelling, and we
know it, but while lolling
about we don't register clearly, and
isn't that okay. Emptier things:
a mind a blank, a mind a haze, a mind a
black polished screen, turning
from meaning. Your laziness can be real
rest, make it craftsmanlike, a devotion.

Caroline Knox

Zhungked

Dangphu

Yesteryear

January 4th
Happy Birthday my dear husband Sumith.
You are the best husband and dad. We love you forever.

Your wife and entire family

Send greetings to your loved ones

FOR FREE!

Write to us a week before at:
pemadkuensel@gmail.com or thinleyzangmo24@gmail.com

Little ravens learn...

From Pg. 1

Of all the programmes at the camp, the twin brothers look forward to the inspirational talks held by different personalities and renowned people. Nima still recalls the interesting art classes held by a French painter who visited last year.

"When we get to meet such inspiring people, they not only inspires us through their talks but they also give us a different perspectives on how to approach life and its challenges... We also get to make new friends."

Nima



Young Ravens learn dance steps at the RBG ground

"When we get to meet such inspiring people, they not only inspires us through their talks but they also give us a different perspectives on how to approach life and its challenges," Nima said. "We also get to make new friends."

Whenever the twin brother learns something new, they don't keep it to themselves but they share with their family members. They share their experiences with their parents who encourage them to participate in the camp every year.

"It is a gift from His Majesty the Fifth Druk Gyalpo, and we must make sure that we learn as much as we can when we receive such opportunities," Nima said.

At the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) ground, sitting with her friends while having a cup of tea and snacks, basking under the warm winter sun, is Ugyen Dema, 16, who is participating in the camp for the third time.

Ugyen Dema had participated in dance and sport classes in the previous years. This time she is trying her hands in the art classes and she's enjoying every bit of it.

The skills that the students learn are not only limited from the programmes but its more than that, Ugyen Dema said. "We learn the importance of helping each other out during tough times, the value of being punctual and leadership."



Driglam namzha lessons are also taught at the camp



She added: "It's really helpful, especially for girls to open themselves up and not be afraid to speak up. We become more confident and we also look forward to participating in different sport activities."

This time, students from different camps will compete against each other for different grand prizes.

Coordinator of the RBG's Camp Raven, Captain Chopen Dorji, said that unlike last year, this time they have prepared programmes that students prefer. The students are divided into four groups; dance, basketball, football, and art class.

"Each day has different activities and programmes so that the students are meaningfully engaged," Captain Chopen Dorji said.

The students will also get a chance to learn firearms, weapon handling, driglam namzha and participate in cleaning campaign, debate and marathon, among others.

The classes start from 9am and go on until 4pm. A total of 590 students are participating in the camp.

His Majesty the King initiated Camp Raven in 2012 to give children of the armed force personnel in Thimphu an opportunity to spend their winter vacation productively.

The camps are held at RBA, RBP and RBG grounds, and are coordinated by officers of the respective location.

The Royal Secretariat organizes Camp Raven every year. The month-long camp began on December 18 and will continue till January 16.