BRIEFLY

Power outage

>> Bumthang and Trongsa did not have electricity from 8am until around 9:25pm yesterday. The power outage was a result of maintenance work being carried out by the Bhutan Power Corporation at Koshala in Trongsa. Maintenance is expected to continue today and tomorrow, and electricity is expected to be unavailable between 8am to 6pm on these two days in the two dzongkhags.

What's Inside

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Pg.5: Closing hearing on counterfeit US dollar case held
Pg.9: Bumthang sees less Black-necked cranes
Pg.10: New measures to improve services at Paro airport

FOCUS Point

Culture Casualty!

It’s in our culture to drink. That’s one culture to die for!

AGRICULTURE

Chudzom farmers shocked after cardamom taxed

Nirmala Pokhrel | Tsirang

Cardamom farmers in the south were taken by surprise this year when revenue and customs officials began visiting them to levy taxes on their produce harvested last year and the year before.

Farmers had not expected that they would be liable for tax payments for their only source of income. Moreover it was done without prior information.

Although the farmers were asked to fill up forms with details of their production and income towards the end of last year, farmers were not told it was for tax purposes.

So far collection of cardamom taxes has been completed in Chudzom (Dowan) gewog, one of the highest cardamom growing gewogs in Sarpang.

ENVIRONMENT

Shingkhar-Gorgan road clearance under review

Tshering Palden

A proposed highway that generated a lot of debate in recent years, the Shingkhar-Gorgan highway, has reached a critical stage today.

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the environment clearance is currently being reviewed by the National Environment Commission secretariat.

The road sparked much controversy as conservationists vehemently opposed the proposal as the road cuts through the core area of Phrumnsengla park.

The Phrumnsengla National Park issued the forest clearance under the directive of the Pg.2
Chudzom farmers shocked after cardamom taxed

From Pg.1
Bal Bahadur Mongar from Kharkhola paid Nu 99,500 for the 25 mon (one mon equals to 40kg) of cardamom he harvested. He sold the produce, harvested in 2015, for Nu 1,375 a kilogramme.

The 37-year-old farmer said he fails to understand how cardamom has become taxable this year as many other farmers have been cultivating the spice and making an income off it for several years. "As long as it is fairly levied on everyone, we’ve no problem in paying taxes," he said.

Farmers claimed that those who had prior information that they would be taxed, did not disclose their actual income or total quantity produced when they filled in the forms.

Another farmer, Dawa Tshering Tamang, 63, paid Nu 22,000 as income tax this year. He produced nine mon of cardamom in 2015 and he was able to sell only five mon last year. He said that fetched him Nu 200,000.

The father of 12 said that levying tax on the little income they earn from a year’s manual work is discouraging. "It may be the law but the government should consider the expenditure incurred in producing the cash crop."

Another farmer, Bal Kumar Phuyel, paid Nu 7,500 for the five mon of cardamom he harvested in 2016.

He said that it has just been a few years since people began re-cultivating cardamom. He said the crop is the only source of an income after several years. "We’ve no option but to pay when it’s the law," he said.

Meanwhile, the joint collector of the regional revenue and customs office in Gelphu, Dorji Wangchuck, said that the collection of cardamom income tax was based on the existing Income Tax Act 2001.

So far, more than 50 cardamom farmers have been taxed in Chudzom gewog.

He said that although the Income Tax Act came into effect since 2002, farmers failed to come forward to declare their produce. "Moreover, it has just been few years since farmers began growing cardamom in abundance, so the regional office went to individual farmers to collect tax."

Dorji Wangchuk also said cardamom tax will not only be levied on farmers of Chudzom gewog or Sarpang dzongkhag but on all cardamom growers across the country. "Cash crop income tax from farmers was not collected before because of lack of information about who grew what and its quantity."

Meanwhile, farmers are waiting for the cardamom price to increase before they sell their 2016 produce. The current price has fallen to as low as Nu 30,000 per mon.

Shingkhar-Gorgan road clearance under review

From Pg.1
Kuensel learnt that the forest department has stated the road would run through the multipurpose or buffer zone and not the core area.

However, the government had said that it runs through the core area of the park.

The works and human settlement minister’s argument is that 70km of the present road runs through the park area. Of that 50km of the present road falls in the core area. Of the 32km of the proposed highway that will be in the park area, the agriculture minister who is from Lhuentse said, only 18km will be in the core area.

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said preliminary studies indicated that the road will be under less snow cover, shorter in distance, and more comfortable to drive on.

However, those opposing the road construction said it will pass through poor geology, disturb the pristine ecology, and since it passes over the Singmala pass, which is claimed to be higher than the Phuentsholing pass, using it would be a safety risk during winters.

Once the Shingkhar-Gorgan road is complete the old road is expected to become a park road.

The government has so far argued that although there are adverse impacts on the environment the economic advantage for the people of the poorest dzongkhag in country also needs to be considered.

The NECS is expected to submit the EIA with their comments to the works and human settlement ministry before March 7.
ICT

**Telcos under pressure with increasing demand for data**

Younten Tshedup

Data is now more popular than voice minutes, changing the way Bhutanese communicate today. The shift in the demand for more data than the voice network has created an additional challenge for the two cellular operators in the country.

In a recent survey report from the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA), the data network performance of the two telcos was found to be better than that of their data network.

The overall performance of the voice network of both the telcos according to the report was found to be better than that of their data network.

The report stated that TashiCell’s data network performance was worst in the months of May and June. However, the network showed significant improvement in the following months.

Tashi Tshering, managing director, Tashi Tshering, said that poor data network in the two months was mainly because of the introduction of the 4G LTE facility.

“arunched the 4G LTE service in April and the data was taken from May and June. During that time after the launch May and June was the worst period of our network because of the migration from 3G to 4G,” said Tashi Tshering. “There were so many issues during that time, we were working on fixing the issue. That’s why we had a bad network during that period.”

Tashi Tshering said that although the telco’s data network had improved considerably today, the operator is working to enhance the network further. “Though our data network is way above the required standard, we are working to further improve our network and to provide the best we can to our customers.”

Bhutan Telecom on the other hand continued to struggle with its data network during the survey period (April to August). According to the report, no significant improvement was observed in the telco’s performance rather it is deteriorating.

An official from Bhutan Telecom said that the poor data performance was mainly as a result of congestion due to the exponential growth of data users. “The ever growing number of data users per se is due to BT’s affordable tariffs and coverage,” said one of the officials.

He said that to address the problem in places like Olakha and Dechencholing areas as reported in the survey, the telco has upgraded and put in additional 3G equipment. In Thaba, Bhutan Telecom has installed additional 3G sites in upper Thaba and also installed additional 3G and 4G stations in Puntho.

To improve the service quality and decongest the 3G networks, Bhutan Telecom has implemented the 4G LTE on a full throttle basis. The official said that the initiative would in turn improve the voice network. For the voice network, the telco is adding extra 2G Base Transceiver Stations (BTS).

The official said that at times there are some call drops in certain locations caused due to various factors such as power failure, fluctuations in radio and technical faults, among others. And also as a BTS in a location has maximum and minimum capacities, there will be congestion if users exceed the maximum capacity due to floating users, he added.

BT today has around 424,000 subscribers. TashiCell on the other hand has almost half BT’s total subscribers. Tashi Tshering said that the people’s notion of higher users corresponding to weaker network is not true.

He said that with a larger customer base, telcos can generate larger revenue resulting in more investment on infrastructure and equipment to improve the network. “Currently for both TashiCell and Bhutan Telecom the subscriber base is too small,” said Tashi Tshering. “Technology has huge capability. Even if we have 1 million subscribers in Thimphu alone, we should be able to cater to all these people. The more we have we can actually do better.”

As a cellular network operator in Bhutan, Tashi Tshering said the biggest challenge is having a small customer base. Now with the transition of cellular choice from voice to data, TashiCell is working towards enhancing its data network and establishing an ecosystem suitable for such demands.

“Until last year, our business was purely voice based. Now it is almost 50-50 and soon data is going to take over voice. Since last month we are getting more revenue from data than voice and slowly a major chunk of our revenue will come from data,” he said, adding that the operator has to now reconfigure its network to make it suitable for data services.

This year TashiCell has a capital outlay of about Nu 600 million in the pipeline to be invested for network improvement. The telco is also seeing an increasing number of subscribers at the rate of 20 percent annually.

Climate

**ADB to support climate-resilient economic development in SAARC region**

**Tashi Demma**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will continue to support efforts to foster environmental sustainability, climate-resilient economic development and enhanced climate and disaster risk management in SAARC countries, the advisor for the South Asian department of the ADB, Liping Zheng, has assured.

He made this assurance in a meeting held among SAARC member countries to study climate risks in the region held in Thimphu on February 16 and 17.

The assurance was also made after ADB resource persons, Dr Arabinda Mishra and Ulka Kelkar, pointed out the need to consider and assess regional impacts of climate change in the SAARC member countries.

Liping Zheng highlighted the challenges faced by South Asia due to climate change and stated that cooperation in the area of environment and climate change remains a high priority of SAARC member countries.

The study on climate risks in the SAARC region: Ways to address the social, economical and environmental challenges states that there is a need to integrate climate and development, align climate change actions and efforts to meet sustainable development goals (SDGs), enhance capacity building efforts at the regional level, address cross-sectoral gaps and focus on cross-ministry coordination in each member country.

The two resource persons also stated that there is need to consider climate change resilient development pathways, address issues relating to disaster management and funding adaptation needs in SAARC.

They also emphasised the need to take measures to improve access to adaptation funding, enhance regional cooperation in the field of climate change as it is a shared issue and focus on technical development and transfer of technology.

Participants from the seven SAARC countries, after the presentation, pointed out that since the study was conducted in 2013, there is need to update it in the present context.

The participants then decided that resource persons would prepare a quick update of the study based on views expressed by the delegations during the meeting and with updated inputs already available in the latest publications of member countries.

The updated study would be forwarded to the SAARC secretariat for circulation.

The NEC secretary, Chencho Norbu, who chaired the two-day meeting said the resource persons, based on the updated inputs received from member countries, would prepare a revised study for circulation among the member countries through the SAARC secretariat by July 31 this year.

The meeting recommended that the SAARC secretariat may formally approach the ADB to provide financial and technical assistance to carry out the recommended tasks.

NEC’s chief for climate development, Thireny Namgyel, said climate risk study, led by the SAARC secretariat with technical and financial support of the ADB, is an opportunity for the member countries to identify common risks and challenges from climate change and recommend a way forward for further cooperative action.

He said the cause of climate change and its major impacts are not always restricted to national boundaries and some actions require regional cooperation. In this regard, he urged that the member countries must take the opportunity of the mandate from our leaders to further enhance cooperative action to address a common threat from climate change.

The NEC secretary said SAARC, as a region, is most vulnerable to climate risks and climate change is a concern for all member countries. “Through this kind of collaboration and cooperation, we can stand firm and tackle difficulties and challenges,” he said.
It is frightening to learn that hundreds of drivers take to the roads without licences. To call the situation appalling would be an overstatement. By right, therefore, we must call attention to the dangers of such unhealthy practices on our roads.

Between July 2015 and June 2016, 86 people died due to motor vehicle accidents. According to RSTA records for the month of January, close to 500 road users were found driving without a licence and other necessary vehicle documents. At the same time, 107 road users were fined for drink driving.

Major causes of accidents and road deaths in the country are speed, alcohol and not wearing of seatbelts. But this gives us no reason to neglect other contributing factors. Some drivers are so inconsiderate that they actually text, let alone talk on their mobile phone, while driving. Inspectors found 105 drivers using a mobile phone while driving last month.

There is a need to employ more sensible and practical measures to improve road user behaviour in the country. We call for more safety measures and enforcement of drink driving laws; there is a need to clampdown on road users who for not wearing seatbelts. If inconsiderate motorists remain oblivious of the dangers to themselves and others due to their carelessness, it may be that penalties represent an insufficient deterrent.

What about mandatory testing of vehicles, for instance? Hand-free are available and should be made mandatory. And, among other things, regular and stricter testing of drivers could greatly help reduce accidents and road deaths. It is time we did not ignore any measure that will help make our roads safer.

Making our roads safe will be a difficult task if we leave it entirely to the police and RSTA. There is a need for multi-sectoral cooperation. We need to have a collective roadmap that includes improving road and vehicle safety, enhancing emergency services, and building up road safety management. We need to scale up well-defined and workable measures together to reduce preventable deaths.

Increased and improved legislation and enforcement on using helmets, seat belts and child restraints, and avoiding drink driving and speeding will go a long way in reducing pointless death on our roads.

Above all, we must slow down a bit.

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**MY COUNTRY, MY TOWN**

The remains of the day: A battered old signpost spilling out work done long ago and the pipeline possibly once damaged in the process

Photo by Shenphen Dorji, Taba, Thimphu.

Send in your pictures to: news@kuensel.bt

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**MY SAY**

Clarification on Hema Hema

Sir,

On 15 February, Kuensel reported that Department of Culture ‘officials told Kuensel that the department has made no comment on the use of masks’ in banning of Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song While I Wait. This is not true.

Kuensel cites DoC Director-General Karma Weezir saying: ‘We’ve never said the use of masks in the movie is inappropriate. … It’s the producer’s assumption.’ Unless DoC and BCMA are telling completely different stories, this again is not true.

Since the published statements given by the DoC officials in the article are completely fictitious, I have no choice but to report the facts here.

- After BCMA reviewed Hema Hema on 10 December 2016, the review committee head, former DoC director Dorji Tshering told Tsong Tsong Ma Productions that the official DoC representative on the review committee, Mr. Phendel L. Wangchuk, was concerned about the ‘misuse of lhathshog masks’ in the movie.
- Aside from that one DoC objection, he said, the film review committee would certify the film subject to three edits that we immediately agreed to make.
- On 13 December 2016, Tsong Tsong Ma Productions received a letter from BCMA Director-General Chenchho Dorji stating that Hema Hema was to be submitted for an additional review for the ‘clearance on the use of Lhathshog Zhebab (masks) from the Department of Culture’.
- On 20 December 2016, at the follow up review session at DoC headquarters in Kawagangsa, Culture Director-General Karma Weezir explicitly stated that DoC would review the film and decide whether the movie ‘misused lhathshog masks’.

He informed us that DoC would inform BCMA of their decision, and BCMA would then tell us whether Hema Hema could be screened in Bhutan. So the BCMA decision depended entirely on DoC’s verdict on the use of masks.

- On 10 January 2017, BCMA wrote to Tsong Tsong Ma Productions stating: ‘the film cannot be certified in view of the various masks used by characters in the film which is not keeping with our own tradition and culture’.

In sum, Department of Culture not only commented on the use of masks’ from very beginning, but Hema Hema was banned precisely because DoC objected to the film’s use of masks. To deny that now is unconscionable deception. The facts have been officially documented and have nothing to do with the ‘producer’s assumption’ as stated by the DoC Director-General.

Tsong Tsong Ma Productions has accepted the ban and will not screen Hema Hema in Bhutan. The failure to have a ‘country of origin’ screening of the film has meant that the film could not be submitted as a potential nominee for the Oscars in the category of ‘Best Foreign Language Film,’ as many film experts had recommended. But that decision is BICMA’s and the DoC’s, not ours.

Sadly, the ban has already tarnished Bhutan’s name in highly reputable international film festivals and other circles. To protect Bhutan’s name from further adverse publicity, we will not appeal the ban. Of course the concerned authorities are free to acknowledge their error and to reverse their decision at any time.

But at this point, the issue no longer has anything to do with Hema Hema. It is entirely about the responsibility of public servants to tell the truth, to abide by their own regulations, and to be accountable to the people of Bhutan.

And if culture is the ‘soul of the nation and the bedrock of the Bhutanese,’ as Kuensel reports the DoC Director-General stating, then surely honesty and integrity are the bedrock of any proud and thriving culture.

Pawan Choynying Dorji
Producer, Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song While I Wait
Closing hearing on counterfeit US dollar case held

The closing hearing was held on February 16 at the Paro dzongkhag court

Tashi Tenzin | Paro

The prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), during the closing hearing of a case involving counterfeit US dollar notes, submitted that the two defendants be charged for illegal possession of counterfeit notes, at the Paro dzongkhag court on February 16.

According to the Penal Code, possession of counterfeit currency is a felony of the fourth degree with sentence of between 3 to 5 years imprisonment. Security personnel at the Tseka outpost on the northern border apprehended the two people on September 2 last year, when the two were on their way to meet with a businessman across the border.

At the time of their arrest, the two were carrying a total of 333 counterfeit US dollar notes of 100 denomination. The two claimed they did not intend to use the counterfeit currency to purchase gold from across the northern border.

The OAG has charged them for manufacturing, selling, demanding and supplying the counterfeit notes, which both defendants denied.

One of the defendants, Gyembo during the hearing requested the court to reconsider the charges as they intended to sell the counterfeit notes across the northern border. He also requested the court to reduce the charges against them.

OAG’s prosecutor said that Gyembo, who was in Sikkim, India, went to Siliguri to print the counterfeit notes. ”Crime within and outside country should be considered the same,” the prosecutor submitted.

The defendants had agreed to pay INR 400 per counterfeit note. Gyembo and Phub Thinley paid INR 100,000 in advance and to pay the balance INR 33,200 after returning from across the border.

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Controlling counterfeit notes using notes of one-dollar denomination.

Citing the difference between ‘planning to murder’ and ‘murdered,’ Gyembo said section 307 of the Penal Code doesn’t fit their crime. “We tried to sell the counterfeit notes,” he said.

According to section 307, a defendant shall be guilty of the offence of counterfeiting, if the defendant knowingly manufactures, distributes, or sells counterfeit medicinal products, false currency, coin or bank notes.

Justifying the charges, the prosecutor said that the matter was discussed before and found that the only one particular provision of the Act was appropriate for the case.

“The two couldn’t sell the counterfeit notes but it was seized from them,” said the prosecutor.

The prosecutor also submitted that defendant Phub Thinley who was staying in Phuentsholing visited Sikkim to check the counterfeit notes indicating their intention of crime.

Defendant Phub Thinley said they had to commit the crime after incurring huge losses from their businesses. “It was not intentional,” he submitted.

Since they didn’t show up despite the court’s numerous orders relating to another case, one of them was denied bail.

Suspect confesses to murder

Dechen Tshomo

The 22-year-old man, detained by Thimphu police on February 9, suspected to have been involved in the death of a 24-year-old security guard with the Jachung Security Services has confessed to the crime, according to police.

The deceased was found unconscious in the national referral hospital’s trolley ramp located on level three bleeding from his nose and mouth. He succumbed to his injuries the same night.

According to the suspect’s statement to police, a laundry staff asked him to stop people from entering the wards before the doctors make their rounds on the morning of February 8.

There was a tussle between the deceased and the suspect after the deceased told the alleged suspect that he was not allowed in the ward, during the deceased’s morning rounds at around 8am on the day of the incident.

The suspect was in the wards till 6pm that day. The deceased who had night duty on the same day again asked the suspect to leave when he was about to sleep in the patient’s store room located on level three.

The alleged suspect confessed that he followed the deceased who opened the biometric door to leave the ward using the trolley ramp, after his rounds. He then punched the deceased on the throat, who then fell and hit his head on the ramp’s cement railing. The deceased then fell onto the ramp’s floor.

The deceased had his trachea broken and suffered severe internal head injuries which caused the death, according to medical reports.

To avoid suspicion, the alleged suspect used the trolley ramp to move to the second level and then back to the orthopedic and surgical wards on level three using the stairs. He sat with a few patients and talked for about thirty minutes.

A police official said that if there were CCTV cameras installed in the ramp’s area then the footage would show exactly what happened between the deceased and the alleged suspect. “The footage could also be presented as evidence in the court of law,” said the official.

The alleged suspect had worked as a laundry boy with the hospital for about a year after he got terminated in February 2 for not performing well. He also worked part time as a bouncer in one of the drayangs in Thimphu.

Although the suspect doesn’t have any work at the hospital, according to hospital staff, the suspect visits the hospital frequently and sleeps in the patient’s store-room in the hospital.

The suspect spent his days in the hospital’s orthopedic and surgical wards on level three, talking with patients.

The suspect usually wore the uniform of laundry staff and loitered in the hospital.

According to their statements, security personnel at the hospital were aware that the alleged suspect did not work with the hospital anymore and asked him not to loiter in the hospital.

Meanwhile, the alleged suspect, in his confession to police, claimed that the security personnel did not like him and always picked on him.

The alleged suspect is a repeat convict. He was convicted for larceny in Taba, and a few battery cases prior.

The alleged suspect confessed that he acted alone in the crime.

He is charged for voluntarily manslaughter.
## MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts

Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts is pleased to announce the following vacancies:

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<th>S#</th>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Pay Scale</th>
<th>Contract Allowance</th>
<th>House rent Allowance</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Communication Officer</td>
<td>At par with P4 level of Civil Service</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>At par with P4 level of Civil Service</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>BA/BA. Mass Communication/ BA. Visual Communication</td>
<td>At least 2 years of work experience. Preference will be given to candidate with Graphic Design</td>
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<td>Class X Passed</td>
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The job contract will be for the initial period of 3 years and then renewable on mutual consent. Interested candidates may submit their application to the CEO, Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts (APIC), RSPN Building 2nd Floor, Kawajangsa, Thimphu on or before 10th March 2017.

Document required for the post of **Communication Officer**: Detailed CV, Copy of citizenship ID Card, Copies of academic transcripts, Valid Medical Certificate, Valid Security Clearance, NOC from current employer if already employed, Any other documents relevant to the advertised post’s requirements. Documents required for the post of **Hygienist**: Copy of citizenship ID Card, Copy of academic transcripts, Valid Medical Certificate, Valid Security Clearance. Short listed candidates will be informed for interview.

For queries contact 334157 during office hours. For the same advertisement, you can also visit our website: [www.apic.org.bt](http://www.apic.org.bt)

**Chief Executive Officer**

### CLASSIFIEDS

**Advertisements**

**Sale**: 2 nos. Nissan Navara 4WD Hilux ‘12 model. 1 nos Toyota Reva Hilux 3000cc ’16 end model. Contact 17113110/77113110.

**Sale**: Ford Figo ‘11. Contact 17607520.

**Sale**: Santro taxi ‘11 model. Contact 17648867.

**Sale**: Tucson petrol ‘11 model. Contact 77403055.

**Hire**: Komatsu Backhoe (like JCB more powerful) in and around Thimphu area. Contact 17791662.

**Rent**: Shop/godown space at Changamthok. Contact 17119075.

**Sale/Rent**: 3 BHK, 2 Verandas and 2 toilet flat at Kabreytar above Punatsangchu guest house. Beautiful view, Cool place. Contact 17279595/17707911.

**Sale**: Empty space for Handicraft shop at Le-Meridien. Contact 17305165.

**Rent**: Space suitable for restaurant, entertainment or recreation near Taj. Contact 77126969.

**Sale**: Land at Gelephu. Call 17615399.

**Sale**: Land at Samtsce. Call 17679335.

**Sale**: 5 acre land at Jigmeling (Gelephu) 3000 teak trees. 27000 per decimil. Contact 17978635.

**Sale**: 19 decimal land at RTC. Price negotiable. Contact 17974722/77228852.

**Sale**: 20 decimal land with swimming pool and structure at Toorsa, Ping. Contact 17731855.

**Vacancy**: Waiter/waitress for Rochhgaphe Hotel. Contact 17119001/1711987.

**Vacancy**: IML would like to recruit a chef and anyone interested may contact 17140510.

**Vacancy**: One personal driver with free accommodation at Serbithang. Salary 6,000 per month. Contact 17783006 or 333377.

**Vacancy**: 3 Sale girl, one male Baker helper and one Accountant with tally back ground. Contact 17111467/17763169.

**Vacancy**: Garuda Inn immediately requires one house keeping, four catering services (2 girls and 2 boys) and 1 front desk girl. Interested individual may contact 17113963.

**Vacancy**: One Cook (Fifteen Thousand) two Waitress (Ten Thousand) Food and accommodation free. Contact 17710575.

**Vacancy**: One Asst. Baker(Nine Thousand) 1 Electrician (Fifteen Thousand) Plumber (Fifteen Thousand). Electrician and Plumber will be provided lunch. Contact 17710575.

**Vacancy**: One light vehicle driver. Contact 17333442.

**Vacancy**: Female Staff for restaurant and Karaoke. Contact 77451594.

**Vacancy**: One Cook helper, one dishwasher. Contact 322570.

**Vacancy**: One Accountant for Deki school. Contact 17644922.

**Vacancy**: House cook , Salary (Seven Thousand) at Lungtenphu. Contact 17110083.

**Vacancy**: School bus Driver at Pelkhil school. Contact 340638.

**Vacancy**: Helper for Grocery. Contact 17898538.

**Vacancy**: Kitchen helper & house keeping. Contact 17986502.

**Vacancy**: Tripper Driver. Contact 17723979/17161887.

**Vacancy**: 2 Factory wood worker at Transend Artisan, Salary(six thousand each). Contact 77254483/17767060.

**Vacancy**: 6 slot for immediate recruitment at Gomphu Kora Lung Natural Mineral Water Plant, Trashi Yangtse. Contact 17796671/17739965.

**Others**


Announcement: Looking for contact point in Thimphu for promoting interior work, eicher genset, solid surface, modular kitchen, modular office furniture & revolving chair. Call +91977543000/ vishal@rainbowgroup.co.in/ wechat: vishalgupta

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**NOTES**

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</tbody>
</table>
A promising new variety of maize, the Yangtsipa, has been released by the Variety Release Committee of the Agriculture Department for cropping in the country. The Yangtsipa was declared released in the sixth Research and Planning Meeting for Agriculture. Seventy participants comprising of staff from different sectors and scientists from abroad, reviewed and discussed research activities on rice, potato, maize, oil seeds and other vegetables at the meeting. The Yangtsipa, named after the Yangtzi farm in Tashiyangtsi where it was first tested, is a result of a three-year research conducted by the Agricultural Research Centre, Khamga.

A WORD a day
Egregious. adj.1. Outstandingly bad; shocking; 2. Remarkably good.
Egregious abuses of copyright.

REBUS

Health Capsule

WHAT IS A “SILENT STROKE”?

A SILENT STROKE OCCURS WHEN A PERSON SUFFERS A STROKE WITHOUT SYMPTOMS. SILENT STROKES INVOLVE BRAIN CELL DEATH JUST AS REGULAR STROKES DO. THEY ARE KNOWN TO CAUSE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND DEMENTIA.

Tech Tricks

Indesign:
Working with type
Auto-hyphenate (on/ off)
Windows: Shift+Alt+Ctrl+H
MAC: Shift+Option+Command+H

Increase or decrease kerning and tracking (horizontal text)
Windows: Alt+Left Arrow/ Alt+Right Arrow
MAC: Option+Left Arrow/ Option + Right Arrow

Medical Terminologies

- མགོ་གྲི། Water filter
- མགོ་གྲི། མགོ་གྲི། མགོ་གྲི། Water-borne disease
- མགོ་། Wax
- མགོ་། Weak

ecoTip.
Service gas-powered lawn equipment, or consider going gasless

Small engines contribute large quantities of carbon dioxide (climate-affecting gas) and pollution to the air, even more per hour than a car. If you must use one, be sure it’s tuned up to emit as little exhaust as possible and to prevent engine fluids from leaking on the ground. Consider a push mower if you have a small lawn or a cordless battery-powered re-chargeable lawnmower (which is quiet!)
More than 1,000 kilogrammes of chillies seized in four days

BAFRA also collected more than Nu 200,000 as penalty

Rajesh Rai | Phuentsholing

Illegal import of chillies has picked up drastically ever since import of green chillies from India was banned.

In just four days, from February 13 to 16, the Bhutan Agricultural and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) seized more than 1,000 kilogrammes of chillies at the Rinchingend check post. The agency also collected more than Nu 200,000 in fines.

Those involved include not just vegetable vendors but also students, drivers and farmers.

On the evening of February 14, BAFRA officials caught two students and seized 250kg of green chillies. BAFRA also fined a college student Nu 65,000.

The officer-in-charge with the BAFRA office in Phuentsholing, Phuntsho said that there have been many such cases. “We have arranged a special inspection for a long time now,” he said, adding that they have caught many people. “They are still bringing in the chillies.”

Phuntsho said that the two students BAFRA caught knew that importing chillies from the Indian border town was banned. “They said they were poor and needed money for school,” he said.

Kuensel learnt that most people try to smuggle the chillies in the evening and at night. BAFRA has been deputing two officials every night for inspections these days.

Despite such measures in place, people still try to smuggle chillies.

As a result, some have even tried to hide chillies under trucks. The illegal business has become an easy way to mint money.

A kilogramme of chilli costs Nu 20 to 30 across the border. When it reaches Thimphu and Paro and other places, it is sold at between Nu 80 to Nu 150 depending on demand.

“Despite the crisis, we request people not to consume these chillies even if it is being supplied,” BAFRA officer-in-charge Phuntsho said, adding that the impact on health would not be immediate but gradual.

Phuntsho also said that BAFRA would not tolerate people trying to supply chillies illegally.

Bhutanese vegetable vendors imported chillies from Falakata, India until it was banned last year. The ban was implemented after a high level of pesticide residue was found in the chillies.

In the last four days, BAFRA also seized 1,208kg of cauliflowers and 50kg of beans that were both also banned last year for high pesticide residue content.

Meanwhile, the demand for chilli is still as high as ever. The Food Corporation of Bhutan Ltd (FCBL) is placing an order for another consignment of 15 metric tonnes (MT).

The corporation so far has purchased 126.22MT of green chillies from Kolkata, India. About 117.37MT were sold across the country.

FCBL’s marketing advisor Bhimraj Gurung said that importing chillies is not an easy task. “Some chillies are spoiled,” he said.

FCBL lost about 4.87MT chillies to weight loss when it arrived in Phuentsholing and about 3.8MT chillies are also being dried today after it started rotting. Bhimraj Gurung said that it takes time to gather information on demand and to talk to suppliers on availability and to negotiate prices.

“The government is putting in so much effort to establish prices and getting the right supplies,” he said.

FCBL has 10 identified retailers across the countries that are allowed to sell chillies supplied by the corporation.

Infrastructure

No bridge over Zangthi river until 12th Plan

Yangchen C Rinzin | Samdrupjongkhar

Zangthi, Tshothang and Doongmanma chiwogs in Lauri gewog will have to wait until the 12th Plan for their farm roads to be connected with a bridge over the Zangthi river.

This is the resolution of the Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag Tshogdu (DT) that was held on February 16.

The Lauri gup and mangmi tried to convince the tshogdu on the dire need of a bridge but after more than 30 minutes of deliberation members decided to incorporate the bridge in the first financial year of the 12th Plan given lack of budget.

While farm roads to Zangthi and Doongmanma are being constructed, construction of a farm road to Tshothang is yet to begin. The farm roads will remain underutilised without a bridge even if it is completed on time.

A bridge would be required over the Zangthi for three farm roads to be connected with the three villages. Today villagers travel by car until Wongthing. From there, they walk to their villages—Tshothang, Zangthi and Doongmanma using a suspension bridge over the Zangthi.

With an estimated cost of about Nu 13M (million), Lauri gup, Tempa Gyelshen explained that the gewog has only about Nu 5M from this financial year and Nu 2M from the gewog development grant. Therefore, the gewog raised the case in the DT to seek budget as the bridge is vital for the villages.

Since the bridge was not in the Plan, the gewog requested DT members to incorporate the bridge in the 11th Plan and adjust the budget either from the dzongkhag development grant or from other planned activities.

The bridge will benefit about eight villages with more than 200 households.

Mangmi Tenzin explained that initially during the survey only one bridge over the river Jomo, which is under construction at present, was incorporated to connect the entire road including the gewog centre.

“But later the plan didn’t materialise with the inception of the Ngera-Ama hydro-power power survey,” he said, adding that the new survey then found the requirement of a new bridge that was not in the Plan.

Tenzin requested for the budget to be arranged from the dzongkhag development grant, to which Dzongdag Tharchen Lhendup explained that the fund should be used equally among the 11 gewogs in line with the guidelines.

Although members supported the issue stating that road connectivity is important for development of any gewog, they said that the cost and availability of budget must be considered.

Dzongkhag planning officer Ngawang Chophel said although the cost estimation is about Nu 13M, the cost could either escalate or decrease during the actual implementation of the work unless the bridge is completed within a year, which is not impossible.

With no budget available from the current or next financial year, the proposal was rejected as construction of the bridge would incur huge costs.

Vegetables

Seized chillies at the Rinchingend checkpost
Conservation

Bumthang sees less Black-necked cranes

Arrival of black-necked cranes has drastically decreased compared to last year

Nima Wangdi | Bumthang

This year, the number of black-necked cranes (BNC) in Bumthang has decreased drastically while those that arrived have also left their winter grounds much earlier.

The cranes migrate to Chumey, Tang and Chokhor toe during winters. Chumey and Tang received six cranes each while Chokhor toe received none this year.

Forest ranger Tsheten Wangchuk of the Chumey range office said only six cranes came to Chumey this winter. He said there were 16 in 2016 and 22 in 2015. “The number of cranes coming here has drastically dropped and we can’t say if there will be any next year going by the current trend,” he said.

Tsheten Wangchuk attributed the decline in the number of cranes to the loss of their feeding grounds to the developmental activities. “Different machines and increased number of stray dogs disturb the cranes,” he said.

Tsheten Wangchuk said usually the black-necked cranes came to Bumthang by mid November and stayed till early March. “The cranes left the place by the end of December last year,” he said.

Wangchuk Centennial National Park’s senior ranger Tenzin said there were six cranes in Tang, which is an increase of two, compared to last year. There were two in Chokhor toe last year but no cranes arrived this year.

Tenzin said of the six cranes in Tang that arrived on December 27, four already left on February 2.

Lawa, 67, from Domkhar village said there used to be many black-necked cranes in different places in Chumey in the past years. “We hardly see any today,” he said.

Lawa said people used to feel good hearing the melodious voices of these birds and even enjoyed their dances. “It’s sad not many of them are coming here today,” he said.

People said black-necked cranes used to feed at the places where Gaytsa school, Sonam Kunephen School and the Technical Training Institute in Chumey are located today. “The number of cranes decreased since these institutions and some other infrastructures were built in recent years,” an elderly person from Chumey said.

News in brief

The Bhutan – Korea Information Access Centre (IAC) at the Royal Institute of Management, Simtokha has been awarded the 2nd best IAC 2016 by the National Information Society Agency (NIA), Government of the Republic of Korea during the 4th annual Best IAC Award ceremony held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The award is given in recognition of outstanding and successful management of Information Access Centres set up by the Korean government amongst 45 countries around the world. The RIM IAC which was established in November 2015 stood second to Vietnam in the award held during the 2016 Asia-Pacific IACNet Forum.

Bhutan Airlines (Tashi Air)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Flight No.</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Bangkok to Paro via Gaya</td>
<td>B3707</td>
<td>06:30 am</td>
<td>10:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Paro to Bangkok via Gaya</td>
<td>B3706</td>
<td>11:05 am</td>
<td>05:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Delhi to Paro via Kathmandu</td>
<td>B3774</td>
<td>08:00 am</td>
<td>11:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Bangkok to Paro</td>
<td>B3707</td>
<td>07:30 am</td>
<td>11:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Paro to Bangkok via Kolkata</td>
<td>B3700</td>
<td>10:35 am</td>
<td>04:05 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All timings in local. Timings are subject to change. Call Bhutan Airlines toll free No: 1234 for latest flight information.
New measures to improve services at Paro airport

Dechen Tshomo

The Department of Air Transport (DAT) with the information and communications ministry will install a new taxi counter at the Paro International Airport’s arrival terminal starting next month.

The decision to have a pre-paid taxi service at the only international airport in the country is based on customer feedback.

DAT director Karma Wangchuk said that the department is constantly trying to improve services at the airport based on customer feedback.

Customers complained that the taxi drivers at the airport overcharge foreign guests.

Karma Wangchuk pointed out that in the current scenario, taxi drivers rush for passengers and it is a hassle.

“One of the main reasons for having a pre-paid taxi service is to streamline the system and for the convenience and safety of passengers,” Karma Wangchuk said. “The rates charged will be approved by the RSTA.”

Interested taxi owners can contact USD Enterprise for registration to operate at the airport.

Karma Wangchuk said that USD Enterprise has been selected through an open tender to operate and manage the taxi counter at the airport.

After July this year, the taxi counter will be updated to an automatic parking fee collection service, established as per the international airport standards.

“We have tendered out the work to construct a parallel taxi way and international cargo terminal at the airport,” he said. “We are trying to increase the facilities at the airport.”

The airport will also start collecting parking fees starting next month.

Karma Wangchuk pointed out that people tend to park their cars wherever and whenever they like and congest the parking spaces at the airport.

The parking fees differ from zone to zone.

Karma Wangchuk said that prime parking areas will be charged higher and people who require the parking space in the prime areas will pay and use the space.

Light vehicles will be charged Nu 100 for thirty minutes or less, for parking in zone one. Similarly, Nu 50 and Nu 20 for using a parking space in zone two and zone three respectively, for thirty minutes or less. The amount doubles for every thirty minutes after the first thirty minutes.

A designated parking space for the crew in zone three is free for crew members, while zone four is designated for airport staff. However, overnight parking is not permitted in zone four.

Similarly, heavy vehicles will be charged Nu 150 for parking in zone one for thirty minutes or less, Nu 100 for parking in zone two and Nu 20 for parking in zone three for thirty minutes or less, whereafter the amount doubles every thirty minutes.

Karma Wangchuk said that there is a free parking space for those who do not wish to pay parking fees. The free parking space is located further away from the terminal but is still walking distance, unlike in other international airports where the distance between the parking space and the terminal is a few kilometres, he added.

People who wish to park their vehicles overnight at the airport can park at zone three. Nu 200 per night will be charged for all types of vehicles.

Karma Wangchuk said that establishing a taxi counter and charging parking fees is expected to ease the traffic flow in Paro.

There are also plans to increase the departure gates to three and increase the parking spaces within the airport. Currently, there is an only one-departure gate at the Paro Airport.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ministry of Finance

Vacancy Announcement

The Ministry of Finance is pleased to announce the vacancy of a Chief Internal Auditor as detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI No</th>
<th>Place of posting</th>
<th>Position title</th>
<th>Minimum qualification</th>
<th>No of post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>Chief Internal Auditor (P1 A)</td>
<td>Minimum of Bachelor’s Degree with PGDFM/ Minimum of Bachelor’s Degree with Commerce or Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested candidates who meet the above criteria may apply for the above position. Further, applicants are requested to note the following:

1. Selected candidate would be eligible for 20% professional allowance
2. Selection would be done through open competition with promotion for applicants at position level P2 A with two years of active service and lateral transfer for applicants at position level P1 A.
3. Application along with the following documents must be submitted to the HRD, MoF latest by 7th March 2017.
   a. Curriculum Vitae (CSIS generated copy)
   b. Valid Security Clearance
   c. PE ratings of the last two years
   d. Certificates of merits/achievements, if any
   e. Academic/training certificates and transcripts

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

Chief HR Officer

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES

Department of Revenue and Customs

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

BHUTAN NETWORK FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN

BNEW Secretariat would like to invite local Stationary suppliers and Printing firms to contact us and submit your rates/quotations for printing/copying of various materials and supply of stationery for an upcoming conference & other times during year 2017.

Materials such as banners, posters, brochures, copying handouts and stationery items.

Email: bnew.bhutan@gmail.com
Phone: 02 328878 Mobile- 17803479
Fax: 0233407

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KUENSEL CORPORATION LIMITED

KCL/PROC-10/2017/

Sealed quotations are invited from the eligible suppliers with valid trade license for the supply of “ORIGINAL TONERS AND CARTRIDGES” for a period of one year.

Cost of Tender Form : Nu. 500/- (non refundable)
Last date of submission : February 24, 2017
Tender Opening Date : February 24, 2016
Tender opening Time : 3PM

The tender documents with detailed terms and condition may be purchased from the Procurement Division on any working days from February 10 till February 24, 2017.

The Management
ANNOUNCEMENT

MINISTRY OF HOME AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

On the auspicious occasion of the birthday celebration of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo on 21st February, 2017 at the Changlimethang stadium, Thimphu, the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs requests all invitees to be seated by 10:00 AM. Free lottery tickets will be distributed to the public at the entrance of the stadium from the Changlam side. There will be a lucky dip programme with the opportunity to win attractive and valuable prizes. Additionally, all unclaimed prizes from the lottery tickets of the 109th National Day celebrations will also be drawn and distributed.

Free public transportation will be arranged. The general public will be dropped at Changlam before 8:30 AM and departures will start after the Tashi Lebay as detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pick and Drop Points</th>
<th>Assembly point after Tashi Lebay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lungtenphug Makkhang</td>
<td>Clock Tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hongtsho</td>
<td>Changlam Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Chamgang</td>
<td>City Bus Stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Semtokha (Mani Dungkhhor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Dechencholing RBG gate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Kabisa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Begana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Hejo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Junghshina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Motithang Bus Stand- below Jigme Namgyal Lower Secondary School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Wang Sisina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Khasadrapchu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Olakha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Babesa - Welcome Gate (2 buses)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Changzamtog (Truck Parking)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For parking arrangements, all invited guests are requested to kindly visit the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs web page at www.mohca.gov.bt. General Public are invited to join the nation in celebrating this most joyous occasion.

Offtg. Director

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CENTRE FOR BHUTAN STUDIES & GNH RESEARCH

The Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research invites sealed quotation rates from eligible licence holders for the supply of Economy class air tickets as per the information provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.#</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Travel date</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paro - Colombo</td>
<td>March 3, 2017</td>
<td>2 pax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colombo - Hong Kong</td>
<td>March 7, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kong Kong - Yangon</td>
<td>March 11, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yangon - Bangkok</td>
<td>March 15, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bangkok - Paro</td>
<td>March 17, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Paro - Hong Kong</td>
<td>March 7, 2017</td>
<td>1 pax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hong Kong - Bangkok</td>
<td>March 11, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bangkok - Paro</td>
<td>March 12, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tender documents can be obtained from the AFD, CBS & GNHR on payment of Nu. 300/- (non-refundable) during working hours. Quotation should reach this office latest by February 20, 2017 before 11 am and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 am. For further information you can contact Head AFD at 321005 during working hours.

AFD, CBS & GNHR

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & CUSTOMS

NOTIFICATION

This is to notify the general public that the due date for filing of Personal Income Tax (PIT) return for the Income Year 2016 is extended till March 15, 2017. PIT return filed after March 15, 2015 shall attract late filing penalty of Nu.100 per day along with 24% penal interest if the tax position is payable.

Officiating Director
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

PUNATSANGCHHU-I HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AUTHORITY
Office of the Chief Engineer (Civil), Bjimthangkha

Sealed item rate bids are hereby invited by the undersigned for and on behalf of the Punatsangchu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority (PHPA-I) from experienced Bhutanese Contractors for the following work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Name of work</th>
<th>Approx. estimated cost (Nu./Rs.)</th>
<th>Bid security (Nu./Rs.)</th>
<th>Period of completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPA-I/CE (C)/W-20/T-73/2017</td>
<td>Protection works for damaged wall near parking of E-9 block including the development of area near E-9 &amp; E-10 building block.</td>
<td>2.94 Million</td>
<td>0.059 Million</td>
<td>04 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-
1. The Bidding Document shall be issued only to those bidders who fulfill the following eligibility criteria:
   a. The bidder should possess valid licence and registration with Construction Development Board, RGoB as Class Small (S) Contractor for Building/ Road works.
   b. The bidder should have substantial experience in works of similar nature and magnitude during last 5 years.
   c. The bidder should have a total turnover of Nu./Rs. 3.00 million during last 3 years.
2. The bidders shall submit the above details with a documentary evidence at the time of purchase of bidding document.
3. Bidding documents will be issued to the prima facie qualified bidders. However, such issuance of bidding documents will not automatically mean that such a bidder is considered qualified.
4. The interested eligible bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the Office of the Sr. Project Manager, PHEP-I, WAPOS, Lobesa, Bhutan from 20.02.2017 to 04.03.2017 during office hours on payment of non-refundable fee of Nu.1,000/- (One Thousand) only through bank draft/cash warrant issued by Bank of Bhutan/Bhutan National Bank or any Scheduled Bhutanese bank, drawn in favour of Punatsangchu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority and payable at Wangdumphodrang.
5. Bids shall be received on or before 06.03.2017 up to 1.00 PM in the office of the Chief Engineer (Civil), PHPA-I, Bjimthangkha and shall be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.
6. The bidders should visit their site in their own interest before submission of his/her bid.
7. The PHPA-I reserves the right to reject any or all the requests for the purchase of bidding document without assigning any reason thereof.

Chief Engineer (Civil)

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

BHUTAN AGRO INDUSTRIES LTD.

Sealed quotations are invited from eligible Manufacturers/Dealers for the following materials.
- Package I – Tender for supply of Plastic Pallets.
- Package II – Tender for supply of Automatic Sticker Labeling Machine.

The tender documents can be purchased on any working day with effect from 18.02.2017 by paying Nu. 300.00 per package (Non refundable). The last date of submission of the tender documents is on 10.03.2017 at 10AM & will be opened on the same day at 2PM.
For any further queries, contact at 02-351078.

Management

NOTIFICATION

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
Department of Geology and Mines
Thimphu

This is to notify all mines operators and exporters in the country that purpose of levying ad valorem royalty on export on minerals, the sale value of mineral at the country exit point shall be determined either on the minimum floor price fixed by the Department or the invoice submitted, minus the freight charges and any insurance costs from the country exit point to the final destination, whichever is higher. No other discounts shall be admissible for the purpose of valuation.

All mines operators and exporters are also informed that there shall be post-audit carried out in all the regions and any deliberate under invoicing by the exporters for lesser remittance of royalty and mineral rent shall be subject to penalty as per law including recovery of the deficit royalty amount.

All exporters are requested to kindly comply on the above including the respective Regional Office of this Department.

Director General

AMENDMENT

BHUTAN TELECOM LIMITED, THIMPHU

kindly refer the notice inviting tender of The Bhutan Telecom Ltd., in kuensel’s issue dated 2nd February 2017, reference no BTL/Mkt-01/2017/63 on supply of Jelly Filled Cables. There is slight change in the tender documents uploaded earlier. we have re-uploaded the amended documents. Please visit website www.bt.bt for details.
Inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

Marketing Officer.
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

**DZONGKHAG ADMINISTRATION, SAMDRUP JONGKHAR**

The Dzongkhag Administration, Samdrup Jongkar invites bids for the following works detailed in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works, for the package or for any of the slices for Limited Tendering.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Work</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Contract period (months)</th>
<th>Tender sales</th>
<th>Last date &amp; time for bid submission</th>
<th>Opening date &amp; time of tender</th>
<th>EMD (Nu.)</th>
<th>Estimated amount (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Construction &amp; Installation of SDP Sign Boards in Samdrup Jongkhar</td>
<td>Small W3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20/02/2017</td>
<td>06/03/2017 at 10:00AM</td>
<td>06/03/2017 at 10:30AM</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>0.222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Bids must be delivered to the Dzongkhag Administration on above mentioned date and time.
3. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of fixed amount.
4. Interested bidders must visit the site to familiarize the site condition prior to filling of the bids.
5. Participating in other’s license shall not be entertained.

*Chairman, Dzongkhag Tender Committee*

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**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**
**Department of Intellectual Property**

MEA/DIP/ADM-C4/2017/1295

The Department of Intellectual Property would like to invite Expression of Interest (EoI) from national consultancy firms for the following works:


The interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the service. EoI should include a copy of the business license, tax clearance certificate, CV of the key staffs, and an assignment related experience of the key personnel. The short listing criteria are, a) overall experience of the firm in the field of assignments; b) General qualification of key personnel; and c) an assignment related experience of key personnel.

On the basis of the information obtained through EoI, five most appropriate firms will be invited to submit the detailed technical and financial proposals. The ToR for this assignment can be downloaded from the website [www.moea.gov.bt](http://www.moea.gov.bt). Interested national consultancy firms should submit their EoI in a sealed envelope to the **Director General of DIP** MoEA, Thimphu on or before 1500 HRS, 3 March, 2017.

*Chief Intellectual Property Officer*

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**CORRIGENDUM**

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

MoHR/ADM-18/16-17/1926

The Ministry of Labour and Human Resources would like to inform the general public that the Remodeling / maintenance of existing building at IJC Trashiyangtse as notified on February 9, 2017 in Kuensel has typo error. Therefore, general public are requested to visit [www/molhr.gov.bt](http://www/molhr.gov.bt) for the rectified quantity (Sl No 5, Code CW 0005 under BoQ). Inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

*Head, AFD*

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY**
**TOURISM COUNCIL OF BHUTAN**
**THIMPHU**

RITH/04/2017/4684

The Royal Institute for Tourism and Hospitality, Tourism Council of Bhutan would like to invite interested firms to carry out the following Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for fiscal year 2017-2018.

1. Washing Machines (Electrolux)
2. Diesel Generator (Jackson)

The interested firms should submit their

1. Company Profile
2. Experience Certificate and other relevant documents. The firms will be selecting as per mentioned documents by RITH Management.

The document should be submitted to AFD, RITH lasted by March 3, 2017. For further enquiries contact: +975-02-331272

*Management*
### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**PUNATSANGCHHU-II HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AUTHORITY**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (INFRA), INFRA CIRCLE, BJIMTHANGKHA : BHUTAN

Sealed item rate bids are hereby invited by the undersigned for and on behalf of Punatsangchu-II Hydroelectric Project Authority from eligible, Bhutanese Contractors for the following works:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Name of Work</th>
<th>Class of actor</th>
<th>Estimated amount (Nu. in Millions)</th>
<th>Earnest money (Nu. in Million)</th>
<th>Tender document cost (Nu.)</th>
<th>Completion period (months)</th>
<th>Date of sale of tender</th>
<th>Date of submission of tender</th>
<th>Date of opening of tender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PHPA-II/ EIC(Infra) / T-34 / 2017</td>
<td>Construction of External Sewage Disposal Network &amp; Water Distribution Network for Project colony of PHPA-II at Pheyakha.</td>
<td>“M”</td>
<td>10.369</td>
<td>0.208</td>
<td>2000/-</td>
<td>12 (twelve)</td>
<td>20.02.2017 to 10.03.2017</td>
<td>11.03.2017 Upto 2.00 PM</td>
<td>11.03.2017 at 3.00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The bidding documents shall be issued only to those bidders who fulfill the following eligibility criteria:

- The bidder must possess valid Licence, Tax Clearance Certificate and registration with the Construction Development Board (CDB), RGoB in class as specified above.
- The bidder must have experience in civil works i.e. RCC framed structures, water supply, sewage network & road works etc. and should have satisfactorily completed at least two works each of value not less than 60% of the estimated cost or one civil work of value not less than 80% of the estimated cost during the last five years.
- The Bidder shall not have more than two works of PHPA-I / PHPA-II in hand.
- The bidder shall have minimum annual turnover of value 60% of estimated cost during each of the last three years.
- Interested eligible Bidders may submit their application along with the above details with documentary authenticated evidence like performance/completion certificate, contact details of clients referred to, cost to completion, period of completion, details of liquidated damages paid for delay, if any, Tax clearance certificate, details of works in hand at present and their value along with copy of acceptance/letters of award, likely date of completion, list of equipment/machinery owned by him, list of skilled/unskilled manpower etc., for purchase of Bidding Documents from the office of Project Manager, M/s WAPCOS Ltd, PHEP-II, Lobyesa, Tele No. 02-376160/02-376159, Fax No. 02-376106 on any working day during office hours from the date as mentioned above on payment of non-refundable fee towards the cost of Bidding Documents through Bank Draft issued by Bank of Bhutan or any Bhutanese Scheduled Bank drawn in favour of PHPA-II, payable at Bank of Bhutan Thimphu / Wangdue.

However, the PHPA-II reserves the right to reject any or all the requests for the purchase of Bidding Documents without assigning any reason thereto.

Bids shall be received and open on the dates mentioned above in the office of the Project Manager, M/s WAPCOS Ltd, PHEP-II, Lobyesa in presence of the contractors or their authorized representatives.

---

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

**DRUK GREEN POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**

(a dhi company)

The Material Management Division (MMD), Druk Green Power Corporation Limited, Phuentsholing is pleased to invite sealed bids from National bidders holding valid trade licence for supply and delivery of items against each tender as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Tender</th>
<th>Sale date</th>
<th>Last date of bid submission</th>
<th>Bid opening date</th>
<th>Bid security (Nu.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Supply and Delivery of Civil Items, File No. DGPC/MMD/CIVIL/2017/263(A)</td>
<td>09:00 hrs 21/02/2017</td>
<td>15:00 hrs 23/03/2017</td>
<td>15:30 hrs 23/03/2017</td>
<td>27,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Supply and Delivery of Pipes, File No. DGPC/MMD/PIPES/2017/263(B)</td>
<td>09:00 hrs 21/02/2017</td>
<td>15:00 hrs 23/03/2017</td>
<td>15:30 hrs 23/03/2017</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Supply and Delivery of Office Equipment, File No. DGPC/MMD/OE/2017/263(C)</td>
<td>09:00 hrs 21/02/2017</td>
<td>15:00 hrs 23/03/2017</td>
<td>15:30 hrs 23/03/2017</td>
<td>17,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete sets of bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of Nu. 500.00 Or can be downloaded from website (www.drukgreen.bt) at free of cost. Representative of the bidder who wish to attend bid opening shall produce authorisation letter from the licence holder (in original). For further information, please contact this office at telephone No. 05-254382/254386/252575/254465 during office hours.

*Head (MMD)*
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THIMPHU THROMDE
Post Box:- 215, Thimphu-11001

Thimphu Thromde is pleased to announce the following vacant post for immediate appointment on consolidated salary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. No</th>
<th>Position title</th>
<th>Position level</th>
<th>No. of post</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver</td>
<td>O4-A</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>8505/-</td>
<td>01 Bus Driver 02 Road Sweeping Vehicle Drivers (Medium Vehicle) 02 Tractor Drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Care Taker</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>7000/-</td>
<td>Preference will be given to those candidates who have work experience and are literate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested Bhutanese national of 18 years above and 50 years and below may apply with the following documents latest by March 03, 2017 to the Human Resource Section of Thimphu Thromde:

1. RCSC Employment Application Form (available in RCSC website)
2. A copy of Medical Fitness Certificate
3. A copy of online Security Clearance Certificate
4. Copies of Academic Transcripts (if available)
5. Copies of Relevant Training Certificates (if available)
6. A copy of Bhutanese Citizenship Identity Card
7. No Objection Certificate from Employer, if employed.
8. Valid driving licence for Drivers

The list of shortlisted candidates with venue and date of interview will be made available on the Thimphu Thromde website (www.thimphucity.bt). The above-mentioned documents must be produced in original during the interview.

For further information, please contact Human Resource Officer of Thimphu Thromde at mobile number 77311544 during office hour.

Human Resource Officer

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIR
Human Resource Division

The Ministry of Economic Affairs would like to announce the following vacancies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. #</th>
<th>Position title</th>
<th>Dept./Div.</th>
<th>Position level</th>
<th>Qualification required</th>
<th>No of slot</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Caretaker</td>
<td>Bjemina Industrial Estate and Pasakha under the Department of Industry</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>Security background and experience</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested candidates who meet the above requirement may apply to the HRO on or before March 3, 2017 with the following documents.


For any quires, please contact the concerned HR Officer @ 325742 during office hours.

Human Resource Division.

INVIATION FOR BIDS

THIMPHU THROMDE
Post Box:- 215, Thimphu-11001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. #</th>
<th>Name of the work</th>
<th>Sale date</th>
<th>Submission date</th>
<th>Cost of document</th>
<th>Class of contractor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Construction of Chemical store at WTP, Chamgang</td>
<td>20/2/2017</td>
<td>23/3/2017</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Auction of staff Quarter and office Building at WWTP, Babesa</td>
<td>20/2/2017</td>
<td>10/3/2017</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Documents can be purchased from office of Project Manager, PIU ADB, Thimphu Thromde

Executive Secretary
A five-day training on digital marketing and marketing skills, host-caller relationship and counselling and on business journalism was held in Thimphu.

Journalists from broadcast and private newspapers, marketing officers and radio jockeys from private and community radio stations attended the training programme.

Except for digital marketing and marketing skills, local professionals mentored the other two programmes. Department of Information and Media (DoIM)’s chief information and media officer, Tshering Yangden, said the training aims to equip the young reporters with the skills necessary for the job.

“This, we envisage, will only go on to improve the quality of journalism in Bhutan,” she said.

She said the training was in line with DoIM’s mandate to promote the media sector through coordination and facilitation of programmes such as training, seminars, and workshops. The training programmes have been outsourced through a competitive bidding procedure.

Organised by the DoIM with the Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC) in collaboration with the Bhutan Media and Communications Institute (BMCI), the training programmes concluded yesterday.

Tshering Yangden said the training is part of DoIM’s annual planned activities. MoIC minister DN Dhungyel awarded the participants with certificates during the closing ceremony.

Lyonpo encouraged the participants to implement whatever they learnt during the training in their work. “We are going to continue supporting the media fraternity in whatever way or trainings we can conduct. We encourage more media personnel to participate in such trainings.”

He also said that for the media to move forward, media houses must be digitised. “Most media houses lack digital platforms today and for it to improve such trainings are necessary.”

DoIM’s media relations and postal communications division, in consultation with the Journalist Association of Bhutan (JAB) planned the training. The training sessions were selected after receiving a list of recommendations from JAB.
ANNOUNCEMENT

BHUTAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Bhutan Youth Development Fund is pleased to announce the availability of Six YDF-UWC (United World College) Scholarships for Pre-University (Class XI and XII) in the following Colleges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL#</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Scholarship Offered (%)</th>
<th>Slots</th>
<th>Annual fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Li Po Chun, Hong Kong</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approx. USD 38, 766/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>UWC Dilijan, Armenia</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approx. USD 35, 000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>UWC USA</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approx. USD 37, 700/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>UWC Mahindra, India</td>
<td>25% (Placement only)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Approx. USD 29, 500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>UWC Atlantic, UK</td>
<td>0% (placement only)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approx. USD 36, 233/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested candidates may apply to YDF with all the necessary documents latest by March 3, 2017. For more details please log on to www.bhutanyouth.org or visit our facebook page https://www.facebook.com/BHUTAN.YDF/ You may also contact us at 327483/329135 during office hours.

TO ADVERTISE IN KUENSEL: Call 326191 or fax 326638; E-mail us at: kuenseladvertisement@gmail.com

TO SUBSCRIBE KUENSEL: Call 327463; FOR NEWS: Call 324684, 322483

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR’S OFFICE, THIMPHU

Post Title: One Programme Coordination Analyst
Contract Type: Fixed Term Appointment- NOA
Duration: 1 year (Extendable)

Duties and Responsibilities:
The United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) is seeking to recruit a Bhutanese National as One Programme Coordination Analyst under the RCO to take appropriate initiatives and perform tasks to strengthen the capacity of the UN Country Team in Bhutan, within the framework of the Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One and other Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) guidelines. The One Programme Coordination Analyst works in close collaboration with UN Country Team members, the donor community in Bhutan, programme and operations teams of the UN agencies, funds and programmes, UNDP, Government officials, and civil society in ensuring successful implementation of the UNCT and RCO work plans and activities.

Minimum Qualification & Competencies:
- Master’s degree or equivalent in economics, social sciences, international relations, political science or similar field.
- At least 2 years of relevant experience at the national or international level. Experience with coordination, planning, monitoring and evaluation, in the UN system is desirable.

Closing date: 1 March 2017 (Sunday)
Instructions:
- Click on the link https://jobs.partneragencies.net/erecruitjobs.html?JobOpeningId=8245&hrs_io_pst_seq=1&hrs_site_id=2 and apply online.
- Please upload supporting documents like academic transcripts and relevant training certificates.

NOTE: Female candidates are encouraged to apply

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KUENSEL CORPORATION LIMITED

Sealed quotations are invited from the eligible Scrap Dealers having a valid trade licence for lifting of scrap materials from KUENSEL Corporation Limited, Thimphu.

LOT 1 Printing Machines
LOT 2 Furniture & Fixtures
LOT 3 Electrical Items & Others
LOT 4 Computers & Accessories
LOT 5 Printing Inks & Chemicals

Cost of tender form Nu. 300/- (non refundable)
Last date of submission 2nd March 2017
Tender Opening Date 2nd March 2017 at 2 PM

The tender documents with detailed terms and condition may be purchased from Procurement Division on any working days from 25th January 2017 till 2nd March 2017.

Management

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Department of Information Technology & Telecom

The Department of Information Technology & Telecom, Ministry of Information and Communications is organising three days training workshop on latest Information Communications Technology tools and technologies used by Small and Medium Enterprises to enable business efficiency and effectiveness. The training will be provided free of cost from March 13-15, 2017 at Phuentsholing. The registration is open on first come first basis.

Any interested business or small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs may kindly register with Department of Information Technology & Telecom at stenzin@dit.gov.bt or 17974139 on or before March 7, 2017.

Director

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Conference on responsible entrepreneurship underway

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay meets with Rotarians attending the three-day conference which began in Thimphu yesterday

Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay announced that a GNH Certification for Business system will be introduced in the country soon on the opening day of a three-day conference on responsible entrepreneurship towards sustainable development that began in Thimphu yesterday, according to a press release from the Prime Minister’s Office.

Welcoming the 170 Rotarians from 19 member countries, Lyonchoen thanked them for visiting the country and spreading the spirit of voluntarism throughout the world and bringing it to Bhutan.

Speaking at the conference hosted by the Rotary Club of Thimphu, Lyonchoen said: “Living in the present with no regard to the future is not responsibility. Just as we have inherited the earth and its bountiful resources; inherited the culture and tradition, we must pass these on to our future generations.”

According to the press release, Lyonchoen also spoke about social, economic and political sustainability and GNH. He said that His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo at the age of 16 decided that sustainability is important for Bhutan. In less than a generation’s time, the life expectancy has doubled; child enrolment in schools have doubled, Lyonchoen said, pointing out some of the social progress Bhutan has enjoyed under the reign of the Monarchs.

According to the World Happiness Report, Bhutan has been ranked the 84th happiest country out of 157 countries in the world in 2016 and was ranked first in the “equality index”, which means Bhutan is the world’s most equal society, Lyonchoen shared.

On the economic sustainability front, “Bhutan is one of the most economically sustainable economies in the world. The energy we generate is renewable and currently our forest offset 6m tons of CO2 in India,” Lyonchoen said.

Of the 200 countries, Bhutan is one of the only carbon neutral countries in the world. “I wish a bigger country was carbon neutral,” Lyonchoen added, attributing Bhutan’s success of being carbon neutral to His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo. “The young teenage King resisted the expert and conventional advice to cut down the trees,” Lyonchoen said.

Without political sustainability there is no guarantee that there will be any form of sustainability and His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo started decentralising power and introduced democracy. “Democracy is imposed on us, not demanded,” Lyonchoen said.

Lyonchoen shared the findings of the recent GNH survey and urged the entrepreneurs to conduct such surveys (wherever relevant) within their companies for sustainability of their businesses.

The three-day conference is aimed at providing an international platform for learning and sharing of the vast knowledge and experience of Rotaries and Rotarians around the world. The conference is also being held so that the Rotary Club of Thimphu can form partnerships to undertake future service projects in Bhutan.

The Rotary Club of Thimphu was chartered on April 24, 2012 with an objective to expand foreign relations and promote the work and cause of Rotary in Bhutan. Today the club is wholly managed, owned and funded by 19 Bhutanese members.
Boarding for Girls

Nima HSS is ideally located in Taba, Thimphu and is a perfect place for students to learn under the guidance of experienced teachers.

Boarders will be provided the following facilities:

- Comfortable and spacious rooms
- Built-in cupboards for storage
- Graphically quality mattress
- Flat screen monitor
- Healthy and nutritious meals
- Clean and well-maintained toilets
- Clean and spacious dormitories
- Supervised morning and evening study
- Access to internet for learning
- General sports facilities
- Shred vehicle to assist emergency

Fee: Nu. 40,000 per semester inclusive of meals

A School’s Greatest Asset is its Teachers. Nima HSS Presents - Our Teachers:

Our Strength, Our Pride and Our Best Investment.

Admission open for 2017 classes XI and XII in Arts, Commerce and Science with Boarding facilities for girls.
Building productive capacity in Bhutan for LDC graduation

The category of least developed country (LDC), introduced in 1971, aims to help attract special support measures for the most disadvantageous economies, which were lagging other developing nations. LDCs are classified as low-income countries which are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets. The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is the UN agency responsible for reviewing the list of LDCs every three years and making recommendations on the inclusion and graduation of eligible countries. The Committee uses three criteria: income per capita, human assets, and economic vulnerability. The latter two criteria are comprised of a number of indicators. 48 countries currently qualify as LDCs.

A country must meet two of these three criteria at two consecutive three-yearly reviews of the CDP in order to be considered for graduation. Alternatively, an LDC may exceed twice the income per capita threshold (currently $1,242) for two consecutive reviews. Four countries have so far left the category: Botswana, Cape Verde, the Maldives and Samoa. Equatorial Guinea will graduate this year. Vanuatu and Angola are also scheduled to leave in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

The LDC category was created to give countries in particular need of assistance exclusive access to certain international support measures, in particular aid and trade. For instance, all LDCs have duty and quota-free access to European markets as well as improved access to other countries under dedicated trading arrangements set up to help LDCs, such as the generalized system of preferences granted by the US and others. Official donors have committed to allocating 0.15 - 0.2 percent of their aid to LDCs. There are several other international support measures for LDCs, including climate change financing, reduced contributions to the UN and WTO (as observers in the case of Bhutan), and help with travel to international meetings.

Bhutan is likely to have met the income-only criterion for LDC graduation (double the current per capita income threshold) at the next triennial review in 2018 and to continue to meet the human assets criterion, rendering it eligible for graduation in coming years, depending on CDP and government discussions. As such, there is a need to develop the economy further to make development sustainable over the long term, and to understand the implications of the removal of international support measures. The CDP is carrying out a project to help Bhutan understand the implications of a withdrawal of support and to provide some initial ideas about the development of productive capacity. This briefing draws on research conducted on productive capacity and LDC graduation conducted in 2016 for the CDP of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and a growth identification and facilitation framework (GIFF) study commissioned by the CDP on Bhutan.

Productive capacity and LDC graduation

Productive capacity is the productive resources (natural, human, physical and financial), entrepreneurial and institutional capabilities, and production linkages which together determine the capacity of a country to increase production and to diversify its economy into higher productivity sectors for faster growth and sustainable development. Enhanced productive capacity is not a stand-alone goal but rather a component of broader progress towards sustainable development, and it thus fits well with Bhutan’s GHN approach.

Building productive capacity is generally seen as a major challenge for LDCs. The issue is the first priority area in the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs 2011-2020, features strongly in the Sustainable Development Goals, and is the subject of various reports by international organizations dedicated to LDCs. There is also international consensus around the view that LDC graduation should not be seen as an end in itself but as a way point in sustainable development. Productive capacity is thus a critical component of LDC graduation and successful and sustainable development.

There are strong links between expanding productive capacity and making progress towards graduation, but also notable differences. First, increased productive capacity for sustainable development leads to increased production, which in turn increases income. However, production can be increased without expanding productive capacity for sustainable development, in particular by exploiting natural resources through mining activities. Moreover, income can increase without production, for example by increasing proceeds from licenses granted to other countries to exploit natural resources.

In addition, there are clear links between productive capacity and the other two LDC criteria. Building productive capacity in a way that harnesses positive synergies with social outcomes directly increases human assets, moving a country closer to graduation. In principle, increased human assets may not necessarily imply higher productive capacity, if these assets are not harnessed for economic activities, for example due to the lack of complementarity physical capital or institutional failure. Generally, though, the link between productive capacity for sustainable development and human assets is clearly positive and two-directional.

The link between expanding productive capacity and reducing the economic vulnerability as measured by the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI), however, is more complex. Effective industrial and trade policies, supportive macroeconomic and financial policies and international support through preferential market access and other means will lead to increased exports, overall economic diversification and a better integration into the world economy. Reducing export concentration and export instability will result in an improved EVI score.

Raising agricultural productivity, a key ingredient of expanding productive capacity in many LDCs, ultimately reduces economic vulnerability as the share of agriculture in GDP would decline (as labour formerly active in agriculture could move to more productive manufacturing or services sectors) and agricultural instability would fall. However, as in the case of export instability, this may be achieved only after an initial overshooting. Generally, and after time lags, enhancing productive capacity will in most cases lead to lower EVI scores and move countries closer to graduation. However, several components of the EVI reflect structural constraints that are policy-invariant exogenous factors, at least from the perspective of an LDC. Changes in population only marginally change the EVI score (moreover, in most LDCs increasing population growth would not be seen as progress towards sustainable development), remoteness changes over time due to shifts in world trade patterns rather than trade performance of individual LDCs. Consequently, a large part of the EVI score is rather fixed even in the medium term.

Bhutan’s progress toward LDC graduation

Some countries have graduated from the LDC category or made progress towards graduation not through progress in all three LDC criteria but by specializing in a few economic activities while at the same time investing in human capital. Bhutan falls within this latter category given that it specializes in natural resource based activities (hydro-power generation) and tourism, with some manufacturing.

In line with economic growth and significant investments in social sectors, Bhutan has made rapid progress towards graduation. The country first met the graduation criteria in 2015 and will be considered by the CDP for graduation in 2018. Per capita income has been rising rapidly since the 2000s, almost reaching the ‘income only’ threshold of $2,484. The HAI score has also rapidly improved and passed the current threshold in 2013, mainly on account of rapid improvement in child mortality and expansion of secondary education.

Generally, Bhutan’s progress in improving assets is rooted in the government’s active efforts to reduce poverty and maintain equality; the promotion of universal education and the shift of workers into the cash economy has expanded the potential workforce and stimulated demand. Poverty reduction has been faster than in south Asian countries and has fallen to lower levels, whilst equality is higher than in comparable countries (the Gini coefficient is 38.1, which is low by LDC standards). Economic vulnerability, however, remains high.

While the shift of global economic activity towards Asia has reduced the remoteness score and agriculture as lost its role as dominant economic activity, Bhutan remains vulnerable to natural disasters despite undertaking disaster risk reduction measures and export instability is high, largely because each new hydropower plant leads to a sudden increase in export earnings. Agricultural instability has actually worsened, as the increase in production over the last decade has been accompanied with higher volatility.

Growth identification and facilitation

GIFF, developed by former World Bank Chief Economist Justin Lin, is one way of helping identify products which take advantage of a country’s latent comparative advantage and the possibilities arising due to catch-up, as well as excluding the improbable. It is designed to help policy makers understand how to use the limited resources available to solve the first mover problem and attract labor intensive industries.

The aim of the GIFF is to identify a shortlist of industries to target as pioneer firms that may be experiencing increased costs due to changes in local factor endowments. Normally, benchmark countries would be identified and possible products chosen, but Bhutan’s situation is so unique that no realistic comparator could be found. Once pioneer firms invest and achieve quick wins, their success will demonstrate the potential gains of investment in Bhutan. Whilst the study in Bhutan does not identify an exhaustive list and departs from the conventional approach, it makes suggestions based on the background analysis and on Bhutan’s latent comparative advantage.

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Thinley Zangmo

It’s weekend, a time when you finally get to take some time off to do shopping or grab a new book to read. If you have no plans, then a mini-gateway around town might just save you from boredom.

There is nothing better for the soul than a change of scenery or to explore a new territory or better yet re-discover the charms of an old place.

Located opposite Centenary Farmers’ Market (CFM) is a bustling yet forgotten market, a perfect mini-gateway to explore new things and meet different kinds of people.

After climbing the steps towards the traditional bridge and crossing the Wangchu, one will descend to an entirely new place. One might even be transported back in time where instead of buildings, there were street vendors that sold anything and everything one can imagine.

Located next to the steps is an ancient looking shop, perched up by traditional pillars and roof, and bulbs that gives the much-needed light.

Lobsang Tashi, 66, owns the shop. He is dressed warmly since it gets cold during the evening. His wife is accompanying him.

All kinds of religious items can be found in his shop especially all sizes of butter lamps imported all the way from Delhi in India. One can also find hand-woven scarfs, traditional arrows, traditional belts, handmade ladle and ropes made from yak hair, among many other interesting items.

Lobsang Tashi has been a businessman for the past 30 years. He has been selling at the particular place for the past decade before it was shifted from the main weekend vegetable market.

Sales have definitely plummeted after moving to a new place, Lobsang Tashi said.

“It was easier to sell when we were located next to the weekend vegetable market because people used to buy the things when they passed by. But it has been difficult to sell after we shifted here,” Lobsang Tashi said.

The market is open Friday to Sunday. It starts operating by 9am to late evening.

Lobsang Tashi reaches the place early in the morning every Friday. He unboxes the items and places them...
RECIPE

Sorse Mach er Jhal or Mustard Fish Curry

**Ingredients:**
- Basa fish: 4 medium size pieces (fillet)
- Mustard seed: 3 tbsp. (20gms)
- Poppy seed/posto/khaskhask: 1 tbsp. (optional)
- Tomato: 2
- Green Chilli: 3-4
- Mustard oil: 3 tbsp. (no other oil can give the typical aroma to this dish)
- Turmeric powder: 2 tsp.
- Red chilli powder (preferably Kashmiri red chilli): 1 tsp. (optional)
- Salt to taste

**Directions:**
- Clean fish chunks carefully and rub little salt and turmeric powder to the fish pieces and leave those for 30 minutes
- Make a paste of mustard seed using either a grinder or someone is using
- Mix a little salt with the mustard paste and leave it for around 15 minutes. Instead of mustard paste, mustard powder can also be used
- Make a paste of the poppy seeds with a little water and salt. Adding poppy seeds paste is optional but it gives a rich texture and taste to the gravy
- Now make a paste from the tomatoes
- Take two tablespoon of mustard oil in a wok and heat the
- For a rich colour, add Kashmiri red chilli powder to the gravy, which can be optional
- Now add poppy seed paste and cook for one more minute, which also can be optional
- Add three cups of water to the mustard paste and strain the
- oil sufficiently
- Now fry the fish pieces carefully in medium heat till the fishes turn golden brown in colour
- Strain fish pieces from oil and keep them aside
- In the same oil, add tomato puree and cook for around five minutes or till the aroma of the uncooked tomatoes goes
- For a rich colour, add Kashmiri red chilli powder to the gravy, which can be optional
- Now add poppy seed paste and cook for one more minute, which also can be optional
- Add three cups of water to the mustard paste and strain the
- liquid to discard mustard skin
- Now add the mustard water to the gravy and bring the mixture to boil
- Now it’s time to add fresh fish pieces to the gravy
- Cook for around eight to ten minutes in medium flame and turn the fried fishes to coat them properly with the mustard gravy
- Water level can be adjusted if required, however, we prefer medium consistency
- Add one tablespoon of raw mustard oil to the gravy and cook for two more minutes
- Switch the flame off and serve mustard fish curry or shorle bata diter mach er jhal with plain rice

**YOUTH IN FOCUS**

There are only three destinations for an addict: jail, cremation ground or rehab

**Worried parent, Thimphu**

My son has been sleeping late, has mood swings and sometimes acts strangely. This has been happening for over two years. Also, I notice money is going missing from our house. I’m sure that he is using drugs, but he denies it. How can I be sure and, if he is into drugs, what is the next step? I really want to help him.

**Shenphen Zangpo**

**Yet another drug user found in Bhutan**

Shenphen Zangpo was born in Swansea, UK, but spent more than 28 years practicing and studying Buddhism in Taiwan and Japan. Currently, he works with the youth and substance abusers in Bhutan, teaching meditation and organizing drug outreach programmes.

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Away
It was the time of the day
When the sun had to soar high
But it didn't that day
The day was all gloomy.
I cried out to the sun
But far away had it gone.
Between my cries and sobs
I saw it shine to another world
I saw a dagger stabbing at my back
And a rifle aiming at my heart
'Cause the more I spread my wings to fly
The more I was tied behind.
The sun slipped through my hand
And it went to another man.
Teardrops lingered on my eyes
And my imagination turned out to be all lies.
As I longed for the sun
Worthless had it slowly become!
But still it was that bright yellow sun
That always got me to go along.
Primula Sharma
Samdrup Jongkhar
February 18, 2017
them on a neat cloth one by one. His wife helps him with the unboxing and she neatly arranges every item so that it will be easier for the customers to see.

There are days when some of the vendors don’t even sell an item, Lobsang Tashi said. “All we do is wait and hope that the sale is better next week.”

The vendors bring their lunch and water from their home since there is no water supply at the market.

We collected a sum of Nu 50,000 from all the vendors so that we can put tarpaulin sheets to protect ourselves from the harsh weather and also paid to bring in electricity to light up the shops, Lobsang Tashi said. “Our main challenge is not having water supply and we would be grateful if the authorities concerned would be able to address our hardships.”

Located further away from Lobsang Tashi is Tshering Pema, 23, who sells all kinds of handicraft items in the stall. Most of the items are local products from Zhemgang and Trashi-gang, which comprises of bamboo baskets, wood products such as ladle and cups, and the famous bangchung from Zhemgang. One can find an item as affordable as Nu 20 to expensive as Nu 4,200.

The products are bought at a wholesale rate from the craftsmen from these dzongkhags, Tshering Pema said, who has been working as a sales girl in the stall for the past few years.

“We support the local craftsmen who are unable to sell their products. There are also a few that brings their products directly for us to sell,” Tshering Pema said.

The sales in the handicraft shops at the market depend on tourist season, Tshering Pema said. “Since it is an off-season right now, our sales are not good. Sometimes we have to leave home without a penny earned from the sales.”

However, the owners of the handicraft shops at the market are hopeful that the tourist season is nearing. The tourist season usually picks up by mid March.

Located opposite the handicraft section of the market is garment section where one can find an array of shoes, bags, jackets and jeans that are sold at a very affordable rates. Most of the clothes are being bought from the borders of Phuent-sholing.

One can usually find group of young boys and girls that are busy rummaging through a pile of clothes. As one walks by these vendors, one will occasionally find a few branded jackets among the piles. One will also stumble upon a wide range of jewellery items for both men and women.

At a centre of it all is Tshering Dukar, 35, who has been selling clothes for the past three years. She brings these items from Phuent-sholing and also from Jai-goan at times.

Tshering Dukar says sales are not good at this time of the year when children are back to school. She earns around Nu 7,000 in a day.

“For now, it has been enough to look after my two children that are studying at school. For me, the market is a viable opportunity and a platform for people like us to be able to make a living,” Tshering Dukar said.

The day is coming to an end. A cold wind blasts through the stalls. Vendors are packing their things in the boxes once more. The boxes will be guarded by security personnel, who the vendors hired to look after their things when the shops are closed. It will be next weekend when the boxes will be re-opened to be sold once more.
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