

A man dies with Covid-19

Nima Wangdi

A Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd employee died with Covid-19 on March 28 morning. However, it was not reflected in the Covid-19 daily dashboard of the health ministry as of yesterday.

Those who knew the deceased wondered why the health ministry did not declare his death to the public. As of yesterday, the dashboard showed only 10 deaths related to Covid-19. The latest Covid-19 death was an unvaccinated 90-year old man who suffered from renal failure.

The deceased, in his late 20s, died at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital on March 28 after he tested positive for the virus. Kuensel confirmed that he was recently diagnosed with kidney failure and had high blood pressure.

The Red Cross cremated the body at Hejo crematorium yesterday. Sources from the Red Cross at the crematorium said that the body was wrapped and sealed like other Covi-19 patient deaths.

Those at the crematorium said that the information should have been shared with the public on March 28 evening as was the practice.

A Thimphu resident said usually the ministry updated the people on every case of death with Covid-19 on the ministry's Facebook page and also explained the cause of death. "This time they did not for whatever reasons," he said.

Kuensel confirmed from health personnel and those who worked with the deceased that he had died due to some complications during the dialysis. **► Pg 2**



► Between 30 and 35 buses move out of Thimphu to various places every day after public transportation services resumed on March 28

Economic affairs ministry proposes options to reduce fuel price

Dechen Dolkar

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA) has proposed numerous interventions to the Cabinet to reduce fuel prices.

Cabinet Secretary Dasho Sangay Duba said that they have received the proposal from the ministry and it will be discussed in the Cabinet in the coming weeks.

Economic Affairs Minister Loknath Sharma said that there are only two options for the intervention and measures on the spike in the fuel prices that the government could do.

Lyonpo said that the government could either waive the taxes or give subsidies to the people.

The fuel prices include five percent green tax and five percent sales tax. "The proposal is submitted to the cabinet," Lyonpo said.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) also recommended the government instituting a fuel price stabilisation measure like waiving the five percent green tax, the five percent sales tax and surcharges levied presently.

Lyonpo said that the hike in fuel price will have an im-

act on the economy and the government is looking into minimising that impact.

The price of diesel is Nu 100.59 a litre and the price of petrol is Nu 95.21 a litre in Lungtenzampa, Thimphu. The price of petrol increased by Nu 10 and the price of diesel increased by Nu 17 a litre from March 16.

"The immediate measure was lifting of the switching of the driver system. The ministry has requested to lift the switching of drivers which will decrease the transportation cost," Lyonpo said.

► Pg 2

Covid-19 Update

Confirmed Cases: **25,876**
Recovered: **22,376**
Active: **3,490** | Death: **10**
-MoH

Inside

HOME

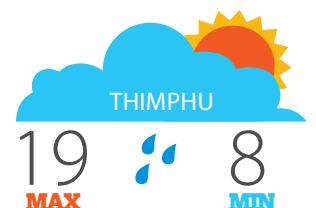
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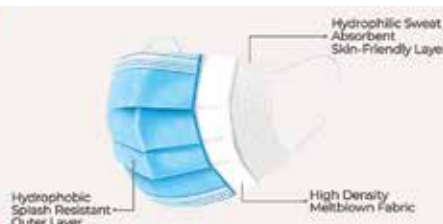
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Weather



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Foreign workers import resumes

Yangyel Lhaden

After more than two months, the labour ministry has lifted the suspension of the import of foreign workers on March 28.

This comes into effect after the Cabinet approved the request from individuals seeking approval to lift the suspension of the import of foreign workers on March 22.

Contractors and employers can now import foreign workers of all categories: manual, professional, and technical workers.

Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering said that foreign workers would have to follow the existing protocols of 14-day quarantine for international travellers coming into the country. Further relaxation would come into effect from April 4 and the workers coming will have to quarantine for only five days.

"There is no restriction on the number of foreign workers a contractor is allowed to bring in the country," Lyonchen said.

To import foreign workers contractors have to register through the labour ministry's online system called LabourNet system.

A labour ministry official said that the demand for foreign workers was high. "The demand for foreign workers is between 25,000 and 30,000."

He said that before the ministry announced the restriction on foreign worker import on

January 24 there were around 1,500 applicants in their portal. "All these applicants were rejected following the enforcement of the restriction and now they have to register again."

The official said that the number of foreign workers imported would also depend on the availability of quarantine centres. "There are chances an applicant would want to import many foreign workers which

could saturate the quarantine facilities leaving other applicants not able to import any foreign workers."

He said that the ministry would screen the applicants and make sure every applicant gets an equal chance to bring in foreign workers.

"We will facilitate the import of foreign workers with approval from the immigration office," the official said.

Economic affairs ministry proposes ...

From Pg 1

Lyonpo said that it was likely for the fuel prices to increase further. However, in the next few months if the fuel price decreases it will be very difficult to come down to Nu 70- Nu 80 per litre at the normal situation.

Electricity bill waiver

Meanwhile, the government is also looking into waiving the electricity bills for the months during which a lockdown was enforced.

Lyonpo said that they have to weigh the two waivers, waiving electricity bills or the fuel price.

"We have to see which one will have greater impact on the economy and the consumers,"

Lyonpo said.

However, Lyonpo said that it was not likely that the government can waive the electricity bills.

So far Bhutan Power Corporation (BPC) has been providing subsidies to the rural areas, in the quarantine facilities and at the points of entry.

"If we again waive the electricity bills, the revenue will decrease. If the electricity bills are waived also, it won't have much impact to the economy," Lyonpo said.

The government has collected data on electricity consumption in urban areas during the winter months in 10 affected dzongkhags. In total, the electricity bill comes to around Nu 135M.

RSTA strives to reduce road accidents by 50 percent by 2030

Phub Dem

Bhutan's current road crash fatality rate stands at 6.3 per 10,000 vehicles.

From 2010 until last year, 1,151 people lost their lives due to road accidents and 6,512 were injured.

According to the Ministry of Information and Communications' statistical report, road accidents reduced to 745 last year compared to 811 in 2020 and 1,470 in 2019.

Paro recorded the highest accident (141), followed by Thimphu (131), and Chukha (116).

According to the report, human error (other driving errors) remains the leading cause of motor vehicle accidents, followed by drink driving, speeding and unlicensed or inexperienced driving. Likewise, road conditions and mechanical failures also cause road accidents.

Besides, unlicensed driving, using a cellphone while driving, and drink driving were recorded as significant offences during highway inspections and most significant daily traffic violations.

The Road Safety and Transport Authority (RSTA) aims to reduce fatal and non-fatal vehicle crashes by 50 percent by 2030 in line with the Decade of Action on Road Safety 2021-2030.

According to the Authority, improving road safety that

focuses on reducing the number of deaths and injuries is an important goal. "While motor vehicle accidents are unpredictable, most road crashes are preventable."

The Authority and MoIC enhanced the efforts through safety regulations, sensitising and creating awareness among the road users and ensuring professionalism for the drivers.

RSTA director, Tashi Dawa, said that comprehensive advocacy and awareness programmes would be rolled out through in-person and virtual modes to analyse the factors and trends in road crashes and traffic violations.

He said that the Authority would enhance traffic signages, road markings and early warning of road conditions in collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Royal Bhutan Police and Local Government.

According to RSTA officials, in the last three years of the Plan, the authority has provided road safety education to more than 14,000 people comprising students, school principals, civil servants, students, truckers, learner license holders, government vehicle drivers, bolero drivers, traffic police, de-suups, taxi drivers, armed force drivers and automobile workshop mechanics. "Road safety guidebook, standard curriculum to conduct road safety and traffic discipline

refresher's course by all RSTA offices and road safety audit guidelines are implemented."

They said that RSTA provided various enforcement and safety equipment to conduct drug testing for drivers, a pre-departure post-arrival inspection of passenger buses, and frequent maintenance highway inspections to strengthen enforcement of safety regulations. "RSTA became a member of Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory (APRSO) last year, which will enable knowledge and experience sharing in the Asia-Pacific region in road safety."

As responsible drivers determine road safety, chief transport officer, Sithar Dorj, said that RSTA took significant steps in creating a question bank for theory tests, categorisation of driving licenses, standardisation, and strengthening of driving training institutes.

He said that RSTA set up standards and developed infrastructure, workforce, curriculum and equipment for driving training institutes in collaboration with the labour ministry to strengthen and professionalise driving training institutes.

He said that certification of driving training instructors had been instituted in 2021, and the authority has completed training of trainers for 74 driving school instructors and 19 De-Suung Skilling Programme (DSP) training instructors.

A man dies with Covid-19

From Pg 1

Kuensel learned that of the 3,497 active cases, 40 are in Covid-19 hospital, 611 are in isolation facilities and 2,846 are under home quarantine.

Likewise, 1,006 are said to be asymptomatic and 2,475 have mild symptoms. One each in Mongar, Phuentsholing, and Samtse, 10 in Thimphu, and two in Gelephu have moderate

symptoms.

Kuensel also learned that one in Thimphu is in critical condition.

According to records, 25,876 people have tested positive to date since the onset of the pandemic and 22,369 have recovered.

The health ministry's focal person for the surveillance could not be reached.

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Opposition Party calls for a robust SOP for tourism

Phurpa Lhamo

The Opposition Party, through a press release yesterday, called the government to put in place a clear, proactive, and robust standard operating procedures (SOP) for tourism.

It also questioned whether a tourist would be allowed to travel if he or she tested positive after five days of quarantine, what would happen if a tourist tested positive while travelling, and how the government would ensure tourists do not bring in a new variant of the virus.

The Opposition Party's press release comes after the news report of 34 international tourists arriving in the country on April 2. The tourists would be in the country for 27 nights including the quarantine period.

The group will have to

undergo 14 days of facility quarantine since the five-days quarantine guideline will come into effect only on April 4.

With further relaxations, the Prime Minister's Office earlier announced that the quarantine period for incoming (international) travellers would be reduced to five days starting April 4. "The testing protocol will be revised accordingly," it stated.

The Opposition Party's press release stated that a clear, proactive, and robust SOP should be put in place for the management of tourism in the new phase. "This was in view of the past experience where almost all national lockdowns have been caused by lapses in protocols pertaining to international travellers, tourists or foreign workers."

... a clear, proactive, and robust SOP should be put in place for the management of tourism in the new phase.

It stated that they take great delight in being able to finally reopen tourism. "Tourism is of paramount importance, especially from the point of view of employment generation and convertible currency earnings."

Further, the press release stated that the sooner smarter ways to revamp a vital sector

like tourism is devised, the better it would be for the revival and rebounding of country economy. "The news of imminent arrival of a group of tourists this week, for that matter, is heartening and encouraging."

It, however, stated that given the experience of repeated lockdowns triggered by the lapses in the protocols of inbound international travellers, it has become absolutely important and literally non-negotiable to have in place a clear and comprehensive protocol for tourists.

Furthermore, despite the talks of reopening tourism, the press release stated that the Opposition Party wasn't aware of any new or progressive mechanisms or protocols developed by the government. "Besides averting risks to the nation, it is equally important

that tourism and hospitality sectors do not go through another prolonged disruption owing to mishaps caused by some lapses in the protocol."

The Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) issued operational guidelines titled "tourism services under the new normal" in September last year.

The guidelines briefly cover procedures at the airport, arrival airport transfer and travel options, accommodation facilities and SOPs for tourism service providers, which included clean and safe certification of the service providers.

The Opposition Party also stated that the SOP should be conducive and transparent as well, and be updated regularly in keeping with the changing national and international pandemic situation and other considerations.

Discussions to secure a green and sustainable future

Chhimi Dema

Officials from the government, civil society organisations, research and academic institutions, development partners, private and corporate sectors are meeting to discuss environmental issues in the renewable natural resources, energy, industry, and waste sectors.

Called the national stakeholder consultation for Stockholm+50 environment meeting, it marks the start of consultations leading up to the international meeting in Sweden on June 2 and 3.

The Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) is leading the discussion in collaboration with the National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The consultations will inform Bhutan's National Report for Stockholm+50 environmental meeting.

The UN General Assembly, through its resolution on May 24, 2021, decided to convene the international meeting enti-

tying "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity".

Speaking at the virtual launch yesterday, NECS' secretary, Sonam P. Wangdi, said that NECS as the custodian of Bhutan's environmental legislation and multilateral environmental agreements with the core environmental mandates, remains committed to the principles and objectives of Stockholm+50.

He said that our actions today will go a long way in securing a green and sustainable future for generations to come. "We remain ready to lead, contribute and partner with our stakeholders in this endeavour."

The discussion at Stockholm+50 will be held around the leadership dialogues: reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all, and achieve a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

It will also discuss accel-

erating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the consultation meeting.

A joint press release from UNDP, NECS and GHNC

stated that the launch was aimed at sensitising the government, non-government organisations, private sector and on the significance of the Stockholm+50 meeting.



► Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering launched the Nationwide Accelerated Dog Population Management (NADPM) and Rabies Control Programme (RCP) in Thimphu yesterday. The 14-day programme will end on April 11.

Facemasks the only solution?

There is no stopping the contagious Omicron virus, which is evident from the rising number of cases in the community. The numbers could be more if the mass testing continued.

There is also an acceptance among the public that the virus cannot be contained and that many would have already gotten it even if they are asymptomatic. Many who are getting tested, even without symptoms to travel, are testing positive. There are reports of entire family members testing positive without any sign or symptom.

Looking around, it seems people are ready to live with the virus. Two days after lifting the lockdown, the only sign that we are still battling the pandemic time is the facemask. There may be restrictions still in place, like capping on gatherings or not opening entertainment centres, but everything looks normal. The fact that those testing positive are not taken to isolation centres, the recovery rate and speed or buildings not being cordoned off seems to have given the impression that the virus is mild.

This is the new phase of the Covid-19 management and the people are living it.

It may not be a music to our ears anymore, but it is good to remind ourselves that the Omicron variant can cause severe diseases and there is a vulnerable group – the elderly, children and people with chronic illness. A young man with kidney failure problems died with Covid in Thimphu on Monday. Omicron is also affecting more children and is becoming a threat to the health care systems with more and more health workers testing positive.

With other preventive measures or protocols like social distancing thrown out of the window, wearing facemasks, it seems, is the only solution and the easy one to reduce transmission in the community.

It is scientifically proven that a face mask or any face coverings can prevent the wearer from transmitting the virus to others while also providing some protection. If what people claim are true - getting affected and not getting tested or isolated – there are many carriers of the virus, some freely roaming. Modelling of the SARS-CoV-2 disease has suggested that wearing facemasks could substantially reduce transmission.

Wearing a facemask, even two at a time, is not difficult. It is affordable and available. If we cannot live with other measures, we should all wear facemasks and tell others to do the same. So is washing hands with soap and using sanitizers.

The responsibility is ours. Shopkeepers shouldn't let in customers without facemasks. Institutions and other companies should insist on these requirements.

Wearing facemasks also has other benefits. The health ministry saw a reduction in the infection of air borne diseases since the pandemic started.

It is the pollen season in the country. Those allergic to pollen and susceptible to influenza or cold could protect themselves by wearing facemasks.

FOR FEEDBACK
Call 324684 or email
newseditor@kuensel.bt

MY COUNTRY, MY TOWN



Top dog: Either this big fella is guarding his master's vehicle or he wants to hitch a ride
Photo: De-suup Tandin Dorji

Send in your pictures to: formcmt@gmail.com

MY SAY

Private Land: Power has absolute power?

This issue is regarding existing power lines on private land. We have heard of the parliament discussing the issue about a year ago and I was of the opinion that the issue got resolved. But it seems there is still an issue that needs further discourse.

Across the country, we know that there are power lines, specifically high voltage distribution and transmission lines 11kV-33kV etc on private plots. With increasing population, division of families, development and people's need we are moving from just farming on the land to more construction of houses, roads or even other projects. This is necessitating the need for shifting power lines to the edge of plots and government land as the existing power lines are in the middle of private plots are obstructing upcoming houses, projects and risky for people overall.

To my surprise, I have

been informed that BPC does facilitate the shifting of lines but at the cost and responsibility of the private landowners.

Now, how does this even work? In the first place, it is the private landowner that has complete rights and ownership of the land – inherited. Purchased, paid taxes for many years! Even if consent was given by the villagers/ gewogs/ Dzongkhags for the power lines, I cannot imagine that the individual has given complete land ownership/ right to BPC or the ministry. We can say this because, no compensation in cash, kind or land replacement was provided by BPC/ ministry for use of the land. Besides that, it was the BPC team who planned and installed power lines – not gewogs or villagers!

In this regard, we would request that MOEA, BEA, and BPC discuss with NLC/

MOE, if needed, and cover the cost of line shifting on private land as it is owned by an individual/family or an institution and they have complete ownership/right of the land.

BPC cannot ask landowners to pay for moving BPC's property occupying someone else's prime land for which BPC has not paid anything. It should be the BPC requesting the landowners to give some space by the edge of the plot and not BPC demanding to be paid.

Please clarify with an order, if BPC's field people are misinforming us.

Today, it may be my aunt's plot, tomorrow it could be yours! Today it is in Trongsa, tomorrow it could be in Trashigang. BPC is there to stay, but we need to look into the regulations.

**Chhimi Dorji
Punakha**

Your Relationship Bank



NOTICE FOR 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

BHUTAN NATIONAL BANK LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 26th Annual General Meeting of Bhutan National Bank Limited will be held on FRIDAY 29.04.2022 at BNB Conference Hall, BNB Corporate Office, Thimphu at **10AM** to transact the following business;

AGM-26/2022/01	Adoption of Agenda
AGM-26/2022/02	Consideration of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021
AGM-26/2022/03	Consideration of Appointment of Board Director
AGM-26/2022/04	Appointment of Statutory Auditor for 2022
AGM-26/2022/05	Any other matters

All shareholders are requested to attend the meeting in person or by proxy. Nomination forms for Board of Directors shall be filed and should reach the bank (in original) within **07.04.2022**. The proxy and nomination forms along with minimum supporting documents can be downloaded from the banks website (www.bnb.bt) Incomplete submissions will not be entertained.

The AGM documents will be emailed to all shareholders upon request by **26.04.2022**. For further information, please contact Ms. Yangchen Delkar, Compliance Officer, BNBL at yangdel@bnb.bt or **02328585 - 88, Ext 1012**.

Management

Your Relationship Bank

BUSINESS INFORMATION AND FACILITATION CENTRE (BIFC)



BHUTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (BCCI)

Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) has established Business Information & Facilitation Centre (BIFC) at the BCCI office, Thimphu equipped with relevant infrastructure and resources and is open for its service to public.

Facilities;

1. Equipped Conference/discussion hall
2. Co-working space with computers connected with internet, printer and photocopier
3. Mini-business library etc.

It shall offer;

1. Business advisory and information services
2. Business incubation support
3. Business plan preparation and pitching
4. Mentorship
5. Business experience sharing
6. Business networking
7. Tax filing support
8. Licence processing and renewal support

For user's booking/registration or for further information contact Ms. Nim Pem, Business Promotion officer at nim.pem@bccci.org.bt or **02-322742**.

Events & Resources Division, GAD

AUCTION NOTIFICATION

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

Department of Livestock

National Poultry Research & Development Center, Sarpang

NPRDC/Adm/PS-10/2021-22/300

1. The National Poultry Research & Development Center under Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Sarpang hereby invites general public for open auction of approximately 8371 numbers of layer spent birds on **April 6, 2022 at 11:00 AM** in respective Centres as reflected below;

SL. No	Bird type	Quantity (Nos)	Place of Auction
1	Layer	2658	NPRDC, Conference hall
2	Layer	2513	RPBC, Paro, conference hall
3	Layer	3200	RPPBC, Lingmethang, Conference hall

2. The birds will be auctioned on, "**as is where basis**". Interested bidders must deposit **Nu. 30,000/- (Thirty Thousand)** only as EMD (refundable) in cash in favor of respective heads of the centre.
3. The birds will be sold to the highest bidder and have to be lifted within three days from the date of auction on full payment.

The respective centre have the right to reject if dispute arises out of terms and conditions. For more information, please contact in the following numbers:

- a) **17903521 (NPRDC, Sarpang)**
- b) **17687800 (RPBC, Paro)**
- c) **17695815(RPPBC, Lingmethang)**

Program Director

NOTIFICATION

WANGCHUK ACADEMY, BUMTHANG

This is to notify that Sonam Kuenphen Higher Secondary School in Bumthang has been renamed as Wangchuk Academy.

The school offers the following:

1. An ideal place to study in suitable climate in pine woods in Chumey, Bumthang.
2. Full scholarship to two students with 85% above in the 2022 Class X BCSEA Examination.
3. Swiss Certified Vocational Education Training in hospitality at a nominal fee.
4. Educational field trips

Furthermore, the school has improved with additional facilities that include bedding, cupboards, hot water geyser, laundry services for borders, an indoor games court, heating in classrooms and MPH, TV screens in each classroom for educational use as well as guided mobile use in classrooms to enhance learning.

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SUSPENSION ORDER

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

ACC/DOI-IV/(Case-12/2021)/2022/1010

In exercise of power conferred under § 24 (1) (g) of the Anti-Corruption Act of Bhutan (ACAB) 2011, the Anti-Corruption Commission (the Commission) hereby suspends the following business operations or activities with immediate effect, after finding *prima facie* cases of corruption.

- Name of business entity :** M/S Gopal Tshongkhang
Licence No. : MT3004519
Address : Khowshing, Dagana
Note : The said licence was cancelled on August 4, 2021
- Name of business entity :** M/S Powdel Tshongkhang
Licence No. : MT3007096
Type of activity : General Trading
Address : Khagochen, Dagana
- Name of business entity :** M/S Ajay Enterprise
Licence No. : R2000418
Type of activity : Pan
Address : Lower Market, Phuentsholing
- Name of business entity :** M/S Sonam Dolma Enterprise
Licence No. : R2000171
Type of activity : General
Address : Phuensum Lam, Lower Market, Phuentsholing
- Name of business entity :** M/S Elite Enterprise
Licence No. : R1005919
Type of activity : Retail of computers & software
Address : Thim-throm

Consequently these individuals or business entities are prohibited from conducting/entering into any business directly or indirectly using the licences hereinafter suspended till pending the outcome of the case. **However, they may be allowed to clear the existing stocks within one month from the date of issuance of this order.**

Non-compliance to the Commission's lawful demand constitutes an offence under § 113 (1) (c) of the ACAB 2011.

Issued under the seal and signature of the Commission on **28th Day of March** of the **Year 2022**.

By ACC



NOTICE CALLING FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DUNGSAM POLYMERS LIMITED

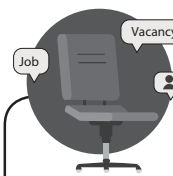
12/DPL/CSD/AGM/185

Notice is hereby given that the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of Dungsam Polymers Limited will be held on **Saturday, April 16 from 10:00AM onwards at DHI Boardroom, Thimphu** to transact the following business

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Presentation of Directors' Report
3. Consideration of the Audited Accounts for the Year ended December 31, 2021 along with Auditor's Report.
4. Declaration of Dividends, if any.
5. Consideration for Appointment or Retirement of Directors, if any
6. Endorsement of Statutory Auditors and their Remuneration for 2021
7. Any Other Matters

All shareholders are requested to take note of the above meeting and confirm your participation in person or by proxy before **April 8, 2022** at mobile no. **17772155** or e-mail at **surianano@gmail.com**. The form for proxy Director's nomination is available from the DPL website **www.dpl.bt**.

Management



- CLASSIFIED ADS - VACANCY

Vacancy: One accountant/store incharge, two drivers, two delivery boys and two sales boys for Shangrila Enterprise. Contact 17695073/ 17695016.

Vacancy: F&B/ Front desk and kitchen for The Zone Executive Suites. Please scall 77404858 for details.

Vacancy: Shingkar Pvt. Ltd, Kia Motors Bhutan would like to announce vacancy for the following posts- One Operation Manager Kia Service Center, Spare parts Sales Assistant and Adm. Officer (Head Office). Pls submit CV within April 11, 2022. You may email: kiabht@gmail.com /call 17639799.

AUCTION NOTICE

KOUFUKU INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

KIL/Work Order/12/2022/2839

Koufuku International Limited, Trashigang invites sealed bids from interested bidders for the purchase of **unserviceable diesel generator, thermoform cup and plastic container.**

The last date of bid submission is **12/04/2022** on or before **12:00 Noon** and it will be opened on same day at **2:15 PM** at KIL, Chenary Trashigang.

For further information, contact procurement section at **17171138/ +9754521028** during office hours only.

Procurement & Inventory Section



NU. PER UNITS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY as of yesterday

	NOTES	
	Buy	Sell
US \$	74.85	77.20
POUND	97.90	100.60
EURO	82.55	84.85
YEN (100)	60.45	62.15
HK \$	9.55	9.80
AUS \$	56.10	57.65
SING \$	55.00	56.55

Courtesy BNB

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The life and legacy of Tsangpa Gyare: A three-part series

Part 1: The texts and context of Tsangpa Gyare and his tradition

Since its founding as a nation-state in the seventeenth century by the lineage holder of the Drukpa order, the peerless Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel (1594-1651), Bhutan has been renowned throughout the world as 'Druk-yul'. It is popularly translated as the 'Land of the Thunder Dragon' or the 'Land of the Drukpa school'. Zhabdrung Rinpoche was the hereditary hierarch of the two monasteries of Druk and Ralung, as well as the reincarnation of Tsangpa Gyare Yeshe Dorje (1161-1211). The latter was the founder of the Drukpa Kagyü school and the eponymous figure after whose tradition Bhutan took its glorious name of 'Druk'.

Based on the findings of a Kyoto University research team led by Associate Professor Seiji Kumagai, this three-part article series will help reconstruct the biographical details of Tsangpa Gyare's life and legacy. This will be done through an analysis of his vast, but scattered Sungbum (collected works) and Namthars (biographies), which were written by different biographers from different historical periods.

We would like to firstly give a general introduction of these source materials that elucidate critical facts of his life and legacy; secondly of the biographical details of his life itself; and third and finally, his substantive legacies like a vast network of peerless Drukpa monasteries, hermitages and practitioner communities. All these will be done by contextualising the details of Tsangpa Gyare's life from his many textual corpuses into the socio-political fabric of Bhutan, where his tradition has had a fundamental role in shaping the country's national character and culture.

The Kyoto team has accessed the three oldest biographies of Tsangpa Gyare, composed by his three direct disciples (Dremowa Sangyebum, Marton and Lorepa), which are indispensable primary sources for systematically understanding his life and legacy. These biographies have now been published by the Centre for Bhutan and GNH

Studies as a critical edition (with extensive annotations and editorial notes) for use by both academic and general readers.

There are three versions of the collected works of Tsangpa Gyare from Bhutan, Nepal and Ladakh, which respectively include different works.

Modern academic scholars such as Dan Martin, W. B. Miller and Seiji Kumagai have introduced and studied this figure in several academic papers. However, the absence of a critical edition collating the various known early biographies and collected works of Tsangpa Gyare has delayed a full-scale study of this important figure.

Buddhism was formally introduced into Tibet at the beginning of the 7th century, specifically, during the reign of King Songtsen Gampo (581/618-649). It became the state religion in Tibet during the reign of Trisong Detsen (742-797). Thereafter, from its cradle, this religion spread to its surrounding regions such as in present-day Mongolia, Bhutan, Sikkim and other Tibetan cultural areas.

Among the four prominent Tibetan Buddhist schools, the Kagyü school produced the most numbers of sub-schools such as Karma Kagyü, Drikung Kagyü and Drukpa Kagyü. The latter spread in surrounding regions and became the state religious school in Bhutan.

The Kyoto researchers have endeavoured to collect different biographies and collected works of Tsangpa Gyare. There are seven versions of the biography of Tsangpa Gyare that were composed by different people offering sometimes differing versions and chronologies of events. As said earlier, three of them were composed by his direct disciples.

There are at least five different traditions regarding Tsangpa Gyare's previous lives. Even the two authoritative religious histories (Choejung) of Bhutan give variable versions. For example, the 'Lhorong Choejung' by the 10th Je Khenpo, Panchen Tenzin Chogyal, enumerates that the incarnate line



as Naropa→Shadhaka→Dewe Junne→Tsangpa Gyare. However, the 'Lhodruk Choejung' by the 69th Je Khenpo merely states it as Naropa→Gampopa→Tsangpa Gyare.

All the traditions other than Pema Karpo start from Naropa, but the reincarnations from Naropa to Tsangpa Gyare differ across various traditions. It can be noted that the biography composed by Marton is similar to the 'Lhodruk Choejung' and an anonymous biography is similar to the 'Lhorong Choejung'.

What about the future reincarnations of Tsangpa Gyare? His next reincarnation was the 13th abbot of the Drukpa Kagyü school, Gyalwangje Kunga Penjor (1428-1476), who was active more than 200 years after him.

After the death of Gyalwangje, Jamyang Chokyi Drakpa (1478-1523) was confirmed as the third reincarnation of Tsangpa Gyare. The fourth reincarnation, Pema Karpo (1527-1592), was called "the omniscient" (Kuenkhen) as he was one of the greatest scholars not only of the Drukpa Kagyü school, but across Tibet generally.

After the passing away of Kuenkhen Pema Karpo, there occurred a conflict between two candidates for the fifth reincarnation. One was the 17th hereditary hierarch of the Drukpa Kagyü school, Zhab-

drung Ngawang Namgyel, who belonged to the revered Gya clan. The other was Pagsam Wangpo (1593-1641), the son of an influential leader in the Chonngye region.

The governor of Tsang arbitrarily intervened in the conflict and recognised Pagsam Wangpo as the formal reincarnation of Pema Karpo. As a result, Zhabdrung moved from Ralung Monastery to Western Bhutan in order to avoid a protracted conflict. The Drukpa Kagyü school was divided into the Northern Drukpa Kagyü school (Jangdruk) and the Southern Drukpa Kagyü school (Lhodruk).

The Northern Drukpa Kagyü school has continued the reincarnation line up to the current (12th) reincarnation of Tsangpa Gyare, Jikme Pema Wangchen (1963-).

In the Southern Drukpa Kagyü school, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel established a nation state called Druk Yul (that is, "the country of the Drukpa school"), which is alternatively called Bhutan or Bhootan by Europeans.

The positions of Druk Desi and Je Khenpo, which were respectively in charge of the politics and religion of the state as postulated by Zhabdrung in his later years, remained even after his Parinirvana in 1651. Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck (1862-1926) reconstituted the

sovereignty of the country into a dynastic monarchy by establishing the Wangchuck dynasty in 1907 as the supreme upholder of the dual spiritual and temporal tradition of the glorious Drukpa.

Having ascertained Tsangpa Gyare's reincarnation lines in his previous and succeeding lives, let us now historically map Tsangpa Gyare by focusing on the lineage of master and disciple from the origin of the main Kagyü tradition to its most outstanding sub-school, the Drukpa Kagyü.

Drukpa Kagyü is a sub-school derived from the Dagpo Kagyü school attributed to Gampopa (1079-1153). The lineage of Dharma was transmitted from Marpa (1012-1097) to Milarepa (1052-1135), Gampopa, Phagmo Drupa (1110-1170), Ling Repa (1128-1188) and finally to Tsangpa Gyare.

Ralung Monastery which was established by Tsangpa Gyare became the head monastery of the Drukpa Kagyü school and abbots from the Gya family succeeded it as lineage patriarchs. As previously stated, the 13th abbot of the Drukpa Kagyü school, Gyalwangje Kunga Penjor, was confirmed as the second reincarnation of Tsangpa Gyare. The 17th hierarch, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, moved from Ralung Monastery to Western Bhutan during the tumultuous situation surrounding the confirmation of Pema Karpo's reincarnation. As affirmed by the Southern Drukpa Kagyü school, Zhabdrung is the fifth reincarnation of Tsangpa Gyare.

With this general introduction of the textual sources of Tsangpa Gyare's life and legacies, and the context in which he matters to the Buddhist world in general and in particular to Bhutan, we will now see the actual details of his life in the next part of this series.

Contributed by
Seiji Kumagai
(Uehiro Associate Professor, Kyoto University) and
Dendup Chopel
(Associated Researcher, Austrian Academy of Sciences)



What is a Domain Name, and How Can You Choose the Most Effective Domain Name for Your Website?

Tshering Cigay Dorji has a PhD in computer engineering from Japan and a wide range of experience in the corporate sector leading digital transformation strategy and initiatives. He has played a crucial role in making Thimphu TechPark, Bhutan's first IT Park a success by heading it from January 2012 to January 2022.

What is a domain name?

On the Internet, each website, a device like your phone, laptop, computer or a server is uniquely identified by an IP Address which looks something like this 202.144.156.2. But remembering the IP address like that would not be easy. That is where the domain name comes in. Domain name is a string of text that represents the IP address of your website. For example, www.thimphutechpark.bt is the domain name of the website of Thimphu TechPark. Likewise, www.facebook.com is the domain name for Facebook. Domain names make it easy for you to remember the address of many important websites easily. To access Facebook on your computer, you just need to type www.facebook.com on the address bar of your web browser.

DNS stands for the domain name system, and is responsible for translating domain names into a specific IP address so that the initiating client can load the requested Internet resources. The best analogy for the domain name system is a phone book where users can search for a requested person and retrieve their phone number.

Domain name vs URL

A URL, which stands for Universal Resource Locator, is a complete web address used to find a particular web page. While the domain is the name of the website, a URL will lead to any one of the pages within the website. Every URL contains a domain name, as well as other components needed to locate the specific page or piece of content. For example, https://www.thimphutechpark.bt/publicVacancy is the

URL for the vacancy page on Thimphu TechPark's website. The URL https://www.thimphutechpark.bt looks the same as the domain name, but it is also the URL for the default page or the index page (also called the homepage) of the website.

Who needs a domain name and how can you get one?

If you want to build and publish a website for yourself or for your organisation or business on the Internet, you need a domain name. Domain names are available for purchase from registered Internet registry service providers or domain name registries. For example, you can purchase domain names ending in .bt from Bhutan Telecom, and other kinds of domain names such as those ending in .com from Drukhost.com. There may be other domain name resellers too in Bhutan. You can also purchase domain names online from one of the many domain name registries online such as godaddy.com using a credit card. Domain names come at an annual fee which may range from 10 to 20 US dollars.

You can buy a domain name any time you want

as long as it is not already taken. You do not have to build a website to own a domain name, but you have to renew it annually. The cost of domain name is based on an annual fee. In the past, it was common for some people to purchase domain names and keep them renewed for possible resale in the future at a profit. Such trading in domain names were common in the late 1990s and early 2000s. If I am not mistaken, I remember www.bhutan.com being available for sale at one point for a hefty price.

What else do you need besides domain name to build your own website?

Getting a domain name is only half the work of getting your own website up and running. Basically, getting a domain name is like getting a unique name and address on the Internet for yourself or your business. Now, you need a space to store all the texts, images and videos etc. that will make up your website. Getting that space is called hosting. There are many hosting service providers worldwide. Most DNS resellers also provide hosting services. However, you do not have to purchase

hosting service from the same company from whom you purchase your domain name. But people often do for convenience. In Bhutan, Bhutan Telecom is a well known web hosting service provider. Alternatively, you can even host your website on your own server as long as it has reliable Internet connectivity.

How about platforms for free websites?

There are many platforms for free websites and blogging like blogger.com, wordpress.com etc. You can put a free website of your own up and running without any cost for Domain name or hosting, but you would not have a unique domain name of your own. For instance, I have made a free personal website on wordpress.com having this URL tcdorji.wordpress.com. Likewise, I have made another free website called bhutaneconomicforum.wordpress.com. They are free, but they do not have this unique domain name feel to it.

How to choose the best domain name for your website

What is the purpose of your website? Is it for better branding and promotion for your business, and getting ranked higher on

search engine searches? If so, experts recommend using keywords in your domain name. For example, thimphutechpark.bt is better than ttp.bt though ttp.bt is shorter.

There is a whole field of study and research dedicated to Search Engine Optimization (SEO for short) which is all about getting your website to rank higher on the searches by users on search engines like Google. For example, if some one searches on Google with keywords "Bhutan Travel 2022", the travel companies coming up higher in the search results have a higher chance of getting prospective tourists.

"If we are looking at just the domain name alone, it is undeniable that you want people to recognize your brand, your business or what your website is all about. A SEO-optimized domain name is one that tells people what the website is about, the products and services it offers, etc. In this case, the domain stands out more in the sea of search result listings and becomes more likely to be clicked. Just look at any spam website with a domain name like *get-rich-fast.info* or *buy-cheap-rolex.biz*. Spammers purchase domain names that contained their targeted keywords because they get results: increased click-through rates and higher rankings on search engines", says an article on website.com.

Further, experts advise that your domain name should be based on your brand since this is how "users will find, remember, share and identify your business online". So, if you already have a business name, they recommend you use it as your domain name as well. "The main key to a SEO-friendly domain name is branding. For example, would Apple register a domain name like *Best-smart-phone-ever.com*? No. Apple has an established brand that doesn't need further keyword-stuffing in its domain name".



Japan PM orders Cabinet to compile relief package to combat rising prices

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday (March 29) ordered his Cabinet to put together a fresh relief package by the end of April to cushion the economic blow from rising fuel and raw material prices.

The package will likely consist of an extension of a gasoline subsidy for oil distributors, as well as other steps to ease the pressure on companies and households hit by soaring raw material costs.

"We need to prevent rising fuel, raw material and food prices from inflicting a huge impact on people's livelihood and economic activity," Mr Kishida told his Cabinet



ministers, underlining the policy dilemma facing Japan and the rest of the world as the Ukraine crisis fans global inflationary pressures.

For the time being, the

government will tap special reserves set aside under the fiscal 2022 budget to fund the spending measures, Mr Kishida said.

The 5.5-trillion yen

(\$60.7 billion) in special reserves is mainly set aside for emergency spending to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr Kishida is under pressure, including from his party's ruling coalition partner Komeito, to compile an extra budget, instead of relying solely on the reserves, to inflate the size of spending for the relief package.

"The prime minister's order was to come up with ways to support not just companies but households," economy minister Daishiro Yamagiwa told reporters.

Rising fuel and raw material prices have put additional strain on Japan's economy, which has lagged other countries in making a sustained recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

Resources-poor Japan is dependent on imports for its energy needs.

The fresh relief package could come in at 3 to 5 trillion yen, as policy makers were likely to argue that smaller spending would not have a substantial impact on the economy, said chief economist at Itochu Economic Research Institute Atsushi Takeda.

"People who received cash handouts still have money left unspent. Economic conditions would likely improve as long as the coronavirus is ended - regardless of whether there will be extra economic measures or not."

Political pressure for big fiscal spending is expected to heighten ahead of an upper house election in the summer, which Mr Kishida must win to solidify his grip on power within his ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The Straits Times
ANN

ANNOUNCEMENT

BHUTAN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE

ADRC/ADM-1/2022/1279

The Bhutan ADR Centre is pleased to announce that the center is going to select new arbitrators. A weeklong intensive training in the ADR system will be conducted for the selected candidates. Therefore, the interested candidates are requested to register for the course by **April 15, 2022**.

For more details, please login to www.bhutanadrcentre.bt or call at **02-330725/330727**.

Finance and Accounts

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN

College of Natural Resources

Lobesa, Punakha

CNR/Per-03/2022/7551

The College of Natural Resources would like to advertise the post of **Business Incubation Manager** for immediate recruitment.

For further information, please contact the **Assistant Adm. Officer at 02-376269/77244434** during office hours or log on to www.cnr.edu.bt.

Asst. Adm. Officer

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ROYAL COURT OF JUSTICE

PHUENTSHOLING COURT

Court/Pling/Acct-01/2021-2022/162

Phuentsholing Court would like to announce vacancy for the following post:

1. Recruitment : Driver with valid light vehicle licence with three years experience.
2. Qualification : VIII and above
3. Status : Consolidated contract

Drangpon



ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

DUNGSAM CEMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

DCCL/Com/Proc/05/2022/386

Dungsam Cement Corporation Limited is pleased to invite sealed and signed bids from interested Bhutanese transporter for **transportation of limestone from mines to the crushing plant**.

Bids shall be received in sealed envelopes on or before **3:00 pm on April 13, 2022** and shall be opened on the same day at **3:30 pm**. Any tender received after the deadline for submission shall be rejected.

Please note that bids will be rejected at the time of opening if:

1. Integrity Pact is not signed by authorized person and witnesses with legal stamp affixed;
2. Bid bond is not sufficient or not enclosed and its validity is not sufficient;
3. Bid submission form is not signed by authorized person (with affixed legal stamp) and
4. Price schedule is not signed and incomplete.

Detailed bidding documents can be downloaded from DCCL website: www.dccl.bt

For any enquiry, please contact **Procurement Section (Tel-07-481232)**.

Head, P & MMD



India releases Nu 737M for 12th Plan projects

Staff reporter

The government of India released Nu 737 million (M) yesterday for projects including roads, urban development and school infrastructure.

A press release from the Indian Embassy stated that Nu 325M will be used to build classrooms, auditoriums, sports infrastructure, computers, and furniture in 56 central schools.

The Indian government has also supported the improvement of Tareything road, the construction of the Namchukhola-Sangbaykha secondary national highway, and the recently completed Bajo-Khuruthang secondary national highway. For the construction and replacement of bridges, Nu 125M has been allotted.

The press release stated: "Funding support has also been provided for the development of urban infrastructure in Kanglung under which water supply and urban renewal works are being undertaken in Trashigang."

Underlining the importance of a bilateral development partnership between Bhutan and India, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said: "India is privileged to be a development partner of Bhutan. We're particularly proud of our development cooperation with Bhutan through this difficult Covid-19 journey in the last two years."



► Water treatment plant constructed in Kanglung, Trashigang

Rural women benefit from RENEW's micro loans

Choki Wangmo | Tsirang

Nar Maya Thapa, 52, has been raising five children alone, doing household chores, farm works and taking care of her husband, who became disabled after falling off a tree.

She said working on the farm became much easier after she availed a loan of Nu 87,000 from RENEW's (Respect, Education, Nurture and Empower Women) microfinance scheme and bought a power tiller.

She was one of the first beneficiaries in the dzongkhag since the scheme was first introduced in 2015.

Often seen behind the power tiller on her five-acre field in Nyemedsa, located about four kilometres away from Damphu Town, Nar Maya said she had to carry out only household chores when her husband was healthy.

He became disabled when he was 45 years old. Today he is 58.

Today, she grows vegetables and also looks after the livestock. The money she earns from selling vegetables and dairy products are used to pay the loan, meet household expenditures, and pay for her children's education, which she uses from her savings.

Of about Nu 3,000 she earns every week selling vegetables, she saves Nu 700 to Nu 1200 for the loan repayment.

Nar Maya said she learnt



► Nar Maya Thapa

the saving culture after joining the scheme. "When my husband was unwell, we had no savings. I wished I had saved a little for emergencies, but we had no source of income."

Her husband, Kul Bdr Samal, who earned income from working for others and selling vegetables in the past, said he was helpless and a burden to his wife. "But I am hopeful that our life would be easier as children started earning their living. "My wife is a strong woman."

Like Nar Maya, there are about 3,000 beneficiaries of RENEW microfinance in the dzongkhag.

Started in 2012, the project targets to improve quality of life and the status of vulnerable women and their families, mainly in rural areas and empower them through financial independence.

On March 21, 150 clients in Sergithang gathered to meet RENEW officials.

The officials visit the gewogs on a set date providing financial services.

Tsirang's branch manager, Kuenga Tshering, said that most of the clients were single mothers and women. He said they provide door-to-door services for those who do not have access to banks.

Nalem, 70, from Sergithang Toed had to walk more than an hour to meet the officials.

She wants to open a shop in her village and wants to avail a loan of Nu 70,000.

Most of them withdrew money on that day. There were small-scale savers, saving a few hundreds. "They come to withdraw money, buy essential items, and save a few amounts," Kuenga Tshering said.

While some clients sold snacks, others brought vegetables and fruits for sale among themselves. The clients earn most of their income from vegetable farming.

However, the pandemic, lack of marketing, and lack of proper transportation of farm produce affect their venture.

"We try to save for emergencies but expenditure is always higher than income," a villager, Tenzin Lham, said.



TOMORROW

Good Day

- to perform annual offerings

Bad Day

- to learn astrology
- to shift house
- to start new business
- to marry
- to appease Naga
- to install Bumter (vase)

- to seek astrological predictions and divinations for death

A good day for rituals (laza):

those born in the sheep, snake, monkey and rooster years.

Generally a good day (sogza):

those born in the snake and horse years.

A bad day (shedza):

those born in the tiger and rabbit years.

WEATHER



SUNRISE : 5:55am | SUNSET : 6:17pm

Time of issue: 4:30 PM, March 29, 2022

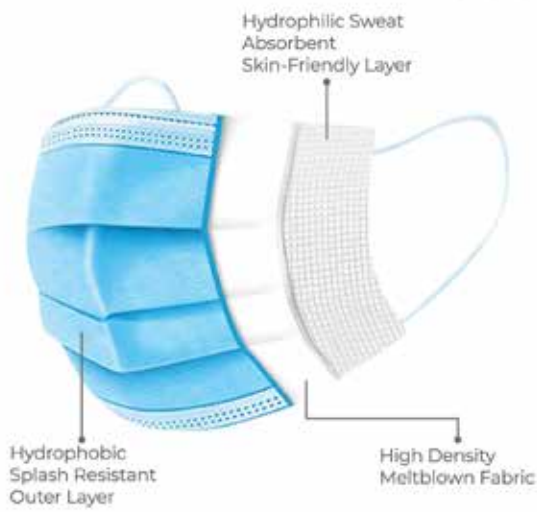
Gasa	Trongsa	Bumthang	Sarpang	Phuentsholing
13°C	17°C	16°C	26°C	29°C
6	9	6	21	19

Source: National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology. For any weather information: Call hotline 335578

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17294773 or 17867254 or 17797658



Medical Mask Listed with DRA

Please click here to view the updated list

Show 10 entries

Search:

S.No.	Generic Name	Manufacturer	Brand Name
1			
2	3-ply mask (CV2992M)	Ava International Pvt Ltd, Haryana India	N/A



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 Pay real time taxes using mBoB

