



dealing you

business bhutan

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February 19, 2015, Sarbang: His Majesty The King visited Sarbang Town, where 81 shops and huts were damaged in a fire on Sunday, and met with the people. His Majesty also granted a separate Audience to the heads of the affected families. His Majesty commended the government, the armed forces, BIFA and Desuups for wholeheartedly assisting the office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon in administering relief efforts immediately after the disaster. His Majesty expressed deepest empathy for the affected people, who are from both Bhutan and across the border, for having lost so much. "Having visited the shops many times over the years, I know who you are, what you do, and what your hopes, aspirations, and difficulties are. And so, I can comprehend very well the magnitude of what you have lost," His Majesty said. After granting them an opportunity to describe their needs and difficulties, His Majesty reassured the people that everything would be done to find ways to ease their troubles. The affected families were granted Royal Semso.

Opposition against police frisking youth, proposes alternate measures

■ The police, has however taken to standing by their frisking measures calling it non-dictatorial and beneficial to society

Lucky Wangmo
from Thimphu

The Opposition Party on Tuesday submitted a letter to the Home Ministry to review the recent proposal made by the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) to frisk youth after 10pm if they are seen in groups.

Last week at a press conference, Chief of Police, Brigadier Kipchu Namgyel, said that the measures to address increased youth involvement in incidents of battery and

violent incidents is carry out mass patrolling and to frisk all youth who are in groups of two or more.

According to the letter sent by the Opposition party, frisking youth after 10pm would be equal to the suspension of freedom of movement and criminalization of youth.

The letter also highlighted that such a measure would demoralize the youth, alienate them from the society and breed unnecessary resentment, fear and

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Regional cooperation to conserve black-necked cranes



Lucky Wangmo
from Thimphu

Bhutan and India will now join hands to conserve the endangered black-necked cranes; a species which according to experts should be promoted as a cultural symbol of the Himalayan region.

During a two day Indo-Bhutan workshop on black-necked cranes held last week in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, India, experts from the two countries discussed the current status and conservation measures related to the cranes.

The workshop coordinator, Pankaj Chandan, head of the Western Himalayan Landscape, WWF,

India, said the initiative is to protect and promote the back necked cranes as a symbol of the cultural identity of the Himalayan mountain ecosystem.

Experts from both the countries recommended a joint conservation of the cranes at the landscape level. It has also been recommended that site specific conservation measures be taken by the respective government under the regional black necked crane conservation framework and regional level policy and advocacy for the protection of the cranes.

Speaking at the workshop, Tshering Phuntsho from the Royal Society for

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THE WEEK THAT'S GONE

**SHITAKE MUSHROOM TO
GROW IN BHUTAN**

A Japanese-based mushroom production company, Haruka International, in collaboration with Druk Holding and Investments is soon going to initiate its pilot project to start mushroom cultivation program in the country.

The project has chosen Shitake mushroom for their first pilot project and it is expected to improve farmers' income five-fold.

Haruka International holds the reputation of inculcating modern technology in mushroom cultivation.

A memorandum of understanding signed between the two partners chose Shitake mushroom as it was recognised to have many health benefits.

**JOINT LEGAL SECTOR
PROGRAMME WORTH
NU.174 M LAUNCHED**

The Government of Bhutan, Austria and Switzerland launched a Joint Legal Sector Programme worth Nu.174 M.

The programme will fund construction of two district courts in Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang and will also provide scholarships for 10 master programmes in legal field at renowned universities in Austria and Switzerland.

It is the consecutive phase of the previous two joint programme funded by Switzerland and Austria.

The programme was launched by the Secretary of the Gross National Happiness Commission, resident coordinator of Austrian Development Cooperation, and the head of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

**HIS MAJESTY THE KING
VISITED SARPANG TOWN**

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**IOC will consider going
extra mile in help**

Krishna Ghalley
from Thimphu

Apart from installing storage tanks and dispensing units at the existing retail outlets run by distributors, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) will consider building other facilities like construction of driveway, canopy, sales building on strategic locations based on reasonable return on investment and on achievement of requisite sales volumes.

This was agreed during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Officiating Director of Department of Trade Dophu Tshering and the Executive Director of West Bengal State Office Yashvir Kumar Gupta on behalf of IOCL on February 17 in the capital.

Those facilities constructed and the equipments, machineries, etc. installed by IOC at the retail outlets will remain the properties of IOC which can be dismantled or taken out without hindrance in the future. Also both the parties agreed that the commercial terms like supply and payments to be decided mutually between

the dealers of MoEA and IOC after signing a separate agreement.

The current dealers of IOC appointed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs are Bhutan Oil Corporation (BOC), Bhutan Oil Distributor (BOD), Druk Petroleum Corporation Limited (DPCL), Damchen Petroleum Distributors (DPD), and Bhutan Industrial Gas (BIG) which markets the petroleum products across the country.

Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel (HSD) and branded fuels will be delivered at Phuentsholing, Gomtu and Samtse from IOC's depot at Hasimara, Bongaigaon terminal to Gelephu and Guwahati terminal to Samdrup Jongkhar.

The IOC assured to supply the products on time as demanded by the MoEA's dealers upon the fulfillment of the commercial terms. The dealers will procure other products from the IOC's designated supply points through own transport.

The dealers will also sign agreements with IOC from time to time. IOC also agreed to supply the petroleum products speci-

fied by the Oil Industry Ministry of Petroleum of Indian government and the Bhutanese government time to time. The price will be revised time to time as per IOC's decision.

IOC also agreed to conduct minimum two seminars in a year to educate the Bhutanese customers including training on safety aspects and handling, operational aspects of products at the retail outlets. The agreement was first signed in 2005 and renewed in 2010 for the term of five years.

Currently, IOC supplies Bharat Stage (BS) III equivalent to Euro 3 standard fuel to all the country. The company assure to supply improved and upgraded BS IV or Euro 4 standard fuel from April this year. "And we will supply BS V in 2020," Yashvir Kumar Gupta said.

Last year, the country imported 166,433.64 Kilo Liter (KL) of petroleum products worth 8,432.66 mn which was decreased by 1.7 percent. "It is mainly due to the quality of fuel," said Yashvir Kumar Gupta adding that government's plans on banning vehicle imports had added impacts.



**Drukgreen Power Corporation Limited
Kurichhu Hydropower Plant
Gyelpozhing,
Mongar: Bhutan**

NIT No.DGPC/KHPT/TSO/TD-04/2015/6731

DISPOSAL TENDER NOTICE

Kurichu Hydropower Plant (KHP), Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd., (DCPL) announces the sale of old assets that are lying in KHP, Main Store, through sealed bids. The old assets are categorized into 17 Lots. Interested bidders are requested to inspect the items lying at KHP, main store as per the list of items attached in the bidding documents.

The complete set of bidding documents shall be on sale from February 17,2015 to March 19, 2015 on all working days upon payment of non -refundable fee of Nu.500.00 (Ngultrum five hundred) only from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Kurichu Hydropower Plant, Gyelpozhing, Mongar during the office hours. Bidding documents can be also be downloaded from DGPC's web site (www.drukgreen.bt) free of cost.

Bids shall be received up to 14:30 hrs on or before March 19, 2015 and shall be opened on same day at 15:00hrs.

Kurichu Hydropower Plant, DGPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid party or fully or cancel the bidding process without assigning any reasons thereof and in such case no Bidder/intending Bidder shall have any claim arising out of such action of DGPC.

Superintending Engineer



BIL launches Students Care Insurance

Alka Katwal
from *Thimphu*

Bhutan Insurance Limited (BIL) launched the Student Care Insurance policy on February 17.

Also known as Lopthru Nyenchoel, the Student Care Insurance policy provides cover to the school and college going students and serves as a backup for students' education in the event of accidental mishap of their parent or guardian at a nominal premium.

"Parents or guardians can avail this policy for

their children who are studying, similarly students aged 18 and above, as well as educational and vocational institutes, can also avail the policy," said Kalyan Humagai, General Manager, Bhutan Insurance Limited.

The Student Care policy covers two perils for both the parent and student which include Accidental Demise and Permanent Total Disability, a first of its kind in the country.

The Parent or guardian up to the age of 65 can avail this policy for their

school going children from Kindergarten to class twelve, and similarly college students up to age 25 can avail this policy themselves.

The starting premium for school student will be Nu. 225 for the sum insured of Nu.50, 000. The maximum sum insured will be up to Nu.100,000 with the increase amount of premium correspondingly.

Similarly the starting premium for college student will be Nu.450 for the sum insured amount for Nu.100,000. The maximum

sum insured will be up to Nu.200,000 with the increase amount of premium correspondingly.

Education ministry director general, Karma Yeshey, who attended the launch, said life was unpredictable therefore such policies would indeed be a boon and save children's future.

In the event of parent/guardian claim due to covered perils, the allowance will be paid according to the sum insured over a period of four years without having to renew the policy

which is expected to assist the student to continue their education.

Further, the insured student is also covered for demise and permanent disability due to accident to the tune of 60% of the sum insured.

Bhutan Insurance was initiated in 2009 and provides non-life insurance products for individuals, corporate bodies and small and medium size enterprise throughout the country. Today BIL provides more than 20 various schemes and policies.

Japanese Mushroom, Bhutanese farmers

Krishna Ghalley
from *Thimphu*

Good news for mushroom fans comes all the way from Japan, in the form of a project to boost its cultivation back at home.

Haruka International, a Japan-based Mushroom company in collaboration with Alliance Forum Foundation (AFF) and the agriculture department will promote the project that will help the Bhutanese farmers to boost mushroom cultivation in the country.

The Chairman of Haruka International Kusuo Inoue and Druk Holding and Investments (DHI) Chairman, Sangay Khandu signed a Memorandum of understanding in the capital on February 17 toward this venture.

The company with funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has completed the initial research in the country. The company will teach farmers how to make the seeds and implement the knowledge related to the mushroom cultivation.

"If the farmers work with interest and hardwork, their income would increase five folds of the present

income," said the Chairman of Haruka International Kusuo Inoue.

The project will be implemented in three phases, Pilot, Business Start up and Expansion phase. In the pilot phase about 1,200 spawn bags will be brought from Japan for the trial production at National Mushroom Centre (NMC) in the capital.

One expert from Japan will operate the activities which will be carried out by the NMC staffs.

Oyster (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), Auricularia (*Auricularia auricula-judae*), known as the Jew's ear, wood ear, jelly ear, Shiitake mushroom (*Lentinula edodes*), King Oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus eryngii*) also known as king trumpet mushroom or French horn mushroom, king oyster mushroom will be produced for farmers' income generation and job creation.

The company will produce mushroom using NMC initially. The company after measuring the success of the product will take the farmers to Japan for further training. Haruka International will give the initial training to

the farmers for 10 days to two weeks for the basic know hows on mushroom cultivation.

"Bhutan has huge scope for the mushroom cultivation," the Chairman said.

The Pilot phase will initially start from April this year. Depending upon the mushroom types its harvest will be done on from June to November. The next phase depends upon the success of the pilot phase.

"If the pilot production is success to all the parties, then we will decide to start our business," said Deputy Programme Manager of Alliance Forum Foundation, Japan Hideki Fukamachi.

The mushroom both fresh and dry will be produced both for domestic consumption and export.

With the limited resources and manpower, the Programme Director of National Mushroom Centre Dawa Penjor, said the Bhutanese farmers are unable to enhance their knowledge on mushroom.

"Mushroom has been taken as a side business by our rural community," he said.

In the 10th Plan the centre had calculated the

mushroom production of 300 grams per block a year which constitutes only 20 percent, grown outside.

"It is because our mushroom structures are not good. Temperature and humidity content is not good," Dawa Penjor said adding that the centre use ordinary structures where temperature and humidity control is absent.

For commercial cultivation, the centre has recommended permanent structures with the Business Opportunities and Information Centre (BOIC)'s support. Initial investment for mushroom cultivation is high for the procurement of raw materials and the structures with the high running costs said the Programme Director.

"We need to have suitable structures according to the climate," he said.

An elevation of 1000 to 2000m above sea level is considered the ideal place for mushroom cultivation in Bhutan. The vicinity of the market and cost of raw materials also impacts the mushroom cultivation said the Programme Director. Also he said that marketing is difficult with fewer products from the Bhutanese farmers.

"They produce only up to 100 kilograms per week, for which marketing is difficult," he said.

Around 1000 Metric

Tones (MT) of mushrooms has been imported last year. DHI as a joint venture with the Japanese company will create a supply chain in the market supplying constantly in the market.

Commercial mushroom cultivation creates market to the farmers and the customers. Also the farmers can sell to other customers at the higher rate and rest DHI will take the who will supply in the market.

The current market price of Shiitake mushroom is 700nu a kilogram. "But the quality of the mushroom will be improved," said Hideko Fukamachi which will fetch the farmers better prices.

Shiitake mushroom are valued five times higher than the price in Bhutan in Dubai and the Netherlands according to the company's research. Also the company is working with the Netherlands.

The DHI, which will be an implementing agency, has agreed to cooperate.

"Initially the mushroom will be cultivated for trial and depending upon the demand, the real cultivation will start," said Programme Director Dawa Penjor.

NMC will bridge the gap between the joint venture and the mushroom growers. Also the centre will support and help the farmers.