



Bhutan asks partners to support its green initiatives at COP26

MB Subba

The UN Climate Change Conference made some achievements, though not all expectations in terms of delivering on commitments made by carbon-emitting countries towards climate change mitigation were met, said Agriculture Minister Yeshey Penjore yesterday.

The minister and his delegation from Bhutan to the COP26 arrived in Paro yesterday.

However, he said that the conference, which was held from October 31 to November 12 in Glasgow in the United Kingdom, was successful in terms of strengthening Bhutan's relations with development partners.

"We held many bilateral meetings on the side lines with our development partners," he said.

He said that a report on Bhutan's participation at the COP26 would be submitted to the Cabinet.

Speaking at the "high-level segment" of the conference on November 9, Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor emphasised the urgent need for COP to deliver ambitious, concrete, and enhanced climate actions.

He called upon developed countries to scale up finance for adaptation, loss, and damage, and said technology transfer and capacity building are needed to enable vulnerable countries to cope with climate-induced challenges.

Lyonpo also underscored the need to make finance easily accessible with fewer procedural challenges. **► Pg 2**



► A dhamngoi zomdu underway in Tendu gewog, Samtse recently. Most of the incumbent gups from 14 gewogs in the dzongkhag have been nominated in the dhamngoi zomdus in their respective chiwogs. **► Pg 3**

Private money lending issue: back to square one?

Rule revised three times since 2016

Tashi Dema

Sonam, 36, was at the peak of his career. He was heading an important organisation. He also came from an upper middle-class family with property in the capital city.

What Sonam did not realise then was that his family was falling into debt.

While he was busy at work, often working late into the night, his wife got addicted to gambling, mortgaging the family's properties for a few hundred thousand she borrowed

from the so-called loan sharks.

"When I found out, it was too late. Moneylenders came to my house, threatening me with police arrest and court cases," he said. "The money lenders never involved me when they lent the money, but when my wife could not repay it, they started bothering me."

Sonam's incident happened after the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) and the judiciary came out with the Private Money Lending Rules and Regulations to address the social ills private

money lending is causing in society. "I thought the rules and regulations would address a lot of problems that private money lending caused in society," he said.

But today, only three money lenders are registered with the RMA. Courts, meanwhile, are filled with monetary cases, mostly related to private money lending.

"I never expected my family to be in this situation with regulations on the money lending business," Sonam said.

► Pg 2

Covid-19 Cases

Bhutan:

Confirmed Cases: 2,625
Recovered: 2,616
Active: 6 | Death: 3

Global:

Confirmed Cases: 252,972,335
Death: 5,095,858

India: 34,437,307

West Bengal: 1,604,19
Delhi: 1,440,424
Assam: 613,913
Arunachal Pradesh: 55,220
Sikkim: 32,101

Thailand: 2,011,331

Bangladesh: 1,572,278
Nepal: 816,675
Singapore: 237,203

Inside

PERSPECTIVE

Love, hate and tragedy: A three-part history of Bhutan-Cooch relations Part 3

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Weather



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Victim of wild animal attack in stable condition

... officials have yet to confirm what mauled the man

Tshering Namgyal | Mongar

A man is recuperating in the eastern regional referral hospital in Mongar after he sustained severe injuries when a wild animal attacked him in Lingmethang, Mongar on November 13.

Health officials said that the 51-year-old victim from India is in stable condition.

The labourer with the ongoing Gyalsung project at Bongdeyma was suddenly attacked by the unidentified wild animal near the campsite at around 8.45pm when he went outside to relieve himself.

The incident was reported

to project officials who immediately took him to the regional hospital. Medical officials said the victim suffered a severe facial injury, as well as injury to his limbs.

An orthopaedic surgeon and an oral and maxilla facial surgeon are currently treating the patient.

Oral and Maxilla facial surgeon Dr. Chandra Rai said the patient has suffered a deep wound in the upper lip, with two teeth removed and a fracture of the maxillary bone.

His torn lip was stitched from one corner of the mouth to another. The surgeon said they were planning a conserva-

tive treatment without surgery to treat the maxillary bone fracture. Several stitches were also made to close the deep wounds on a leg and a hand.

Dr Chandra Rai said that the patient was in stable condition and that he would need to remain in the hospital for another five days at least.

The victim told officials

that he could not identify the animal.

Local residents say bears have not been seen in the locality. Some said black panthers or spotted leopards have been spotted in the area before.

Meanwhile, forest officials have yet to confirm what mauled the man. A machine

operator in the area told foresters that he saw a black panther-like animal on the night of November 14.

Forestry officials have installed two camera traps around the area where the incident occurred. They could not identify the pawprints, because dogs and labourers have since disturbed the area.

Bhutan asks partners to support its green initiatives at COP26



► Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor speaks at COP26

From Pg 1

He said that water resources, agriculture, and infrastructure for life, food security, and livelihood were at risk in the fragile mountain ecosystems of countries like Bhutan.

"We are imposed upon by loss and damages frequently induced by climate disasters. As such, adaptation is a priority for us," he said.

He added that adaptation must be supported with grants in finance for developing countries. He requested that countries live up to the USD 100 billion climate finance commitment, and said that adaptation must receive an equal share in climate financing.

He called on investors, governments, multinational donors, and the private sector, among others, to support Bhutan's green initiatives.

The summit took place

against the backdrop of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report which showed that "unless there are rapid, sustained, and large-scale reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5 degree Celsius will be impossible to reach".

Lyonpo also highlighted that under the strong environmental stewardship of the Bhutanese Monarchs, the country continued to lead the way towards sustainable development and a low emission climate-resilient development pathway.

Towards the end of the COP26, Bhutan will hand over the responsibility of chairing the LDC Group for Climate Change negotiations to Senegal of the African continent. The position of Group Chair rotates amongst member countries for a two-year term.

Private money lending issue: back to square one?

From Pg 1

"But the money lenders adapted and continued to operate with impunity. I say with impunity because I can only think of that as the reason why they are still thriving today."

He said moneylenders don't go around threatening or committing murder or overt violence, so their actions are not taken seriously. "In fact, many sympathise and incredulously appreciate and respect the lenders for their ability to make quick money."

Many are of the view that private money lending is unethical, unproductive, and unregulated business that should not be encouraged. Moneylenders usually resort to psychological threats to extort money and property from the vulnerable. A borrower may be at fault when it comes to aspects of their financial situation, but a borrower is still the vulnerable one in this relationship. "Lenders don't hesitate to lie, commit perjury, and use other deceptive practices to extort and seize their borrower's property. This could one day lead to very dire consequences and we need to take more serious measures to bring this business under control," Sonam said.

He also said the threats of police arrest and court cases, and the confidence borrowers displayed forced him to question the system that is supposed to protect people from those who break laws and exploit others' vulnerabilities. "It's very intimidating. It is only because our rules are not practical and precise enough to bring this business under control. I think if more of us speak out and dis-

cuss the consequences, we can achieve a more ethical and regulated money lending business."

When the RMA decided to frame the Private Money Lending Rules and Regulations in 2016, it said private money lending businesses would be brought under its purview.

Today, more than five years after the rules and regulations came into effect and have been revised thrice, private money lending is still thriving.

The latest revision, PMLRR 2021, came into effect on November 1. But there is more confusion than clarity in the latest revision.

The PMLRR 2021 applies only to the three registered private moneylenders, and not to the illegal lenders in the market.

The new rules state that the judiciary may come up with a standard operating system (SOP) to deal with unregistered money lending cases, but it is not mandatory.

Going by the monetary cases the court deals with every day, illegal money lending is thriving. According to the Judiciary Report 2020, there were 1,674 monetary cases registered in the courts.

A judge from Thimphu dzongkhag court said data on monetary cases would indicate if the rules worked or not. He refused to elaborate on the issue.

Many family members of borrowers are hesitant to speak to the media openly, as it is a deeply private and stigmatised affair. "Moneylenders take advantage of this," a close relative of a borrower said. "Those affected won't feel free to provide constructive criticism, as they

fear a 'vindictive' judicial system will punish borrowers even more harshly."

A relative of a borrower alleged that the justice system may be inadvertently enabling private money lending rather than discouraging it. "Even after a money lender is exposed for perjury and other deceptive practices, it is usually only the borrower who is punished."

He questioned why lenders are not punished. "Both parties should be punished if both are found guilty of having broken laws," he said.

Another relative of a borrower said that while there are a few judges who look at money lending cases from a broader perspective, there are some that do not look beyond the agreements signed, and therefore usually rule in favour of money lenders.

She said money lenders are aware of this, and are therefore confident about bringing their cases to court repeatedly.

RMA officials, however, refuted the claims that the PMLRR has not served its purpose, and maintained that it deterred private moneylenders in the market.

An official explained that the PMLRR 2021 will ensure all parties are penalised for illegal private money lending. "Microfinancing facilities have increased since 2016 and many do not register with us."

It was also claimed that most illegal private money lending happens in gambling dens where borrowers are willing to sign any fraudulent document and lenders take advantage of the situation.

Most former gups in Samtse sail through dhamngoi zomdus

Rajesh Rai | Phuentsholing

With the exception of the Tashichholing gup, incumbent gups from the 13 remaining gewogs in Samtse stood in the dhamngoi zomdu. Former gups for the Denchukha and Norgaygang gewogs didn't secure enough votes to qualify for the second round in the dhamngoi zomdu.

The 11 former gups who made it through will contest in the third local government election for another term.

The former gups said that the pandemic hampered work progress and delivering on their original pledges. They claim that their experience in administration and planning activities gives them an advantage.

"All the former gups will say the same thing about why we are running again," a former gup said.

He said it takes two to three years to get familiar with the rules and policies. That is the point when a gup can really help people.

Former Tading gup, Jagat Bahadur Ghalley, 30, secured 392 "yes" against 85 "no" votes.

Jagat Bahadur said that

he has learnt a considerable amount about the government rules and policies. It is his responsibility and duty to re-contest and serve, he added.

Tading has five chiwogs. Four chiwogs have contestants this time.

Pemaling gup, Khemraj Ghalley, 49 is also re-contesting this time. There were three contestants in his chiwog, Chhusilgang-Damesa. He secured 193 votes against his two competitors, who got 89 and 18 votes respectively. Should he win, it will be his fourth time as a gup, as he has served as gup since 2005.

Former Namgaychholing gup Ratna Bahadur Ghalley was the lone candidate for his chiwog. Of the 108 voters who turned up at the dhamngoi zomdu, 104 voted for him.

One of the candidates said that the world is driven by technology today and services are fast.

"I would like to see how I can better provide services to the people," he said.

Further, he said that the 12th Five-Year Plan activities were incomplete.

Former cups said that although new gup candidates,



► A dhamngoi zomdu in Dorokha gewog

if they are elected, will have the same intentions, it will take time for them to learn, while the former gups can start implementing the plans immediately.

Former Tendu gup, Nima Drukpa, who was the

chairman of the Dzongkhag Tshogdu (DT), has also sailed through the first round.

Former Yoeseltse gup Ganga Prasad Limbu also secured 119 "yes" and 14 "no" votes from his chiwog. He is

contesting for the third term this time.

There are 78 dhamngoi zomdus in Samtse, including the thromde's. Three zomdus are still pending, which are all for Tashichholing gewog.

Investigation into alleged sexual harassment case in Sherubtse College begins

Nima Wangdi

The police deployed a special investigation team last Sunday to probe the sexual harassment case at Sherubtse College in Tashigang. The team, consisting of three police officers, is at the college and began work yesterday.

A senior police official said the investigation team was deployed after the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) forwarded the case to the police.

He said, "For now, we are uncertain about how long the investigation might take. The case will be submitted to the

court once it is complete."

A team from RUB also investigated the case and suspended the assistant lecturer on November 5. It then forwarded the case to the Tashigang police.

Towards the end of May this year, a group of 10 final year female students filed a harassment complaint against their lecturer, accusing him of various instances of unprofessional conduct, including body shaming and messaging them late at night.

As per the human resource regulations, the college conducted an investigation and submitted a report

to the RUB. Then, they found evidence that the lecturer had made derogatory comments to some students, including body shaming.

Sherubtse College president, Tshering Wangdi, in an earlier interview said that after the investigation found evidence against the assistant lecturer, the management committee decided to withhold the assistant lecturer's promotion until three years after completion of his master's degree. The assistant lecturer was in service for the last five years and did not have a master's degree.

It was also found that the

assistant lecturer had texted some of the girls on multiple occasions via WhatsApp, inappropriately asking them to come for a ride in his car during odd hours. There were also allegations that the lecturer favoured male students in the class and discriminated against females, but concrete evidence was lacking.

Besides a withholding of promotion, the assistant lecturer was also given a final warning, stating that any further complaint against him would result in his termination without benefits. The assistant lecturer was given counselling and was not

allowed to teach classes attended by the complainants.

The issue was soon discussed widely on social media. An online petition seeking harsher punishment for the assistant lecturer was also circulated for a few days. Close to 850 people signed the petition to expel the assistant lecturer from the college.

Many alleged the assistant lecturer was a repeat offender, accusing him of having been involved in a similar case while he was teaching at the College of Language and Cultural Studies (CLCS) in Taktse, Trongsa in 2019.

A business bigger than rules?

The business of lending money outside the formal banking system or the so-called private money lending business and the failure of rules to curb it depicts the typical Bhutanese way of doing things.

With issues of private money lending business and its impact recognised as a social ill, the central bank and the judiciary framed the PMLRR to regulate private money lending business and bring it under the purview of the financial sector. That was five years ago in 2016. The PMLRR was intended to formalize money lending and put an end to the informal private lending market.

However, after much hype, money lending privately, which is illegal, is still thriving. The judiciary in 2020 alone registered more than 1,674 monetary cases and 3,185 in 2019. A visit to Thimphu dzongkhag court would reveal how serious and grave the issue is.

There are only three registered private moneylenders and the PMLRR 2021 applies only to them. Those registered are also subjected to many legal requirements while illegal lenders are making the most of an ineffective rule. They are using the judiciary to reclaim their money. The rules are not encouraging more lenders to register, but suffocating them.

Illegal private money lending not only impacts families of borrowers, but causes social menace. It affects the financial service of the country. Curbing illegal private money lending is not easy. Some moneylenders claim ignorance of rules and laws for lending. Ignorance cannot be a defense in a court of law. It is done through fraudulent cheque writings and fake sales deeds of land, buildings, and cars.

The central bank alone cannot do much. There are legalities surrounding the issue. RMA does not have the authority to frame laws. It's the job of the legislature.

Parliamentarians must recognise the problems of illegal private money lending and frame laws to stop it. Listening to the stories of those affected by the illegal business, there is an urgency in stopping this business.

Judiciary has a much bigger role. Judges, who are aware of how some private moneylenders keep seeking judicial intervention for their benefit, should stop them. Judgments should deter illegal private moneylenders, not embolden them.

The Financial Service Act clearly states that no person shall offer financial services as a business without obtaining the appropriate license and the judges cannot close their eyes. Rule of law must prevail and the judiciary must uphold the provisions of the law.

Police, as law enforcement agencies, should bust gambling dens where people from all walks of life engage in private money lending. Arresting a few people who play dice games at the taxi parking should not be construed as bustling gambling dens. There are bigger stakes and bigger issues in the underground gambling dens where even those overseeing rules are alleged to be involved.

There should be more awareness on private money lending, not just in the rural areas through local leaders, but entire communities should be educated. There should be deterrence of private money lending in urban areas, where gambling is rampant.

Let us not misplace our sympathies. The borrowers and lenders are equally responsible for their actions. Penalising both is the solution to it.

MY COUNTRY, MY TOWN



Bucket with tap on throne like seat: The setup we see gives hand washing the importance it deserves during this pandemic
Photo: Tshering Samdrup

Send in your pictures to: formcmt@gmail.com

MY SAY

Urgent need of Human-wildlife Conflict policy

There have been growing concerns of wildlife encroaching into the human settlements and attacking people and livestock in the country.

On November 11, a bear broke into the house at Lingzhi gewog, Thimphu. Similarly, two men were attacked by the leopard in Langthel gewog in Trongsa on September 27.

A few years back, a deer was spotted near the Druk Punjab Bank Limited office located in the center of Thimphu town. There were several similar incidences reported across the country. But it has become more frequent in recent years.

Human-wildlife conflict is a critical issue for Bhutan where almost 60 percent of the population directly depends on livestock and agriculture for livelihoods while coexisting with a rich

natural environment.

As per the records, livestock depredation in central Bhutan by wild carnivores, including leopard, tiger, Himalayan black bear, and dhole account for an annual financial loss of 17 percent of farmers' total per capita cash income, with leopard and tiger causing the maximum loss.

While Bhutan has traditionally been self-sufficient in food production and consumption, however, it is not the case anymore.

With the growing population and change in food consumption patterns, demand for agriculture production has been increasing.

The Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan supports the conservation and protection of wildlife species, however, it does not address the human-wildlife

conflict issues.

The government is trying to address the human-wildlife conflict through various initiatives of placing electric fencing and even trying electronic sirens to drive off the wild animals. However, it has not been 100 percent effective.

There is an urgent need for the Human-Wildlife conflict Policy. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests should empower the policy to resolve and minimize the conflicts between humans and wildlife. It should also encourage wildlife-friendly agricultural practices, compensation, and insurance schemes, preventive and mitigation measures, and response teams, among others.

**Zangpo
Nganglam**



INVITATION FOR SEALED BIDS

ROYAL INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BHUTAN LTD.

RICB/CO/GAD/2021/37991

The Royal Insurance Corporation of Bhutan Ltd., is pleased to invite sealed bids from the interested national firms having valid licence for beautification and gardening services. The details are as under:

Location	Contract term	Date and time for bid submission
Corporate Office, Norzin Lam, Thimphu	Two years term w.e.f December 1, 2021 with possibility of extension based on performance.	November 27, 2021 before 12:30 P.M. The bids shall be opened on the same day at 2:30 P.M.

1. The tender form along with the terms and conditions of the contract can be downloaded from our website www.ricb.bt.
2. Tender fee of **Nu 500 (non-refundable)** must be deposited along with the bid.
3. For further information, please contact the Adm. Officer @77999920 during office hours.

Management



NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NATIONAL PENSION & PROVIDENT FUND, THIMPHU

NPPF/RE/TH/10/2021/2019

NPPF hereby invites sealed bids from eligible **“medium W1 contractor”** for resurfacing (blacktopping) of internal roads and car parking in NPPF housing complex, Thimphu.

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from NPPF (www.nppf.org.bt) and cdb website www.cdb.gov.bt. For further information please contact:77190117.

Management

AUCTION NOTIFICATION



GIC- BHUTAN REINSURANCE CO. LTD.

GBRCL/Adm/Notification/2021/2566

The GIC Bhutan reinsurance Co. Ltd., is pleased to announce the sale of vehicle through sealed bids on **November 16, 2021** in GIC Bhutan Reinsurance Co. Ltd, Thimphu.

The details of the vehicle are available on our website www.gicbhutanre.com

For further inquiry, please contact **Ms. Zomba Lhamo, Sr. Asst-ADM at +975-1715-1111 (ext-106)**.

Management



TIME EXTENSION OF RE-TENDER

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH THIMPHU, BHUTAN

Project Name:	Construction of Bangladesh Chancery Complex and Ambassador’s Residence in Thimphu, Bhutan.
Re-Tender Invitation Reference Number:	19.01.9751.002.014.052.20

With reference to the above mentioned re-tender this is to inform that the tender submission date and time for the above-mentioned project has been extended to **30 November 2021, 12:00 pm (Bhutan Local Time)**. With the extension of tender submission date and time, the tender opening date and time will be at : **30 November 2021, 1:00 pm (Bhutan Local Time)**. The deadline for sale of tender documents will be **28 November 2021**. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

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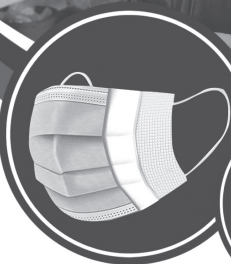
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| 9. Technician (Electrical) | 10. Technician (Mechanical) |
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Detail of the job vacancies are posted in the DGPC website (www.drukgreen.bt) under **CAREER under Notification**.



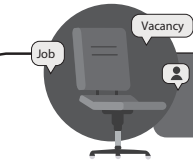
- CLASSIFIED ADS - HOUSING

Rent: Space suitable for spa, salon, beauty parlour with steam sauna and space (20*10 ft) available for shop located in Hotel Yeedzin premises. Call 322932/77407043.



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- CLASSIFIED ADS - VACANCY

Vacancy: Wangmo Export Import Company immediately require experienced tipper drivers. Salary Nu. 14,000 with extra commission. Contact 17471179.

Vacancy: Shingkar Pvt. Ltd. (Kia Motors) Bhutan would like to announce vacancy for one Procurement & Administration Manager. Candidate must possess excellent communication & IT skills, must have at least 5 years experience in administration with proven knowledge on procurement procedures. Applicant may submit CV latest by November 22, 2021. Email: kiabht@gmail.com /contact 17639799.

Vacancy: One receptionist, one wait staff, one cook, one cook helper cum dish washer. Contact 322932/ 77407043.

Vacancy: One sales girl in Thimphu. Interested candidates may contact at 17566236.

- CLASSIFIED ADS - OTHERS

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0081 5299 6108 6689 9236

5th Prize Nu.2,000 (100 Winners) [Drawn on last 4 digits without series]

0605 0876 3258 4002 4218 4323 5774 6438 7643 9269

6th Prize Nu.1,000 (600 Winners) [Drawn on last 4 digits without series]

0161 0181 0324 0826 1122 1145 1270 1289 1532 2364
 2388 2428 2457 2501 2647 2666 2682 2948 2953 3409
 3642 3779 4140 4252 4269 4543 4782 4861 4884 5151
 5249 5750 5944 5946 6065 6070 6107 6169 6340 6425
 6441 6484 6731 6760 6789 6953 6987 7089 7155 7288
 7448 7724 7777 8089 8340 8369 8669 9729 9748 9986

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Chief Executive Officer

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BHS graduates studying revised course can now compete for PGDE

Nim Dorji | Trongsa

Graduates of the Bhutanese and Himalayan Studies (BHS) of the College of Language and Cultural Studies (CLCS) can now compete for the post-graduate diploma in education (PGDE) in History, starting from this year.

The RCSC reviewed and approved the revised BHS course content for PGDE History in September of this year.

The revised BHS course content starts from the 2018 intake.

The first batch of students who studied the revised courses graduated this June and two more batches are pursuing the course.

A final year student studying BHS, Lok Bdr Ghalley, said he is happy to know they can now compete for the PGDE. "It renewed our ambition to study hard."

Students said they were worried when the BHS course was discontinued this year. They said they felt they were

studying a course without any job opportunities.

A student, Sherub Dorji, said students should have been given opportunity to compete for the PGDE in History a long time ago.

"It would have helped many students who have graduated," he said. "Only students from these three batches will benefit now."

The college president, Lungten Gyatso, said that the BHS course was started in 2012 and the first batch graduated in 2015, but when the students wanted to sit for the PGDE in History, the RCSC deemed the syllabus that graduates has studied at the college inadequate to qualify to teach history in schools.

"We then immediately reviewed and revised the curriculum in 2018 and the first cohort of graduates this June," he said.

According to the president, when the course started, it was not targeted for students to teach history, but to give



► The revised BHS course content starts from the 2018 intake

them a broader perspective on Himalayan Studies that Bhutanese will find meaningful. "But we revised the course because students were denied the opportunity to compete for the PGDE course."

The programme leader of BHS, Sangay Phuntsho (K),

said the revised course has in-depth content.

"There are also a greater number of modules related to history in the revised curriculum. There are around 17 modules for a three-year course in the revised curriculum, but only 9 modules in the

old curriculum. The eligibility criteria and grading percentage are also revised," he said.

There are 250 students who are pursuing the BHS course at the moment and more than 980 students with a BA in BHS who have graduated from CLCS.

Grappling with illegal waste dumping

Phub Dem | Paro

Paro has been grappling with mounting waste issues, and illegal dumping of waste in open spaces remains rampant. It is a huge challenge for authorities to deal with trash.

People usually dump waste in areas where there are signboards with notifications prohibiting people from dumping their garbage.

Heaps of waste are seen on the way to Duezhi in Dopshari and around corners along the highway.

Besides this, the Shaba stream connecting directly to Pachu is filled with garbage. It has become an eyesore for the residents and for visitors alike.

Dema, a shopkeeper who stays near Shaba Primary School, said that people throw the garbage in the river, especially when everyone is asleep. She said that there are many commercial hubs along the river, and it is hard to pinpoint anyone as a perpetrator.

She added that without garbage pick-up services in areas away from the highway,



► People dump waste in areas with signboards with notifications prohibiting littering

residents have to store the waste and take it to the Shaba drop-off centre near the Pachu.

Rinzin, another resident, said that people threw their bags of waste around as if there was someone who would come and collect them. She said that if anyone collects the trash once as a good deed, people intentionally throw more in the same place, assuming someone will get rid of it for them.

According to dzongkhag environment officer Ngawang Dorji, it will take more than just unlearning a bad habit or imposing fines to help curb illegal dumping. "Taking ownership of one's waste is essential."

As per the waste management regulations, he said that it is the responsibility of the gewog to take ownership of the waste in their premises. "It is difficult to change the sense of

civic responsibility in people. We clean the area, but the waste keeps on accumulating."

He added that waste advocacy programmes were focused on the rural population, but those who are dumping waste are mainly the educated and officer-goers.

Drop-off centres

Two waste centres, one in town and the other in Lamgong

gewog, were closed due to overflowing and unmanageable waste.

Today, the waste drop-off centres are managed by the dzongkhag environment office and waste from drop-off centres are moved to the landfill in Pangbisa every day.

Ngawang Dorji said that the dzongkhag took over the task from a private firm after the waste drop-off centres became unmanageable. He said that the dzongkhag procured two garbage collection trucks and recruited three workers. "We have allotted a truck each to two drop-off centres."

According to an official with the Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority, waste accumulation near the Paro College of Education's drop-off centre poses a significant risk to aircraft. Birds feeding at the centre have struck the aeroplanes during take-off and landing. However, no significant damages have been reported yet.

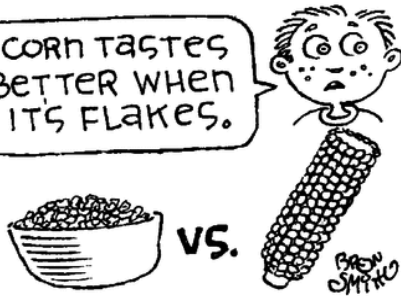
DIVERSION

Health Capsule



WHAT ARE BAD CARBS?

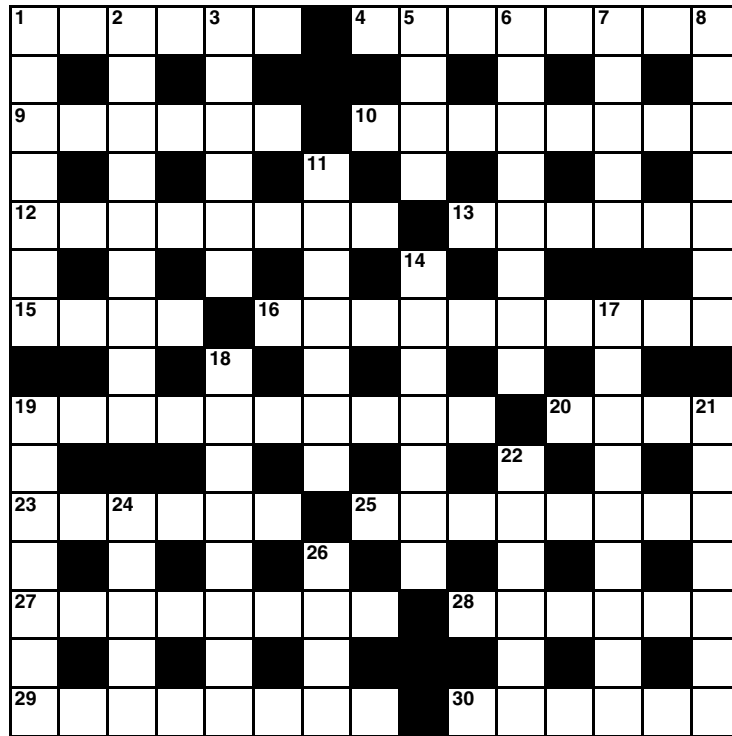
CORN TASTES BETTER WHEN IT'S FLAKES.



BAD CARBS ARE CARBOHYDRATES THAT HAVE BEEN PROCESSED. THE FIBER AND NUTRIENTS HAVE BEEN STRIPPED AWAY. FAT, SUGAR AND CALORIES MAY BE ADDED. A GOOD EXAMPLE: CORN FLAKES VS. CORN ON THE COB. FOCUS ON EATING REAL FOOD, NOT FAKE FOOD.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

Kwik Xword



Nov 13 answers

Across: 1 Startle, 5 Blunder, 9 Relieve, 10 Adamant, 11 Trace, 12 Transpire, 13 Hot potato, 15 Right, 16 Brave, 18 Posthaste, 21 Detriment, 24 After, 25 Average, 26 Messiah, 27 Respect, 28 Delight.

Down: 1 Scratch, 2 At least, 3 Therefore, 4 Erect, 5 Be at a loss, 6 Urals, 7 Drawing, 8 Retreat, 14 At present, 15 Rehearsal, 16 Bid fair, 17 Artless, 19 Setting, 20 Earshot, 22 Inane, 23 Timid.

Quick CLUES

Across

- 1 Capital of Tasmania (6)
- 4 Available able-bodied resources (8)
- 9 Compared with (6)
- 10 Great love (8)
- 12 English novelist, d.1882 (8)
- 13 To roar (6)
- 15 Deserve (4)
- 16 Snobbish (5-5)
- 19 Chicanery (5-5)
- 20 Scrutinize (4)
- 23 Tell (6)
- 25 A very hot day (8)
- 27 Divine (8)
- 28 Pace-setting oarsman (6)
- 29 Grotesque misrepresentation (8)
- 30 A distilled spirit (6)

Down

- 1 Frequent visitor (7)
- 2 Diocese (9)
- 3 Enigma (6)
- 5 Highest point (4)
- 6 A characteristic (8)
- 7 Intense activity (5)
- 8 Fugitive (7)
- 11 Concerning (7)
- 14 Loyal (7)
- 17 Colluding (2,7)
- 18 So to speak (2,2,4)
- 19 Seriously affected (4-3)
- 21 Place selling plants, trees (7)
- 22 Pitiable person (6)
- 24 Tibetan capital (5)
- 26 Dull (4)

Rebus

REVIRD TAES

back seat driver

ban ana

banana split

Solution on Thursday

Sudoku

4								5	9
6		5				1	7		
	9					7	8		
			5	6					
	7		4	9	8			2	
				7	2				
		4	7						9
		9	8				2		5
8	5								4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

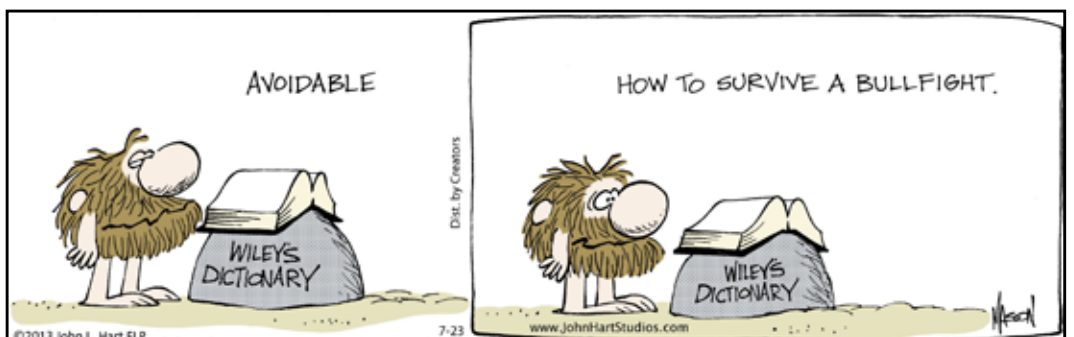
How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3 X 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

8	5	1	6	2	9	3	7	4
7	6	9	8	4	2	1	5	
2	4	7	1	5	3	8	6	
3	9	6	2	7	8	4	1	5
5	4	7	1	8	3	9	6	2
1	2	9	8	6	4	7	5	3
6	1	2	5	9	8	3	4	7
4	9	6	7	8	1	5	3	2
3	8	9	5	6	4	1	7	2
4	2	7	3	8	6	1	9	5

Answer

BC



Love, hate and tragedy: A three-part history of Bhutan-Cooch relations

Part 3: Modern disintegration of a good neighbour

The previous two parts of this series of Bhutan-Cooch history have revealed how a relation of mutual goodwill and reliance turned sour through neighbourly contestations exacerbated by external interferences.

Relations between Bhutan and other Buddhist polities in its neighbourhood, like with Tibet, Sikkim and Ladakh, are extensively documented because of shared culture, religion and language. Despite the comparative strategic and economic significance of Cooch Behar to Bhutan, one can argue that emic documentation of similar rapports with Cooch Behar was conspicuously overlooked by our Buddhist historians for two reasons.

Firstly, understanding the predominantly Hindu culture of Cooch Behar through a foreign language would have been beyond the capacity or interest of these scholars. Secondly, the extensive dealings that Bhutan had with Cooch Behar as its suzerain power were in the domains of everyday economics and politics, areas generally treated as insignificant or inappropriate for Buddhist hagiographic works.

A study of this deeply complex suzerain relationship reveals that historically, the Bhutanese political leadership had an intricate knowledge of Cooch Behar including its own official policy and preference for the legitimate line of the Cooch royal family. However, with the interference of British which became the formal mediator between the two polities, there was significant reduction of engagement at not only the official, but also at the people level.

Even this circumscribed knowledge of the Bhutanese of Cooch Behar all but vanished when Cooch Behar acceded to the newly independent India in 1947. Today, the average Bhutanese has hardly any understanding and appreciation of this once significant Indian kingdom in our immediate neighbourhood, and how we were connected by not only shared geography but also history.

So, how did Cooch Behar disappear from not only Bhutanese memory, but sig-

nificantly, ceased to exist as a Princely State through deliberate colonial design? This final part of the series reveals the tragic history of modern Cooch Behar, and how it was precipitated by structural manipulations, and systematic weakening and assertion of corruptive influences on its ruling family. One may also recall the brief glory of Cooch Behar as it proceeded towards a European style modernization with a new palace and the first planned capital city in the region.

The Bhutanese invasion of the Koch Kingdom compelled it to sign a subsidiary treaty of 1773 with the British. This reduced Cooch Behar to a feudatory state of the British. As Maharajah Dhairjendra Narayan noted, Cooch Behar merely changed "one master for another" by inviting British interference in their polity.

During the 19th century, the British laid the foundation of the process of colonial modernisation in Cooch Behar. From 1860, the British wanted to build Cooch Behar into a 'model state' among the contemporary Princely States of India.

Cooch Behar had been ruled by the Narayan dynasty for 400 years by the middle of the 19th century. Maharajah Sir Nripendra Narayan was born in 1862 and became a ward of the British Government from his infancy. In 1863, Colonel Houghton, the Commissioner of Assam was ordered into Cooch Behar to put the young Maharaja on the throne. There was, however, an imbroglia.

The late Maharajah had died months ago leaving his state and family under the protection of the British Government after agreeing to nominate Nripendra as a successor. Nripendra's father had a number of wives and followed a very common custom of polygamy in a princely family. However, the widow of the late Maharajah asserted that she was pregnant and protested against the British Government installing the adopted 'illegitimate' son of the late Maharajah pending the results of her pregnancy.

The British invoked the authority of paramourcy and



Maharajah Sir Nripendra Narayan

exerted influence on the crucial inter-generational transfer of power.

Nripendra was educated by the British in India. They removed him from Cooch Behar at five as the Maharani had been against a foreign education. He was raised in a ward's institution at Benares with close connection to the Cooch royal family.

In 1877, Nripendra attended the Delhi durbar when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. The experiment for training the ideal ruler for the ideal Indian state had succeeded beyond the highest British expectations.

To ensure final success for the scheme, it was necessary that the young ruler should marry an equally 'advanced' girl who would support him in his efforts to modernise Cooch Behar. They arranged a marriage with Suniti Devi, the eldest daughter of Keshub Chandra Sen, leader of a reformist Hindu movement called the Brahmo Samaj.

Cooch Behar became the most anglicised of all Indian principalities. In a span of 14 years, through increasing the state's annual revenue, Nripendra regularised the administration and established the first railway link to Bengal. He also improved communication throughout Cooch Behar by constructing numerous roads and bridges. He created a planned city with sanitation and drainage system besides constructing the earliest buildings in the country dedicated to the

principles of modern justice and administration.

His modernization effort also led to the construction of a fully equipped hospital in the capital and public dispensaries in the countryside. He founded Cooch Behar's first public library, park, garden, marketplace, and a girl's school and college. He also abolished polygamy in the royal family and capital punishment throughout Cooch Behar.

Nripendra built the Cooch Behar Palace modelled on Buckingham in 1897. The palace shows the acceptance of European idealism without renouncing their Indian heritage.

He invested a fortune in Darjeeling and by the late 1880s, nearly half of the registered properties in Darjeeling were owned by him. The royal family also had properties in various Indian hill stations as well as in Britain. After 1947, all the family kept as private properties were the Cooch Behar palace with others having been sold off.

Cooch Behar was beset with many structural issues and a corruptive Western influence on its Royal successors. Nripendra's sons, Rajendra Narayan (1911-1913) who ruled for only two years dying from alcoholism at the age of 30, and Jitendra Narayan who also died of alcoholism in 1922 at the age of 36, continued an extraordinarily glamorous life; tiger hunting, large parties, travels to Europe and a modernised Cooch Behar.

Jitendra's wife Maharani

Indira Devi held the position as regent until her young son came of age. In that time, she continued the modernisation of Cooch Behar and fought against British influence. Cooch Behar fought alongside the British loyally in two world wars. At the end of the Second World War, Britain was economically exhausted.

In 1947, Britain granted independence to India forcing in the process the Princely States to sign the Instrument of Accession. Without the British, the Princes were no longer protected, and they could no longer collect the same levels of revenue despite trying unsuccessfully to diversify by such means as turning their palaces into hotels.

Cooch Behar did not move quickly enough in a commercial direction and by 1970, with the death of the Maharaja who had held power since 1936, the world was very different. There was no longer sufficient income to retain their properties. Under Indira Gandhi, the Privy purse was removed, and the Princely families were taxed at a crippling rate.

Cooch Behar did not have enough income sources to sustain itself. The curse of alcoholism in the Cooch royal family was also part of its tragic decline. The last Maharaja, Viraj Narayan, died of an alcohol related illness in a rented flat in Calcutta, but not before he sold off many of his family's antiquities and properties. As the Maharaja died childless, the Narayan dynasty perished on his death.

The tragedy of Cooch Behar is that the British created a state that was entirely dependent on their support and when that no longer existed, the state fell into disrepair. The tale of these two neighbours tells of two kingdoms who shared an ancient relation of love and hate. Through the Wangchuck Dynasty's visionary leadership, Bhutan became progressively more independent and emerged as a vibrant nation state, while Cooch Behar tragically disintegrated into a nondescript district of modern India.

Contributed by
Julia Booth (University of Sydney) and Dendup Chopel (The Australian National University)

Women's cricket team in Dubai for ICC T20 tournament

Thinley Namgay

The national women's cricket team landed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday to participate in their first International Cricket Council's (ICC) T20 World Cup Asia Qualifiers.

Organised by the ICC, the tournament will begin in Dubai from November 22 to 28.

Bhutan will play the first game against Kuwait on November 22 at ICC Academy Ground 1. As a warm-up session, Bhutan will face the UAE on November 18 and 19.

The tournament was supposed to be held in Malaysia. However, the ICC changed the venue to Dubai due to rising Covid-19 cases in Malaysia.

The 29-year-old skipper, Yeshey Choden, who has played for the national team for 14 years, and deputy captain Anju Gurung, 28, will lead the squad.

Bhutan Cricket (BC) press officer Tandin Wangchuk said that the BC have high expectations of the team.

"We have prepared them well. Fitness is top-notch. And the best thing is the team has been playing and practising together for the last 10 months for this tournament," Tandin Wangchuk said.

The women trained in Gelephu and Thimphu before leaving for the tournament.

Five officials, including the newly appointed cricket coach from Sri Lanka, Anton Trishane Nonis, are with the team.

Bhutan, Malaysia, UAE, Kuwait, Hong Kong, and Nepal are playing the qualifiers. The tournament will be a precursor to the 2022 ICC Women's T20 World Cup.



► Bhutan will play against Kuwait on November 22

Warm up fixture
Match#1 **Bhutan vs UAE**
November 18, 2021 | MCC Ground, Ajman

Match#2 **Bhutan vs UAE**
November 19, 2021 | MCC Ground, Ajman

Main fixture
Match#1 **Bhutan vs Kuwait**
November 22, 2021 | ICC Academy Ground 1

Match#2 **Bhutan vs Nepal**
November 23, 2021 | ICC Academy Ground 2

Match#3 **Bhutan vs UAE**
November 25, 2021 | ICC Academy Ground 2

Match#4 **Bhutan vs Hong Kong**
November 26, 2021 | ICC Academy Ground 1

Match#5 **Bhutan vs Malaysia**
November 28, 2021 | ICC Academy Ground 1

Eight teams were listed a few months ago, but China and Myanmar withdrew from the tournament owing to the pandemic.

On the official BC Facebook page, BC president Thinley Wangchuk Dorji said preparations for the tournament have no doubt been tough and challenging, espe-

cially with the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent Covid protocols in place.

"Nevertheless, training sessions and preparations for the tournament went on unabated with a lot of hard work, personal sacrifices, and determination put in by one and all," Thinley Wangchuk Dorji said.



TOMORROW

Good Day

- to perform daily task

Bad Day

- to consecrate
- to appease local deities
- to appoint to new post
- to learn astrology
- to marry and celebrate
- to enter into new house
- to roof house
- to shift house
- to hand and take over office

to venture into long journey

- to start new business
- to hold good discussions

A good day for rituals (laza):
those born in the tiger and rabbit years.

Generally a good day (sogza):
those born in the monkey and rooster years.

A bad day (shedza):
those born in the ox and dragon years.

WEATHER

SUNRISE : 6:22am | SUNSET : 5:09pm

Time of issue: 4:00 PM,
November 15, 2021

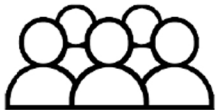
Gasa	Trongsa	Bumthang	Sarpang	Phuentsholing
13°C	19°C	16°C	28°C	29°C
2	5	2	19	15

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

► After serving a year as the head coach of Sudeva Delhi FC in India, the club has appointed Chencho Dorji as its technical director for the upcoming 2021-2022 I-League season. As the technical director, he will focus on players and coaches' recruitment, developing curriculum, designing and training manual, and coaches' education. Chencho Dorji is pursuing an AFC Pro Diploma course in Bangladesh.



YOUR TRUSTED DIGITAL WALLET



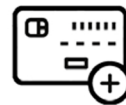
For
Everyone



Free instant
registration



Bank account
not required



Add money from
card



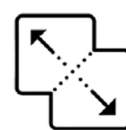
Scan and pay



Utility payments



Send & receive
money to your
mobile numbers



Split bill
payment

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