



dealing you

business bhutan

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Move to stop winning candidates from resigning after elections

Alka Katwal
from Thimphu

An elected member who voluntarily resigns before assuming his/her responsibilities shall have to refund the campaign fund received for the general election from henceforth, according to the National Assembly (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2014 to be tabled soon.

This could be applicable to winning candidates resigning after elections before taking the oath to become an MP.

During the General Elections, as per the Public Election Fund Act, each candi-

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Dangerous open drain to be covered after Business Bhutan shares photograph of man in the drain



Saraswati Sundas
from Thimphu

The open drain posing danger to pedestrians for the past eight months over the pavement across Thimphu's Crafts Bazaar will be fixed next week by the Thimphu City Corporation. The thrompon has mobilized resources to replace the missing slabs over the drain after *Business Bhutan* shared with him photographs of a man in the drain.

Despite several complaints of the miss-

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Is Bhutan selling its soul to Google?

■ Migrating Bhutan government's communications to Google servers, allowing the United States access to confidential data, raises questions



Lucky Wangmo from Thimphu
and Pema Seldon from Bangalore

When the Wikileaks scandal rocked most countries around the world, Bhutan escaped unscathed because the country doesn't host an American embassy. Bhutan was only passingly mentioned in a few cables leaked from other countries in the region. This could change with the PDP government's plan to migrate all internal communications to Google servers hosted outside Bhutan.

The worrying part of the project is, Google is obliged to pass on information to the United States government if it is asked. Moreover, former CIA contractor, Edward Snowden, had revealed that the US has cracked into data servers of IT giants like Google and Yahoo.

With the contract expected to be awarded on Monday, the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa in a press released yesterday cautioned the government to go slow on implementing the 'Google Apps for Government' project which Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay had earlier endorsed as "effective."

"Embracing of such technology, at least for now, is going to be dangerous and disturbing for Bhutan," the DNT release said adding it would put the country's security at risk.

'Google Apps for Government' provides an email and an office suite similar to MS Office to all users who can share and edit and save documents.

The plan, announced by the prime minister last fortnight will cost the government Nu 15.5mn in the first year and Nu 9.3mn every subsequent year. By moving all communications to Google servers outside, local servers maintained by ministries and government agencies will become redundant. The government also expects to go eco-friendly and

save a significant amount on paper as all communications will go online. Another major benefit pointed out is that the government documents will be secure from hackers. In the past many government websites have been hacked.

But experts *Business Bhutan* talked to said the project does not ensure full security and Bhutan is surrendering its data sovereignty to a foreign entity.

"Bhutan's adoption of Google Apps is a disastrous decision, and I wouldn't advocate for it even if it were free," Pranesh Prakash, Policy Director of the Bangalore-based Centre for Internet and Society said.

He added that the project would end up tying Bhutan to a single vendor, Google, since there is no easy way to migrate from Google Apps to another system. "That means that even if in the future some other system is found to be far better than Google, the migration costs would deter the adoption of that system," said Pranesh Prakash, who is also a fellow with the Information Society Project, Yale Law School.

Business Bhutan learnt that the project was initiated in 2012 by DPT government. A source aware of the project said Google was in contact with DIIT officials and the information and communications secretary. DIIT invited tenders from three local firms who are 'Google Advised Partners' to bid for the project. The local partner who wins the bid would get about USD 20,000 for implementing the project. The three local firms invited were itechologies in collaboration with MediAgility (India), eDruk with Asiapac (Malaysia), and e-Green solutions with Searce (India).

Technology consultant and privacy activist Anivar Aravind said instead of relying on Google, Bhutan should use local expertise to build a decent

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THE WEEK THAT'S GONE

**HIS MAJESTY GRACES
THE OPENING SESSION
OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

His Majesty the King graced the opening ceremony of the second session of the National Assembly. His Majesty was received with a traditional chipdrel ceremony and received by the speaker, the Prime Minister, the opposition leader and the chairperson of the National Council.

The Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay thanked His Majesty the King for gracing the opening ceremony and thanked His Majesty for his valuable advice, guidance and support at all times and for granting kidu to the people.

**GROUND BREAKING
CEREMONY**

The ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the Head Office of Election Commission of Bhutan at Kawajangsa was held on Wednesday. Her Majesty the Gyalt-suen graced the ceremony presided over by His Holiness the Gyalse Trulku.

The five storied Democracy House will cost about Nu 128 million and will be funded by the Government of India. The construction is expected to be complete by December 2015.

**A BOOK ON PHALLUS
LAUNCHED**

"Phallus, Crazy Wisdom from Bhutan by Karma Choden was launched by his Eminence Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche last week.

The book contains stories and images of phallus culture from around Bhutan and reflects the teaching of the Divine Mad Man, Lam Drukpa Kunley and his unorthodox teaching methods of Dharma.

TRAINING FOR SCOUTS

A two day training on Project Management for Unit Leaders and Assistant Unit Leaders for community based scouts was held in Paro last weekend.

The training was a joint initiative of the Bhutan Scouts Association and the Danish Scout and Guide Association. About 25 community based scouts were trained in basic project planning and management and confidence building exercises.

**VOLLEYBALL COACHING
CAMP**

A total of 45 students from Phuentsholing took part in the ten-day Volleyball coaching camp in this winter. The under 14 and the under 19 participants were taught basic skills and techniques of the game.

**OL questions status
of the 11th FYP**

Yenten Thinley
from Thimphu

The first question hour of the winter session of the second parliament saw Opposition Leader Dr. Pem a Gyamtsho raise concerns on the current status of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (11th FYP).

He said it was not clear where the status stood in terms of its size and scope and in terms of resources available and released.

"There are speculations that the entire plan is downsized and that the Dzongkhag and Gewog plans are revised and downsized," said the Opposition Leader.

He questioned that if this was the case whether the overall objectives of the 11th FYP to pursue self-reliance by 2020 and the reduction of poverty from 12% to 5% could be achieved.

Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay said the overall budget for the 11th FYP stands at Nu213bn as approved by parliament.

Lyonchen also added that the budget has not been downsized and that a grant of Nu 71bn was assured by each donor agencies and the interna-

tional financial institutions.

Lyonchen informed that the terms and conditions for receiving grants and loans have not been changed either and that the government will also contribute 10% as partner contribution on the project tied assistance support from the Government of India.

On the poverty front, Lyonchen said the government has been emphasizing on eradication of poverty while an estimation of actual poverty has been carried out across the country. It was also informed that a report on individual person and villages stricken by poverty was yet to be received by the government.

Panbang MP Dorji Wangdi questioned the government on the status of the Local Government Entitlement Bill.

"One of the most important and highly anticipated legislation is the Local Government Entitlement Act. What is the status Bill and is it going to be tabled in the Parliament," asked MP Dorji Wangdi.

In response, the home and cultural affairs minister Lyonpo Damchoe Dorji informed the parliament that consultations were

held with the local government on the Bill which was extensively deliberated in the Dzongkhag YargayTshogdu (DYT) and Gewog YargayTshogdu (GYT).

He said that the Bill would be tabled in the current session and referred to a relevant committee for deliberations in the next session.

MP Dorji Wangdi also asked the government whether the fulfilled 100 Day pledges were being implemented and whether it benefited the people.

Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay informed the Parliament that 74% of the pledges were fulfilled while the rest were progressing. Lyonchen added that the pledges had benefited different sections of society like the youth, rural households, senior citizens and many others.

Lyonchen also informed the parliament that pledges like providing allowance to senior citizens, constructing old age homes and addressing citizenship issues were the royal prerogatives of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and that the government was in constant consultation with the Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon.

Tenancy Act to be discussed

Phuntsho Wangdi
from Thimphu

The Tenancy Act, infamously called a Paper Tiger, will once again be reviewed in the ongoing parliament session.

On the rent increase front, the review document states that a maximum permissible limit of 10% for rent increment after every two years is found to be fair for both the parties. The rent revision was and is a contentious issue from both house owner and tenants.

The review report states that under the sub section 4.2 and 22.2 of the act, the establishment dispute settlement committee should be

under ministry of works and human settlement and not under the local government.

The reports states that the revised Act will provide powers to summon witnesses, investigate, order submission of documents and also payment of fines which was not there in the old Act.

Under the rental agreement of the Act it is noted that tenancy agreement between tenant and house owner, which is not mandatory at the moment, must be made compulsory for ensuring an effective implementation of the Act.

The review reports states that the house owner

must be made to deposit a copy of the tenancy agreement with the local tenancy authority or local government and non compliance should result in payment of fines.

It is also noted that a tenant should not be permitted to abandon the rental unit and those who abandon will be made liable to pay fine and also compensate the house owner for any loss.

The review report which was submitted by the ministry of works and human settlement was complied through public consultation meetings in thromdes and also on internet forums.



Nubri capital declares Nu 15mn as returns

Phuntsho Wangdi
from Thimphu

Bhutan's only fund management company, Nubri Capital, has declared returns and will distribute Nu 15mn to investors. In its first year of business, the company has recorded commendable growth in terms of business prospectus and financial growth despite serious competition from financial institutions.

According to Sonam Tobgay of Nubri Capital, in 2013, the company recorded a business of approximately Nu 450mn.

"It has been a satisfactory year for the company and we are happy with the achievements," said Sonam Tobgay. He added that the company is looking forward to grow further with new investments.

He said that these investments are made in safe and reliable institutions with a focus on performance stability, high return and prioritizing investor's

interest.

The challenges for the company included willingness of people to invest in a private company while established financial institutions provided some of the services.

Nubri Capital provides various investment schemes like fund and asset management, investment, issue of unit trust, financial advisory, merger and acquisition, asset reconstruction, issues of guarantees and other ancillary activities with prior approval of the regulatory bodies.

This year, Nubri Capital will add private equity to its services. The company has invested in listed companies and manufacturing and services companies.

Last year, the company launched four products in the market and was received successfully by the market.

The products are, Tsukdey I and II, Zodra I and a retirement saving plan with a minimum investment size of Nu 10,000.

According to Nubri Capital, the product Tsukdey I, the company promises an annual fixed return of 4% and 70% of the profit it makes from its investments and the Tsukdey II provides an annual fixed return of 4% with 80% of the profit from the investment.

The Nubri Zodra Fund is mainly invested in manufacturing industries with the fund fixed a return of 4% and 50% of the gross margin made from the investments and with minimum investment of Nu 500,000.

In the product retirement scheme an employer and the employee contribute 5% to 8% of the salary for an annual return of 7.5% and the return is also compounded annually.

The company saw investors from government agencies, private sector and big corporations. The Nubri Capital initially started off with Nu 20mn contributed by its promoters.

THE WEEK THAT'S GONE

WOMEN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS

The Thimphu district court has sentenced a businesswoman to three years in prison for possessing 660g of chewing tobacco.

While a person is allowed to import only 300g in a month, the accused was carrying four times more than the permissible quantity underlined by the amended Tobacco Act, 2012.

Last year, police had recovered 1,410g of chewing tobacco, 44 pieces of Marlboro, two pieces of Classic, 38 of Gold Flake and 28 pieces of bidi from her shop. The convict has 10 days to appeal to the court.

FIRST MEDICAL SERVICES BATCH TRAINED

About 41 medical professionals attended a week long training course on clinical orientation, training on EMS, trauma and obstetric care from specialists from various departments of JD-WNRH. The team included 26 medical doctors, 6 dentists and 9 nurses.

The training is the first of its kind and will be sent to different parts of the country. The program was a part of the recommendation from Bhutan Foundation, Ministry of Health and Bhutan Medical and Health Council.

LAST RITES OF THE DRABI LOPON

Thousands of devotees, well-wishers and disciples of the former Drabi Lopen attended the last rites of the late former Drabi Lopen, Kinley Gyeltshen yesterday in Punakha.

His Holiness the Je Khenpo and two lopens of the dratshang presided over the Chenrizig sungchog (prayer dedicated to Avalokiteshvara or embodiment of the compassion of all the Buddhas) from the east direction, while Dorji Lopen, along with two other lopens, trulkus, lam netens and khenpos, conducted Mithrugpa (dedicated to Akshobhya) from the west direction.

Lopen Kinley Gyeltshen, was a recipient of the Thuksey medal from His Majesty the King during the 106th National Day celebrations last year.

9 LEAVE UNDER GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The first batch of six men and three women left for Qatar on 22nd January under the PDP government's overseas employment program as pledged during the elections. They will be working at the Sheraton Doha resort and convention hotel as room attendants as housekeeping. The youth sent have completed their class X and XII and will work on a probation period of six months and regularized on their performance. The program is open to only those job seekers and caters to unemployed people, aged between 21-40 years, with a minimum of class X qualification, and basic skill in any trade.

Categorization of thromdes to be amended

Phuntsho Wangdi
from Thimphu

The Local government Bill of Bhutan 2014 which will be tabled for amendment on Monday is set to change how thromdes are classified.

According to the bill, the government will establish dzongkhag thromdes and dzongkhag Yenlagthromdes in all 20 dzongkhags and will do away with the categorization of class A thromdes and class B thromdes.

With removal of the class A thromde and B Thromde, the dzongkhag thromde and Yenlagthromdes will function under the dzongkhag thromde.

The bill also states that the satellite towns neigh-

boring the dzongkhag thromde will fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the dzongkhag thromdetshogde even in the absence of shared boundary.

Under the section 64 of the Act, betterment charges has been removed from list of thromdetshogde among other charges like land tax and property tax, property transfer tax, vacant land and underdevelopment tax and newly added clause which states that such other taxes may be determined by parliament from time to time.

According to the bill, a new section under section 64 has been included which states that thromdetshogde may levy and vary rates of fees and charges

on utilities which are not covered under section 64.

It is also noted that an MP can participate in the dzongkhag, gewog and thromdetshogde as observers. Earlier MP had to seek written permission from the chairperson of the thogde.

In the section 13 of the Act the parliament will from time to time declare a certain geographical or administrative or economic area of the country as a thromde based on the criteria which is prescribed by the government. Earlier the parliament had to prescribe criteria in the Act by the government.

It is also noted that the approval of local area plans will no longer have to go under laws made by parliament.



THE WEEK THAT'S GONE

MOTION OF THANKS TO HIS MAJESTY THE DRUK GYALPO

The second session of the second parliament began last week and was graced by His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo. Members of the Royal family, religious organizations, international dignitaries, senior government officials and Members of the Parliament were also present at the opening ceremony.

Speaker Jigme Zangpo expressed sincere gratitude to His Majesty the King for the visit to New Delhi upon invitation of the president of India.

He added that the commitment of the Government of India (GoI) for their continued support in our socio-economic development and hydro power projects and added Their Majesties' visit is the testimony to the further deepening and strengthening of existing relations between India and Bhutan.

"Their Majesties were the first state guests in 10 years to be hosted at the newly refurbished guest wing of Rashtrapati Bhaven and is a matter of great pride and honour for all the Bhutanese people," said Jigme Zangpo.

The speaker also expressed his deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo for initiating numerous religious activities for the benefit of the world at large and in particular for the benefit of our country and for all the sentient being.

He further expressed his gratitude to Lama Namkhai Nyingpo, Dzongsar Jamyang Khen-tse and other religious leaders for organizing prayers and blessing ceremonies in Phuentsholing and many others.

Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay expressed his gratitude to His Majesty the King for awarding medals for the civil servants during the 106 National day of Bhutan. He added that there were about 1400 civil servants, who received the medals for serving the country and the civil servants has got encouragement.

National Council Chairman, Dasho Sonam Kinga also expressed his gratitude to His Majesty the King for giving valuable advice during National Day, National Graduate Orientation Program, Convocation Day and Desups Training.

The Opposition Leader, Dr Pema Gyamtsho also expressed his gratitude to His Majesty the King for visiting India this year and further strengthening the relationship between India and Bhutan.

Bhutan is ready to open its first eye bank, but project still delayed

■ "I doubt if our Bhutanese people will let us even touch their body to harvest corneas," a technician at the Thimphu hospital

Lucky Wangmo
from Thimphu

Three years have passed since the Ophthalmology department at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWRH) planned to have Bhutan's first eye bank. Despite having a room ready, painted and partitioned for all necessary equipments, the plan to start the eye bank hasn't taken off.

Talking to *Business Bhutan*, cornea specialist Dr. Nor Tshering said the quotation for procuring the equipments are difficult. "We have problem procuring the equipments," he said, adding that despite having sent the orders to procure the lamellar flowhood, it did not work out.

"We have again put up to procure the lamellar flowhood last year and I think it will take few months for it to reach here," he said.

The lamellar flowhood is a kind of working cabinet where cornea technicians prepare tissues under sterile condition. It is designed to prevent contamination and needs to be set up in the sterile room.

The Ophthalmology department also needs another equipment to complete the eye bank set up in the country, which is the medium to store corneas after harvesting it.

According to Dr. Nor Tshering, the ordering of the medium to store cornea is not difficult as it is easier to procure it from a hospital in Hyderabad which supplies medical equipments throughout the hospitals in India.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) approved the organ donation in the

National Health Policy three years back, however since then; the development on the eye bank has been slow.

The number of people needing a cornea transplant has increased from 80 patients in 2010 to more than 300 in Jan 2014 in Thimphu hospital alone. There are more than 100 patients waiting for a cornea transplant in Gelephu referral hospital. However there are more than 100 patients who are in urgent need for a transplant.

Majority of the patient needing a cornea transplant are above the age of 50 years. A technician with the Ophthalmology department who requested anonymity said that injury was the main cause.

The technician also said that with no organ donation put in place for now, the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWRH) has to wait on the corneas donated by visiting consultants from Tilganga Eye Hospital in Nepal.

Visiting consultants from Tilganga Eye Hospital come to Bhutan two or three times a year. During their visit, they bring about four to five corneas. According to Dr. Nor

Tshering, the corneas are transplanted in those who are bilaterally blind.

However, he said that some patients who are blind in both eyes cannot make it due to the distance. "The cornea can be stored for only four days and when we contact a patient who is in immediate need does not come, then the person next in line gets the cornea," said Dr. Nor Tshering.

On the other hand, Tilganga Hospital also promised to send about four to five corneas. However, with no arrangements to bring in the corneas from Nepal, the hospital has to rely on visiting doctors from Nepal or doctors travelling to Nepal to get the corneas.

Despite the office of His Holiness the Je Khenpo in an earlier interview with *Business Bhutan* said donating organs is a good thing, doctors and technicians are still skeptic about the turnout of people coming to donate their organs.

A technician who is trained in harvesting corneas said that our religious belief is too strong. "I doubt if our Bhutanese people will let us even touch their body to harvest corneas," he said.

CLASSIFIED

For Sale: Hyundai accent 02 model in running condition @ 4 lakhs. Contact 77770000

Immediate Requirement: Kenchap Confectionary Bakery, Dagapela is urgently looking for a Baker with a good working experience. Contact 17923722/77295774.



Dzongkhag Engineering Sector
Pemagatshel Dzongkhag

PG/ENG-05/2013-2014/4918

NOTIFICATION

The Dzongkhag Administration, Pemagatshel would like to notify all the Contractors that the Construction of Farm Road from Ngangray to Thonpu under Khar Gewog which was floated for NIT reference vide NIT No. PG/ENG-05/2013-2014/4768., is for the timing may be treated as cancelled.

Inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

CHAIRMAN
Dzongkhag Tender Committee



Life struggle forces 13 year old student to monkhood



Yonten Phuntsho

You see him along Norzin Lam carrying a red bucket and a basket trying to find the right place to sell porridge. Wearing clothes which are one size bigger than his, his face is covered

in a dirt smeared white mask. He wraps a piece of cloth around his neck which hardly helps him to bear the cold. As worn out and tiring he is seen, he has bright dreamy eyes.

He is Dorji Gyeltshen, a 13 year old Class V student

at Olakha Lower Secondary School. He loves Dzongkha and wishes to become a Dzongkha teacher one day.

His father died when he was very young. His mother remarried and has three siblings including himself. He started selling doma in 2012, which could only generate a small amount of income hardly covering his basic necessities. He shifted his business from selling doma to thub generating more income for the survival. He has a 10 year old brother who also works on the street.

He started selling momos and porridge about two weeks ago. He sells the porridge between 10:00 P.M to 1:00 A.M; however his brother has to stay till 4:00 in the morning and at times he falls asleep. "I always try to finish off

selling porridge before the cold becomes extreme, but I continue till mid night. I have a little time to spare playing with my friends. I have to sell momos during the day and porridge in the evening," he said.

He saw his mother borrowing money from other people to support three of them. During day he shouts for momo customers and in the extreme cold at night calling for porridge customers. Some people, out of sympathy, bought him hand gloves and ear covers to fight the cold. Some also help him finish the porridge by buying more than what then need to send him home as early as possible. Behind the mask he hides his tears and sorrows.

The little money generated from selling porridge and momos is kept with his

sister; otherwise his step father takes away the money for his redundant reasons. "He beats me when I cannot complete my work," he said. His mother is too afraid to confront his stepfather and support him.

"I have decided to go to Sikkim and become a monk. For me to reach Sikkim I need some money. So selling momos and porridge was the only alternatives left for me to generate it," he said. He is leaving for Sikkim next month and sooner or later he wants to become a teacher.

If life was not this difficult for Dorji Gyeltshen, he would have continued his studies in Bhutan.

(Yonten Phuntsho, a Royal Thimphu College student, is currently interning with Business Bhutan)

Being a parking fee collector for a new uniform

Deki Zangmo

Eating what is left from the meal of the other night he catches the bus and is on his way to work. The night has set for a cold day and as soon as the vehicles turnaround from a parking lot, and a young man wearing a shiny green jersey comes running. He is a very happy busy man running after the vehicles collecting fees for parking and has no complaint about it. He is always ready with a pen and a booklet of tickets. Parking fee collectors despite their age and gender, almost find this job satisfying. Even though the income generated and the work very tiring, the workers are very proud to be doing this job. Sixteen year old, Sangay Dorji, a class VIII student studying at the Lungtenphug Lower Secondary School said, "I am Happy and proud to be a parking fee collector"

Parking Fee collecting job, has become a way for children from poor backgrounds to spent their time earning money during winter vacations. While some of their friends enjoy eating delicious food and playing with their friends, some children are busy working for money to cover their school accommodation. These children hardly have time for themselves. But their attitude shows the strength of this youngsters to deal with harsh life.

For students, working during the winter means they can buy new uniforms and shoes and avoid the embarrassment of wearing worn out dresses. "Megraj, a Class V student said, "I work as a parking free collector so that I can earn some money to buy school books and uniform."

There are about 60 of them currently working as parking fee collectors, out of which seven are

part time workers ranging; in the age group of 13 to 19. While some have been working for the first time, some children have already worked as a parking fee collector during their vacations. Choki Zangmo, who works with the parking fee collection office said, "It makes us happy that we could help them."

The basic salary for all workers is Nu 5,000 and depending on the profit earned, they also get some bonus for their hard work. The collectors are allocated with places where they have to work for about a week and the places change the alternative week. The fee collectors have to be at their designated place for 24 hours starting from 9 in the morning till 9 pm. The collectors do not even have the time to have a good meal. Some of the fee collectors have to rush to work without even eating their breakfast and work for the



whole day.

The parking fee collectors as much as they find the job rewarding, they also find it challenging. While some people drive away refusing to pay the fee, the collectors have to sometimes put their own money as to cover the loss.

While this writer was interviewing some of the collectors, their eyes are always on the road and

their schedule more like a marathon runner. Some students plan to continue their work during vacations.

"I want to feel the pride of wearing my school uniform bought with my own money," said Megraj.

(Deki Zangmo, a Royal Thimphu College student, is currently interning with Business Bhutan)

mirror

In developing countries, the rights of pedestrians are rarely taken into consideration. Pedestrians are literally sidelined by vehicles on the roads. Vehicle owners consider that roads belong to them and pedestrians are seen as a nuisance. People who ride cars get social acceptance and are respected. Those who decide to walk are considered poorer.

One of the most popular interventions in making a city 'walkable' was introduced by the Danish urban design consultant Jan Gehl. He studied how urban space is used in the Danish capital of Copenhagen for over 40 years to see how the space is accessible to people who do not use cars. Today, the project is popularly known as Copenhaganization. Another recent popular attempt in this regard is from the United Kingdom where people can rate how friendly their streets are. They can log onto the website ratemystreet.co.uk which uses a Google maps based rating system to empower local communities to rate the walkability of their local streets. Users can rate a street using eight different categories: crossing the street, pavement/sidewalk width, trip hazards, wayfinding, safety from crime, road safety, clean/attractive, and disabled peoples' access.

Thimphu, being a small city, compared to other capitals, has the advantage of becoming a leader in pedestrian friendliness. Being mountain people, our ancestors have walked all their lives, though today we take pride in riding our cars. The walking culture, which is in our genes, is gradually disappearing. Vanishing along with this, is our respect to people who walk. That is why many of our pathways are unclean, drains are open, and iron rods jut out from concrete



The case of a dangerously open drain is also a reflection of our society

slabs.

To illustrate the importance of properly maintained pavements for pedestrians, Business Bhutan carried out an exercise this week. The Thimphu pavement in front of the Crafts Bazaar, spanning from BDBL to the Nehru Wangchuck Cultural Centre, has three slabs missing for eight months. The drain over which the slabs are laid is deep enough that if a man falls into it, he cannot climb out without help. The Thimphu Thromde, which has the mandate to keep the pavements safe, was unaware of the danger zone. We decided to take photographs of a man inside the drain to demonstrate the danger.

On sharing the photograph, the Thimphu Thrompon agreed that the drain has to be covered before an accident takes place.

The drain, left open for eight months, revealed two sad truths: the authorities were unaware of such a dangerous trap, and that pedestrians who use it daily did not bother to lodge a complaint. This shows our

callousness when it comes to public safety. As a Buddhist society, we should be naturally inclined to be compassionate to all. But the open drain displayed the selfish mentality of not caring for the other. It also showed that we tend to respond only when there is a crisis. From the status of the economy to a covering a dangerously open drain, we wait for a crisis to happen.

The Thimphu Thromde, which has decided to immediately act on the open drain, has to be commended. We hope they would respond in a similar fashion to other needs that affect people directly. Such acts will also instill a sense of responsibility and care in our citizens.

phubadorji7@gmail.com

dear sir,



BUSINESS BHUTAN
P.O BOX 1190
NORZIN LAM:
THIMPHU

All letters should contain the complete address of the writer. Ideas expressed in the letter solely belongs to the writer

Issue of teasing

I am an under graduate student at the Royal Thimphu college. Today, I am writing to you to bring the issue of eve-teasing to your notice. Eve-teasing is an issue that everyone in the society is aware of. The trend of passing vulgar comments on someone especially on the girls without even knowing them is something that has taken a new toll. The streets and the city are no longer safe. Women and girls are still insecure to come out of their homes and walk freely. Eve-teasing not only consist of comments that are vulgar but also misuse of freedom of speech to hurt someone or cause embarrassment. Being a girl, it is really hard to walk on the streets and escape the comments and smear of those worthless people. This makes me feel that the worth and the dignity of women in this society is questioned. As shocking as

it may seem, there is no women/ girls in the society which has not been a victim of eve-teasing or there is no men in the society who have never teased a girl or passed a comment on. It is seen that every girl has to restrict their movement as to avoid further problems. Women has to stop being quiet and start resisting. If a girl is taking a stand and is reacting to the eve-teasers, she is seen to be further tortured and I must say that either way we girls lose.

Therefore, I would be very thankful, if your newspaper could highlight this issue and make the country a much more safer and a better place for girls to breathe freely.

Sonam Zangmo,
Thimphu

Border Roads Organisation
Chief Engineer Project Dantak

BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS-02/2014-15
(NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

Chief Engineer Project Dantak on behalf of President of India invites tender from the eligible contractors for the following works:-

Name of Works : **“SUPPLY AND STACKING OF STONE CHIPS 13.20 MM, STONE CHIPS 11.20 MM AND CRUSHER SAND BETWEEN KM 0.00 TO KM 7.00, KM 8.00 TO KM 13.00, KM 15.095 TO KM 16.00, KM 16.470 TO KM 17.00, KM18.550 TO KM 19.590, KM 21.263 TO KM 32.513, KM 46.057 TO KM 49.060, KM 65.00 TO KM 68.790 AND KM76.200 TO KM 78.900 FOR PREMIX CARPET 20.00 MM THICK WITH SAND SEAL COAT FOR RESURFACING WORKS ON CONFLUENCE- HAA UNDER 19 BRTF (P) DANTAK IN SIDE BHUTAN”**

Cost/ Time of Work		Details of Tender documents	
(a) Cost of Work:-	Rs 51.99 Lacs	(a) Cost of Tender	Rs.1000/-
(b) Period of Completion	90 days	(b) Availability of Tender documents	On or after 29 Jan 2014
(c) Earnest money:-	Rs 77985/-	(c) Submission of Tender	Upto 1200 hrs (BST) on 20 Feb 2014

Note:- Full notice of tender, change in above details, tender document (including eligibility criteria) and other details may be obtained from BRO website www.bro.gov.in or central public procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in . For any queries, please contact HQ Chief Engineer (P) Dantak Telephone: 009752-351082/351086/351088, FAX: 009752-351285.



TD/DES-10/2013-2014/136

Dzongkhag Administration
Tsirang Dzongkhag

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Dzongkhag Administration, Tsirang now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for execution of following works:

Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Nu.in million)	Contractor Category	Contract Duration
Improvement of Semjong Farm Road from Daragoan to Semjong CPS under Semjong Geog, Tsirang Dzongkhag.	5.525	W1 (Medium)	12 Months

- Bidding will be conducted through the limited Bidding procedures specified in the RGoB Procurement Manual, and are open to all Bidders from Countries as defined in section III of the Bidding Documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of Dzongkhag Engineer, Tsirang, Ph# 06-471202, 06-471119 and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Dzongkhag Revenue Officer during office hours.
- Margin of preference for eligible national contractors/ joint ventures/consortia/associates may be applied.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders from the office of Dzongkhag Revenue Officer w.e.f 24th January 2014 till 24th February 2014 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Nu. 1000.00 during office hours.
- Bids must be delivered to the office of the Dzongkhag Revenue Officer on or before 10.00 AM on 25.02.2014. Electronic bidding “shall not” be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders’ representatives who choose to attend in person at Dzongkhag Conference Hall on 25.02.2014 at 10.30 AM.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Nu. 1,00,000.00 (Ngultrum One Lakh) only drawn in favour of Gup, Geog Administration Semjong, Tsirang Dzongkhag. Bid Security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and should be valid for 90 days beyond bid validity.

GUP



YDF/WO/2014/1624

Bhutan Youth Development Fund

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(Consultancy services for project supervision and management)

The Bhutan Youth Development Fund invites eligible Bhutanese consultancy firms to indicate their interest in providing consultancy services for supervision and management of the construction project “Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Tshaluna, Thimphu”. The project is funded under the RGoB’s 11th Five Year Plan.

The EOL should include **cover letter, licence/registration certificate, litigation status, company/individual profile, technical ability, past experience** and other relevant documents to prove the capability and capacity. It should be submitted to Kinley Tenzin, Project Manager, YDF in Thimphu.

For the details of scope of the works or Terms of Reference, contact us at 329135/324783(extension 115) or download from www.bhutanyouth.org. Last date for submission of expressions of interest is on **January 31st, 2014** before **13:00hrs**.

Executive Director



འབྲུག་ཚོང་འབྲེལ།

སྤྱི་ལོ་ ༢༠༡༧ ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ ༡ པའི་སྤྱི་ཚེས་ ༢༥ རེས་གཟའ་ཉི་མ།

ཐིམ་ཕུག་ལུ་ཡོད་པའི་ལག་བཟོའི་ཚོང་ཁང་གི་བསྐྱར་



ཐིམ་ཕུག་ཚུབར་ཚུབ་ལུ་
ཡོད་མི་ལག་བཟོའི་ཚོང་ཁང་འདི་
སྤྱི་ལོ་ ༢༠༡༡ ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ ༡༠ པའི་
ནང་གོ་ཕྱི་འདི་ཡོད་པ་དང་ ཨ་ཞི་
ཚོང་ཁང་འདི་ལོ་ ༢ གི་དོན་ལུ་
ཨིན་མ་དང་ ཚོང་ཁང་འདི་ནང་ ད་
ལྟོ་བར་ན་ཡང་དགའ་འདུལ་སྐྱོམ་
སྤེལ་འདི་ ག་ཡང་མ་འཐོན་པ་
ཡོད་པ་ཨིན་པས།

ཚོང་ཁང་འདི་བརྩམ་ཅིག་
ནང་ ཅེ་ལ་གི་རིགས་ག་རང་ ང་
བཅས་འབྲུག་མི་ཚུ་གིས་བཟོ་
བཟོམ་གཙང་ཚ་རང་ཡོད་པའི་
ཁར་ འདི་ཁར་ང་བཅས་འབྲུག་

པའི་ཨམ་སྐྱུག་ཚུ་གིས་ཐགས་
པའི་གོ་ལ་དང་གཡུམ་ཁ་ལས་
བཟོ་བའི་ བང་ཅུང་ དུ་པ་ ཐོར་པ་
དེ་ལས་གྲོན་ཆས་ཀྱི་རིགས་མ་
འབྲམ་ མེ་ཉོག་སྐྱུག་སྐྱུག་མ་
དང་དགའ་རྒྱུང་ལ་སོགས་པ་ཚུ་
ཚོང་ཁང་འདི་ནང་ཐོབ་ཚུགས་པ་
ཨིན་མ་པས།

ཚོང་ཁང་འདི་བདུན་ཕྲག་
ཅིག་ནང་ཉིན་མ་ཅིག་ངལ་གསོ་
བཞག་དོ་ཡོད་པ་ཨིན་ དེ་ཡང་
གཟའ་ལྷག་པ་ནང་བཞག་དོ་
ཡོད་པ་དང་ ཉིན་མ་གཞན་མི་ནང་
འབད་ན་ ཉིན་མ་ཅིག་རང་མ་བྱེད་

པ་འོང་དགོཔ་སྤེལ་ཚོགས་
པ ༧ དེ་ཅི་བཟོ་འདི་ཡོད་མི་དེ་
གི་ གྲིམ་ས་ ཅིག་ཡང་བཟོ་འདི་
ཡོད་པ་ཨིན་པས།

ག་དེ་མ་ཅིག་སྤེལ་ཚོང་
པ་ཚུ་ལུ་བཏབ་མ་བཏམ་འབྱུང་
བ་ཅིན་ འོང་ཚོགས་པ་ཚུ་ལས་
ཉིན་མ་གསུམ་ དེ་ཅིག་ངལ་
གསོ་ བྱིན་ད་ཆད་ དེ་འབད་མ་
ད་ ཉིན་མ་གསུམ་ལས་འགལ་
བ་ཅིན་ ངལ་གསོ་སྤྱོད་མི་འདི་
གིས་ངལ་གསོའི་ཞུ་ཡིག་འདི་
ཡང་གཞུང་ལུ་སྤུལ་དགོཔ་སྤེལ་
ཨིན་པས།

ཚོང་དོན་ཨེ་ལུ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་
རིང་གིས་སྐབ་མི་ནང་ ཚོང་འདི་
བརྩམ་བཟོའི་འབད་མ་དང་ འོང་ལུ་
ལེས་ས་ག་ཞི་ཡང་ མིན་འདུག་
ཟེར་ཨིན་མ་དང་ འབྲུག་འབྲུག་
སྐབས་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་ ༢༠༠༠
རྒྱུ་མ་ཅིག་ཐོབ་མི་འདི་ ཚོང་
ཁང་ནང་ལུ་ ཚོང་བཟོའི་མི་བུ་མོ་
བཏུགས་མི་འདི་ལུ་ ལྷོ་ལྷོ་གི་
དུལ་ཡོག་ ༣༥༠༠ དེ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་
གོ་དོ་ཡོད་པ་དང་ གྲིམ་གྱི་ཁང་གྲུ་
འདི་ཡང་ ༣༤༣༠ དེ་ལྷོ་ལྷོ་
ཟེར་ཨིན་པས།

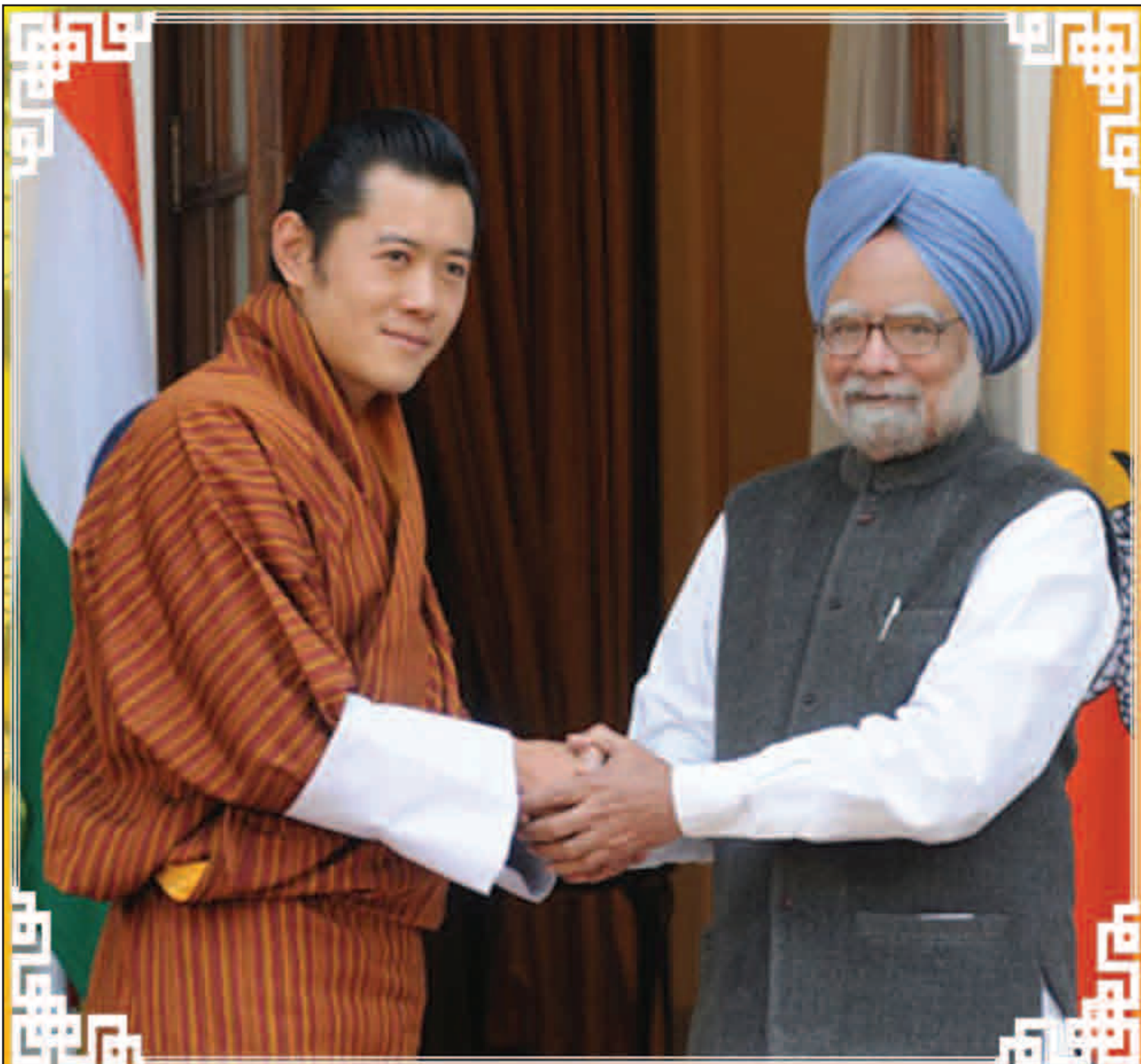
ད་རུང་ ཚོང་དོན་ཨེ་ལུ་ལྷོ་
རིང་འབྲུག་པ་གིས་སྐབ་མི་འདི་
ནང་ ད་ལྟོ་ཡོད་མི་ཚོང་ཁང་གི་
གྲིམ་འདི་ ལོ་ ༢ དེ་ཅིག་གཞན་
སྐབས་ཀྱི་ དོན་ལུ་ཨིན་མ་
ད་ ལོ་ ༢ གི་ལུ་ལས་གཞུང་
གི་ཁ་ཐུགས་ལས་ཚོང་ཁང་གི་
གྲིམ་འདི་ཡང་སྤྱི་དང་བཟོ་བྱིན་
ཅི་ཟེར་སྐབ་འདི་ཡོད་ཟེར་ཨིན་
པའི་ཁར་ ད་ལྟོ་ཡོད་མི་སྤྱོད་
གྲིམ་འདི་ལས་ དགའ་འདུལ་
ཨ་ཕྱི་ལེ་འཐོན་འདི་རང་སྤྱོད་པ་
མས་ དེ་ཡང་ཆར་པ་རྒྱབ་ད་
གྲིམ་ཐོག་ ལེགས་ཤོམ་མེད་པ་
ལས་ ཆར་པ་འབྲུགས་དོ་ཡོད་པ་
ལས་ འབྲུག་འབྲུག་སྐབས་ཚོང་

ཚུ་ཨེ་ལུ་ཤོར་མ་དོ་ཡོད་པ་ལས་
འོང་ཚོང་པ་ཚུ་ལུ་གུད་ཡོག་པ་
མས་ཟེར་ཨིན་པས།

དེ་ནང་ལུ་ཚོང་ཁང་ཡོད་པ་
བསྐྱར་མས་ ༤༠ དེ་ཅིག་ཡོད་པ་
ལས་འོང་ཚོང་པ་ཚུ་ཕྱི་རུ་ཚོང་
ཁང་འདི་ནང་ཉལ་གི་མེད་པའི་
ཁར་ ཚོང་ཚུ་ ཚོང་ཁང་འདི་ནང་
རང་བཞག་དོ་ཡོད་པ་ལས་ ཕྱི་
རུ་ཚོང་ཚུ་བཏུ་གི་དོན་ལུ་ སྤུང་
རྒྱབ་བཏུགས་འདི་བཞག་དོ་ཟེར་
ཨིན་མ་མ་ཚད་

སྤུང་རྒྱབ་བཏུགས་ཞིན་མ་
ལས་མར་ འོང་ཚོང་པ་ཚུ་ལུ་
དགའ་འདུལ་ག་ཞི་ཡང་མ་འཐོན་
ཟེར་ཨིན་མ་པས།

ཚོང་ཁང་ཚུ་ནང་དགའ་འདུལ་
ག་ཅིག་རང་འཐོན་རུང་ ཚོགས་
པ ༧ དེ་ཅིག་ཡོད་མི་དང་ཅིག་
ཁར་ཁ་སྐབས་སྤེལ་ དགའ་འདུལ་
འདི་ བསལ་དོ་ཟེར་ཨིན་མ་དང་
འབྲུག་མི་ཚུ་གི་ མཚོ་བསམ་ལུ་
འོང་གིས་བཟོའི་ཅེ་ལ་འདི་
ཚུ་ ཕྱི་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་རྒྱུང་ཅིག་གི་
དོན་ལུ་ཨིན་ཟེར་མཚོ་མ་མས་ དེ་
སྤེལ་མེད་པ་འབྲུག་མི་ཚུ་གི་དོན་
ལུ་ ཡང་ཨིན་ཟེར་ཚོང་པ་དོ་ཚེ་
ཚོ་རིང་ གིས་བཞག་ ཡོད་པའི་
གནས་ཚུལ།



On the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the
REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

The Management and the Employees of
TASHI GROUP

extends warm felicitation to the people of India.
 May the pristine friendship grow from strength to
 strength in harmony and prosperity.

། བཀྲིས་ཚོང་འབྲེལ་གྱི་ཚན།



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green ideas

ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND OUR FUTURE

Is a mini ice age on the way? Scientists warn the Sun has 'gone to sleep'

The Sun's activity is at its lowest for 100 years, scientists have warned.

They say the conditions are eerily similar to those before the Maunder Minimum, a time in 1645 when a mini ice age hit, Freezing London's River Thames.

Researchers believe the solar lull could cause major changes, and say there is a 20% chance it could lead to 'major changes' in temperatures.

'Whatever measure you use, solar peaks are coming down,' Richard Harrison of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire told the BBC.

'I've been a solar physicist for 30 years, and I've never seen anything like this.'

He says the phenomenon could lead to colder winters similar to those during the Maunder Mini-

mum.

'There were cold winters, almost a mini ice age.'

'You had a period when the River Thames froze.'

Lucie Green of UCL believes that things could be different this time due to human activity.

'We have 400 years of observations, and it is in a very similar to phase as it was in the runup to the Maunder Minimum.'

'The world we live in today is very different, human activity may counteract this - it is difficult to say what the consequences are.'

Mike Lockwood University of Reading says that the lower temperatures could affect the global jetstream, causing weather systems to collapse.

'We estimate within 40 years there a 10-20% probability we will be back in Maunder Minimum ter-

ritory,' he said.

Last year Nasa warned 'something unexpected' is happening on the Sun'

This year was supposed to be the year of 'solar maximum,' the peak of the 11-year sunspot cycle.

Experts have been baffled by the apparent lack of activity - with many wondering if NASA simply got it wrong.

However, Solar physicist Dean Pesnell of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center believes he has a different explanation.

'This is solar maximum,' he says.

'But it looks different from what we expected because it is double-peaked.'

'The last two solar maxima, around 1989 and 2001, had not one but two peaks.'

Solar activity went up, dipped, then rose again, performing a mini-cycle that lasted about two years,

he said.

The same thing could be happening now, as sunspot counts jumped in 2011 and dipped in 2012, he believes.

Pesnell expects them to rebound in 2013: 'I am comfortable in saying that another peak will happen in 2013 and possibly last

into 2014.'

He spotted a similarity between Solar Cycle 24 and Solar Cycle 14, which had a double-peak during the first decade of the 20th century.

If the two cycles are twins, 'it would mean one peak in late 2013 and another in 2015'.



Researchers have recently captured massive sunspots on the solar surface - and believed we should have seen more



Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Works & Human Settlement
Department Of Roads
Regional Office, Thimphu

Ref No DoR/FDT/13-14/W-9/615

"Towards Quality Infrastructure"

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB), RE-TENDER

The Regional Office, Department of Roads, Thimphu invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for execution of the following works:

SL No	Name of work	Bid No	Bid Security	Contract period	Class	Category
1	Improvement of Semtokha- Dochula Primary National Highway	BIDNo FDT/13-14/08	1,285,000,00	Seven months	Large	W1

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Office of the Chief Engineer, Regional Office, DoR, Thimphu, Zenphel lam. Tel 323281/326869 during office hours. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded from CDB web site (www.cdb.gov.bt) or MoWHS web site (www.mowhs.gov.bt). Documents will be available for downloaded from 25/01/2014 to 7/02/2014.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of above given amount drawn in favour of Chief Engineer, Regional Office, DoR, Thimphu.

Bids must be delivered to the address above before 1:30 PM on 7/02/2014 and will be opened on the same day at 2.00 PM physically in the presence of all intending bidders. Late Bids will be rejected.

Chief Engineer
RO, DoR, Thimphu



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Is Bhutan selling its soul to Google?

mail server using already existing open and free software solutions. "I think Google is trying to build a case study in Bhutan by offering Google apps service to government so they can market it to other governments," he said.

The Snowden revelations have proved that the American military's National Security Agency has a direct line into the systems of world's biggest IT giants. Though Google, Facebook, Apple and Yahoo denied these reports, the US government has not. In June last year, *The Washington Post* reporter that the FBI and the National Security Agency have been pulling data from the servers of nine U.S. internet companies over the past six years. Information from the

snooping program, known as PRISM figured in the American president's daily briefings. In a statement, James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence, called the program "important and entirely legal" and the revelations risked the "security of Americans."

Hacker and Technologist Asif Kalam told *Business Bhutan* that it all boils down to how much Google could be trusted. "It'll be no doubt more secure against attacks than a home-grown solution but at the end of the day your data resides with Google which can be complicit in NSA spying without you ever knowing," he said.

There are open-source alternatives to everything but none as polished or hassle-free as Google Apps,

he added. "So it's a tradeoff between trusting all your data to Google vs a lot of technical overhead."

A local IT expert said instead of relying on a US-based company, the government should have strict guidelines for local companies who install and maintain servers. No particular agency should have all data, as is the case with the present setup in Bhutan, whereas with Google Apps, everything is available to Google.

Moreover, the whole government could also come to a halt if the International link is down, as everything is run from Google servers outside Bhutan. Handing over everything to Google will also result in stifling growth of local capacity. While in

the Opposition, PDP was against employing McKinsey drawing Bhutan's development plans. The move was seen as questioning the intelligence of local experts.

But communications minister Lyonpo DN Dhungyel told *Business Bhutan* that the government discussed security issues with Google representatives. "We were mindful of the security of the country when we planned to shift to Google apps. Our study also showed that there won't be any security issues," he said.

As of now only 45 American states use 'Google Apps for Government.' Bhutan migrating its communications to Google would make the country the world's first nation to do so. While Bhutan seems enthusiastic about shifting its data to Google, other countries are wary. Sweden

has prohibited any of its government offices from using Google Apps for communication including document storage, spreadsheets, calendars, collaborative documents, email and other services.

The Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa said the party has consulted best technical and professional minds from the civil service, the corporate and private sectors whosuggeste that Bhutan can use cheaper and secure applications, similar to what Google offers.

"Both the government and the opposition seem to have failed to take a closer look at the implications of using Google Apps. We are confident that using Google Apps is not the solution. It is also not the best way to improve efficiency of public service delivery," the DNT statement said.

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resigning after elections

date receives Nu130,000 for the campaign. Until now when an elected candidate submitted his or her voluntary resignation, the individual was not asked to refund the fund, however the Amendment bill, 2014 says that from now on it has to be returned.

Asked on the amendment, a former National Council member said it did not seem right to ask for the refund, since the money was already spent

on campaign. "Whether a candidate wins or not, the fund was provided for the campaign and will be spent during the process, so what is the point of asking it back. Who knows, some may even not have that much amount in their bank account" he said.

The former National Council member also said that it would however make sense to ask for the refund if the candidate over spent or was not able to justify

his/her expenditure during the campaign.

It came as a rude surprise, when, in late July last year, the former Prime Minister and Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) President Jigmi Y Thinley submitted his resignation to the National Assembly after winning from Shumar Nanong constituency in Pemagatshel. He did not take the oath in parliament. He submitted his resignation even before

the formation of the new parliament was complete.

Dorji Wangdi, a business man from Gelephu, said that it is all right to ask to refund the campaign fund. "Winning an election means that the voters from one's constituency trust that particular candidate, therefore it shows how irresponsible that person is and does not care about his or her constituency," he explained.

Dorji Wangdi also said

that a candidate's decision to resign should be thoroughly justified.

The report on the amendment was submitted yesterday by Lekey Dorji, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee and it was said that the provisions related to resignation of elected members were to be amended in the National Assembly Act with endorsement of Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly.

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Dangerous open drain

ing slabs, the drain was still open. A staff from this paper climbed down the opening and photographs were taken to prove the danger.

Although Thrompon Kinley Dorji said the Thromde is cash strapped and cited quotation proce-

dured delays, he has already assigned engineers to work on the missing slabs.

"The opening is quite big and somebody can get hurt," said Thrompon Kinley Dorji adding that they had not noticed it before "We will get it done as soon as possible," he said.

The thrompon has directed the Chief Engineer to visit the site and cover it soon before any mishap is reported.

"Few kilograms of cement and steel should fix the openings," he added.

Meantime the Chief Engineer of TCC, Mahesh

Pradhan, said the missing slabs were probably stolen. But sources said at least one slab was crushed into the drain by an earthmover deployed at the new Bhutan National Bank construction site. "It is dangerous with young kids and especially at night," said a Chubachu res-

ident. An assistant engineer from the roads section have visited the site and arranged for laborers to fix the slab yesterday afternoon.

"The concrete setting and replacement will take some time," said Ugyen Lhamo. "It will be fixed soon," she added.



On the special occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the
REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA
we, the management and the employees of
Punatsangchhu - I & II Hydroelectric Project Authorities
extend our warm felicitations to the people of India.

May the friendship between the two countries grow from
strength to strength !