



APRIL 30, 2022 · Nu 20



► His Majesty The King granted an Audience to the Foreign Minister of India, who is on a two day visit to Bhutan.

FEATURE

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The story of Dongdi Dzong



Focus Point

Double Dose!

JDWNRH
Visitor Inspection



He needs a little more drugs than what the Doctor prescribes!

Foreign ministers inaugurate three projects

Nima Wangdi

Foreign Minister Dr Tandi Dorji and India's external affairs minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar inaugurated three projects that were completed through Indian assistance yesterday.

Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is travelling to the neighbouring coun-

tries as part of an in-person engagement with the neighbours. He was in Bangladesh on April 28. He has also visited Maldives and Sri Lanka earlier.

This is Dr Jaishankar's second visit since he became India's external affairs minister.

The visiting minister formally inaugurated Chubachu-Jungzhina four-lane road, Bajo-Khuruthang

secondary high way, and the bus terminal in Bumthang.

Lyonpo Tandi Dorji said that the Chubachu-Jungzhina four-lane road is one of the main trunk roads in Thimphu city, which facilitates smooth flow of traffic and helps ease the traffic congestion from the Northern part of Thimphu to the city core.

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Gaydrung retrenchment to cost Nu 44.594M

Dechen Dolkar

Gaydrungs will get a one-year basic salary and other benefits from April this year as a special retirement scheme.

The Prime Minister's Office issued an executive order on April 6

to discontinue the post of gaydrungs permanently from the local government functionary; their tenure ends this month.

According to the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the special retirement scheme—a year salary starting from April this year and leave travel conces-

sion (LTC) and leave encashment—will be paid for their recognition of their dedicated service to the country as per the pay revision Act of 2019.

The Cabinet in April 2019 extended the gaydrung's contract as per the resolution of the National Assembly. ► Pg 3

Former dzongdag stabs ACC official at Supreme Court

Staff Reporter

Police detained former Trongsa Dzongdag Lhab Dorji and his family members yesterday after they were involved in an attack on Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) officials at the Supreme Court yesterday.

According to eyewitnesses, the incident occurred when they were exiting the courtroom after the court convicted Lhab Dorji, his wife and two others in the illegal land case.

A 24cm long 'Rambo knife' was found in a trash

bin at the Supreme Court after Lhab Dorji's attack on the Investigation Director of the ACC. The ACC official suffered a cut on his left hand and bruises during the altercation. One of the commissioners was also allegedly assaulted. There were only two police personnel on duty at the site of the incident.

Kuensel learnt that the ACC will press charges against those involved in the attack on the officials including one of their commissioners.

SC convicts Lhab Dorji and three others

The Supreme Court convicted Lhab Dorji, his wife Karma Tshetim Dolma, former Dragteng Gup Tenzin and former land surveyor of Trongsa Narayan Dangal in the land case and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from 18 months to six years yesterday.

They were convicted of forgery, official misconduct, solicitation, and deception, among other charges.

The ACC registered

the case with the Trongsa dzongkhag court in 2017.

The SC sentenced Lhab Dorji to a concurrent prison term of five years for eight counts of criminal charges including four counts of forgery, three counts of official misconduct, and one count of execution of document by deception.

Karma Tshetim Dolma and former Dragteng Gup Tenzin are sentenced to a concurrent prison term of six years each for forgery, solicitation, and influencing the witness.

Narayan Dangal is sen-

tenced to 18 months in prison for aiding and abetting, and official misconduct. However, he can pay in lieu of the prison term.

Karma Tshetim Dolma illegally acquired land at Thumangdra in Nubi gewog. They were also convicted for the illegal acquisition of another plot of land in Taktse.

The High Court last year convicted six people in the case. Lhab Dorji, Karma Tshetim Dolma, Narayan Dangal, and former Gup Tenzin appealed to the Supreme Court.

Foreign ministers inaugurate three projects

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"Located in the central Bhutan, Bumthang Dzongkhag did not have a designated bus terminal ... This will be an important transit point for several destinations everyday and also facilitate effective public transport services," Dr Tandri Dorji said.

Lyonpo said the Bajor Khuru secondary highway will shorten the distance between Wangdue and Punakha. It will also enhance the socioeconomic well-being of the people of Wangdue and Punakha.

He thanked India for the 2,000 boxes of medical supplies that were handed over to Bhutan yesterday.

"We are grateful for all the assistance that we have received so far and we are also confident that the government of India will continue to provide the same level of support and cooperation in the coming years," Lyonpo said.

Dr Jaishankar is the first

foreign dignitary to visit Bhutan after Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr S Jaishankar said that the gathering was also a celebration of "our success in fighting against Covid-19 in the past two years".

He congratulated His Majesty the King, who had led from the front during the pandemic and the government and people of Bhutan for the extraordinary show of resilience.

"It is also a great matter of satisfaction as our bilateral cooperation continued to flourish even during this difficult period," he said.

He said: "I am happy that our traditional relationships have grown in new sectors since the Indian Prime Minister's visit in 2019 in keeping with the wishes and aspirations of the Bhutanese people."

He said that Bhutan and India are collaborating on STEM through regular placement of Bhutanese youth to the IITs in India. "I am also pleased to share that the India-



► Lyonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering and Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar during the meeting yesterday

Bhutan satellite programme is due to be launched into space shortly."

He further added: "I dedicate these three projects to the people of Bhutan. It is heartening to know they [the projects] are completed despite the

logistical challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic ... We will continue to stand resolutely by your side."

Dr Jaishankar also called on Lyonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering and had an audience with His Majesty The King and the

Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

The visit is in keeping with the long-established tradition of regular exchange of high-level visits between Bhutan and India.

Dr S Jaishankar will leave the country today.