CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ABOLISHED IN BHUTAN

Elsewhere

THIMPU, 27 March: The Bhutanese king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, in a Kasho (royal decree) issued on 20 March, the 30th day of the 1st Bhutanese month, abolished capital punishment in the kingdom of Bhutan.

The historical decree is momentous, reflecting a profound blend of spiritualism and pragmatism, feel observers. The implications of capital punishment, in Bhutanese law, is seen as a contradiction both from a religious and legal perspective.

Although capital punishment exists as a written law, it is not being invoked. And if the courts do award capital punishment, the King has the legal authority to repeal it. Meanwhile, Bhutan being a Buddhist nation, capital punishment is seen as a contradiction to the basic doctrines of Buddhism.

“The first and more immediate problem is the lack of parking space,” Mr. Ladakhi informed. While commending the government in trying to provide more space to vehicles he said he felt the need of some bye-laws, maybe by the UD&HHD department, obliging new constructions, whether industrial or residential, to incorporate a space to vehicles he said he felt the need of some bye-laws, maybe by the UD&HHD department, obliging new constructions, whether industrial or residential, to incorporate a

“Non-local Car Dealers Cringe on Services”

Local car dealers identify parking as the next “big problem”

Although Sikkim today had about 25,000-30,000 motor vehicles on the road, which although not a huge number, was still a big leap from the 5 vehicles that the state boasted of in the year 1950.

“In the next couple of decades this figure is bound to double as the state develops,” he added. And as the number of vehicles on the roads of Sikkim increased there were bound to be some problems too, Mr. Ladakhi said.

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“Ethno-botanist uncovers similarities between Jhakris and South American Shamans”

SARIAHAT ATREYA

GANGTOK, 29 March: Indigenous communities of Sikkim boast a highly evolved system of traditional healing methods and medicines, peculiar and unique to each community here. The knowledge, which was passed down the generations orally, however, has suffered the onslaught of time. Modernisation and the deliberate efforts of the advocates of modernisation and rationalists who pooh-pooed these traditional forms of healing have brought them to the brink of extinction. Paradoxically, at a time when this traditional knowledge is fading, it has also become fashionable to talk organic, herbal and alternative medicines. It is in this scenario that Sikkim plays host to a World Congress on holistic natural health practices.

One participant at the meet was Ryan Haeseley from the Kalimpong-based International Trust for Traditional Medicines. An ethno-botanist, he studies the relationship between people and plants, and primarily, the use of plants as medicines and the traditions of natural medicines and has discovered uncanny similarities between the traditional herbal remedies of the hills and the healing methods of South American shamans.

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How Far Do Twenty Rupees stretch?

I
t two policemen to the house of my mistress and asked her to come at once to the police station. Soon my mistress came, accompanied by some others. I was called to appear before my mistress and the sergeant sahib. My mistress’ brother-in-law seems to have prevented me from using the geneva convention in English about me, and I saw the sergeant nodding his head twice, which looked very omi-

nous. Perhaps my mis-
tress had accused me of theft or some other bad thing. At last my new sahib said, “I understand,” but I did not know what he meant by “I understand.” Happily nothing happened after all, for the sergeant sahib said to me, “Boy, are you willing to con-
tinue working with your mistress?”

“No sahib, I am not,” I replied. Then the sergeant sahib made an additional statement, “You honor, kindly get me my wages for the two years I have worked for this lady.”

Then the sergeant sahib made her give me twenty rupees, and so the matter was concluded. I felt like a prisoner set free that is, like one in exile but no longer imprisoned. I was still left in India and might never have a chance to return to Kalimpong, but at all events I had

escaped from the prison to house.

From these twenty rupees I spent 15 buying clothes and going four or five times to the pictures with some Indian friends, so that my pocket was empty once again two months after. After that I gave up going any more to the pictures or buying any clothes, for I thought these five rupees would be a great help to me if any difficulty arose and I had no other money. But I re-

ceived two rupees monthly from my master for my work and saved half of it for six months.

With the five I had left over, this made eleven rupees in all.

The work, which I was doing now, was not so hard as in the punjabi house. Also, I did not have to take a bath so many times a day and al-

most never had to go to the latrine. In this new place I was free from all these customs.

I could also eat anything my stom-

ach craved for, and for the first time

in many days I again enjoyed the taste of meat. My stomach liked this, for I was born that way.

After three months in the new house I was taken with the mem-
sahib and some of the children to Delhi. My mistress’ house was outside the town. My work consisted in taking care of the children, as before. Afternoons free, and then I had time to look at the town, where I went often to see the bazaar.

Walking there I saw many strange things that were new to me.

-to be continued

ED-SPACE

-17-
A theft was reported from Jorethang on 27 March. According to the report, the house of Bhunwar Kumar Minda was burgled and Rs. 11,000 in cash along with bronze utensils, a pressure cooker, and an electric iron were stolen.

Following the case, Jorethang Police arrested the two suspects, Amber Thapa, 26, and Shishir Chhetri, 19, both Jorethang locals and school dropouts. Both come from good family backgrounds, it is learnt.

While raiding the home of Amber Thapa, Police Inspector, Chundi Station, recovered huge amounts of cash and the stolen iron along with 6 plastic containers. An unexpected twist was provided by the discovery of 60 empty bottles of Phensedyl there.

**UPRAN TAMANG**

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**SOUTH COPS RECOVER LOOT, UNCOVER PHENSEDYL STASH AS BONUS**

**“Original” Lepchas identify alcohol as reason keeping Lepchas backward**

It was recognized that cooperation and support from the community and other local agencies was imperative for the upliftment of the weakest sections of the community and also in pro-pagating government policies on health, employment, jobs and the percolation of facilities to such people.

The Mayel Aahit Mutanchi Tarzum also clarifies that the essence of the word “Aahit” means Original Lepcha with proper antecedent irrespective of religion or region. An All India Aahit Tarzum will also be formed in the near future to interact with the Lepchas living in the neighboring states to work for the overall welfare of the community.
Rijal to go on hunger strike

KATHMANDU, 29 March: Bhutane human rights leader Tek Nath Rijal has decided to go on hunger strike demanding the honourable repatriation of the Bhutane refugees living in the eastern Nepal. He will stay on the strike at Ratnapark in Kathmandu from Tuesday, 30 March.

“I decided to go on a hunger strike to draw the attention of Nepalese and Bhutane governments and international communities to attain peaceful solution to the prolonged refugee repatriation process,” said Rijal Monday.

Rijal has demanded the Nepalese government to internationalise the refugee imbroglio and involve United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] and Human Rights Council of Bhutan in verification and repatriation process of the Bhutane refugees.

CONG EXPELS BADAL

KINCHUM PANTEN

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 March: The ruling Sikkim Democratic Front has alleged that “anti-socials from beyond the borders of Sikkim” led by former deputy CM, PT Luksum, tried to attack two SDF party members, Lanam Lepcha and Dorje Tshering Bhutia today at Chakung, West Sikkim.

An SDF release informs that the two were returning from Jorethang to Chakung when, as they approached Mr. Luksum’s residence, they found the road blocked by the former CM’s Gypsy. Mr. Luksum and “20 armed men” then are alleged to have attacked the two SDF party workers.

The locals of Chakung have vehemently condemned the attack and have demanded the arrest of all involved in the attack even if it requires the police to cross the border to trace them, the release adds.

Area MLA and Animal Husbandry Minister, PS Goley, has also condemned the attack and has asked the police to look into the matter. He has also accused the opposition parties of disturbing the peace of the region.

The two victims were first admitted to Soreong PMIC but have since been referred to Namchi hospital.

Thus far, the Soreong police have arrested six people in connection with the crime. Those arrested are: Mangal Subba, Nir Bahadur Subba, Arun Hang Subba, Bhanu Subba, Sukh Bahadur Gurung and Hem Bahadur Tamang.

SDF accuses former Deputy CM of assault, says he used muscle from outside Sikkim

a NOW REPORT

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PACIFIC SHIP MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES

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They made it successfully to the MERCHANT NAVY TRAINING programme

Chuba-Parbings youth part ways with Gurung, align with Chhetri

GANGTOK, 29 March: The election fever has set in and fresh permutations and combinations keep getting worked out at every level. While forging alliances with outside parties are the norm, it is also not unusual to start securing vote-bases within the party and forming an alternative front to the sitting MLAs.

Interestingly, such intra-party realignments are most pronounced in the SDF bastion of south Sikkim.

One such migration within was seen recently on 23 March when Lukpa T. Sherpa, a vice-convenor with the sitting MLA and Agriculture Minister, Gajaman Gurung, left the Minister and joined forces with Bharat Tenzing Chhetri. Mr. Chhetri is also an SDF leader and reports indicate that even he is lobbying for a party ticket for his candidate even if it results in the party’s downfall from Temi-Tarku this time around.

A press release issued by Mr. Sherpa claims that he left the incumbent MLA and took along with him youth from the Chuba-Parbing area to align with Mr. Chhetri. The reason for their fallout – “the undemocratic style of functioning” of the incumbent MLA, informs the press release.

CONG CONDEMNS PAMPHLET CULTURE

NAMCHI, 29 March: A meeting of Cheli Morcha of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front was held here today at Old College Building premises.

The meeting started at around 11 AM with the welcome address of Phb Rani Rai, Zilla Panchayat member, Singtibhang, Pasang Rinzing Sherpa, Chairman, Temi Tea Board was the chief guest. Present were Zilla Adhyaksha (South), Mr. Phurmit Lepcha and Cheli Morcha convenors for south district and the different constituencies.

The meeting is to continue until 10 April, with a one-day break on 1 April.

Addressing the meeting, the chief guest urged the people to support the ruling party while Ms. Lepcha warned against the distribution of false pamphlets or canvassing for tickets for the candidates from the south by Cheli Morcha members.

The meeting also opposed the pamphlets which were in circulation in the south district which carried the names of different women. According to Ms. Lepcha this was a recurrent problem during general elections.

Basic knowledge of electronic voting machines was also disseminated to the women during the meeting with the help of an EVM. There were almost 500 women present at the meeting, most belonging to the Dungtshang constituency.

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BAHRAIN (MIDDLE EAST) Requires

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SAFER ROADS INITIATIVE AT KALIMPONG

KARAN SHAH

KALIMPONG, 29 March: Traffic Safety week is being observed here for the first time. The observance is obviously prompted by the growing number of accidents seen on Kalimpong roads. The motto for the week is direct: “Observe traffic rules and be safe.”

The week, which began here today, is also being observed all over West Bengal. In Kalimpong, it mainly involves the police department and driver associations. It also has the support of a huge number of NCC cadets and boys and girls from various schools participating in the event for the general benefit of the people.

A gathering at the Motor Stand here in Kalimpong was also attended by the town’s eminent personalities.

The cadets and students along with the drivers and extra staff from the police dept were today present at 13 different points of the town mainly among the youth, the awareness of the general people hence we have organized this for them.

Accidents today are a major reason for the rise in mortality rates so it’s time that we take such programmes more seriously,” was his appeal to those gathered.

Col. AK Rai, Administrative Commandant of Kalimpong, said that all involved in the programme must work with a special focus and a sense of belonging to make it successful. Besides, the armed forces and the general people for such a cause.

Kalimpong OC, P. Pradhan then came forward with the official declaration for the observance of “Traffic Safety Week”.

“I am glad to see that for the first time Kalimpong has organized such an event. Henceforth we should ensure that such programmes be held every year and as Kalimpong is an academic centre school children are always under a huge risk.”

He further stated that it was good that the students were also involved in this since bad driving alone is not the cause of all accidents.

“Apart from this, the aims and objectives for implementation of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan were also highlighted.

I.P Adhikari, Headmaster, held a separate meeting with the representatives of different local Non-Governmental Organizations to seek their assistance for development of school activities and help in replacement of the concept of school versus society by school and society.

The main aim of the camp was to both educate and entertain the students and thus inculcate in them awareness on AIDS along with the harmful effects of consumption of adulterated food. Apart from this, the aims and objectives for implementation of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan were also highlighted.

For demo and entertainment, Nagbeli Pragati Sangh, a local NGO, in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra, Gangtok, invited a party of magicians affiliated to the Ministry of Information & Public Relations, Government of West Bengal.

The main aim of the camp was to both educate and entertain the students and thus inculcate in them awareness on AIDS along with the harmful effects of consumption of adulterated food.

2ND ANNUAL APPLIANCES MELA

HURRY! Offer valid from 31 March to 4 April

Assured Gifts on every purchase + chance to win more

MG Marg, Gangtok. Ph: 228849 / 205116
Ethno-botanist uncovers similarities between Jhakris and South American Shamans

DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGAN, 29 March: Two batches of 30 participants each attended an Orientation Training Programme at two separate venues in the North District this month. Both the programmes were spread over two days.

The Training was conducted by GM Subba, CDPO (North) first at Phidang, Lower Dzongu on 19 and 20 March and then at Chungthang on 24 and 25 March.

The programme was designed to equip the functionaries at the field level with information and skills on nutrition and nutrition related disorders, the causative factors and the impact of malnutrition on the health of an individual and the management as well as preventive strategies to handle malnutrition and nutrition related disorders in a domestic set-up. Another objective of the orientation training course was to generate awareness on the various facets of nutrition and malnutrition in the grass root level workers and women groups existing within the area.

The orientation programme is to be a long term sustainable intervention for improving the nutritional status of the target population.

The trainees consisted of Agarwadi workers, ANMs, school teachers, women panchayats, pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescent girls. During the training the trainees participated in lectures, group discussions and a demonstration.

Resource persons included district medical officer, North, Dr. Rinzing Lhamu Bhutia, medical officers, dentists, nutrition educators, ICDS supervisors and Joint Secretary, Social Welfare Department, A Pradhan.

An inaugural function was also organized at both the venues. Amongst others to attend the function were Dawa Lepcha, Ex Panchayat, Phidang, and Lhendup Lepcha, Panchayat President.

The Training Programme was funded by CNEU, Community Food and Nutrition Extension Unit, Gangtok Branch, Govt of India.

Training in nutritional health for North health workers

Dueche, Pemayangtse Gompa

Kulse Shegu

The 49th day Kulse Shegu of late Shyam Moktan (M/s Siam Brothers, Tibet Road), DOB 5 September 1959, who left for his heavenly abode on 16th February 2004 fell on 4th April 2004. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to kindly join us in offering prayers to be departed soul at our residence, Tashilling Secretariat Road, near Mani Lakhang, Gangtok.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their help during our time of grief and bereavement.

Mrs. Tshering Deki (wife) Hishey Moktan (son) Preeti Moktan (daughter) Ph. No.202103

FOR SALE

A white colored soft top gypsy in excellent condition. Price negotiable. Interested persons contact: 220994 (R), 9832014371 (M).

Lost

A hand record certified Khaltian of Bazaar station belonging to Pintcho T. Ladinnga within Gangtok on 27th on March. If found, please contact: Jigshel Y Ladinnga Ladinnga building (Sisa Gola), Vishal Goan, Arithang Block

Or call at: 2025247 (R)

Kulse Shegu

The 49th day Kulse Shegu of late Thshering Doma who left for her heavenly abode on 20th February 2004 falls on 7th April 2004. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers to be departed soul at our residence, Tashi Lhakhang, Gangtok.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who extended their help during our time of grief and bereavement.

Mrs. Tshering Deki (wife) Hishey Moktan (son) Preeti Moktan (daughter) Ph. No.202103

AVAIL OUR FABULOUS OFFERS


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HURRY!!! LAST TWO DAYS
A boy was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, “If you kiss me, I’ll turn into a beautiful princess.” He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, “If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful Princess, I will stay with you for one week.” The boy took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, “If you kiss me and turn me back into a Princess, I’ll stay with you and do Anything you want. Why won’t you kiss me?” The boy said, “Look, I’m a graduate student. I don’t have time for girlfriends, but a talking frog is really cool.”
THE FUTURE, NOW!

ARIES: Your physical drive and energy level are high now, and you can accomplish a great deal fairly easily. You are energized and ready to take the initiative or to strike out on your own, and you are likely to be successful at whatever you attempt at this time.

TAURUS: Positive feelings and high self-confidence make this a good time to go out, meet with people, or get some recognition and support for creative projects.

GEMINI: Social relationships, friendships, and supportive alliances are strengthened now. Your energy and confidence are high and you can accomplish much in a harmonious, flowing manner right now.

CANCER: Your thinking is rather gloomy and pessimistic at this time. You see the superficiality, the flaws, and the foolishness or impracticality in others. Also, communicating with others is difficult now, and people resist what you are saying.

LEO: You are high on self-confidence, full of optimism and enthusiasm for new enterprises and plans. In fact, you may be foolishly overconfident and take on more challenges than you can really meet.

VIRGO: You may have to rework a proposal or in some other way adjust your thinking or way of communicating in order to come to an agreement. Nervous irritation and/or mental exhaustion could result.

LIBRA: You are optimistic, hopeful, and forward-looking at this time. You can see connections and possibilities you may have overlooked before. Now is a time for communicating your enthusiasm, sharing your plans and dreams.

SCORPIO: You are motivated to work at resolving any ongoing problems you may be dealing with, but you’re apt to be rather irritable and egotistical now.

SAGITTARIUS: You are powerfully attracted, emotionally and sexually, to someone you encounter at this time, and any romantic involvements you currently have are intensified.

CAPRICORN: This is a calm, balanced, rather quiet time. You keep to yourself pretty much and can get some practical chores accomplished.

AQUARIUS: Positive feelings and high self-confidence make this a good time to go out, meet with people, or get some recognition and support for creative projects. Women in particular are especially helpful to you now.

PISCES: Verbal battles, disputes, and heated debates are very likely at this time because you speak your mind without much forethought, tact, or consideration of consequences.

THE CURRENT BESTSELLER

The opposition is up in arms anyway, news is that the Congress share it with its own office bearers. It is not even wonderful secrets the party has in store for us that it does not even wonder what it is doing. For Ashok Tsong and Bhandariji returns from Delhi now! Near Ayurvedic Clinic, Gairi Gaon, Tadong. East Sikkim. ph: 03592 270949 email: sikkimnow@rediffmail.com

So be a favourite of the Cheli Morcha, and declares that no alliance was made, rather quietly time. You keep to yourself pretty much and can get some practical chores accomplished.

hordes of whom seem to have taken permanent residence in his house. Otherwise what explains their ‘loud’ presence at all hours of the day? You’d think the market folk would be impressed by this show of support. But all they can do is cri, crib crib.

WHAT A RACKET

The people of MG Marg have been heard complaining of loud and hysterical sounds emerging from somewhere near the Titanic Park area. Try as they might, they could not locate the mysterious noise. After some investigation we found out that the sounds were coming from the house of a certain ticket aspirant. The man seems to be a favourite of the Cheli Morchha, and hopes to get around 12 seats in the state. For Ashok Tsong and Bhandariji returns from Delhi now! Near Ayurvedic Clinic, Gairi Gaon, Tadong. East Sikkim. ph: 03592 270949 email: sikkimnow@rediffmail.com

PHILADELPHIA: Five years have passed without the pitter-patter of baby gorilla feet, and zookeepers have decided that Damba and Chaka just aren’t working out. Introduced to each other five years ago at the Philadelphia Zoo amid high reproductive hopes, it’s not even clear the gorillas ever mated.

The departure of 19-year-old Chaka is bittersweet to keepers because he is a link to the era before a Christmas Eve 1995 fire at the zoo that killed 23 primates, including Chaka’s parents. Chaka would have likely died, too, if he wasn’t on a breeding loan program in Cincinnati.

Damba and Chaka were supposed to breed and start a new dynasty of ages. Gorilla handlers were particularly hoping that Damba, whose parents were wild-born, would make an introduction to Sikkim. We are getting scientific, are we? While on science, also heard that an aspirant, if he gets the ticket, will be introducing Sikkim to a new style of campaigning, American style. Hope he gets the ticket, if for nothing, then just to feel important when wooed for a vote in real modern fashion....