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Bhutan - Flooded by CSOs?

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DTT to elect VP and President during Convention

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81 days at the Frontiers



● His Majesty the King granted an audience to Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, who was on a two-day visit to Bhutan.

RBP charges former Trongsa Dzongdag for Attempt to Murder

CRIME

By Ugyen Tenzin, Thimphu

The Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) Thimphu has charged former Trongsa Dzongdag, Lhap Dorji for attempt to murder, his daughter for disorderly conduct and others for battery, following an incident that has shaken up agencies like the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), the Judiciary and the people. The incident happened on April 29, 2022, right outside the Supreme Court, after the verdict on the Trongsa land case involving Lhap Dorji and others were passed. Lhap Dorji, stabbed Director

of the ACC, Gyeltshen, while family members assaulted ACC Commissioner Jamtsho. However, the RBP said these are charged levied against the accused and that investigations are being conducted.

According to eye witnesses, Lhab Dorji stabbed the Director on his hand after which he threw the knife used into a bin nearby, which was later found by the police. The Director and Commissioner were immediately taken to the hospital in a car of the ACC. Later, the police reached the spot and took Lhab Dorji, his wife and others involved to the police station. The Journalist learned that the director required

three stitches while Commissioner Jamtsho was treated for bruises. Both have been send home and are in stable conditions.

Meanwhile, ACC Chairperson, Aum Deki Pem, who was also present at the court but was held behind as others left the court said, the incident happened in the hallowed premises of the Supreme Court, at the door of the Court Room immediately after the judgments was pronounced, in the presence of many witnesses including court officials, media and police official on duty. "We have trust in the system and believe that appropriate

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The Tentacles of Corruption

An overview of corruption in Bhutan based on interactions with people from different backgrounds

CORRUPTION

By Ugyen Tenzin, Thimphu

Despite advocacies, Acts, and several Rules and Regulations, corruption continues as one of the biggest challenges in Bhutan. While the scale of embezzlement and other corrupt practices may not be as huge compared to other countries, for a small and developing country like Bhutan, every act of corruption, irrespective of its nature is dangerous.

Under the broad phrase "Irregularities by Categories," The Public Accounts Committee Reports has categorized corruption into, Fraud and Corruption, Embez-

zlement, Mismanagement, Non-compliance to Laws and Rules and Shortfalls, Lapses and Deficiencies. Every year the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) presents its report, too. Due to the institutional structure, laws and regulations that are in place, ideally there should not be any cases of corruption at all. However, reports say otherwise. Further, people, especially private contractors, engineers and others say it is difficult to curb corruption and showcase how corruption flourishes in Bhutan.

According to an engineer, the chain of corruption usually begins from a lower level, like an accountant

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Indian External Affairs Minister leaves Bhutan after two day visit

DIPLOMACY

By Staff Reporter, Thimphu

His Excellency Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India was in Bhutan for an official visit from 29-30 April 2022, at the invitation of Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs. According to a press release from the Bhutanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Jaishankar is accompanied by senior officials of the Government of India. This is the first high-level official visit since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The External Affairs Minister also received Audiences with His Majesty The King and His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. He also called on Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister, and met with Lyonpo Dr.

Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and discussed matters of mutual interest.

During the visit, Dr. Jaishankar and Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji virtually inaugurated the Four-lane road from Jungshina to Chubachu, Bajo-Khuruthang Secondary National Highway and new Bus Terminal in Bumthang. To support Bhutan's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Jaishankar handed over 2000 boxes of essential medical supplies to Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji.

The visit is in keeping with the long-established tradition of regular exchange of high-level visits between Bhutan and India. The External Affairs Minister's visit will further strengthen the already existing close ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.



● Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering with Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India



● Dr. Jaishankar with Health Minister, Dr. Tandi Dorji



● Dr. Jaishankar handing over essential medical supplies to Health Minister, Dr. Tandi Dorji

Dr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister was earlier President - Global Corporate Affairs at Tata Sons Private Limited from May 2018. He was Foreign Secretary from 2015-18, Ambassador to United States from 2013-15, Ambassador to China from 2009-2013, High Commissioner to Singapore from 2007-2009 and Ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2000-2004.

He has also served in other diplomatic assignments in Embassies in Moscow, Colombo, Budapest and Tokyo, as well in the Ministry of External Affairs and the President's Secretariat.

Dr S. Jaishankar is a graduate of St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi. He has an MA in Political Science and an M. Phil and Ph.D in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

He is a recipient of the Padma Shri award in 2019. He is married to Kyoko Jaishankar and has two sons and a daughter

(Source: Ministry of External Affairs. Government of India).

The Journalist is confident that the two day visit of Dr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India was fruitful and would further strengthen the unique and special relations between Bhutan and India. We wish Dr. S Jaishankar good health, peace and long life.