

# THE REFUGEE

H E R A L D

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## NEWSLINE

### Blood donation in Pathri

**By Bhim Mongar**  
The United Christian Fellowship, conducted a blood donation camp on February 28 in Pathri camp.

The organizer said that 39 males and 21 females participated in the camp supported by the camp management committee of the camp.

The donated blood was handed over to the Nepal Red Cross Society, Damak.

### Handshaking of 36 hours in K-bari

**By Alok Limbu**

Aimed at setting a Guinness World Record, two youths from camps completed a continuous handshaking programme of 36 hours 12 minutes.

Neel Hari Upreti of Khudunabari and Dik Man Gurung from Beldangi-II demonstrated such zeal last month. They also expressed their determination to break the world's record of 48 hours.

The Media Network Bhutan supported the handshaking event held at Khudunabari camp.

### Friendly football match in Beldangi

**By Narad Pokhrel**

Aimed at promoting universal fraternity, refugee youths from Beldangi organised a weeklong football tournament in February.

Various five clubs took part in the tournament jointly organised by youths of Sector A and Sector C of Beldangi-II camp.

The organizers said, Miteri Club of Belangi-II kissed the trophy beating Young Guys Club of Beldangi-II Extension during the finale.

Submit your articles and creations at [refugeeherald \[at\] yahoo dot com](mailto:refugeeherald@yahoo.com)

Editorial Team

## APPEAL FOR STUDENTS

The Refugee Herald is an initiative of students belonging to various camp schools. Our primary goal is to inform the community through students. We want students to disseminate the contents of our paper to their parents. Therefore, we want to make a special request to students to subscribe and buy the paper for supporting the publication costs.

The Refugee Herald editorial team is strongly committed in promoting student-friendly, diversified and standard contents including regular coverage on Bhutan, the third resettlement and the refugee issue.

The Refugee Herald

## Genuine citizens will be accepted: PM Thinley

OUR REPORTER

The Refugee Herald

Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley one more time declared that "genuine citizens" would be repatriated, but based on the criteria set by the Joint Verification Team (JVT). However, he didn't talk about the timeline.

Talking to reporters in Thimphu on March 1, the PM said that his government was positive about solving the long running problems of "people in camps in Nepal".

"Presently the position of the government is, we will take back anybody who fulfills the

### Forest or refugee camp?

By Bishnu Maya Tamang

March 8, Beldangi-I

Refugees of three Beldangi camps have been leading fearful lives since months as no authority has paid proper attention in preventing entry of wild elephants into the camps.

Entry of wild beasts into Beldangi has been a hot topic for discussion these days. However, in absence of proper preventive measures from local authority and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, refugees are compelled to lead very fearful lives.

In Beldangi-I, the wild beasts destroyed ration store, several huts and toilets in the last of February and March first week. Elephants have already killed three refugees. Sadly, the authority has even not yet compensated their families for the loss.

If everybody is serious towards this hazard, something concrete has to be decided. There should be serious discussions in having electric fencing system for chasing away the beasts at the earliest possible.



criteria agreed upon between Nepal and Bhutan in the bilateral discussion," reports from inside quoted the Prime Minister as saying.

Admitting that the issue is one of the biggest problems that has been a threat to peace and stability in the country, he mentioned that the government was serious to find a solution to the problem that has often been blamed for taking Bhutan-Nepal

### MNB Launches Creative Classes

By Durga Pokhrel

The Media Network Bhutan (MNB) has launched Creative Classes for exiled youths from February.

Funded by a British charity HWH (Home Is Where the Heart Is), the Creative Classes in Beldangi and Sanischare camps have begun from March first week, according to Chief Executive of the Network Mona Rath Pokhrel.

Speaking at inaugural program held in Beldangi-II Extension, Pokhrel, said that the creative

relations into ransom.

"We need to resolve the issue quickly but a solution has not been easy to find as the two countries have struggled to find a solution for many years," he said.

Meanwhile, PM Thinley also told reporters that whatever the status, background or the rights or the lack of rights of the people might be, the fact is because Bhutan is directly associated with the huge population in the camp, it has very strong security and political implications for Bhutan.

On the other hand, the Opposition Leader Tshering Tobgay criticized the PM for speaking on the favour of Bhutanese refugees.

Contd on page 4...



Justin Ash of HWH lights a candle during the formal inauguration programme (Photo : Tilak Niraula )

classes included vocal, guitar and dance classes for interested youths. Justin Ash of the charity formally inaugurated the program by lighting a candle.

Cont on page 4

## Govt still tightlipped over registration issue



By Hari Kumar Dahal

Unlike what the District Administration Office (DAO) of Jhapa had committed in last November, assuring to resume registration with April 2012, no progress has been made even after the completion of three months.

The reluctance and lack of progress towards resumption of the installed verification process within the given deadline have provided enough areas for criticism and doubts from various sectors including the women group that has been fighting for refugee status and facilities from the aid agencies.

The women group on February

26 submitted a memorandum to various local human rights groups, camp management committee and BRRRC (Bhutanese Refugee Representative Repatriation Committee) asking them to put pressures on the government authority to start official registration at the earliest possible time.

According to Durga Devi Bista, Coordinator of the group, the letter was submitted to those who had signed the "government commitment paper" as witnesses in last November.

"Even after several attempts, we failed to seek an appointment with the Chief District Officer. This is why we have decided to request rights groups and camp committee to put pressure on the authority," Bista told.

She also mentioned that a formal letter seeking appointment with

### Night Inferno Destroys 51 Huts

By Khem Prasad Dahal

A night fire that was reportedly started from a hut owned by former camp secretary of Goldhap camp Ram Chandra Bastola of Beldangi-II Sector B/4, razed down 36 huts on March 2. Another 15 huts were dismantled to bring the mishap under control.

The camp-based Armed Police Force (APF) and residents of Bhutanese-II and Extension camps fought a battle of almost an hour to bring fire under complete control before the camp received the first fire extinguisher from the Damak Municipality. Later, three more fire fighters arrived from other places.

At least 211 individuals were displaced by the mishap, according to Deputy Camp Secretary Mon Maya Rai.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its implementing partners provided various relief aids to the fire victims. Even the Government of Nepal provided a cash amount of Rs 1,000 each for every burnt house.

Like in previous mishaps, the actual cause of fire has not yet been investigated.

Meanwhile, the authority has tightened mobility of refugees inside three Beldangi camps after 7 p.m. The refugees have been warned of stern actions against their movements after this time.

The authority said it was compelled to restrict movements of refugees considering threats of similar mishaps in the camps.

the CDO was lodged at the DAO on the same day.

"We doubt the sincerity of concerned authority as no progress at any level has been made to address the demands of asylum seekers and non-Bhutanese married to exiled Bhutanese," added Bista.

The local authority of Jhapa on November had committed to begin the registration process of all pending cases within April 2012 at the time of bringing a 12-day long fast-unto-death of 12 women in Beldangi-II.

The paper couldn't reach the Chief District Officer of Jhapa for his comment over telephone.

It is estimated that some 3,000 individuals including around 1,200 Nepalese or Indian women married to Bhutanese refugees have been deprived of official status in the Bhutanese refugee camps.

## EDITORIAL

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## EDITORIAL

## Learn Lesson From This

The recent suicide of a nursing student in Southern Tasmania has triggered emotions of varied natures amongst resettling lovebirds. The first lesson for all teenagers and adult lovebirds is to be serious in relationship and get resettled in the same country.

Reportedly “betrayed” by her boyfriend, who is now in US, 22-year-old Hari Thapa killed herself by hanging in her own room, brining a most tragic moment in her family. The last video post in her Facebook profile page clearly indicates that there was something wrong between the lovebirds for quite a longtime – may be a issue of marriage.

While attending several interviews at the UNHCR and IOM, resettling refugees have been asked to furnish their all sorts of details including the marital status or relationship with a partner, if any. In a society like ours, girls hesitate to open themselves up. This is why Hari was resettled in Australia without knowing that the guy she loved more than herself was moving with a heavy heart to the United States!

However, the ill-fate could have been avoided had there been enough seriousness towards their relationship from the beginning and by making parents of both the families informed about their longtime affair.

In a true relationship, no word like ‘betray’ exists. Every situation should be beneficial for both the partners. And, no parents will appear as barriers in between when a teenager is very much serious and cautious while adopting someone of the opposite sex as a lifetime partner. Instead, they’ll encourage.

If your lifelong partner is resettling in a different country, hurry up to sit with your parents and inform about your relationship. Probably, no officials at UNHCR or IOM will stand against your decision if you do not fall within the legal age bar.

It is an undeniable fact that writing is an art. This doesn’t mean that you need to have an instinctive power to portrait something. Writing skill is not heredity, but a recessive character that you’ll learn by practice. Can you sit patiently for a while and recall the number of examinations that you have appeared so far? This number, undoubtedly, suffices your requirement for practice. But, still you fear about your examinations. Why?

Teachers might have taught you that a good writing technique needs a better preparation. When our teachers ask us to prepare for exams, we understand that we just need to read books, lessons and notebooks. For those, who attend schooling with a sole intention of getting promoted to another class at the end of every academic year, preparation for examinations means reading important questions, making cheats to demoralise the actual sentiments of examinations or referring some guidebooks. But, for a dedicated student, the word ‘preparation’ has deeper meaning than what a dictionary describes. Preparation of exams asks you to be mentally, physically and emotionally serious towards your academic excellence. It also means a better planning – how to cover up all lessons, and answer all or majority of questions.

Interesting, your exams papers will have questions from the chapters that are very much familiar to you since the first terminal examinations. If you are sitting for your School Leaving Certificate (SLC) or Class VIII Board Examinations, there is always possibility that you’ll get some or all questions that were already given by your teachers in past internal examinations. Do you still remember some questions, which you couldn’t answer in your last examinations? What do you

## WRITE EXAMS TO FAIL ?

do if you get the same questions in your upcoming examinations? Will they again become tougher questions for you? Do you again claim that the questions are from the portions that you have never read well? If this ever happens, judge yourself how careless you are!

The next wrong method of your preparation is reading the first few chapters from your book times and again, leaving other important chapters untouched. How many times have you read ‘Cell Division’ from class ten science book? Do you know that ‘Electricity and Magnetism’ is one of the easiest chapters carrying heavy marks in your book? Suppose, if your Social Studies question paper simply asks you to name all lessons that are included in the course of study, are you going to write them serially? How many chapters are there in Algebra section of your Mathematics book?

Many students feel that overnight study will enable them to write examinations well the very next day. This is totally wrong. What are you going to do if you fall sick on that day? You may have amazing reading capacity up to the level that you can complete reading the whole Mahabharata in a day. But, how many questions asked from that voluminous book can be answered correctly the very next day? You must be assured here that you’ll just finish a few chapters of the book, have a quick scan on few more and leave the remaining before you rush for the exam.

We have been reading Science since childhood. But, how many of us know what Science means? Did you read a chapter that has defined the word Science? I agree with you that no definition was

mentioned in all the Science books you have read so far. But, why didn’t you ask to your teacher? And, why is the teacher teaching Science if he never knows that his first duty is to make students know the actual definition of Science? No books in your school have carried a lesson to teach you ‘how to write effective examinations’. Therefore, a smart preparation is far from what you have been regularly practicing in your student life.

If you aren’t a regular reader and still have a fear of getting through the examinations, sit with your teacher once. First learn the marking scheme and marks allotted to each chapter of a particular book. Let’s take Science as an example. It has 75 marks weightage. Of this you just need 24 to pass. If you leave everything aside and simply read physics, you’ll score more than the pass mark or in late 20s. You may feel that the Biology portion is easier, but never know that even if you are cent percent prepared, you’ll make a maximum score of 22.5 marks. Don’t you claim that your teacher has not taught the Chemistry portion well? But, how can the teacher make you understand the Chemistry when you are never ready to memorise valencies and symbols of the basic elements? When he says Sodium, your mind should know that he is talking about Na, whose valency is one. Thus, it is useless to waste time in preparing the Chemistry portion. And, based on the advice of your teacher, start preparing the lessons. Your first aim is to score the pass mark.

The next horrible tactics some students apply is reading all lessons, wasting a lot of time. This is definitely for brilliants. Suppose you have prepared all lessons and go for writing the exams. At the end, your score is just 50. What would happen



Vidhyapati Mishra



The next wrong method of your preparation is reading the first few chapters from your book times and again, leaving other important chapters untouched.

if you thoroughly prepare for 70 marks and score at least 60 or 65? This is far better than wasting your precious time in reading all lessons. And, do you have a habit to write while preparing for exams?

Therefore, we should never write examinations to fail. Examinations are testing tools that reveal our inside out mentally. If you prepare well and have a good handwriting, you’ll definitely excel. And, I wish you all the best for your upcoming examinations.

## INTERVIEW

## “Managing Three Camps Is Challenging”

Management of three Beldangi camps with new arrivals from Goldhap camps has been a challenging tough for the camp management committee at present. The Camp Secretary, Dhan Bir Subba, expresses his worry over effective management as consolidation of Khudunabari camp is already in the pipeline. In this regard, **Tilak Niroula** has talked to Secretary Subba. Here are his excerpts:



Dhan Bir Subba  
Camp Secretary, Beldangi

**What is the current situation of Beldangi camps?**

I’m really anxious and excruciating to gossip about the present situation. One of the world’s largest resettlement programmes is currently underway. The family split is a major problem related to this issue, sometimes even leading to some suicide cases. Next, the merger of Goldhap and Timai completed while Khudunabari is the next camp in the pipeline. Refugees find it hard to meet their daily breads as the aid-agencies are drastically reducing the facilities. Also, some 3,749 individuals have been fighting for their identity. Indeed, I am much worried about their situation.

**Your comment on resettlement and repatriation**

The third country resettlement is just a temporary solution. Refugees want the permanent solution – dignified

repatriation to their own homeland. To be more precise, refugees have been forced to accept the resettlement due to Bhutan’s stubbornness. Also, Nepal’s failure to convince Bhutan, India’s weird silence and uncertainty of 20 years have added fuel to the fire making refugees to leave for yet another destination.

**What caused the recently night inferno in your camp?**

Though I am not aware of the actual cause of the fire, I regard that it was due to carelessness. It would be better if the government authority begins investigation on the mishap.

**What do you say if you have to comment on consolidation of camps?**

There are many challenges in shifting camps. Firstly, the residents feel stressful and sad for leaving a place that has been their home for two decades. The next challenge is handling people of various disciplinary backgrounds. This

has even caused difficulty in effective camp management.

**How do you count your tenure?**

It is really a challenging job for me to manage three Beldangi camps. Additionally, we will have people of three other camps after completing the merger of Khudunabari. We are playing significant role in managing livelihood of refugees. However, frequent changes in committee members due to resettlement have created some problems in effective camp management.

**Your message to the community?**

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the refugees aid agencies, refugee community, media and well wishers for their helping hands. I too expect similar and constructive supports and suggestions for the efficient management of the camp with a peaceful environment in future.

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

### Social Studies

#### (Class VIII Board Examinations)

#### Group A (Give very short answers)

1. When was Paropakar Sansthan established?
2. What is social problem?
3. Give indicators to show hills and rivers used in Map.
4. Which place is known as "the zoo of the world" and in which continent does it lie?
5. What is the potentiality of hydro electricity of Nepal?
6. What is the total area of Nepal?
7. What is renaissance?
8. What is legislature?
9. What are the three organs of Government?
10. What kind of foreign policy has Nepal adopted?
11. What are the zones of Nepal connecting borders with China and India?
12. Mention three remarkable reforms of Rana Prime Minister Dev Shamsher.
13. Name the canal that separates the South America from North America.
14. When was Prithvi Narayan Shah born?
15. What is gender equality?
16. Write any two social evils that are existing in your community.

#### Group B (Short answers questions)

1. Why people's participation is necessary? List out any three development works that can be completed by people's participation.
2. Nepal is country of "Unity in Diversity". Explain.
3. Road transport is not enough yet in Karnali zone of Nepal. What are the reasons behind it?
4. Mention the major functions of the Executive.
5. Nepal is the 2nd richest country in water resources, but very poor." Discuss this statement.
6. What is judiciary? Write any two functions of Judiciary.
7. What does NAM stand for? Write its one objective.
8. Name any two cash crops that are produced in Terai region of Nepal.
9. Why the Hilly regions of Nepal are backward? Give three reasons.
10. Explain the three kinds of industries in short.
11. Write three functions of Executive.

#### Group C (Give long answers)

1. Why is it necessary to divide Nepal into Federal states? Give reasons.
2. Why Africa is known as the dark continent?
3. Map of Nepal/Bhutan

## CREATIONS

### Children

Children are our future stars  
They are our nation builder  
Give love and affection with kindness  
They will do their duty regular

Children are pleasant blooming flowers  
This helps us to be a muffler  
Education is important for them  
They are innocent living creatures

We should always care for children  
They should be properly moulded  
Teach them always good things  
And, they could follow the good lessons

■ Yograj

### A precious gift

I was angry with my parent  
I told my wrath my worth did end  
I was angry with my darling  
I told my wrath did grow  
And I love and care that girl with fears  
Day and night with my tears

I welcome her with smiles  
And speak in soft voice  
She grew till both day and night  
Suddenly she married with my darling

■ Sona Thapa

### Bhutanese Christians demand graveyards

Bhutanese Christians from inside said they have been denied of secure burial areas since the government doesn't allow the religion to flourish. The authority has not granted registration of Christian faith organizations yet.

Christians have also blamed Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley of not changing his attitudes towards them. The actual number of Christians in the country has not yet been counted officially.

The Director General of Department of Culture, Dorjee Tshering, clarified that Christians cannot have proper graveyards, as they are not registered legally as a religion even though they may be Bhutanese citizens.

According to a report, an elderly woman, who was a Christian convert, was buried right in front of her house in Gelephu triggering a backlash from the community three years ago. Instantly, a directive was issued saying that such burials should not happen.

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

### School Leaving Certificate

#### (Social Studies)

#### Group A (Very Short answers-questions)

1. Although the Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserves and the Khaptad National Park located in the far Western development region are the most fascinating spots for the tourists, the flow of tourists in these places is very low. What measures should be taken to increase the number of tourists? Give any one suggestion.
2. A substantial number of ballot papers become invalid in our country. What should be done to check it. Write one suggestion.
3. Why is altitude taken as one of the influencing factors for the determining climate? Write in a sentence.
4. Which index (Symbols) are used to denote the lake and peak in the map.
5. Late Mahendra abducted democracy on Poush 1, 2017 BS. How would you have responded if you were asked to support his step? Why? Write in one sentence.
6. What is development region?
7. What was the immediate cause of World War?
8. Who was the commander of people's movement I?

#### GROUP B (Short answer-questions)

1. Mention any four economic activities representing all geographical areas of eastern development region.
2. Prepare any four model questions that can be asked to the Secretary General of UN regarding the current affairs.
3. What kind of steps would you take to stop boarder encroachment and ensure its security if you were made the coordinator of the Boarder Security Monitoring Group? Draft a plan with any four functions.
4. Education Day is on the 8th of September. Suppose you have been given the responsibility to manage and conduct the programme. What would be your programme and how would you manage and conduct it?
5. Describe the role of skilled manpower in the development of Nepal.
6. Give four suggestions to the government for the improvement of the conditions of women in our country.
7. Write how climate shapes the nature of vegetation with reference to different natural vegetation and climatic regions.
8. What is legislature? List any four function of it. Also explain about how do three organs of government work together according to principles of "Check and Balance" in present context of Nepal.
9. How many people migrated to the big coastal cities from the central villages in Brazil? Explain with tow push and pull factors.
10. Present a brief description of the People's Movement-II.
11. What is the function of UN peacekeeping force? Who appoints the head of peace keeping command?
12. Name the organs of the United Nations Organization and describe any one of them in brief.
13. Write a news item about the activities of peacekeeping forces on international terrorism.

#### Group-C (Give Long answer-questions)

1. Describe any three national issues in brief.
2. Draw the full page map of NEPAL by using appropriate signs and symbols, insert the given facts: Mahendranagar Airport, Jajarkot, Lumbini, Chitwan National Parki, Madan Bhandari RajMarga, Tea Production Area.
3. OR Insert the following facts by using appropriate signs and symbols in the given map of Africa: Atlas Mountain, Red Sea, Tropic of Cancer, Nile River, Lake Victoria, Atlantic Ocean, Madagascar, Drakansbarg Mountain Range, Sahara Desert.
4. Draft a dialogue including four causes and four effects of world war-I.
5. Mention five points each on the positive and negative effects of tourism industries in our societies and describe any two of them.



**Ram:** What is the cost of 5 Kg mutton?

**Shopkeeper:** It costs Rs 2,000/-

**Ram:** Oh! It's too cheap. Please give me mutton of Rs 2.

■ Matrika Mishra

### Beldangi to receive 600 plus households from Khudunabari

#### By Moses Lagoon

It is learnt that three Beldangi camps will receive 677 households from Khudunabari camps since consolidation of the camp has been underway.

Of this, some 300 families will be relocated in Beldangi-I camp, according to Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal. Another 300, will be shifted to Sanishare camp.

The LWF further said that construction of over 500 huts was over in Beldangi and Sanishare for the new arrivals.

Meanwhile, Beldangi Camp Secretary Dhan Bir Subba commented that consolidation of camps has been problematic due to growing population.

Like in previous shifting, vulnerable people will be stationed nearby the service areas like ration store, health center and administration.

## PM Thinley...

He said, "I fail to see the logic in the prime minister's statement. How can he commit to repatriate people if we now don't have any basis of even identifying whether a person is a genuine Bhutanese or not?"

According to his claim, repatriation is no longer possible stating that acceptance of some citizens was a genuine possibility

10 years ago, but even then, only if the verification process was honest and complete.

"That didn't happen. Now it's more than 20 years since people settled in the camps, plus most of them have opted to resettle in third countries. If repatriation was not possible 10 years ago, in spite of the best efforts of the governments of Bhutan and Nepal, I don't see how the prime minister can even talk about it as a possibility now," he said.

## Making a difference

Lucky David Wilson was born in a war zone in troubled times, but somehow manages to live up to his name.

As a boy, he fled attacks on his village of Guru Guru when northern Uganda became the frontline in the battle between the Ugandan army and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army. Now 19, he has become a popular singer who uses music to advocate for peace and reconstruction in his homeland.

Wilson is a symbol of the new north, where relative peace has returned since the signing of a cease-fire agreement in 2006.

UNHCR opened an office the same year in the northern town of Gulu to manage 251 camps and provide protection to an estimated 1.84 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in 11 districts. Since then, more than 1.8 million have returned home on their own. To ensure sustainable returns, the UN refugee agency worked with the local authorities to provide basic services in home villages. This involved building community access roads, police posts, schools, health centres and clean water sources and putting in place a public administration infrastructure.

UNHCR also engaged agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, USAID, Care, World Vision and the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund II for longer-term development in areas of return.

"This is a happy day for all," said UNHCR Representative in Uganda, Kai Nielsen, as he closed the Gulu office last week. "Together with the government and aid agencies, we've managed to find solutions to one of the world's biggest IDP crises and help hundreds of thousands of Ugandans to go home."

While most of the IDPs made their own way home, some needed extra support. UNHCR and partners helped 11,600 of the most vulnerable IDPs and returnees by ensuring legal access to land and engaging the community to build huts and latrines. They were also given a start-up kit with blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, and kitchen sets, as well as an income safety net with livestock, seeds and tools.

Achan Katherine is one of the beneficiaries. Physically disabled and facing mobility problems, she has chosen to stay at the Unyama trading centre, a former IDP camp. UNHCR worked with the National Union for Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU) to assess the needs of people like her, and recently distributed wheelchairs to disabled people in Gulu district together with the Association for Volunteers in International Service (AVSI).

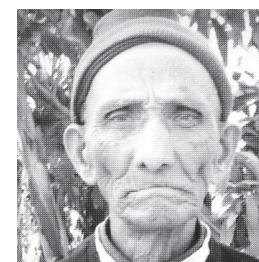
Wheelchairs, tricycles, white canes and crutches were designed and built locally by the Gulu Youth Development Association to create jobs, develop skills among the youth and to make the devices available to the greater community.

Katherine, who had been moving on her hands for years, was delighted with her new wheelchair. "Now I can move around my compound on my own and visit friends," she said in her native Acholi-Luo tongue. "Agencies need to continue this kind of help."

She was doubly excited when Lucky David turned up for the distribution and asked her to appear in the music video for his new hit song Roco Gang (Rebuilding Home). Her relatives and neighbours danced around her as he sang his song encouraging youth to support the vulnerable and elderly within their own communities.

Source : UNHCR.org

# FOUR GOOD ANSWERS



## What made you to leave Bhutan?

I was a goldsmith. I was frequently threatened by the Royal Bhutan Army to leave the country. Besides, the soldiers tortured my relatives by firing their houses and violating the fundamental rights. That compelled me to leave my village.

## How do you comment about your life as a refugee?

I am leading a stressful life these days. My eldest daughter has been resettled in America while one still resides in Bhutan. I feel that I am lost whenever I recall my life in Maidhar refugee camp.

## What do you expect from refugee youths?

Instead of involving in various kinds of social crimes, I want all refugee youths to engage themselves in some creative works. They should always do well for the welfare of our

**Dal Bahadur Gajmere,**  
Age : 85  
Beldangi-I, C1, Hut No: 27  
From Dampfu

society. They should be able to win hearts of every Bhutanese.

## What is your opinion towards third country resettlement?

I feel that no refugees will be returned to Bhutan with dignity and honour. I have lost my hope. I welcome the efforts of the UNHCR to bring in the resettlement programme.

Interview conducted by Govind Pokhrel

## MNB...

According to Pokhrel, two separate centers from Beldangi and Sanischare camps have been planned for offering classes free of costs to interested youths. However, a participant has to enroll with a registration fee of Rs 11 for the course, informed Pokhrel.

The Network has already hired some resource persons for effective operation of creative classes. "We are even enrolling local youths from the refugee host community,"

said Pokhrel.

Meanwhile, the Network's Best Photo Award for the month of January 2012 was awarded to Lok Nath Subba from Beldangi II Extension. Subba received a flash drive, funded by the HWH.

The next theme for all interested photojournalists is 'Pet Animal' and participants are to submit their pictures to the Network latest by March 20 at medianetworkbhutan@gmail.com.

## RESETTLEMENT WATCH

It is likely that no Bhutanese refugees will be resettled to the Netherlands in 2012.

The Netherlands, which has accepted 324 Bhutanese refugees, still awaits a parliamentary decision to bring in more refugees, according to a highly placed source.

"The number of refugees to be

accepted within 2011 has reached the proposed quota. Acceptance for new refugees depends on decision from the Dutch Parliament," said the source, requesting anonymity.

According to the claim, if the parliament takes time to endorse resettlement, it is certain that no Bhutanese refugees will travel to the Netherlands in 2012.

## 890 Students Appearing SLC Exams

By Tanka Maya Baral

Altogether 890 students, including 15 exempted, are sitting for the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) exams this year. The Office of the Controller of Examinations (OCE) said that the 10-day exams will begin on March 20, 2012.

Pancha-oti English School has been allotted as an exams center for the students from three Beldangi camps, Timai and Goldhap, according to the Caritas Nepal. Students from Khunabari and Sanischare will go outside the camp for writing their examinations.

According to the OCE, students will have to take the



Compulsory English exam on the first day followed by Compulsory Nepali on March 21.

Similarly Mathematics exam will be conducted on March 23, Science on March 25 followed by Social Studies. The students will have to sit for Environment, Health and Population on March 27 and the optional first paper and second paper on March 28 and 29 respectively.

## MONTHLY QUIZ

1. Who is the father of taxonomy?
2. Any three words consisting all vowels letter.
3. Prove that 0/0 = 6
4. Give the full date of the commencement of The Refugee Herald



Answers of last quiz contest: 1. O<sub>3</sub> 2. Calcium 3. Bhutan News Service 4. Love U

Chandra Prakash Subba, PES, VIII A became winner for February. Congratulations for him. Send your correct answers at medianetworkbhutan@gmail.com within April 10 or contact our correspondents or your school administration.

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## LEARN OUR HISTORY

Very similar to Gorkha, Bhutan also had close relationship with the Malla Kings of the valley of Kathmandu. Her cultural and religious relationship with the valley lasted for a long time. The existence of Buddhism and the Buddhist culture were the main factors for such relationship. Ram Shah, who had good relations with Bhutan, was also friendly with the Malla Kings of the valley, especially that of Patan. As a result of the friendship with Gorkha, the Bhutanese got the opportunity of making close contacts with the artisans of Patan. Moreover, the first Dharmaraja of Bhutan, Syawadung Rimpoche Nawang Namgyal, had been a student at Swayambhu, the center for Buddhist Teachings, and as such was well acquainted with the art, artists and culture of the valley. While visiting Gorkha in 1614 AD, he also visited the valley of Kathmandu and offered one hundred thousand votive lamps to the deity at the temple of Swayambhu. He also befriended King Laxmi Narsingh Malla of Kantipur and took some artisans with him to Bhutan. Later when he visited.

Nepal in 1640 AD, he renovated the Swayambhu Temple. There are several documents, which support the visit of Dugpa Lamas to Kathmandu and the renovation of Swayambhu Temple. Moreover, the silver coins-tankas-of the Mallas were also in large circulation in Bhutan. From what is mentioned above, we can surmise that during the Malla period, the economic ties between the valley of Kathmandu and Bhutan were at their peak.

The famous Gopal Raja Vamsavali mentions that Bhutan's relations with Nepal were established in the beginning of the sixth century AD. However it is not yet proved.

Since the 17th century, the Nepalese artisans began to enter Thimpu and Punakha valley of Bhutan and have worked there since then. During the reign of Devraja Tan-Jin-Kh-Gye (1638-1696 AD) some of the Gompas in Bhutan were renovated by the Nepalese artisans and decorated them with pieces of art based on Buddhism. The bronze icons in connection with the ntnhaynna, sculptured by the Nepalese artisans can still be found there in these gompas. Many artists from the Valley of Kathmandu went to Bhutan and resided in the northern part of Thimpu at Bebuna, near De-Chen.

(Written by Dr Suman Dhakal, the extract has been adopted from the Ancient Nepal, 152 issue, March 2003)

## Our Correspondents

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