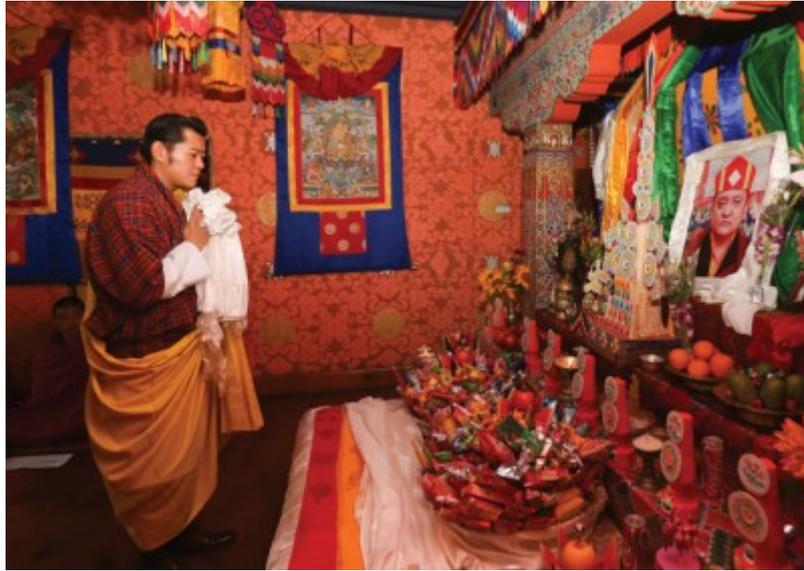


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Shamar rinpoche's purjang on July 31

By Rinzin Wangchuk



His Majesty the King offered prayers to the kudung of the Late Kunzig Shamar rinpoche yesterday in Paro. The kudung was brought to Paro on July 27 for Bhutanese devotees to receive blessings and pay their respects.

The kudung (mortal remains) of the late 14th Kunzig Shamar (pronounced Zhamar) rinpoche, Mephram Chokyi Lodro, is expected to arrive at the Thribhuvan international airport in Kathmandu, Nepal between 9 and 10am today, according to the late rinpoche's brother, Jigme rinpoche.

In a telephone interview last evening, Jigme rinpoche from Kathmandu said rinpoche's kudung will be flown to Kathmandu from Paro this morning, and then taken to Shar Minub monastery to conduct his last rites.

The kudung was brought to Paro on July 27 from Diwakar Vihara Buddhist academy in Kalimpong, India, to allow Bhutanese devotees to receive blessings and offer their respect. Over the last two days, hundreds of devotees offered their prayers to the sacred remains of Shamar rinpoche, which was kept at the Ugyen Pelri Palace in Paro.

His Majesty the King, accompanied by Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, offered prayers to the kudung of the late Shamar

Rinpoche yesterday.

Jigme Rinpoche said the purjang (cremation) ceremony would be held on July 31, coinciding with the First Sermon of Lord Buddha, at his new monastery in Shar Minub.

The ritual ceremonies for cremation, Jigme rinpoche said, will be conducted from five directions. The 17th Gyalwa Karmapa Trinlay Thaye Dorje will lead one of the direction, while Loden Khyentse rinpoche, senior lineage holder of Shacha School, Jamgon Kongtrul rinpoche, Beru Khyentse rinpoche and Chogyur Lingpa rinpoche will perform the rituals from three other directions. Rituals from the fifth direction will be presided over by the monks from the central monk body, Thimphu.

Led by Beru Khyentse rinpoche and other rinpoches, more than 500 monks from different religious sects have been performing rites for the late Shamar Rinpoche since July 14 in Kathmandu. Initially, rinpoche's kudung was supposed to be flown to Kathmandu on July 14 from Kalimpong, India but the Nepalese government refused to allow the kudung to be flown in Kathmandu.

Considered an influential spiritual leader from the Karma Kagyu tradition, and one of the principal disciples of the late 16th Karmapa, Rangjung Rigpe Dorjee, Shamar rinpoche passed away from a cardiac failure on the morning of June 11 in Germany. He was 62.

His kudung was flown to the Karmapa international Buddhist institute (KIBI) in New Delhi on the morning of June 22. The body was then brought to his Shri Diwakar institute in Kalimpong on July 1.

Shamar rinpoche, who is believed to be the mind manifestation of Amitabha Buddha, remained with the 16th Karmapa until his death in 1981.

In July 2011, Shamar rinpoche received a four-day oral transmission and empowerment of Mahamudra (Chhag Chhen Jazhung) from His Holiness the 70th Je Khenpo, Trulku Jigme Choeda, in Thimphu. The late rinpoche had then said that the primary reason for receiving this teaching was to transmit it to the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, Thrinley Thaye Dorjee, as the lineage had more or less disappeared.