## The long and the short of it : Nepalese aged 72 reaches the heights as the world's shortest ever man.

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Monday, February 27, 2012 METRO 3

Nepalese aged 72 reaches the heights as the world's shortest-ever man The long and the short of it



Certifiably tiny: Mr Dangi is officially the world's shortest man ecuaes watern

A NEPALESE man the size of a tod-dler has been declared the world's

charter has been declared the world's shortest person ever recorded. Chandra Bahadur Dangi, 72, has been measured by Guinness World Records at a height of 55cm (22in).

"I am very happy. Now I want to travel across Nepal and to foreign countries," Mr Dangi said. He added that he has no desire to get

married or have a family of his own, but would like to meet the prime minister of

Nepal soon. Mr Dangi lives in

a mountain village, Rhimkholi, with his youngest brother and his family - his five brothers are all average height.

Before being measured in the capital, Kathmandu, he had never seen a doctor and his relatives say he has never been seriously ill nor Going far: Mr Dangi says he had any injuries. The wants to travel the world

by FRED ATTEWILL

doctors who saw him at the clinic also found no immediate health problems His family is not sure when he stopped growing

Mr Dangi takes the shortest-man record from Junrey Balawing of the Philippines, who is 60cm (23.5in) tall. Gul Mohammed of India was the short-est adult human to have their height

verified by Guinness at 57cm (22.5in) tall. Since Mr Dangi's village is so remote, it was only recently that he gained notice.

Thapa Magar, was declared the world's shortest man at 67cm (26.4in) before Mr Balawing took over in June on his 18th birthday. Guinness lists Jyoti Amge as the world's

at

Another Nepalese, Khagendra

shortest woman 62.8cm (24.7in).



The tale of the tape: Mr Dangi is measured in a Kathmandu hospital by a Guinness World Records official vesterday

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## home digest

#### Adele album back on top



ADELE returned again to the top of the album charts after winning two awards at last week's Brits ceremony. The 23-year-old saw her album 21, the biggest-selling record of last

year, back at No.1, up two places, in its 57th week in the charts

#### Livestock virus hits 74 farms

A VIRUS which causes miscarriages and birth fects in livestock has been found on 74 farms. Schmallenberg has spread from Europe to Wiltshire, west Berkshire, Gloucestershire and the Isle of Wight. Sheep and cattle are affected but humans are not thought to be at risk.

#### **Drivers drunk in morning**

MORE than one in eight people arrested for drink-driving were 'morning after' motorists. In the West Mercia police area of Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, 55 per cent of arrests last year were made between Sam and noon. Nationally, the figure was 13 per cent.

#### **Duchess joins jubilee tour**

THE Duchess of Cambridge will

ioin the Queen on the start of

ner diamond jubilee tour in

duchess (pictured), the queen

Leicester on March 8. The



to run a he 47-ye in a charity marathon in year-old from Cheshire

#### and finally ...

A LOVED-UP duo got each other's names tattooed - then split up just 14 days later. Maggy Brewer, 17, and Sean Broad, 21, had been together a week when they got inked in Winchester, Hampshire. Maggy, who has since had her tattoo turned into a butterfly, said: 'My dad told me I was an idiot?



# **Health reforms** are a mess and bad for the NHS, says former boss

By JOHN HIGGINSON Political Editor

THE former boss of the NHS yesterday delivered a damning verdict on the gov-ernment's health reforms.

Lord Crisp, who was NHS chief ex-ecutive between 2000 and 2006, urged the coalition to scrap the Health and Social Care Bill.

<sup>11</sup> think it's unnecessary in many ways and I think it misses the point,' he told BBC radio. 'I think it's unfortunately setting the NHS back.

'It has tried to elevate the ideas of com-petition and the use of the private sector, which are just mechanics, just mecha-nisms, as if they were the purpose.'

Shadow health secretary Andy Burn-ham also attacked the bill, claiming it breaks with 63 years of NHS history'. He said: 'It turns the NHS into a mar-

ket and that's why we're seeing such

huge opposition.' Labour leader Ed Miliband urged Lib-

eral Democrat peers to join with Labour in wrecking the reforms. Polls have shown the Conservatives



have become less popular since the health bill row erupted. But chan-cellor George Os-borne said: 'Wheth-er it is education reform, pension re-form, health reform, we are doing these things to im;

prove public services and to do so in an environment in which the state does not

environment in which the state does not have an unlimited amount of money. "We are absolutely going to proceed with the health reforms because it is all about making the nation healthier and protecting and safeguarding our NHS."

International development secretary Andrew Mitchell admitted under-fire health secretary Andrew Lansley had struggled to explain the reforms, adding: I think all of us, not just Andrew, all of us have to do better in explaining why these reforms are taking place but these reforms stem from an absolute and total commitment to the National Health Service.

## Families in 'debt noose' as 24% wages go on interest

FAMILIES are paying nearly £200 a month in interest and becoming victims of a tightening 'debt noose'. Some 24 per cent of their income

went on interest payments after regular bills were paid in the last three months of 2011, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service said. Interest payments were a heavy burden and posed 'a major threat to the solvency of many families', the debt charity added. Determination to pay off debts has slowed as high living costs outstrip pay rises, it added. Debt advice will peak in 2014, owing to the 'lasting distress caused by the financial crisis' However, indebted households will benefit from several years of low interest rates.