

## KANJIROBA HIMAL

*Norbu Kang, first official ascent.* During the summer, Japanese led by Tamotsu Ohnishi made the first ascent of Norbu Kang, a recently opened 6,005m peak in the Upper Dolpo region of north-west Nepal. From a base camp pitched on June 20 at 4,805m, west of the mountain, they moved to a higher camp (5,250m) two days later, and on the 23rd climbed to the west col (5,490m), returning to high camp later that day. On the 25th they fixed 50m of rope on the north face, which they followed to the summit via snow/ice slopes broken by two crevasses. They were back in base camp the same day. The summiters were Chhulsim Nuru Sherpa, Kanchha Dawa Sherpa, Ms. Tazuko Inoue, Koji Mizutani, Ohnishi, and Takehiko Yanigahara.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY, *Nepal*

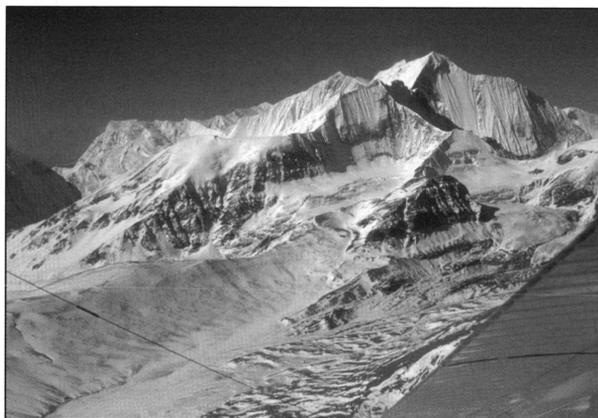
## DHAULAGIRI HIMAL

*Dhaulagiri II, south face to east ridge, attempt.* The seven-man Czech expedition led by Pavel Trefil chose the very rarely visited Dhaulagiri II (7,751m) as its objective for pre-monsoon 2003, hoping to repeat the 1978 Japanese Route (summit reached by Shorji Koiko and Yoshio Ogawa) from the Tsaubong Glacier. This climbs a prominent snow/ice spur right of the south face to reach the east ridge at a small, pointed, snowy top on the long, lower, horizontal section of the crest. From here the elegant East Ridge is followed more steeply to the summit.

Our expedition took six days to reach Base Camp from Beni. There, we were faced with a difficult river crossing (the Japanese spent three days building a bridge during their expedition), followed by a large and equally taxing rock barrier to reach the glacier. We had only brought 200m of fixed rope plus a few rock pegs and ice screws but after one week were able to set foot on the glacier and establish a camp. During the next two weeks we attempted to climb the mountain but snow fell every afternoon and night, making conditions highly avalanche

prone. By May 17 we had reached ca 6,700m on the crest of the east ridge but saw that the remaining 1,000m to the summit comprised 50° ice. We felt unable to progress any further without fixed ropes and decided to call off the expedition. It would appear that the post monsoon would generally be a better season for an attempt, as there would be less snow and avalanche danger. However, a ladder is advisable for the river crossing and in autumn there would be even more water.

PAVEL TREFIL, *Czech Republic*



The middle section of the Dhaulagiri Range seen from the north-east in winter. The highest summit visible is Dhaulagiri II (7,751m) with the large triangular north east snow/ice face. In front is Sita Chuchura (6,611m). The summits of Dhaulagiri III (7,715m) and Dhaulagiri V (7,618m) are visible on the ridge running back left from the summit of D II. *Jacques Belge*