

on the Amphu Labsta brought us back to the crowded Khumbu, through which we descended to Dingboche, Namche and Lukla. The Kyashar team would like to thank the Akademischer Alpen-Club Zurich for the club's generous support of the expedition.

BRUCE NORMAND, *Switzerland*

## MAHALANGUR HIMAL (BARUN)

*Tutse attempt.* A Danish expedition led by Claus Ostergaard made the first official attempt on Tutse (aka Peak 6, 6,758m) close to Makalu. The peak has only recently been opened by the Nepalese Government but is believed to have received at least one unauthorized ascent in the past by a party or parties with a permit for Makalu, acclimatizing on the smaller surrounding peaks. The team attempted the northeast ridge but failed at ca 5,000m. However, on October 23 Luise Hogedal Ortmann, Theje Ortmann, and the leader Ostergaard made an ascent of an unnamed 5,822m peak in the same area via its north ridge.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

## KANGCHENJUNGA HIMAL

*Jannu, north face attempt.* The all-star team of Erhard Loretan, Frédéric Roux, Ueli Steck, and Stefan Siegrist attempted the north face of 7,710m Jannu but were defeated at around 7,100m by the storms and heavy snow fall that plagued the Kangchenjunga region during the season. The team began early, reaching base camp at the end of March. Although the lower pillar leading to the large ramp/snow basin at the foot of the face was quite snowy, conditions higher looked good. In fairly settled weather at the start of April the four had soon established ropes up to Camp 1 and climbed the basin to the foot of the face at around 6,200m. Later, Camp 2 was placed at this point.

After discovering some of Loretan's ropes from the previous year, the climbers reached the big serac on the face around April 20. However, the weather then became increasingly unsettled with large dumps of snow. Much time was spent at base camp, and it wasn't until the second week in May that they could resume the climb. By this stage the team had opted to climb the face by the easiest line. On the night of May 16 more bad weather moved in and a retreat became inevitable. With the monsoon rapidly approaching, the team decided to throw in the towel and remove all their equipment and ropes on the descent.

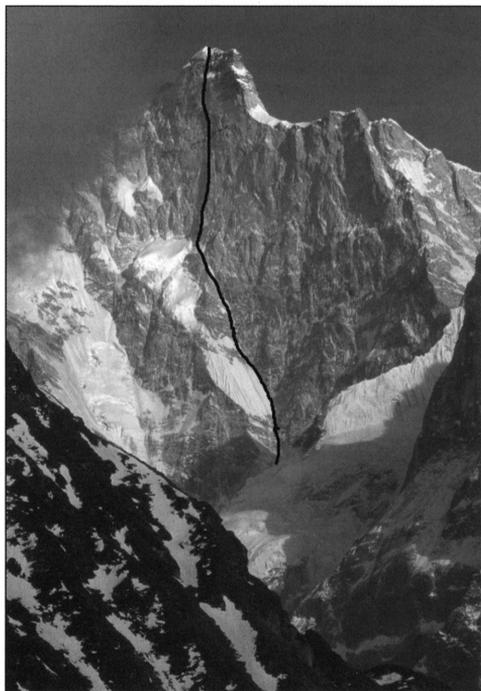
LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

*Jannu, attempt on the direct north face.* Big Walls–Russian Routes is the name loosely given to a series of expeditions that since 1996 have been trying to climb 10 major new routes on some of the most famous big walls around the World. Last autumn's expedition to attempt the coveted direct route up the north face of Jannu (7,710m) was led, as usual, by Alexander Odintsov and included Alexey Bolotov, Mikhail Davy, and Mikhail Pershin from Yerkaterinberg; Alexander Ruchkin, Ivan Samoilenko, and Nickolay Totmjanin (Everest without oxygen), who like the leader hail from St Petersburg; and Mikkaïl Mikhailov from Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan. After acclimatizing

in the Tien Shan, the team arrived in Nepal in August, trekked to Jannu Base Camp, where they arrived on September 8, and then started work on the icefall. In this dangerous section to reach the glacier plateau at ca 5,600m below the wall, Mikhailov sustained fractured ribs, a hematoma in his lung and head injuries when he was hit by serac fall at 5,300m. He was evacuated to Kathmandu and then onward to a hospital in Bishkek.

Camp 2 was established at ca 6,000m and sometime toward the end of the month Odintsov suffered a cracked bone in his hand, forcing him down to the village of Ghunsa. Meanwhile, Samoilenko, the high-altitude cameraman, had returned to Kathmandu.

By October 4, and despite less than perfect weather or conditions, the remaining five climbers had pushed the route out to 7,000m on the face and dug a snow cave. They then managed to fix several more ropes up the quasi-vertical headwall above to ca 7,200m, higher than anyone before has reached on this part of the face. But it was not to be. Snowfall, which became heavy, drove them down to base camp. By October 12 there had been more than three days of constant snowfall, which was almost knee-deep above 5,000m and had completely buried the fixed ropes above. As winter descended on base camp, the threat of avalanche became too great to continue and the expedition was called off.



On May 26, 2004, the Russians completed their route on the north face of Jannu. There will be a feature on this climb in the AAJ 2005. *Lindsay Griffin*

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

*Kangchenjunga, southwest face, partial new route/direct finish, La Luce del Nirvana.* Of the five expeditions attempting 8,586m Kangchenjunga, two were successful with all summiters reaching the top on the same day. Four of these teams were attempting the Standard Route up the southwest face, while the fifth, a multi-national expedition led by Ralf Djumovits, including experienced high-altitude climbers such as Veikka Gustafsson and Michi Wärthl, was trying the north face-north ridge via the 1979 British Route. However, they failed to get above their Camp III at 7,200m, having fixed ropes on the difficult mixed face leading up to the col on the north ridge. Heavy snowfall in the region thwarted most climbers and those who succeeded had simply positioned themselves for a summit attempt at the right time.

Summiting on May 20 from a high camp at 7,600m were Italians Christian Kuntner, Mario Merelli, and Silvio Mondinelli with the Spaniard Carlos Pauner, all from a five-person expedition led by the 8,000m collector, Kuntner, and Kobi Reichen from a Swiss expedition.