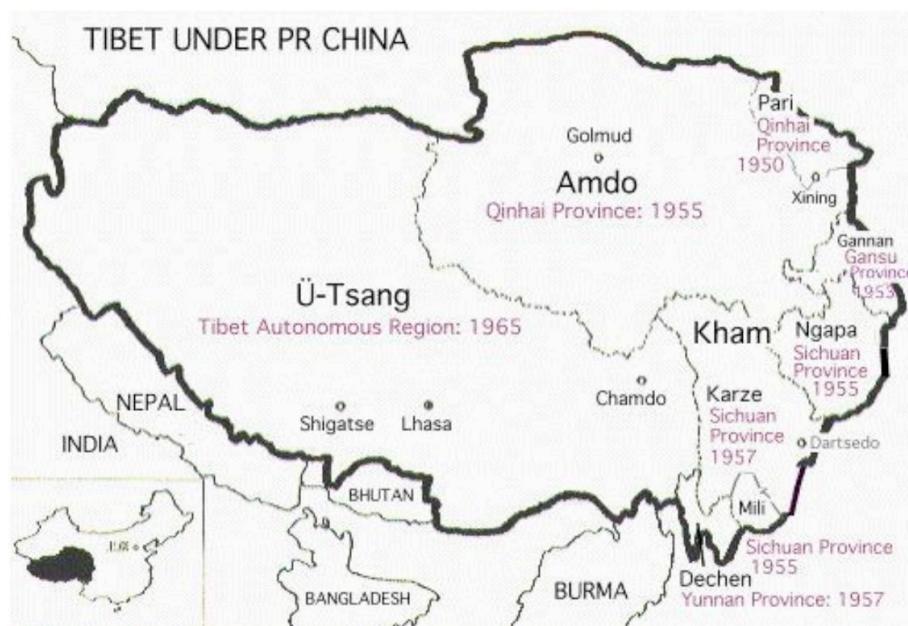
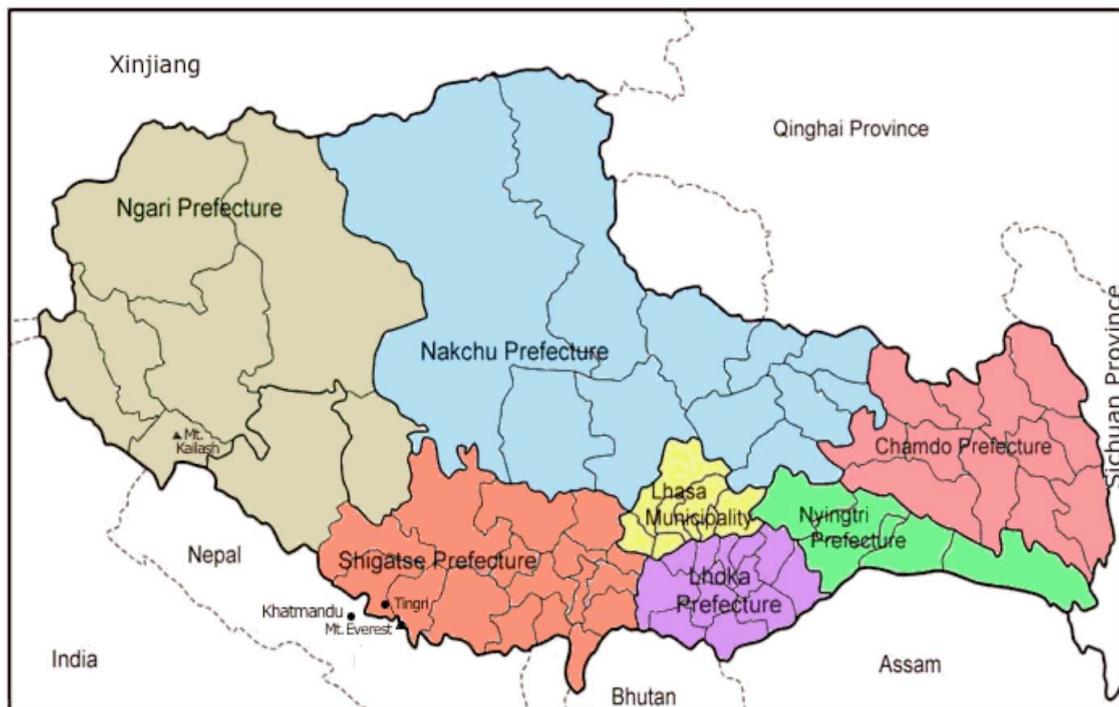




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TIBET INSIGHT, 15-30 APRIL 2018



TAR NEWS

TAR Party Secretary's Exclusive Interview to Xinhua

April 12, 2018

The Party Secretary of Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), Wu Yingjie gave an exclusive interview to Xinhua News Agency where he reiterated Xi Jinping's idea of creating Tibet as a model of national unity through rural revitalization strategy by preserving the 'old Tibet spirit' and striving to build a well-off society. He said the project should give them a sense of China as 'happy home builder' and that can be achieved by implementing the development project with utmost care.

Referring to border security, Wu Yingjie asserted "Never allow one-inch of land to be divided from the motherland". He said that building a happy home image for Tibetans and developing the society from within, leaves no scope for compromising on national security and integrity. He stressed that Tibet remains important for frontier security as it shares large territorial boundary (4000) with West Asia. He added, "Tibet is in the first-line of the anti separatist campaign".

TAR Party Secretary's Financial Inspection

April 2018

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie while doing a financial inspection in Lhasa mentioned, "To follow Xi Jinping's idea of socialism with Chinese characteristics is of paramount importance" and instructed party officials to reiterate this time and again. He also stated how important it is to sustain financial development and find alternatives, tackle risks and resolve the overall financial crisis. He stressed the importance of finding ways and means to contribute to the development of capital as that could enable some structural changes.

TAR Deputy Secretary Norbu Dhondup and Jamphel accompanied Wu Yinjie. They

visited the Agriculture Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Bank of China-Lhasa Branch, China's Construction Bank, Lhasa Branch Bank, China People's Bank Lhasa and China Development Bank Tibet Branch. Wu Yingjie discussed the details of deposits, loans, social welfare, actual development financial assistance and capital risk assessment. The concerned banks presented their annual financial budget and accounting details to the Party Secretary, who said General Secretary Xi Jinping's financial plan needs to be considered as the main guideline and that to know its importance everybody should study and follow Xi Jinping's principal and financial guideline.

TAR Party Standing Committee Meeting

April 10, 2018

The TAR Party Committee held a Standing Committee on the April 9, to evaluate the newly formed Supervision and Inspection Committee. TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie presided and delivered a speech. The meeting pointed out the urgency of carrying out the measures and opinions on “strengthening the Supervision and Inspection Committee” as, stated in a circular issued by the Central Party Committee. All the ‘authoritative’ levels of TAR were asked to fully understand the importance of the Supervision and Inspection Committee from an overall strategic perspective, by extending absolute loyalty and support to the Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core and to strengthen organizational leadership. Concerned departments and divisions were told to achieve early detections, notifications, rectifications and instant solutions. The meeting also discussed intensifying the education and training of cadres and building of a contingent of loyal and disciplined cadres.

TAR Urban-Rural Housing Committee meets

April 13, 2018

The Urban-Rural Housing Committee of TAR Party Committee met on April 11, in the presence of TAR leaders Wu Yingjie, Che Dalha, Jiang Jie and others to discuss, make

arrangements and delegate work for urban-rural construction projects.

Jiang Jie, Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee and Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government, said "that the preparation for urban and rural planning in the region has been unprecedented; construction of Xiaokang village (well-off village) has been smooth, resettlements/relocations have achieved remarkable success since the 18th Party Congress." He added that the 19th Party Congress' decision to include 'socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era' has opened a new journey for the building of a modern socialist country and urged that "the district-based housing construction system must continue to use the 'socialist ideology of Chinese characteristics in the new era of Xi Jinping' to empower our mind." Jiang Jie reiterated that in-depth implementation of 'rural revitalization strategy' should be carried out by strengthening infrastructure in the villages, speeding up construction of housing systems and widening demonstration sites in featured towns.

Public Security Bureau held ceremony to honour 'heroes'

March 17, 2018

The Public Security Bureau of Lhasa City held an award ceremony on March 16, to honor 40 'heroic policemen' and their families. The awardees included subsidiary police; auxiliary police and civilian police and the Yingli Foundation of the Public Security Department awarded them.

The Yingli Foundation, established in 2005 under the auspices of the TAR Public Security Bureau takes the responsibility of 'comforting policemen', 'coordinating police officers', 'promoting positive attitudes' and 'boosting the morale of the police forces' by conferring awards. The Foundation awarded 877,600 yuan to 69 members of the Public Security Bureau in 2016; 223,700 yuan to 16 persons and their families in 2017.

Lhasa Public Security Bureau raided a gambling bar

March 31, 2018

Officers of the Lhasa City Public Security Bureau arrested three persons gambling at a bar in Lhasa's Chengguan district. The owner of the bar has been detained on suspicion of providing gambling a venue.

The people were caught red handed when the public security bureau conducted a surprise inspection in Lhasa's industrial premises. The three persons confessed to the crime and were fined 500 yuan each.

Since last year, the Ministry of Public Security has deployed national public security agencies to crack down on Internet gambling, suburban rural gambling and other illegal crimes, and investigated and dealt with more than 280,000 gambling cases. The Lhasa police will continue its campaign against gambling violations and crimes.

Mount Everest North Side 2018 Climbing Season Starts

7 April 2018

April 1 was the official opening of the 2018-climbing season on the north slope of Mount Everest. More than 80 mountaineering guides and others from a mountaineering adventure company in Tibet will serve as guides and other staff for domestic mountaineers who are participating in the Mount Everest commercial climbing team.

This year there will be 27 domestic mountaineers, including team members of the Peking University mountaineering team, who will try to reach Mount Everest in two batches from May 5 to May 20.

Base camps of the northern slope of Mount Everest will be built with environmentally friendly toilets this year and water towers and pools will be installed to facilitate climbers. All waste will be collected and brought away from the camp. To reduce the use of mountain glacial melt water, the domestic commercial climbing team will no longer cook at the advance camp at 6,500 meters above sea level, but all meals will be sent from the base camp to the forward camp for heating. The mountaineering management will

organise Everest cleansing activity in May. The base camp on the northern slope of Mount Everest was connected by road and given a centralised power supply in April 2017.

Opera as a major soft-power tool in Tibet

April 04, 2018

On April 20, 2018 the live action opera of Princess Wencheng, which first premiered in 2013, was staged at Princess Wencheng Theatre, China Tibetan Culture and the Tourist Creative Park. Wang Chenyan, the editor of VTibet, said till 2017, “the live action opera Princess Wencheng has been performed 808 times in five years” in front of audiences of 1.6 million. In 2017, the show was staged 186 times and seen by 450 thousand people. He said ticket sales and the cultural industry’s income recorded a “historical high of 160 million yuan, which added economic and social benefit to the community.”

(Comment: The opera has been used as a ‘soft power’ tool to portray to the world that the Party gives Tibetans the freedom to practice and promote their culture. It is also a propaganda tool for propagating to Tibetans how Wencheng brought the advanced and civilized Chinese Culture to Tibet and how Wencheng dedicated her entire life to developing Tibet.)

First Tunnel of The Lhasa Nyingtri (Nyingchi) Line of the Sichuan-Tibet railway Completed

8 April 2018

The first tunnel of the Lhasa Nyingtri Line of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, the Kalla Mountain Tunnel, was successfully completed on April 7, indicating that the Lhasa Nyingtri Railway construction has entered a new phase. The Kalla Mountain Tunnel is located in Cainan Town, Qushul County, Lhasa City, and is the first tunnel on the Lhasa to Nyingtri Section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. The tunnel is 4373 meters long with a maximum depth of 674 meters and average elevation of 3600 meters. The tunnel project

was started in October 2010.

The 402 Km long Lhasa Nyingtri railway project was started at end of the 2014. It starts from Lhasa Shaldrong Station and crosses Gongkar, Dranang, Zethang, Sangri Gyatsa, Nangzong, Minling and Nyingchi counties. There are a total of 17 stations. The total cost of the Lhasa Nyingtri railway project, which has been entrusted to China Railway's 11th Bureau, is estimated at 360 billion Chinese yuan. It is expected to become operational by 2021.

Kyirong Port listed as Medical Materials Import Border Port

10 April 2018

China's State Council on January 25, 2018, approved Kyirong Port as the medical materials import border port. The Food and Drug Administration of Shigatse City will henceforth undertake the work of registration and filing of imported medicinal materials. A team of the State Food and Drug Administration and the General Administration of Customs had visited Shigatse City from September 3 to 5 in 2017, to assess Kyirong Port. It decided on documents and procedures for importing medicines, checked the inspection and management system and conducted field assessments. Kyirong Port passed the evaluation and acceptance.

Tibet hand promoted

64-year old Yang Xiaodu, the Deputy Chief of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CDIC) has been appointed head of the country's new anti-corruption body, the National Supervisory Commission. The National Supervisory Commission has wider powers than the CDIC as it has jurisdiction over non-Party members too.

A native of Shanghai, Yang Xiaodu was one of thousands of ethnic Han settlers dispatched by Beijing to oversee administration and keep a lid on protests in Tibet. He spent over two decades working in Tibet, rising from section chief of a state

pharmaceutical company to Vice Chairman of the TAR Government

CHAMDO NEWS (CH: QAMDO/CHANGDU)

TAR People's Government head in Chamdo

April 11, 2018

Prior to his visit to Nagchu, the Chairman of TAR People's Government Che Dalha aka Qizhala visited Chamdo (Ch: Changdu) from April 7-10, 2018. He went to eight counties including Lhorong and Banbar counties to inspect ongoing projects related to livelihood security, poverty alleviation and industrial development. He visited hospitals and schools in these counties. At Nyibi Township's Hope Primary School in Banbar County, a 13-year-old student named Kelsang Tsetso reportedly explained the school's 'moral education' wall to the Chairman in fluent Mandarin. Che Dalha @ Qizhala emphasised the importance of implementing the "rural revitalization strategy" and studying the key speeches of General Secretary Xi Jinping on poverty alleviation initiatives. He added that "under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, our days will surely get better and better." Chedak la stressed the need of "carrying out socialism and the Chinese Dream and the socialist core values education, patriotism education, national unity education, and party spirit education in order to cultivate socialism that loves the party and the country."

First high-grade highway started in Chamdo

12 March 2018

Construction of the first phase of the high-grade highway from Chamdo to Bangda Airport on State Road 214 was started on March 9, 2018. This is the first high-grade highway to be built in the city of Changdu, known as the "East Gate of Tibet." Bangda Airport is the highest airport in Tibet with an altitude of 4,334 meters. The first-phase section of the high-grade highway from Changdu to Bangda Airport has a total length of 26.9 kilometers and a design speed of 80 kilometers per hour. It is planned to be

completed in 24 months.

NAGCHU NEWS (CH: NAGQU)

Head of TAR People's Government's Nagchu inspection trip

April 12, 2018

Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR People's Government Che Dalha @ Qizhala went on a two day (April 10-11, 2018) tour to Nagchu Prefecture (Ch: Nagqu) to investigate/oversee planting of trees based on science and technology, development of animal husbandry, and poverty alleviation projects. He emphasised the need to effectively implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era into action, initiatives and concrete ideas to promote high quality green and sustainable development. Ten major projects are to be implemented in Nagchu. Key among them is the "Green Model Demonstration Project" for plantation, which was started last year in cities and towns of Nagchu. Sixteen different seeds, such as spruce, producing 70,000 plants have been planted so far. Che Dalha emphasized the need for loyalty to the party, maintaining core political position and consciousness. Construction of ecological civilization, strengthening of scientific research, and realizing the goals of greening land at higher attitudes such as Nagchu, he said, are important.

Che Dalha also inspected the Nagqu-Lhasa section of National Highway No. 109-line construction project, which has a total length of 68 kilometers and is built on the standard of a four-lane first-class highway with a design speed of 100 kilometers per hour. At the construction site, Che Dalha was briefed about the progress, safety, quality, environmental protection, and construction organization of the project. He pointed out that the project is an important artery for the TAR to integrate into the "One Belt and One Road Initiative" and to open up large passages to South Asia. It has an extremely important position in the national and Tibet road networks. He added that since the implementation of the project, the Central Committee has been very concerned about it. The Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Government Jampa accompanied Che Dalha.

PRC's White paper on religious freedom

In April 2018, The State Council Information Office, PRC has issued a white paper on religious freedom titled “China’s Policies and Practices on Protecting the Freedom of Religious Belief”. According to the report, at present 33,500 Buddhists temples are registered as places of worship under the party’s rule, of which 3,800 are Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, 1,700 Theravada Buddhist temples and 28,000 are Han Buddhist temples. The White Paper stated: “The Chinese government will resolutely oppose and deal with foreign organizations and individuals engaging in activities which violate China’s Constitution, law, regulations and policies, their attempts to control China’s religious organizations, to interfere in China’s religious affairs and to subvert the Chinese government and socialist system under the guise of religion.”

It also highlighted that the self-immolation is against Buddhist principles and alleged that the acts are not voluntary but others, implicitly pointing to the Dalai Lama and Tibetan Government-in-Exile, incited the self-immolations. The White Paper said, *“In January 2013, eminent monks, experts and scholars of Buddhism of Chinese tradition, Tibetan tradition and Theravada tradition convened a meeting to call on all Buddhists to become more active in preaching to their believers about the correct outlook on life and opposing extremist behaviors such as self-immolation or the incitement of others to do so, which violate Buddhist teachings and discipline.”*

Phuntsok (Puchong) a monk turned layman commented on the White Paper and explained on Khangba TV on April 12, how freedom of religious belief is guaranteed in Tibet. He said that ‘Measures for the Administration of Reincarnation for Tibetan Buddhist Tulkus’ and ‘Education Program for Training Tulkus under 16 Years’ are measures to create a law-based governance and for regulating the management of the reincarnations of Tulkus. Zhou Wei, Director of the Institute of Religion at the China Tibetology Research Centre, said after his survey visit of monasteries in Lhoka, Nagchu, Shigatse and Chamdo. “Tibet Buddhism is at its best period in history”. He added that ‘the key to harmonious development of religious work in Tibet is to follow the guide of

religious theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics.'

Development and Rural Development Projects

Like every year, the CCP and Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) celebrated March 28 as ‘Serf Emancipation Day’ as per decision of the TAR Ninth People’s Congress in 2009. Reports publicised that Tibet has reached unimaginable levels of development in recent years and that Tibet’s GDP had reached 131.06 billion yuan (US\$ 20.8 billion), which is the third highest in China. Che Dalha (Qi Zhala), Chairman of the TAR People’s Government said 530,000 Tibetans were uplifted from poverty in the last five years. Another report said people in 2,440 villages still live in dire poverty in Tibet and that the region plans to invest 11.7 billion yuan this year to lift 2,100 villages out of poverty. It added “China aims to lift all citizens out of poverty by 2020 to create a moderate prosperous society”. The state is also planning to re-modify 300 villages by building 540 cultural centers and 148 toilets and sanitation facilities in Qinghai Province. They are carrying out tree plantation projects in more than 1000 mu.

The Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Finance jointly released the General Plan for the Tibetan Qiang-Yi-Cultural Industry Corridor. This economic corridor plan covers most of the Tibetan regions outside TAR like Sichuan, Qinghai, Yunnan and Gansu prefectures. According to Qinghai Province’s Department of Culture, Press and Publication, there are 17 cultural industry projects in Qinghai with an investment of more than 2 billion Yuan.

The Galashan Tunnel construction in Lhasa was completed on April 7, 2018. This tunnel is part of the Lhasa to Nyingchi railway. The tunnel is 4,373 kms long and at an altitude of about 3,600 meters. . The Lhasa to Nyingchi railway is one of the main segments of the Sichuan-Tibet railway, construction of which began in 2015. The project was initiated in 2014 and is expected to finish on 2018. The other two segments of this project are Chengdu-Kangding, and Kangding-Nyingchi. This tunnel is crucial for completion of the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway. The final section of this project is Kangding-Nyingchi,

which is considered as longest and toughest. Construction is expected to begin in 2018 and completed in 2025. The Kangding-Nyinchi Railway will start at Kangding Railway Station and cross Lithang, Bathang, Palyul County, Jomda, Pashod, and Tangmey and finally arrive at Nyingchi. It not only connects the east and west of China's southwest region but also links the tourism circle of northwest Sichuan province with China's Tibet.

MILITARY NEWS

Meeting to Promote Stationed Troops in Tibet for Joint Military and Land Enforcement

9 April 2018

The TAR Party Committee and Government on April 8, held a joint enforcement work promotion meeting to completely stop 'paid services' for the military stationed in Tibet.

He Wenhao, member of the Standing Committee of the Party Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Secretary of the Political and Law Committee, presided. Fang Jianguo, Political Commissar of the Ministry of Warfare of the Tibet Military Region attended the meeting. He Wenhao conveyed the spirit of the instructions of the main leaders of TAR, and listened to the progress of the garrisons of Lhasa and Shigatse to stop 'paid services' and the report of the TAR High People's Court on the relevant laws and regulations.

He Wenhao pointed out that district party committees and the government attach great importance to stationed Tibetan troops to stop paying for services. He emphasized, first we must fully understand the situation. All levels and departments, especially Lhasa and Shigatse, must effectively stop the paid service work as a major political task, increase their mission, co-ordinate joint efforts, and take resolute and powerful actions to complete the suspension.

Second, we must strengthen centralised and unified leadership. They shall unify their thinking, unify plans, act in a unified manner, unify their strengths and jointly enforce actions.

Third, we must take the initiative. We must strengthen the main functions of joint law enforcement, strengthen organisational leadership, do a good job of propaganda and education, clarify the bottom line of law enforcement, and promote implementation according to law. Fourth, we must ensure social stability. We must maintain social stability through our work, strictly follow laws in accordance with regulations, and use legal means to resolve contradictions and disputes. Finally, he emphasized it is important to maintain strict organizational discipline. Party committees and governments at all levels must communicate pressures at all levels, tighten their responsibilities, and form a powerful joint force between the military and the land, and work together to ensure that the joint law enforcement work and the final stage of work are vigorously promoted and effective.

Chamdo Has a Special Warfare Squadron

10, April 2018

The Armed Police Corps of Tibet Chamdo Detachment ‘Special Warfare Squadron’ was recruited in Tibet in 2008. The Central Military Commission has honoured officers and the squadron team as "advanced grassroots party organizations of the entire army" for their loyalties to the Party and bravery. They have been armed police forces for eight consecutive years. The corps was rated as an "advanced party branch" and "basic-level construction squadron", and was honoured as a collective first-class player and as a collective third-class player seven times. Since 2008, the Squadron has mobilised a total of 14,800 troops and completed more than 50 major missions. The predecessor of the Special Warfare Squadron was a company formed by Yang Jingyu in the Northeast during the China’s War of Resistance Period.

Former commander of the squadron, Zhao Zhiguo, said: “according to the requirements stemming from actual combat, higher actual combat, and stricter actual combat, the squadron has always insisted on combat and shooting, long-distance raids, three-time weekly offensives, seizures of hilltops and obstacle training. Every day, 100 push-ups,

100 sit-ups, 100 horse punches, 100 squats, and 100 forward bends are performed per person to thoroughly temper the officers' anti-terror combat skills. The report further added, "Chamdo is the front and main position of the anti-separatist struggle. After the Squadron entered Tibet, it actively participated in the great practice of strengthening national unity and building a beautiful Tibet. In order to better carry out poverty alleviation, in recent years, the Squadron has adopted a method of associating a party member with a poor family and a class to connect with a poor household. It has formed a one-to-one pair of accurate poverty alleviation aids and partnerships with a Village. The officers and soldiers of the Squadron not only actively helped the villagers develop online sales of highland agricultural products such as highland barley, butter and yaks, but also trained villagers to become experts in planting and breeding and cooking techniques, purchased more than 300 books, magazines, and technical materials, and helped several poor households to gradually embark on the road."

Since the 19th Party Congress, the Squadron has carried out publicity and education activities highlighting the contrast between old and new Tibet, and the "three cannot be separated". It has spoken about the spirit of the Sixth Tibet Work Conference and the fine tradition of loving the party and patriotism. On holidays, the squadron regularly organises activities such as beautifying village capacity, obligatory visits, and visiting the elderly. The squadron also dispatches health workers from time to time to visit medical clinics in remote farming and pastoral areas and take some of the plateau health care products to give the elderly, sick and disabled people. Helping one person, moving one family, influencing one village, and driving one, the officers and men of the squadron used their own actions to spread like fish among the water of the people and civilians on the snow-covered land.

Military-Civilian Integration for Military Logistic In TAR

08, April 2018

The Political Commissar of the Tibet Military Frontier Defense Corps, Chen Xiaojun expressed those grassroot units in Tibet face logistical problems. He added that eatables

and other logistical necessities need to be bought from Lhasa, Lhoka and because of the poor roads it takes about a week for a round trip. He figured that it takes nearly 5000 people each year to do grocery shopping, transportation of the same. The Commissar shared a local joke that “the troops buy more food than they fight.” This according to him is one of the reasons for Civil-Military integration. He said that members of the Standing Committee of TAR Military had thoroughly studied the work report of the 19th Party Congress, and Civil-Military integration is an outcome after taking into consideration the logistical problems that stationed troops were facing. Chairman of TAR People’s Government Cheda La after assessing this “logistical problem”, instructed several enterprises and units based in Lhasa like Chengguan District Land and Soil Development Co., Ltd to assist the Tibet Military Region for upgrading logistical support for Tibetan troops. This military-civilian fusion according to Chen Xiaojun yielded good result as the Ministry of Security of the Tibet Military Region has received more than 560 kinds of products distributed to the troops through local enterprises, and has initially achieved one-click orders, on-site service personalised customization, and precision guarantees. The transportation and distribution efficiency of military supplies has increased significantly. Since March 2017, the Tibet Military Region has begun to try to build a special military-civilian fusion-type gas station within the region to provide fuel security services for military and civilian vehicles. At the same time, it organises military vehicle refueling “all-in-one card.” At a border defence group in Yadong County, Shigatse City, there are sets of new type of “sunshine thermal house” for local grass-roots units. This is one of the many measures taken by the Ministry of Security of the Tibet Military Region to promote military-civilian integration. With "high-tech" alliances, solid military-civilian technology transformation has resulted not only in improved living conditions for officers and men and improved health index of border officers and soldiers, but also warmed the hearts of the officers and men.

ACTIVITIES OF TIBETANS INSIDE AND ABROAD

Delegation from Myanmar’s Kachin state visits CTA amid speculations about purpose

April 22, 2018

A delegation from the embattled Kachin state of Myanmar belonging to the Kachin Joint Strategy Team (JST) recently visited the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) at Dharamshala. Mizzima.com on April 20 said this “event that may raise a few eyebrows in China,” because the JST often brings aid from China for its work of providing support for more than 100,000 Kachin people displaced by the ongoing decades-old internal conflict involving the Kachin Independence Army and Myanmar military. The delegation, led by Gum Sha Aung, met CTA President Lobsang Sangay on April 17 and, before that, members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile led by Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel.

The 11-member JST delegation included members from Bridging Rural Integrated Development and Grassroots Empowerment (BRIDGE), the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), Kachin Relief and Development Committee, Kachin Women’s Association, Kachin Development Group, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity, Metta Development Foundation, Nyein (Shalom) Foundation and Wunpawng Ninghtoi. The report said the visit had come at a time when the Burmese army had unleashed a fierce ground and air offensive against the rebels of the Kachin Independence Army.

It speculated that India may have facilitated the Kachin delegation’s visit because it wanted to help the Kachins link up to the Dalai Lama and get his support to pressure the Burmese military to stop the offensive in Kachin state. It added that the Dalai Lama, however, has no known links with Myanmar or its army and his appeals on the Rohingya issue have fallen on deaf ears. It suggested that India could have permitted the delegation to visit because it was upset with the Myanmar government for not expediting Rohingya repatriation, which it saw as crucial for ensuring the victory of India’s friend in Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina. It recalled that this was at least the second time a delegation from the Kachin state had visited the CTA in recent years. The previous delegation visit took place in May 2016.

Sweden charges Tibetan resident with spying on fellow exiles for China

12 April 2018

Sweden has charged a 49-year-old Tibetan living in Sweden for spying on his fellow exiles for the Chinese government. The Tibetan was working for the ‘Voice of Tibet’ and is suspected of supplying the Chinese government with information about the families, housing situation and travel plans of “certain people of importance to the Chinese regime”. The man had been in touch with Chinese officials in Poland and Finland and been paid 50,000 krona (£5,850) on one occasion.

Karmapa claimant seeks Ogyen Trinley tests

April 10, 2018

One of the three claimants to the 17th Karmapa title, Lama Dawa Sangpo Dorjee, has said that Sikkim will face a “big loss” if the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje is allowed to visit the state. He challenged Ogyen Trinley to undergo tests—scientific, divine and traditional—if he considers himself the original incarnation of the 16th Gyalwang Karmapa. He warned “If Ogyen Trinley visits Sikkim, me and my supporters (Sikkim Karmapa Committee) will wear black bands in our forehead and march in a protest rally in the capital here. If I am not allowed to enter Rumtek, then I won’t allow a false claimant to enter there either.” He alleged that the MLA from Sangha constituency Sonam Lama is “playing a game with the monks and the people of Sikkim. He is selling the dharma.”

Wangdi Tshering Lama of the Sikkim Karmapa Committee said that the Centre, state and other organisations, did not hear their demand just because they are a minority Buddhist community.

Dawa Sangpo Dorjee was born on 30th May 1977 in Mangan in North Sikkim. He proclaimed himself the Karmapa at the age of two and a half years. In 1987-1988, after the traditional test, Dawa Sangpo Dorjee was identified by Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche as

the incarnation of the 16th Karmapa.

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