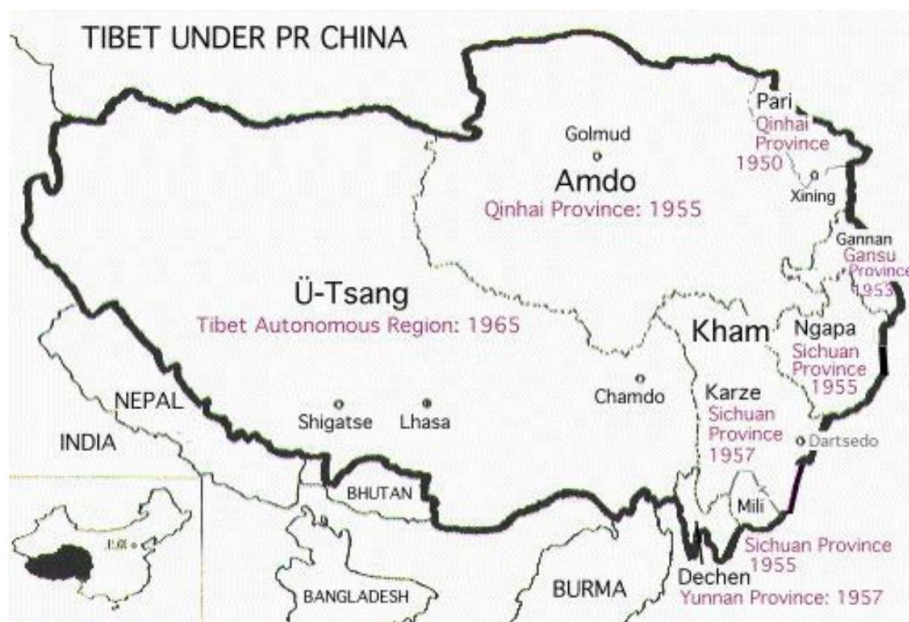
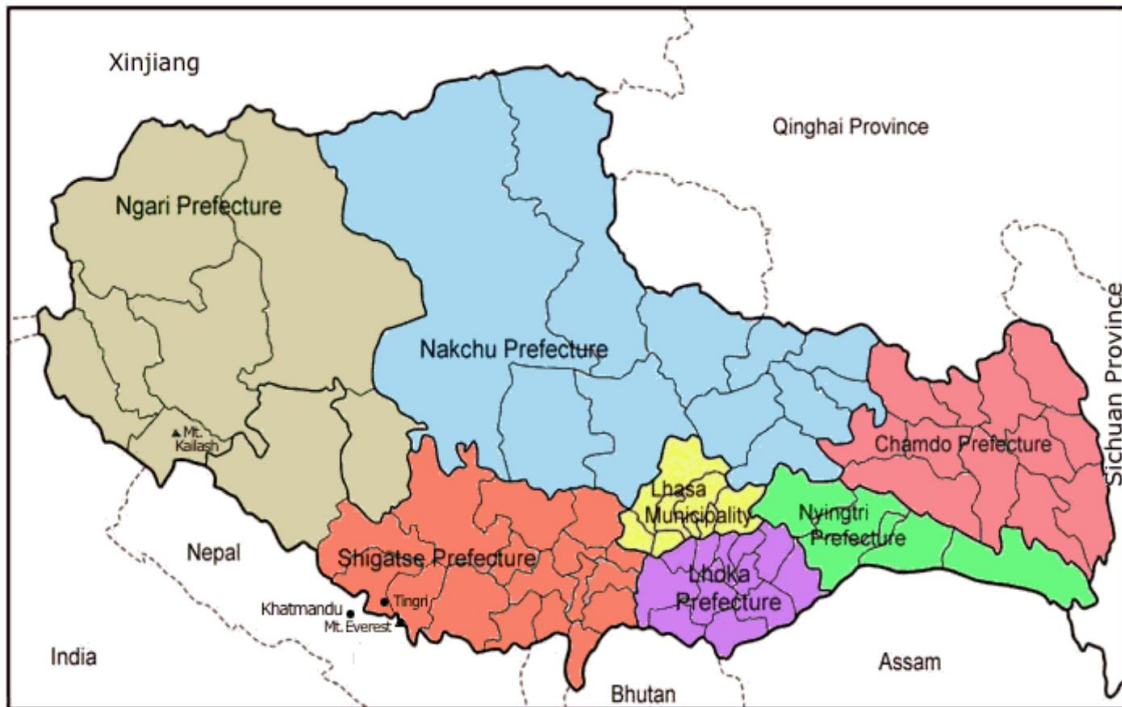




TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 AUGUST 2018



TAR NEWS

Lhasa Natural Gas Station to start second phase expansion project

July 30, 2018

In seven years of operation the Lhasa Natural Gas Station has replaced 210,000 tons of standard coal, reducing 400,000 tons of carbon dioxide and 145,000 tons of dust. From the winter of 2017 to the spring of 2018, the Lhasa gas station had a peak gas consumption of 200,000 square meters and a total gas consumption of 31 million square meters. Before the arrival of the 'heating' season this year, the Lhasa Natural Gas Station will start the second phase of the expansion and reconstruction project in order to meet the gas demand of the vast number of residents in Lhasa. Zhang Guangyan, station director of the Lhasa Natural Gas Station, said that using natural gas for heating and cooking had never been thought of in the past. Today, 200,000 residents in Lhasa enjoy the changes brought about by natural gas and green energy. Lhasa has achieved full coverage of natural gas. He said many residents of Lhasa were in the beginning reluctant to use natural gas, but now they want a natural gas pipeline.

The gas volume has nearly doubled since 2015 and daily gas consumption of the natural gas station reached 200,000 square meters in 2017 and total gas consumption hit a record high of 31 million square meters.

Zhang Guangyan said that liquefied natural gas (LNG) in all natural gas stations in Lhasa city is from the Golmud LNG production plant in Qinghai Oilfield. During the 'heating' season, 100 tons of large tanker trucks pass through Hoh Xil and Tanggula Mountain, more than 5,000 meters above sea level, to Lhasa every day. When natural gas is not required in Lhasa for heating, daily natural gas consumption is only tens of thousands of square meters and the number of vehicles transporting LNG is reduced.

The Lhasa Natural Gas Station will start the second phase of its expansion and reconstruction project this August. Once completed, the gas reserves of the gas station will increase significantly.

In the first phase of its project the Lhasa Natural Gas Station presently has 150,000 square meters per day, including a 2000-side LNG storage tank, two gas filling stations, and gasification facilities and urban pipe network.

Lhasa Natural Gas Station Phase II expansion and reconstruction project will build a 900-liter LNG storage tank with a daily gas transmission capacity of 200,000 square meters. "The daily gas transmission capacity of Lhasa Natural Gas Station Phase I and Phase II can reach 350,000 square meters, which can fully meet the current gas demand of Lhasa citizens." Zhang Guangyan said the annual 'heating' season in Lhasa is from November 15 each year and it is estimated that during the season, the daily peak gas consumption of the Lhasa Natural Gas Station in 2018 will be around 210,000 square meters.

To improve fuel supplies and support the "economic development" of Tibet, PetroChina launched the "Gasification of Tibet" project with the Qibei gas field in Qinghai Oilfield as the gas source in March 2010. The Qinghai Oilfield has taken the responsibility of gasifying the energy supply of Qinghai and Tibet. In October 2011, the Lhasa Natural Gas Station was completed and put into operation. The Qinghai Oilfield can supply 30 million cubic meters per year to the urban area of Lhasa. The two gas stations supporting it can manage 1,000 car refuelings per day. In order to ensure the convenience brought by clean energy to 200,000 households in Lhasa, the Qinghai Oilfield had supplied 102 million cubic metres of natural gas to Lhasa till May this year.

In addition, the "Gasification Shigatse" project was launched in 2016, and Shigatse became the second city in the region to use natural gas. In 2017, PetroChina Qinghai Oilfield Company and the Nagchu City Administration of Tibet signed an agreement for the Nagchu City Natural Gas Station Construction Project, which indicates that Nagqu will become the third city to be "gasified" after Lhasa and Shigatse.

38 large courtyards in Lhasa to be "renovated"

July 18, 2018

The Housing and Construction Bureau of Lhasa's Chengguan District said 38 large courtyards located on the East Road in the old city of Lhasa will be repaired and renovated. The project has a planned investment of 86.071 million yuan. The relevant official of the Chengguan District Housing and Construction Bureau said, "The project has completed all the preliminary works."

Public Security Director inspects Criminal Investigation Department

July 23, 2018

The new Director of TAR's Public Security Bureau, Zhang Hongbo inspected the Criminal Investigation Department of the Public Security Bureau on July 18 and evaluated work reports. The Director was accompanied by Pu Weidong, member of the TAR Public Security Bureau and responsible for the Criminal Investigation Department. The Director urged all officers to adhere to General Secretary Xi Jinping's Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, his strategic thinking of "strengthening national unity, build a beautiful Tibet", be loyal to the party and serve with fairness and ensure strict law enforcement. He reiterated TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie's instruction that stability maintenance should override everything and that "national political stability, national unity, and interest of the people in Tibet to promote development and long-term stability" should be safeguarded. He repeated the importance of being 'absolutely loyal to the core of the party', and explained the blueprint made by Xi Jinping at the 19th Party Congress on building a well-off society in an all-round way and the rejuvenation of the Chinese dream. He said "all departments, police forces, and officials of public security bureau should use Xi Jinping's thought as guide, to boost motivation and safeguard 'core position of the General Secretary and protect Party's Central authority". He asserted too that 'Tibet is at the forefront of the anti-separatist struggle and hence, public security personnel should work harder to promote national unity, safeguard the motherland's reunification, crack down on all illegal and criminal activities while maintaining good image of the Public Security Bureau at the same time."

Red Genes' Loyalty "to the Party "as the theme for loyalty Education Month

August 08, 2018

TAR Public Security Bureau's Propaganda teams travelled to Nagchu, Shigatse, Lhoka, Nyingtri, Chamdo, and Ngari to propagate 'Loyalty Education Month.' The theme of the campaign was 'inheriting red genes loyalty to the party.' The Propaganda teams performed dances and songs and live streamed narratives and photos to demonstrate harmony, stability and development in Tibet over sixty years. In each city the teams invited 'red genes cadres/veterans' and stated that they 'motivate' the police, strengthened the party's spirit, injected a 'fighting spirit' and add new vitality to Public Security work. The team also applauded the police forces that are stationed at 'high altitude' areas for adhering to the party's mission and being loyal to the party.

The Loyalty Education Month has been going on for three years and all lectures to be conducted this year will reportedly focus on studying and implementing 'Xi Jinping's Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era'.

The TAR Public Security Bureau also organized a meeting of all the retired cadres and discussed Xi Jinping's governance and on party building in Lhasa on August 8.

2018 Tibet Military Recruitment Starts

August 07, 2018

The TAR Conscription Office organized "Strong Army Dreams for the Chinese Dream", a themed conscription propaganda and an art performance on August 5, 2018 in the Lhasa Zongyap Lukang Park.

The TAR Conscription Office also invited the autonomous district's song and dance troupes, drama troupes, and military troupe actors to Zongyap Lukang Park for conscription and publicity performances, and started a week-long conscription campaign

The campaign will last from August 5 to August 12, and publicity will be through exhibition boards and dissemination of Tibetan and Chinese bilingual recruitment brochures. Tibet's annual recruitment work is divided into four stages: online military service registration time from January 10th to June 30th; recruitment work begins on August 1; new recruits join on September

10; and conscription ends on September 30. The bilingual recruitment brochure has been sent to each village (residence). A total of 100,000 copies were printed. As of August 1, the number of those who registered for military service in Tibet has exceeded 6,000, an increase of more than 2,000 compared to the same period last year.

Construction of key water conservancy projects in Tibet

August 09, 2018

According to the water conservancy department, in the first half of the year, Tibet adhered to scientific planning, overall planning, strengthened quality, and actively promoted the construction of key water conservancy projects. The Water Resources Department's tasks for construction of major water conservancy projects in Tibet this year includes completion of construction of the side-multiple water conservancy hubs on: (i) the Yarlung Reservoir; (ii) the Jiangbei (northern side of the Yarlung Tsangpo) Irrigation District; (iii) implementation of the Lalo project (iv) Xianghe project; and (v) the Zhuoyu Reservoir construction.

Major projects identified in the 13th Five-Year Plan and preliminary work on the medium-sized reservoir projects are in progress with construction having begun of the Zongtongka Water Conservancy Project (to be constructed on Yangtse river in Chamdo, the Pagu Reservoir (located in Padu township, Nyemo County of the Lhasa City) and the Kangzhuo Reservoir. The water conservancy infrastructure network is being promoted.

The main project of the Yarlung Reservoir has been finished in November 2017. The first phase of water storage was completed in February this year, and the second phase of water storage is currently underway. It is planned to be completed and delivered in October. The work of the dam grouting gallery and core wall pedestal of the Lalo Water Control Project, the spillway and the concrete pouring of the flood diversion tunnel, has been completed. The main canal and sub-canal of the irrigation district have been completed except for some connecting sections. Part of the over-water aqueduct and metal structure installation has been basically completed. It is expected that at the end of 2019, the Lalo Water Control Project will complete the lower gate water storage. Zhuoyu's "three links and one leveling" (i.e. water, electric, road and land

leveling) projects have been completed, and the initial report has been reviewed by the Water Resources General Administration of the Ministry of Water Resources.

(Comments:

1. The Yarlung Reservoir is located in the central and southern part of Tibet. It is located on the upper reaches of the Yalong River, a tributary of the right bank of the Yarlung Zangpo River in Nedong County. The project is 3 km distant from Qudegong Village, Yatoe Township, Nadong County. It is 47km away from Zethang Town, where Lhokha City is located and 195km from Lhasa. The main task of the Yarlung Reservoir Project is irrigation. The Yarlung Reservoir is a medium-sized project with a total storage capacity of 22.06 million cubic metres. The main buildings of the project consist of a roller compacted asphalt concrete core sand gravel dam, a spillway tunnel, an irrigation water transfer and flood discharge tunnel, and ancillary buildings.

2. The project was started on May 25, 2008. The Jiangbei Irrigation District Water Conservancy Project in Lhokha City is one of the three key major irrigation projects of the Tibet Autonomous Region. The total planned area of the Jiangbei Irrigation District Water Conservancy Project in Lhokha is 5,60,600 mu (92 351.517 901 acre), and the total estimated investment of the project is 1.165 billion yuan. Construction covers 10 towns in the Gongkar, Zhanang, Nedong and Sangri counties in Lhokha with 37 administrative villages.

3. The Lalu Water Control Project and the supporting irrigation district project are located in the Sakya and Shigatse cities of Shigatse, on the Xiabuqu main stream of the first tributary of the right bank of the Yarlung Zangpo River. The Lalu Water Control Project and the four supporting irrigation areas cover the Sangge, Cheshi, Qumei and Nie Rixiong. The reservoir is in Lalu Township, Sagya County. The project was officially started on June 9, 2014. It is expected to be operationalised by 2020.

4. With the approval of the relevant departments construction of the Xianghe (Tibetan name not certain, it's one of the Yarlung Tsangpo's tributaries) Water Conservancy Project and the supporting irrigation district in Shigatse was started on December 22, 2017. The Xianghe Project is located in the upper reaches of Namling County, Shigatse City. It is one of the 172 major

water conservancy projects for water and water supply determined by the State Council and one of the key projects of the 13th Five-Year Plan. The project development tasks focus on irrigation, water supply, and improvement of the ecological environment of the nature reserve, taking into account power generation. The project is II (2) type, with a total storage capacity of 115.6 million cubic meters, a power station installed capacity of 40,000 kilowatts, a designed irrigation area of 1,24,900 mu (20 575.641 43 acre), and an estimated investment of 2.708 billion yuan.

5. Zhuoyu (Tibetan name not clear) Reservoir is located in Jeru Township, Dranang County, with a total storage capacity of 10.43 million cubic meters and a total investment of 556 million yuan. The project started in January 2018 and it is a "Three Links and One Leveling" project of (i.e., water, electricity, road and land leveling) medium-sized water resources comprehensive utilization project focusing on agricultural irrigation and urban water supply. It is the key irrigation project of Jiru Town and Dratang Town in Dranang County. After completion the project will solve the problem of irrigation for 19 administrative villages in Jiru Town and Dratang Town downstream of the reservoir. Irrigated area is expected to be more than 5.05 million mu, including more than 31,000 mu of cultivated land and 19,500 mu of forest (grass). 12, 300 people will benefit. The reservoir also plans to supply 2 million cubic meters of water per year to Dranang County.

6. The Kangzhuo Reservoir Project of Shigatse City is located in Kangzhuo Township, Gyaltse County, Shigatse City. The dam site is located on Kangzhuo, a tributary of the Luqu Tsangpo River, a tributary of the right bank of the Nyangchu River. Storage capacity is 114.693 million cubic meters. The total planned investment is 640 million yuan. After the project is completed, the control area will reach 55,000 mu. At present, the preliminary work of the project is in progress. In October 2017, the Kangzhuo Reservoir Engineering Feasibility Study Report was reviewed in Beijing and is currently being revised.

7. The Duodu Water Control Project is located in the middle reaches of the Lhasa River. The dam site is located 1.5km away from the Phentok Township in Lhundup County, and the distance from Lhasa is about 63km. The project is mainly for irrigation and power generation, for flood control and Water supply. The total storage capacity of the reservoir is 1.23 billion cubic meters, the designed irrigated area is 652,800 mu (107 540.262 02 acre), and the installed

capacity is 160,000 Kw, which is the I (1) type project. The hub is mainly composed of asphalt concrete core wall gravel dam, flood discharge tunnel and flood discharge and diversion tunnel, power generation diversion tunnel, power plant building and irrigation water conveyance tunnel. Project construction work started on July 15, 2009. The total construction period of the project is 72 months, with a total investment of 4.575 billion yuan. On December 10, 2013, the first unit of the Tibet multi-water conservancy project was officially put into operation.

CHAMDO NEWS

Chamdo and Chongqing sign 28 projects worth over five billion Yuan

August 14, 2018

A special conference was held on August 13, in Chamdo to promote 28 ‘investment projects’ worth 5.216 billion yuan focusing on ‘Propagating new Tibet and protect the Third Pole’ between Chamdo and Chongqing. Deputy Mayor of Chongqing Municipal Government Li Dianxun and Vice-Chairman of TAR People’s Government Lobsang Tenzin attended the conference and delivered speeches.

Liu Jian, Deputy Director of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce; Ma Qichang, Deputy Director of the Chongqing Economic and Information Committee (Aid Tibet Office) Deputy Secretary of the Chongqing Municipal Federation of Industry and Commerce; Peng Guangyuan, Vice Chairman of TAR People’s Government and Deputy Director of the TAR Legal Affairs Office; Phurbu Tsering, Standing Committee Member of Chamdo Party Committee, Party Secretary of the Economic Development Zone Management Committee; Mei Fangquan, Vice Mayor of Changdu Municipal Government; and Zhao Ming, Party Secretary of the Municipal Economic and Trade Bureau, attended the conference while Li Yong the leader of the eight batch of aid workers in Chongqing presided over the delegation.

In his speech Li Dianxun said ‘Chamdo is an important part of Chongqing Municipality and had worked closely with the latter in the past 24 years and achieved remarkable success by implementing various policies of the CCP CC.’ He added that in recent years, Chongqing is

exploring new ways of ‘industrial aid’ for Chamdo and encouraging entrepreneurs from Chongqing to visit and invest in Chamdo. The ‘Aid’ aims to promote the comprehensive economic and social development of Chamdo, strengthen national unity, and maintain frontiers and long-term stability.

At the promotion conference, a propaganda film on the Culture and Art Festival and on developments in Chamdo was screened for the participants.

Zhao Ming highlighted the ‘advantages’ of investment in Chamdo with rich mineral resources, geographical location and tourism being top attractions.

A total of 28 projects were signed at the conference with a contracted capital of 5.216 billion yuan, including 23 contract-type projects with contracted funds of 4.134 billion yuan. 5 project agreements were signed with funds of 1.082 billion yuan. The project covers modern agriculture, photovoltaic energy, modern service industries and other fields.

The Chamdo Working Group will discuss economic cooperation and investment at the 4th Tibet Expo and 63 projects have already been signed with Tianjin, Fujian and Chongqing. The project involves a total investment of 12.58 billion yuan. There are 54 contract-related projects with a value of 9.966 billion yuan and 9 agreements with a total amount of 2.092 billion yuan. Tianjin has signed 16 projects with an amount of 2.796 billion yuan while Fujian signed 19 projects with 4.046 billion yuan (including 4 agreement projects and an amount of 1.01 billion yuan).

NGARI NEWS

Over 60 millennia-old artifacts unearthed in western Tibet

August 12, 2018

Chinese archaeologists have unearthed more than 60 artifacts thought to be around 2,000 years old in ancient tombs in the Ngari Prefecture of TAR reported China’s official Xinhua news agency on August 10.

The report said the artifacts were found at two tomb sites in Zanda (Tibetan: Tsamda) County following two months of excavation. The local cultural heritage department has said there were more than 10 ancient tombs at the two sites. “The artifacts include pottery, bronze ware, gold

ware and accessories, and are similar to findings at another site in Ngari dating back around 2,000 years,” Loden, Head of the county cultural heritage department, was quoted as saying. The report quoted Shaka Wandu, assistant researcher at the regional institute, as saying, “The artefacts offer important evidence for studying the early culture in western Ngari.”

SHIGATSE NEWS

Chinese-appointed Panchen visits Tashi Lhunpo Monastery

July 31, 2018

Member of Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the Vice President of the Chinese Buddhist Association, Gyaltzen Norbu, (appointed by China as the Panchen Lama) travelled by train to Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Shigatse on July 27, after completing his “Buddhist and social research activities” in Lhasa.

Zhang Yanqing, Vice Chairman of the TAR Party Committee and Party Secretary of Shigatse, accompanied him. Other leaders of Shigatse greeted the 11th Panchen Lama at the Shigatse Railway Station.

Members of the Tashi Lhunpo Administrative Committee, monks, his followers and tourists welcomed him through traditional rituals accompanied by security guards

Panchen Lama Attended "Shigatse Charity Lights" Ceremony

July 31, 2018

On July 31, a charity event called "Shigatse Charity Lights" for cataract patients was held in Tashi Lhunpo monastery, Shigatse. Chairman of the Tibet Development Foundation, the 11th Panchen Gyaltzen Norbu was the chief guest.

The "Shigatse Charity Lights" activity was jointly sponsored by the Tibet Development Foundation, the Aier Eye Hospital Group and the Eye Care Foundation. TAR Party Committee's United Front Work Department Task Force, Shigatse City Health Planning Commission,

Shigatse Municipal Committee's United Front Work Department, Shigatse City Education Bureau and Shigatse City People's Hospital provided support. Aier Eye Care Medical Team undertook the operations.

Vice Chairman of the District Political Consultative Conference and Director of Tashi Lhunpo Administrative Committee, Sonam Phunla; Vice Chairman of the District Political Consultative Conference, Sonam Rinzin; Jin Zhiguo from the Central United Front Department; Chairman of the Aier Eye Hospital Group, Chen Bang; Deputy Secretary of the United Front Work Department and District Party Committee Religion Affairs Secretary, Dawa; Deputy Secretary of the Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Mayor Liu Hushan, and leaders from District Party Committee United Front Department, the District Public Security Department, United Front Department of the Shigatse Municipal Committee, the Municipal Health Planning Commission, the Municipal Education Bureau, Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Administration Committee, Tibet Development Foundation, and senior eye and love medical team of Aier Eye attended the rehearsal ceremony.

The Director of the Tibet Development Foundation and 11th Panchen Lama Gyaltsen Norbu met the cataract patients who participated in the ceremony. On the occasion he said: "I still have three wishes. One is that we hope that we can hold similar activities in more places in Tibet in the future. Second, we hope that we can assist the Tibet Development Fund. And Aier Ophthalmology can make more contributions to improving the level of ophthalmology in Tibet. Third, we hope that our young people can continuously improve their awareness and knowledge of eye protection. Finally, I am especially grateful to Aier Ophthalmology Chairman Chen Bang, my family and the Aier Eye Medical Team for their great love and kindness."

This time total 42 Tibetans, aged from 6 to 87 mainly from Namling County of the Shigatse City, and received rehabilitation surgery.

According to statistics from the World Health Organization, China currently has the largest group of cataract patients in the world. Due to natural factors such as cold and anoxic climate and strong ultraviolet radiation in Tibet, the incidence of cataract is the highest in the country,

and cataract has become the first blind eye disease in Tibet. Blinding eye diseases have seriously affected the physical health and quality of life of the people in Tibetan areas, which has increased the burden on families and society and has become an important cause of poverty.

Official visits Jiru for Border Well-Off Village Planning and Construction

July 30, 2018

On July 27, the Deputy Secretary of the Gamba County Party Committee and the county Magistrate Tashi Wangdue went to Jiru Village to plan and guide the construction of the well-off border defence villages.

Tashi Wangdue and his party went to the first village on the border to check the construction of the ‘ Well-Off Village’ and listened to the opinions of the local people. The main input was for planning the livestock circle, renovating the house wall and hardening the roadway.

He stressed that it is necessary to further improve the ten upgrading projects, strengthen the construction of supporting facilities, ensure conservation and efficient use of funds, and strive to promote according to the principle of “appropriate scale, reasonable function, economic security, clean environment, and liveable and suitable for employment.”

Gamba County Organizes "National Defense Education to Improve Quality and Enhance Students' Patriotic Sentiments"

May 22, 2018

Gangba County in Shigatse organized a day-long theme based activity on ‘national defense education to improve quality and enhance students' patriotic sentiments’. The activity was aimed to further publicize, popularize, and implement the national defense education law and strengthen youth national defense education. More than 40 teachers and students from Gamba County Middle School participated in the military camp.

During the event, students visited the field culture exhibition board and the national defense knowledge bulletin board. After returning to school that afternoon, the school organized a review meeting wherein students and teachers shared their experiences of the camp.

Pasang Dhondup, a teacher said "through this activity, not only did the young students in Gamba County feel the 'quality services of the military as well as the difficulties of the military forces, but also enhanced better understanding and strengthened their national defence concepts, stimulated patriotism, and planted red genes for the bordering countries.'" A student of the first grade said, "today we had the honour to step into the military camp and experience the life of the army. I have benefited a lot. We grew up under the sunshine of the party. If there is no Communist Party, there is no liberation army and there will be no new Tibet".

'Trade boom' since the opening of Kyirong port

August 02, 2018

Liu Jian, Deputy Chief of the Kyirong Port Management Committee said that from January to June, about 75,332 tonnes of cargo were cleared at Kyirong port, up 32.8 per cent year on year. He said the value of the cargo is 1.3 billion yuan (US\$ 194 million). Since the port was opened to 'third country personnel' on August 30, 2017 trade and logistics have developed rapidly registering an increase by 11.83 percent year on year.

In Kyirong County, over 1,000 people are licensed to carry out trade. Liu Jian said the county is transforming itself from an agricultural backwater to a booming trade hub. Every day, 100 trucks line up to take garments, fruit and electronic appliances to Nepal and return to China with spices, handicrafts and medicine.

As per a report, a local Tibetan truck driver can earn over 50,000 yuan annually and a Nepalese trader, who sells specialties from Nepal, makes 200,000 yuan (29,800 U.S. dollars) every year. There are over 50 Nepali traders in Kyirong. By the end of 2017, there were 26 trade companies and seven customs clearance agents in Kyirong port. A 12,000 square-meter market is under construction in the town and when ready, it will have 100 booths for traders.

Shigatse delegation visits Shandong, Jilin and Heilongjiang

August 07, 2018

From August 1 – 7, a Shigatse delegation from Shigatse People’s Government went to Shandong, Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces on a return visit and for investment promotion work. Vice Chairman of TAR and Party Secretary of the Shigatse City Party Committee Zhang Yanqing led the delegation.

From August 1 to 2, the delegation went to Shandong Province and met Shandong Provincial Party Committee Secretary Liu Jiayi and Shandong Provincial Governor Gong Zhengyi.

Yang Dongqi, Deputy Secretary of the Shandong Provincial Party Committee and Director of the Organization Department, Wang Qingxian, member of the Standing Committee of the Shandong Provincial Party Committee, Secretary General of the Shandong Provincial Party Committee, and Wang Zhonglin, Secretary of the Jinan Municipal Party Committee, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Shandong Provincial People's Congress, Chairman of the Federation of Industry and Commerce Wang Shunlian, and Vice Governor of Shandong Province Wang Shujian participated in the discussion and accompanied the inspection tour.

On behalf of the provincial party committee and the provincial government, Liu Jiayi welcomed the party and government delegation from Shigatse. He expressed the importance of the ‘aid Tibet’ program for “safeguarding the motherland's reunification, national unity and social stability.”

Zhang Yanqing, on behalf of the 800,000 cadres and masses of Shigatse expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Shandong Provincial Party Committee, the provincial government and the people of the province for their long-term assistance to Shigatse.

Zhang Yanqing reported that so far eight batches of 71 ‘aid cadres’ from Shandong Province have been working in Tibet for two years with a total investment of 3.805 billion yuan, and implemented 1,234 large projects in Shigatse.

During the event, the delegation held a discussion with Jinan City, inspected the Changqing Agricultural Park, the Smart Spring City Operation Management Centre, and the Inspur Group, and held a meeting to promote support for the cooperation project of Shandong Province and Shigatse. Responsible officials of the Investment Promotion Bureau of the Autonomous Region, the Municipal Bureau of Commerce, and the Municipal Poverty Alleviation Office carried out publicity and promotion of the special resources, investment projects, preferential policies, etc. of the Tibet Autonomous Region and Shigatse City. More than 150 enterprises participated.

From August 3 to 5, the delegation visited Jilin Province. Jilin Provincial Party Committee Deputy Secretary and Governor Jing Junhai met the Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government and Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee Zhang Yanqing.

Wu Jingping, Standing Committee Member of Jilin Provincial Party Committee and Executive Vice Governor, Wang Kai, Member of the Standing Committee of Jilin Provincial Party Committee and Minister of Organization Department, and Zhu Tianshu, Vice Governor of Jilin Province, attended the forum and accompanied the inspection team.

Zhang Yanqing expressed sincere gratitude to the Jilin Provincial Party Committee, the provincial government and people of the province for their long-term selfless assistance to Shigatse.

He reported that so far 6 batches of 239 cadres from Jilin have worked in Shigatse and that accumulated investment in Tibet has reached nearly 1 billion yuan.

During the visit, Jilin Province held a discussion with Shigatse delegation team. The delegation inspected Changchun New District and Changguang Satellite Technology Co., Ltd., and held a meeting to discuss investment promotion in Tibet. At the meeting, concerned officials of the Investment Promotion Bureau of the Autonomous Region, the Municipal Bureau of Commerce, and the Municipal Poverty Alleviation Office publicized the promotion of special resources, investment projects, preferential policies, etc. of the Tibet Autonomous Region and Shigatse. More than 100 enterprises participated in the meeting.

From August 5 to 7, the delegation visited Heilongjiang Province. Wang Wentao, Deputy Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee and Governor met Zhang Yanqing.

Chen Haibo, Deputy Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee, Wang Aiwen, Member of the Standing Committee of the Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee and Minister of the Organization Department, and Gong Jingyu, Vice Chairman of the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Political Consultative Conference, attended the meeting and accompanied the inspection tour.

On behalf of the Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee and the provincial government, Wang Wentao welcomed the Shigatse party and government delegation to Heilongjiang

During discussions with the Shigatse delegation, Zhang Yanqing reported that so far 6 batches of 241 aid cadres had carried out 'counterpart' support work in Shigatse, accumulating a total of nearly 1 billion yuan in aid and Tibet funds, and built 357 large projects.

Shigatse Airport Opens Routes to Jinan, Chengdu and Shanghai

August 10, 2018

The Shigatse Peace Airport officially opened routes to three more mainland cities viz. Jinan, Chengdu and Shanghai. The Shigatse-Xi'an-Jinan route currently operates every Thursday and Sunday with flight number MU9901. The Shigatse-Chengdu route operates every Monday to Sunday; flight number is TV9844. The Shigatse-Xi'an-Shanghai route currently runs every Thursday and Sunday, flight number MU9626.

LHOKA NEWS

Zhuang Yan Hosts Border Well-Off Village Construction Meeting in Tsona County

August 10, 2018

On August 9, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the District and Executive Vice-President of the Autonomous Region, Zhuang Yan hosted a site meeting for the construction of ‘Well-Off Villages in the border area’ in Tsona county of Lhokha City, and inspected the demonstration site of a Well-Off Village on the border of Tsona.

On the morning of the August 9, Zhuang Yan visited the Xia Wo (肖) village on the border of a Well-Off Demonstration village. In January this year, more than 100 people from Langpo Township (浪坡乡) moved to the village. Zhuang Yan went to the villagers’ homes and inquired about their living conditions.

Then he visited Le Monpa Township (勒乡) and inspected the town.

In the evening, Zhuang Yan hosted a meeting on the construction of a well-off village on the border. He pointed out that since the start of the construction of the Xiaokang Village on the border, all levels and departments must unite their ideological consensus and take the initiative to pay attention to top-level design and high-level strong promotion. Based on the characteristics of the border and creating characteristic villages, they should persist in demonstrating and guiding the industrial foundation and promoting the integration of the military and the civilian. Zhuang Yan added that to achieve joint construction and sharing, strengthen overall coordination, and work together to build together, construction of a well-off village at the border is good and effective.

He emphasized that all levels and departments should take Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era as the guide and resolutely implement the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and the central government's strategic deployment of guarding the border and strengthening the border, and thoroughly implementing the General Secretary’s important strategic thinking on national unity, building important instructions for beautiful Tibet, and giving the spirit of reply to the masses of Yulmai Township in Lhuntse County.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Mass Propaganda Preaching Class begins in Counties of Sichuan

July 30, 2018

State Party Committee on Propaganda and Publicity dispatched a number of groups for the mass propaganda class in various counties in Sichuan to publicise the spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 11th provincial party. Counties include Lithang county, Bathang county, Chaktreng (Xiangcheng) County, Ganze County, Seda County, Gyezil county (Jiulong), Dartsedo (Kangding), and Nyachukha County (Yajiang).

The propaganda and publicity meeting was carried out on the same day in all these counties, from July 26. The main idea of these classes was to convey the message to have confidence in the Party and remain grateful for the party's work. Another agenda of the mass class was about the goal of achieving a comprehensive well-off society. County leaders said that 'if we don't work hard now, we will be dragging the leg of whole country'.

In Nyachukha, from August 27 to 28, the State Party Committee held a total of four provincial publicity classes covering more than 400 cadres and monks. In Gyezil (Jiulong) County, the focus was on farmers and herdsmen. More than 1000 people from Tuka Township attended the classes and provided various reading materials on cultural, judicial and ideological propaganda.

In Seda County, at Dongpu temple, mainly monks were asked to attend the mass class. There were briefed about the constitutional laws and instructed to follow the rules strictly, inherit Chinese tradition, and actively lead the Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to the socialist society. In order to safeguard the unity of motherland and strengthen national unity, the monks were told that they should contribute to the construction of a Buddhist ideology and system based on three qualified targets 'qualified temple, qualified people, and qualified teaching affairs'. They distributed more than 50 different copies of legal policy readers for the monastery staff.

In Ganzi, the Party Secretary of Dade Township told local leaders that they should use the 'local language' to preach party principles. He said that is not only the best way to make masses participate but also the easiest way to make them accept. The member of the Party Propaganda Committee, Yeshe Phende said "The party's policy is good and there is a hope in our life and it

will get better”. His family is part of the centralized resettlement project where they have to move out in October in Chalong town as part of the poverty alleviation scheme. More than 1600 people attended the mass propaganda class.

The overall theme of the propaganda class this time is almost the same in all the counties, but with more stress on implementation of strict laws in areas like Ganzi and Serda. In most of the places, the attendees were party cadres, monks and nuns, retired cadres, individuals who have industrial or commercial enterprises, Tibetan aid cadres and in some parts farmers and herdsmen. In Lithang alone, 1,180 cadres attended.

Nyerpo Yurtse is closed down for any visits

August 04, 2018

Nyerpo Yurtse is a sacred pilgrimage site in Amdo Golog, Qinghai Province. According to local sources, it was closed down earlier last month and will likely remain closed for at least the next two years. The ban includes tourists and also local villagers. The villagers are banned from doing religious offerings in the lake or on the mountains that they do daily.

In Golog, the average tourists count is 1000 daily but after closing down of Nyerpo Yurtse, the tourists rate declined to almost zero level. This according to locals affected the local business including hotels, restaurants, tour guide etc. There is no work for local environment protection committee and local tourist management department. One Golog resident said ‘I know Nyerpo Yurtse has been closed down and I heard that dozen more tourists site in Qinghai will be shut down’.

The local villagers were happy that it has been banned as they think it could protect the environment though it is unclear on what grounds it has been closed down. They witnessed the deteriorating condition of the lake at Nyerpo Yurtse. However, they say villagers sneak out in the night to make offerings in the lake. This sacred site covers areas of 2338 square kilometers. The sacred mountain alone has around 880 square kilometers. The local people also realized the rapid melting rate of turquoise peak (Yurtse) mountain glacier.

Zero Self Planning Housing Project initiates in Tsolho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai

August 06, 2018

The local party government of Mangra (Guinan) County, Tsolho (Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture selected 100 families under the status of special hardship and initiated the project of zero-self planning housing construction. According to Guinan News, since 2013, these families were not able to raise funds and they lived through the most difficult life and the most dangerous housing. They said that now the housing security problem is already resolved for the destitute people.

The report says that ‘if these family have 8000 yuan, they can build a new house for themselves but they do not even have that amount. The families were selected through villagers voting. Under this project, it seems that the local government dispatches construction team to rebuild the houses without the families having to pay anything.

In an interview with the reporters, Zhou Xian, the Civil Affairs Bureau chief of Guinan County said, “Guinan is the first county in the province to implement the zero-self planning housing projects. The project has been on going for four years. The targets are most poverty stricken areas of low income households and poverty relief villages”. It says that ‘the houses built by the local Civil Affairs and construction departments shall be in accordance with the requirements for the construction of dilapidated buildings, unified standards, unified design, unified construction and, unified inspection and acceptance.

Sonam Dhonden was also a beneficiary of the project, where he said there is no action plan to improve the lives of these poor families except the house. He said ‘there was no implementation of zero-self raising policy’. Zhou Zhouben, Standing Committee member of the Guinan County Party Committee and Minister of the United Front Work Department said that “The masses truly realized the warmth of the party and the government, enjoyed the party's policy of benefiting the people, further strengthened the relationship between the party and the masses, and won the

unanimous praise of the masses. It has important and far-reaching significance for maintaining the long-term stability of the society in the pastoral areas”.

Tibetan man arrested for the suspect of having a photo of Dalai Lama

August 06, 2018

A Tibetan man named Tenzin Choephel was arrested from Lhasa Gongkar airport. He is from Nachukha and a businessman. He was arrested in March and so far his whereabouts are not known. When he was returning to Lhasa from China he was suddenly captured by police at airport.

A Tibetan who knows the details provided photos and related information of Tenzin Choephel, revealing that at airport when they checked his baggage, they found some articles of “politically sensitive nature”. Later, the police searched his home and found a photo of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, but the exact reason for his arrest was still unknown.

According to the sources, Tenzin Choephel is about 40 years old. He has a special interest in Environmentalism and is actively involved in community services and advocates unity among Tibetans. He provides financial support for ecological conservation project in his locality. He was also part of those who pushed the "Legend of Princess Wencheng in the China Kusong area" into the list of intangible cultural heritage at the "Tibet Autonomous Region" level.

The main concern is whether he will face a judicial enquiry as they are worried that he might have been severely tortured to the point that he may not be able to live a normal life again. The concerned source stated that ‘many a times those arrested were sent home in a condition of limbo between live and death because of severe beatings and torture’.

China forces tourists to watch Princess Weicheng’s Drama

August 08, 2018

Chinese tourists in Lhasa have to watch the Princess Weicheng’s drama as a gateway to visits to

other parts of Lhasa. If anybody defies the order, it could lead to seizure of their travel documents and they will not be allowed to visit other parts of Lhasa or any nearby places.

According to a credible source from inside Tibet ‘the number of Chinese tourists in Lhasa is increasing every year and to watch the show, tourists have to purchase a ticket of 500 or 1000 Yuan tickets’. The drama has been staged for several years and the drama depicts the distorted life story of King Songtsen Gampo and Princess Weicheng from China. The story shows how Princess Weicheng brought the civilizational developments of education, tradition and culture and how Tibet and China have inseparable historical ties.

He further said that, though some news highlights that Weicheng’s drama is staged on the ground of Potala Palace, but that is not true as at Sho there is only a small museum display. The drama is actually played south of Lhasa, near kyichu. The area is called Drep, ‘དྲེཔ’ and it has been developed and given a ‘city look’. A Han Chinese from mainland sponsors it. The Weicheng’s live action drama produced by the Communist party of China and officially staged in Lhasa from 2013. According to Woesser, a Tibetan writer and blogger inside, it serves the party’s purpose making money and brainwashing the tourists.

‘Red Willow’ in Tsolho (Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous relocates for Hydropower Project

August 09, 2018

China plans to relocate a large number of tamarix trees more known as ‘red willow’ in Tongde County, Tsolho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture to the other areas of yellow river hydrological projects site to prevent floods.

Ranguo Village of Tongde County has a subspecies of salt retaining tamarix that has special aesthetic value as well as conservation and research value. The report says that although Tamarix is widely distributed in China, but ones that grow in the yellow river basin of Qinghai have some unique characteristics. It has the appearance of a tree and, the highest one’s in Ranguo are as long as 16.5 meters of height. And Tamarix in Qinghai can fuse together with one another. The tamarix in Ranguo have proved that they can survive in other places with suitable condition.

In 2015, some 25 tamarix were relocated on trial to new habitats and they took root and started to grow after a year. But in 2016, lots of criticism was received by the government of Qinghai alleging that plants were being killed and this has a negative impact on the local environment of Ranguo. It was halted for some time and the provincial government found some irregularities in the construction of hydropower project.

The report also says that in 2015, they fined Huanghe Hydropower Development Co Ltd of 200,000 Yuan for failing to pass the environmental impact assessment before starting construction.

According to botanical experts from CCAS and Chinese Academy of Forestry, most of the tamarix are 20 to 40 years old and few of them are more than 100 years old. In April, an expert panel of six people reviewed the protection plan and highlighted that the relocation plan was in fact drafted based on solid statistical evidence and is technically viable.

Tamarix in Ranguo is not an endangered species under national protection and covers an area of about 10 hectares accounting only for 1.76 of the species 'total area in the province'. This relocation in fact could lead to the extinction of the plant in the local region. However, Zhang Qibing, a researcher from Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences stated that, "In terms of species diversity, the death of the tamarix in Ranguo village will not cause a significant loss".

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

Eight Tibetan refugees earlier held in Nepal reach Dharamshala

August 14, 2018

A group of eight Tibetan refugees whose departure to India was earlier delayed by Nepalese immigration authorities citing "security concerns" have finally reached Dharamshala on Monday. A credible source told Phayul on the condition of anonymity that eight Tibetan refugees reached Dharamshala on the morning of August 13 via Delhi. The group's passage from

Nepal was handled primarily by the ‘Tibetan reception centre’, an office under the Security wing of the Dharamshala based exile Tibetan government known officially as the Central Tibetan Administration.

On July 31, The Himalaya reported, “the (Nepalese) government has stopped the process of sending eight Tibetan refugees to the Indian city of Dharamshala”. The Nepalese media also said that the immigration process was handled on the basis of an informal agreement among Nepal, India and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and that the Tibetan refugees would be given exit passes and would enter India via the border in Sunauli.

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