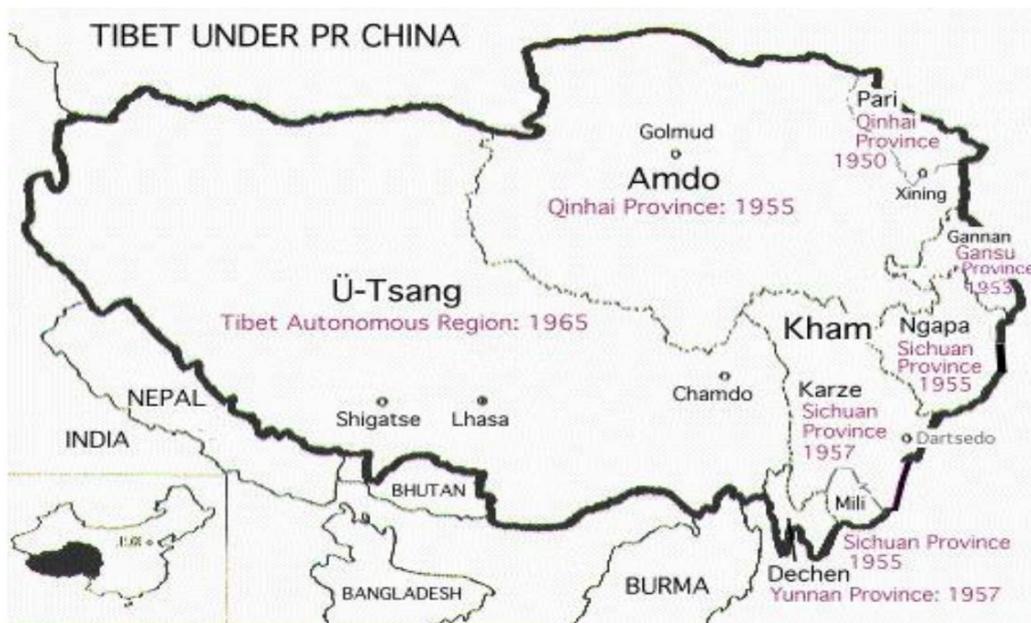




TIBET INSIGHT, 1 -15 DECEMBER, 2021



TAR NEWS

TAR Party Secretary meets Ngari delegation to tenth TAR Party Congress

November 29, 2021

On November 28, TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, met Duan Hai, Zhang Liming, Yang Hui, Luo Jie, Tsering Pasang, Kelsang Dolma, Gu Ru, Nima Dhondup and other representatives from Ngari (Ch:Ali) to the tenth TAR Party Congress. The Ngari delegation presented their report, which unanimously stated that works in Ngari have always adhered to the “guidance of Xi Jinping’s thoughts on Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, his expositions on Tibet work and the party’s strategy for governing Tibet in the new era, and that they have taken cognizance of the new challenges and situations facing Tibet work.” The delegation proposed that “in the new era, measures and new ideas concerning Tibet’s long-term stability, quality development, political actions and strategic governance would be implemented.”

After listening to the work report, Wang Junzheng commended the cadres and masses of Ngari for their work. In his speech, Wang Junzheng said that since the 18th Party Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has given special importance to Tibet-related work, that he has personally directed the rudder and planned the layout, presided over two central forums on Tibet, given “special instructions” and visited Tibet in person.

Wang Junzheng demanded “clear-cut personal and political standpoints”, urged the need to implement ‘Two Maintenances’ for the development of the party and country in the new era, and in preparation for the historical process and promotion of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.” He further stressed: “employ practical actions to embody and implement the ‘Two Maintenances’ and to ensure trust, loyalty and defense of the party to the core.”

Wang Junzheng urged the representatives to propagate the spirit of the Sixth plenary session of the CCP Central Committee, and the Tenth TAR Party Congress to the grassroots levels. He added: “we must persevere in maintaining harmony and stability by keeping constant vigilance, by work hard in forging the communal sense of the Chinese nation, and to adhere to and implement the Party’s ethnic and religious policies.”

In his speech to Ngari’s representatives, the TAR Party Secretary emphasized the need to “speed up construction in the border areas, to defend the southwestern border of the “motherland”, to adhere to the simultaneous need of garrisoning and security of the people on the border, to consolidate the border, to

enrich and prosper the border residents with special preferential policies, and to promote the concept of the border residents as a good guardian of the frontiers and borders.”

TAR Party Secretary convenes Standing Committee Meeting

December 02, 2021

On December 01, TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, convened the Standing Committee meeting including TAR Standing Members like Lobsang Gyaltsen, Yan Jinhai, Zhuang Yan, Chen Yongqi, Liu Jiang, Wang Weidong, Wang Haizou, Lia Jiao, Ren Wei, Phurbu Dhondup, Karma Tsetan, and Dawa Tsering. The members visited the former Tibet Working Committee center and its history Museum, and paid tribute to “revolutionary predecessors such as Zhang Jingwu.”

The Standing Members who were recently (re)appointed during the tenth TAR People’s Congress also took the oath, declared their adherence to Xi Jinping’s Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era, took an oath to reaffirm their determination to strengthen propaganda campaigns such as the “four consciousness”, “four self-confidences” “two safeguards”, and took the oath to implement Xi Jinping’s exposition on Tibet work and the party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new era, to build a “united, prosperous, civilized, harmonious and beautiful socialist modernized new Tibet with firm political conviction and firm confidence and determination”.

In addition, the Standing Committee Members took an oath in the presence of the Chinese flag and revisited the oath “I volunteer to join the Communist Party of China, support the party’s program, abide by the party’s constitution, fulfill the obligations of party as member, implement the party’s decisions, and strictly abide by the party’s discipline, conserve the secrets of the party, to be loyal to the party, actively work, striving for a communist life, and ready to sacrifice everything for the party and the people, and will never rebel.”

Public Security Bureau of Shigatse’s Samdrubtse County holds training for local “mediators”

December 02, 2021

Samdrubtse County of Shigatse’s Public Security Bureau organized a “special training” of all local mediators involving five action plans to “resolve conflicts, contradictions, risks, disputes and to warm people’s heart in order to decrease the number of challenges facing the county’s public security bureau.” The apparent purpose of the training was to promote social stability and to foster close relations between the police and the public.

Fourth-level Investigator of the Lhasa Emergency Management Bureau under investigation

TAR Discipline Inspection and Supervision Network, December 07, 2021

Another fourth-level investigator, Nyima Dhondup (Tibetan) of the Lhasa Emergency Management Bureau is reportedly under investigation for “serious violations of discipline and law.” Nyima was born in Lhasa in 1974, and joined the CCP in December 1997. His previous designations were as Deputy Investigator of the Lhasa Emergency Management Bureau and fourth level Investigator of the Bureau respectively from May 2019-June 2019 and June 2019 to December 2021.

Fourth level- Investigator of Convenience Police Bureau of Lhasa under disciplinary review and investigation

December 09, 2021

Tsering Yangzom (Tibetan), a fourth-level investigator of the Convenience Police Bureau of Lhasa is currently disciplinary review of the TAR Discipline Inspection and Supervision Network and Lhasa Municipal Commission for Discipline Inspection for “serious violations of party discipline and law.”

Tsering Yangzom, a native of Shigatse, Tibet joined the CCP in March 1996 and has a post-graduate degree. From August 1996 to June 2001, she was a member of the Legal System Research Office of the Legal System Committee of the Lhasa Municipal People's Congress, and worked as the Deputy Director of the Legal System Research Office of the Legal System Committee of the Lhasa Municipal People's Congress from 2001 to 2008. She became the Director of the Office of the Finance and Economic Committee of the People's Congress of Lhasa from 2008 to 2012 and took various positions thereafter. Her last designation was that of a fourth-level investigator of the Administrative Approval and Convenience Service Bureau of Lhasa City. She was appointed in June 2021.

Deputy Director of TAR Public Security Bureau under investigation

December 15, 2021

Zhao Tao, the Deputy Director of TAR Public Security Bureau has been investigated for “serious violations of party discipline and law.” After the investigation, it was reportedly that Zhao Tao lost his ideals and beliefs, deviated from the original mission of the party, received bribes in the form of gifts, and failed to report honest personal matters among other charges.

TAR Party Secretary inspects Nyingtri to “oversee implementation of spirit of the six plenary session and the tenth TAR Party Congress”

December 19, 2021

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng made his second visit to Nyingtri (Ch: Linzhi) since his appointment as TAR Secretary on October 18, 2021. Wang Junzheng’s visit to Nyingtri from December 14-18 was aimed to overseeing implementation of the spirit of the Sixth plenary session of the CCP Central Committee and the tenth TAR Party Congress. He visited six counties of Nyingtri including Zayul (Ch: Chayu), Pomey (Ch: Bome), Metok (Ch:Medog/Motuo) Mainling (Ch:Milin) Drayib chu (Ch:Bayi) and Kongpo Gyamda (Ch:Gongbu Jiangda).

On December 14, Wang Junzheng went to Zayul county and inspected “changes in the lives of the relocated people.” He went to Ladruk’s house, in Phurba village, asked them to “protect the sacred land and build a happy home on the border through the government's drive and their own diligent hands.” He also visited people’s households in Sheni village and inquired about the progress and commerce of kiwifruit planting. He urged villagers to blend modern science and technology to improve the standard of agricultural production and expand industries.

In Pomey county, Wang Junzheng inspected the Red Building and inquired about the “protection and utilization of red resources, and history of red revolution.” In the Red Building, photos, revolutionary objects, and graphical explanation of the 70 years of “peaceful liberation” were exhibited and the Party Secretary apparently observed and listened with keen interest.”

At Metok county, Wang Junzheng inspected Madri village, Gangjong Tea Garden, Dechen Township, County Party school, Menlho History Museum, and Padeng village to oversee the progress of characteristic industries, construction of well-off border villages and grassroots party organizations. He reiterated the need to accelerate construction of and development of infrastructures in border areas, and improving livelihood of border residents.

At Shenlong village, in Lhoba Nationality Township of Mainling county, Wang Junzheng went inside Dorjee’s house, inquired about his living conditions and asked about his children. He spoke about civil-military integration and emphasised that it is necessary to deepen the ‘pairing’ and continuously improve the ability to stabilize and reinforce the border. He said military and civilians must unite to guard the border and build a beautiful home.

In Drayib Chu County (Ch: Bayi), the TAR Party Secretary inspected Ecological Protection bases and grassroot party organizations. He emphasised Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and said the masses must remember Xi Jinping's "care". In Kongpo Gyamda, he inspected the Tibetan Pig Industrial Park and Tourism industry. During his inspections, Wang Junzheng emphasised implementation of the "spirit of the Sixth plenary session of the CCP Central Committee and the tenth TAR Party Congress, listened to work reports of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, and the Nyingtri People's Government. He stressed that party cadres and officials should improve their political positions and propagate the Party's policies. Wang Junzheng visited public security officials, and frontline officers and soldiers.

The TAR Party secretary was accompanied by Liu Jiang, member of the Standing Committee and Secretary-General of TAR Party Committee, and Dawa Tsering, member of the Standing Committee of TAR Party Committee during the inspections.

Metok Dzong held 2021 Sergeant Retirement Ceremony, Nyingtri

December 3, 2021

Metok Dzong held the 2021 winter sergeant retirement ceremony called "A Country at heart and home to all Mountains and Rivers," on December 2, 2021. Li Jicheng, Deputy Secretary of the County, and Ye Minjian, a Second-level investigator along with cadres and employees of the Shuangyong working group and representatives of the village, attended the ceremony. 36 soldiers retired at this session and were accorded the highest honour and respect.

Li Jicheng encouraged and reminded all the retired soldiers about the '100th anniversary of the founding of CCP' and told them to 'never retreat and learn from military veterans like Zhang Fuqing and the national model veterans and continue to strengthen the original mission, insist on building Xiaokang, and benefit the people with excellent qualities of a soldier'. He pointed out that "the majority of the retired soldiers do earnestly practice Xi's idea of strengthening the army, listen to the Party's command, ability to win the battle and maintain a good working style."

Guangdong Medical Aid to Tibet team donates million yuan to Nyingtri

December 12, 2021

Guangdong Medical Aid to Tibet is conducting a training course to improve the ability of doctors and nurses in Nyingtri to practice for a duration of eight months starting from December 2021. At the

opening ceremony on December 11, the Fangzhou Jianke pharmaceutical company based in Nyingtri, donated one million Yuan to Nyingtri for the purpose. Xie Fangming, CEO and founder of the company, attended the ceremony. Participants included the health in charge of the Municipal Health Commission, heads of the counties, and medical students in addition to doctors and nurses.

Tashi Phuntsok (in Chinese: Zhazi Puncuo), Vice President of the Municipal People's Hospital, thanked the Jianke Group for continuous support. The group donated medicines and medical kits in April 2021 and again guaranteed the prevention and elimination of hepatitis in Nyingtri in July 2021. The group has also launched a national level project called 'The rainbow project for Science and Technology Projects' in Nyingtri, where the group will use various online + offline multi-channel business cooperation and intelligent and digital technologies to explore the possibility of building Internet hospitals in more remote areas, help epidemic prevention, and control, and enable scientific and technological innovation in medical services.

The project comes under the ninth batch of Guangdong Province's Tibet aid team. The ninth batch came in 2019 in Nyingtri, with 68 medical aid teams and 230 third-level hospital counterpart assistance medical talent teams at county levels. The construction of internet + medical treatment is also steadily advancing, and the "5G + plateau emergency treatment project" of Nyingtri People's Hospital has been included in the national 5G + medical and health application pilot project.

Ao Liuquan visits homes of Nyingtri people for Kongpo Losar

December 9, 2021

Ao Liuquan, Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee and Bata, Mayor and Deputy Party Secretary of Municipal Party Committee, and other top party officials in Nyingtri visited Younghiu village, Bayi District for extending the Party's greetings on Kongpo Losar. They went house-to-house and asked people questions like, "How many people are there in a family? How are the living conditions at home and in the village? What kind of New Year's goods have they purchased?", to show 'the Party's concern and care for all ethnic groups in Nyingtri.' Ao Liuquan, told the masses "We must use the new developments, changes, and weather around us to guide the masses to have a clear-cut stand on strengthening national unity, promote social stability, maintain the unity of the motherland, forge a sense of the Chinese nation community, treat religion more rationally, dilute the negative influence of religion, pursue a healthy and civilized lifestyle, and become a happy home builder."

He hoped that the veteran soldiers would not retire and leave Nyingtri and continue contributing to the long-term stability and high-quality development in Nyingtri. He reminded people "to feel the Party's

care from the bottom of their hearts and know that there would be no socialist new Tibet and new Nyingtri without the cordial care of the Party with Xi Jinping at its core."

TAR named 16 Autonomous Regional Patriotic Educations Bases

December 12, 2021

The Party Committees of the TAR Propaganda Department and Transportation Department jointly inaugurated a propaganda 'red education' base called the 'patriotic education base Two Road Spiritual Memorial Hall' on December 10. The TAR Propaganda Department has so far named 16 'red education' bases in TAR.

This project was accelerated in various parts of TAR from 2018. The primary purpose of these red/patriotic education bases is "to deepen the study of the education of party history, inherit the red genes, stimulate patriotism, to closely unite and mobilize the masses around the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core and gather a strong force for the construction of a united, prosperous, civilized and beautiful socialist modern new Tibet."

Newly named Red/patriotic Education bases under TAR in 2021

1. "Two Roads" Spiritual Memorial Hall
2. Potala Palace Exhibition Hall
3. The Red Site of Linzhou Farm in Lhasa
4. Nimu County Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery
5. Shigatse Martyrs Cemetery
6. Lhoka City Museum
7. The former site of General Zhang Guohua's frontline headquarters in the self-defense counterattack against India
8. National Aid Tibet Exhibition Hall
9. The Red Building of the County Party Committee of Zam Center, Bomi County
10. Heroic Memorial Park, Zayul County
11. Qamdo Revolutionary History Museum
12. Former Site of the Eighteenth Army Barracks in Gangtuo, Jiangda County
13. Chamdo Martyrs Cemetery
14. Nagchu Martyrs Cemetery
15. Suo County Patriotic History Memorial Hall
16. Gaize County Advance Company Memorial Hall to Tibet

Appointments and Removal of Officials in TAR

December 10, 2021

During the 35th Standing Committee meeting of the TAR People's Congress held on December 9, and presided over by Lobsang Gyaltzen, Chairman of the TAR People's Congress, TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, and Yan Jinhai, the Acting Chairman of TAR People's Government were selected as the TAR Representatives to the 13th National People's Congress of CCP Central Committee.

In addition, the meeting removed Jiang Jie, Pema Wangdui, and Phurbu Dhondup from the post of Vice Chairmen of TAR People's Congress, and appointed Xiao Youcai as vice-Chairman of TAR People's Congress. The meeting also passed and approved "Regulations on the Promotion of Civilized Behaviour in Lhasa city", and approved the fiscal budget plan of TAR.

A number of other appointments and removals of TAR Officials were made during the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh People's Congress of TAR. These are:

List of Appointed Officials and their designations:

1. He Boyang- Deputy Chairman of the Finance and Economic Committee of TAR People's Congress
2. Zhao Guiying-Deputy Director of the Internal Affairs and Judicial Work Committee of the Standing Committee of the TAR People's Congress
3. Feng Yuzhong-Director of Ngari District Supervision Committee
4. Zhao Yuyan-Vice President, member of the Judicial Committee, and Judge of the Higher People's Court of TAR
5. Sonamki-Vice President of the Higher People's Court of TAR
6. Tashi- President, member of the Adjudication Committee, and Judge of the Intermediate People's Court of Ngari Prefecture
7. Liu Lan-member and Prosecutor of the Procuratorial Committee of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
8. Liu Zhigang-member and Prosecutor of the Procuratorial Committee of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
9. Zhang Hongliang -Prosecutor of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
10. Dawa Tsundue-Prosecutor of the People's Procuratorate of TAR

11. Chen Yongjun-Chief Prosecutor of Ngari Procuratorate Branch of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
12. Liu Falin-Chief Procurator of Lhoka City People's Procuratorate
13. Nima Tsering-Chief Prosecutor of the People's Procuratorate of Nyingtri City

List of Removed Officials and their designations:

1. Zhao Yuyan- President of the Intermediate People's Court and a member of the Judicial Committee of the Ngari District
2. Tsering Yangzom-Judge of the Intermediate People's Court of the Ngari District
3. Tsamla-Judge in the Intermediate People's Court of Ngari District
4. Zhao Guiying member of the Procuratorial Committee and Prosecutor of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
5. Choephel Tashi - Member of the Procuratorial Committee and Prosecutor of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
6. Dorjee-Member and prosecutor of the Procuratorial Committee of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
7. Tashi- Chief Prosecutor of the Ngari Procuratorate Branch of the People's Procuratorate of TAR
8. He Jianjun-Chief Prosecutor of the Chamdo People's Procuratorate
9. Lin Qingzhi- Deputy Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of the TAR People's Congress
10. Bata- Member of the Ethnic, Religious, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee of the TAR People's Congress

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

The Eleventh Representative Conference of Ngaba Buddhist Association held in Markham, Sichuan

December 9, 2021

The eleventh representative meeting of the Buddhist Association of Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) Prefecture was held in Markham on December 6. Liu Ping, Secretary of the State Party Committee, Luo Zhenhua, Deputy Secretary of the State Party Committee and Governor, Li Weiguo, Director of the Standing Committee of the State People's Congress, and Nimamu, Chairman of the State Political Consultative Conference, attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on the spirit of the National Religious Work Conference and the 10th Plenary Session of the Eleventh Provincial Party Committee. Lu Ping emphasized that "it is necessary to firmly

follow Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, always hold high the banner of patriotism, love of religion, unity, and progress, adhere to the direction of sinicization of religions in our country, fully implement the spirit of the National Conference on Religious Work." He further added that all should work together, work hard, and positively guide Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to the socialist society and contribute the wisdom and strength of the Buddhist community to the long-term stability and high-quality development of Ngaba.

He praised Ngaba's monks and nuns for 'implementing Xi's important exposition on religion and adhering to the direction of sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism. The construction of temple style and teaching style has been helpful to promote the healthy development of Tibetan Buddhism and contributed towards safeguarding national unity and social stability. Liu Ping pointed out the Buddhism community in the whole state should actively adapt to the new era, adhere to the correct political direction of Sinicization of Buddhism, actively establish a correct view of history, nation, country, and culture, and continuously strengthen the recognition of the great motherland, the Chinese nation, Chinese culture, the Communist Party of China, and socialism with Chinese characteristics. He told them to understand the relationship between law and belief correctly, and the dharma has no boundaries, yet monks should be within boundaries of law and policies.

Kardze Political and Legal Affairs Committee tells officials to become a 'loyal soul,' Sichuan

December 10, 2021

The Political and Legal Affairs Committee of Kardze (in Chinese: Ganzi) published its annual summary of the education and ratification work in the prefecture. The summary report claims that "9,231 political and legal assistant police officers in Ganzi Prefecture have been deeply ideologically baptized, and they are now determined to carry out more actions. It has further consolidated the foundation of loyalty to the Party, strengthened the faith, clarified the boundaries of their behaviour, and clarified the direction of action". For the Party history education, 795 special meetings were held at the various prefecture and county levels. reminded people to "strengthen their political loyalty, and promote learning and education to both mind and heart."

The party cadres and police were instructed to follow

- i) Do an excellent job in ideological mobilization and follow a detailed and strict self-inspection;
- ii) Resolutely implement the 'seven investigations' measures like improving the ability to check minor clues of the cases, quick identification of the problem, clear direction and solution to the problem, etc.; and
- iii) Regard satisfaction of the masses as a yardstick to measure the effectiveness of education and

ratification work

Li Qiang, the Deputy Governor and Director of the Kardze PSB, emphasized the need to improve the image of the public security team, control and correct the current stubbornness and potential risk and eliminate the team's abuse of power. He reminded the public security team to "respect party politics, uphold integrity, be innovative and responsible."

Shangri-La tells to deepen the Party history Education, Yunnan

Kangba TV News, December 15, 2021

Shangri-La, Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan told the masses "to deepen the party history learning as the city has always adhered to the correct historical concept of the Chinese nation." The propaganda and education ought to firmly establish the consciousness of the Chinese nation community, promote exchange and integration of all ethnic groups, explore the red resources left by the Long March that passed through Shangri-La city, and guide the cadres and masses towards a correct view of the country, history, nationality, and culture.

To accelerate 'red education' in the Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, it from 2019, adopted rigorous activities including selecting individuals as 'moral models,' 'civilized families,' 'ten-star-standardized households,' and 'points for civilized supermarket' etc. The activities guide all the ethnic groups in the 'correct line' of ideology, spiritual interest, and life in general. Shangri-La city has formed 11 township-level and 62 village-level gratitude volunteer service teams. These are the foot soldiers of the communist propaganda, and they are required to establish grassroots party organizations for promoting party policies.

For the popularization of Putonghua as the national common spoken and written language, Shangri-La has established four provincial level and 15 state-level language standardization model schools and two standardized Chinese character-writing schools. It was specifically instructed that "*Those ethnic minority groups with a low rate of popularization and use of Putonghua in the religious field shall implement precise policies, increase education and training, and achieve the goal of basically eliminating the obstacles to Putonghua language communication.*" The report also claimed that "People from all walks of life and all ethnic groups have formed a consensus on speaking Putonghua, writing standardized characters, speaking civilized languages, and being civilized people." Some other priorities such as deepening the construction of urban-rural integration, completion of three national parks and nine squares, including the Shambala National Unity Theme Park and the National Cultural Centers, were pointed out.

Large Telecommunication network fraud of 170 million Yuan caught in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai

December 14, 2021

The PSB of Machen County, Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, arrested 28 people related to a large telecommunication network fraud. According to the report, the capital involved in the case is as high as 170 million Yuan. The Machen PSB, with the help of Golog PSB and Qinghai PSB, traced the source to Haihu District, Xilling (in Chinese: Xinning), involving three gangs. They seized more than 60 mobile phones and 120 bank cards. The people involved in the case are of Chinese nationality and two of them, with the surname Su and Xie, were also involved in telecommunication fraud in Fujian. The group included persons from Jiangxi, Gansu, and Fujian. The gang created a well-organized telecommunications network with a clear structure and division of labour among themselves. Wei Lei, Head of PSB of Machen County, mentioned that the biggest problem in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture at present is telecommunication network fraud and money laundering, and that more so in recent years the complexity of the case has exceeded expectations.

First 'Qinghai Haidong-TAR-Shigatse-Nepal' South Asia Express Train launching Ceremony held in Haidong, Qinghai

December 15, 2021

The first launch ceremony of the "Qinghai Haidong-Tibet Xigaze-Nepal" road-rail combined South Asia train was held at Pinganyi Railway, Pingan District, Haidong, Qinghai Province on December 15. This has been reported as "a breakthrough in Haidong city's international freight train work, filling the gap between Haidong, Qinghai and South Asian international freight trains, and opening up a new path and new channel for Qinghai Province's trade with South Asian countries."

This rail-road combined South Asia train departs from the cargo yard of Ping'anyi Railway in Haidong and transfers goods to Kathmandu, Nepal through Kyirong (in Chinese: Geelong)/ Zhangmu Port, Shigatse. The total journey is about 2,800 kilometres. It mainly transports daily necessities, medical supplies, agricultural products, etc. The report pointed out that "The Qinghai Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial Government attaches great importance to constructing the China-Nepal international trade channel". For the same purpose, TAR and five western Tibet provinces signed a 'Memorandum of mutual intent of smoothing China-Nepal International logistics channel cooperation.' Zhu Longxian, Director of the Qinghai Provincial Department of Commerce, said, "The operation of the train will be expanded. The new international trade channel between China and Nepal and South Asia has not only important economic significance but also important strategic significance".

China pronounces heavy punishment for two Tibetan monks

December 15, 2021

The Lhasa intermediary court sentenced Go Sherab Gyatso, a popular intellectual monk known for his writings in both, the Tibetan and exile communities, to ten years in prison. He was charged with 'inciting secessionism.' When the verdict became public, many Tibetans living inside Tibet, including many writers and educators, expressed their displeasure about the court sentence and expressed words of solidarity with him by sharing images of his books, articles, and quotes from Go Sherab Gyatso on their social media accounts. He was arrested in October 2020.

Another monk from the Kirti monastery, Trinley, who is 20 years old, was sentenced to five years in prison. He allegedly published teachings and writings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Both have been arrested several times earlier on similar charges but released after several months' detention and interrogation.

The whereabouts of the two monks have been kept secret till now and even the family members have not been informed. Tibetans feel the main purpose of publicising their verdict seems to be to create fear among Tibetans to avoid potential protests and revolts before Beijing 2022 Olympics.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

China angered as Biden Administration appoints special coordinator for Tibetan issues

December 21, 2021

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on December 20 designated Under Secretary of State Ms. Uzra Zeya as the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, a position mandated by the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002. The Indian-origin veteran US diplomat will serve concurrently as the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human rights to which she was appointed on July 14, 2021.

China predictably criticised her appointment, warning the US to stay out of its internal affairs. Reuters reported on December 20 that China's embassy in Washington denounced Zeya's appointment as "political manipulation". Its spokesman Liu Pengyu, in an email the same day said "The US should stop

interfering in China's internal affairs or destabilizing Tibet under the pretext of Tibet-related issues. China will take all necessary measures to safeguard our interests." Uzra Zeya the same day tweeted, "I look forward to helping preserve the rich culture and traditions of Tibetans worldwide." In her letter of appointment, Blinken said "Specifically, she will promote substantive dialogue, without preconditions, between the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Dalai Lama, his representatives, or democratically elected Tibetan leaders in support of a negotiated agreement on Tibet." "She will promote respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Tibetans, including their freedom of religion or belief, and will support efforts to preserve their distinct historical, linguistic, cultural, and religious heritage."

(Comment: Zeya is a 27-year Foreign Service officer who has served in India, France, Syria, Egypt, Oman, and Jamaica. She is the seventh US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues and has been preceded by Robert A Destro (2020-2021), Sara Sewall (2014-2017), Maria Otero (2009-2013), Paula Dobriansky (2001-2009), the late Julia Taft (1999-2001), and the first appointee Gregory Craig (1997-1999).
