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TAR NEWS

TAR Party Secretary Meets Newly Appointed Party Cadres

May 04, 2022

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng met the newly appointed Party cadres in Lhasa on May 2 and emphasised that “they must consciously study and implement Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, hold correct political views, political character of loyalty, responsibility and work towards long-term stability”.

Wang Junzheng added that since the 18th Party Congress, the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core has attached “great importance to Tibet work” and that Xi Jinping’s visit to Tibet illustrates the importance the party gives to Tibet work. One of the outcomes from Xi Jinping’s visit, Wang Junzheng pointed out, was that the TAR Party Congress put forward “four creations” to implement and achieve “four major goals” of stability, development, ecological protection and border consolidation, a blueprint made by Xi Jinping. He emphasised that leading appointed cadres must play a key role, be a vanguard and set examples in implementing key undertakings of the CCP Central Committee, and the work arrangements of the TAR Party Committee.

He told the newly appointed cadres to study and understand the “two establishments”, strengthen “four consciousness”, “four self-confidences”, and achieve “two maintenance”, take the lead in abiding by and maintaining of political discipline, grasp the party’s needs and respond to what the CCP Central Committee advocates, resolutely implement the decisions of the Party and not to do what the Party prohibits. Wang Junzheng demanded that the cadres must put national interest in the “highest position”, take the responsibility of fighting “against separatism seriously” and safeguard national security, social stability and national unity.

Chinese ‘Expedition Team’ at Mount Everest

May 05, 2022

On May 4, an “Expedition Team” from the Institute of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau of the Chinese Academy of Sciences started from the Everest Base Camp and climbed 8,000 meters above sea level and completed installation of the “world’s highest automatic weather station”. The purpose of the team headed by Dechen Choezom was to set up a weather station and build an Everest gradient meteorological observation system to monitor changes in high-altitude glaciers and snow cover.

Chairman of China National Railway Group inspects Nyingtri

May 06, 2022

Lu Dongfu, Chairman of the China National Railway Group, led an inspection team to Lhasa and Nyingtri to inspect the progress of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway Project. Yan Jinhai, Chairman of TAR People’s Government and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, and Chen Yongqi, Executive Vice Chairman of TAR People’s Government and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, accompanied Lu Dongfu and his team to the inspections. Lu Dongfu pointed out that the Sichuan Tibet Railway project is a key national (century) project and that doing this project well is of “great and far-reaching significance” for long-term stability, strengthening and cohesion of ethnic unity. He told front-line workers in the project to overcome overall difficulties, work together, and move forward with tenacity in undertaking this “historical mission”. Lu Dongfu assured that the China Railway Group will earnestly study and implement Xi Jinping’s “important” instructions on Tibet work and the Party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new era, and that the Group will undertake railway work in Tibet as a major political matter and top priority in ensuring long-term stability and development in Tibet.

The Chairman of TAR People’s Government, Yan Jinhai said that the China National Railway Group has always and closely worked in line with the policies of the General Secretary, followed the “rhythm of the CCP Central Committee” and utilized the power industry to promote “all round progress and historical achievements for the construction of Tibet’s railways”. He commended the railway workers for their strength to cross the roof of the world without fear and walk on the snow-clad mountains with dedication and sacrifice.

Yan Jinhai hoped that the China Railway Group will continue to support and help the “development of Tibet” and realization of the railway projects.

Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People’s Government inspects border counties in Nyingtri

May 06, 2022

Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People’s Government and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee Chen Yongqi visited border counties including Metok (Ch: Medog/Motou) in Nyingtri from May 2-4, 2022. The purpose of his visit to the Bepung (Ch:Baibung), Deshing (Ch: Dexing) and Gedang Townships was to inspect construction projects in these border areas and meet grassroot party cadres.

At Guthang (Ch: Gedang) Town’s Kangsungdeng resettlement site, Chen Yongqi listened to work reports of relocation and resettlement work, inspected newly built “affordable housing” areas, checked facilities and emphasised the need to thoroughly implement Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era especially his instructions on strengthening border defense and security. He had an important discussion on governing “borders and stabilizing Tibet”, implementing the work arrangements of TAR Party Committee and TAR People’s Government on strengthening and revitalizing borders, enriching border residents, and implementing the “seven major projects”. He told concerned officials to work on channels that help borders and border residents prosper, and to make use of various “preferential policies”, and speed up construction of support facilities and infrastructure development in border areas. When inspecting turnover housing projects, an aquaculture base, Gangjong tea farm, and other construction projects in Metok county, Chen Yongqi emphasized the promotion of border tourism, expansion of Metok’s tea industry, and on seizing opportunities and speeding up these projects.

Chairman of TAR People’s Congress inspects Drepung Monastery

May 08, 2022

On May 7, Lobsang Gyaltsen, Chairman of TAR People’s Congress, inspected Drepung monastery to oversee religious harmony, social stability and ethnic harmony. During his inspection, Lobsang Gyaltsen emphasised the need to study and understand Xi Jinping’s

thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, study the spirit of the National Religious Work Conference, implement Xi Jinping's speeches given during his Tibet visit, and the Party's Strategy of governing Tibet. He was accompanied by Sonam Rinzin, Vice Chairman of TAR Political Consultative Conference (PPCC).

Lobsang Gyaltzen apparently studied the history of Drepung monastery, cultural relics protection and fire safety measures in detail, met the monks and party cadres stationed in the monastery as well as armed police fire officers and soldiers in the monastery. He reminded them of Xi Jinping's visit to Drepung monastery during his visit to Tibet, and told to keep in mind Xi Jinping's trust, his speech on unifying thinking, working in line with the party and his instructions on religious affairs. He told the monks to study the 'Two Establishments' and consciously take Xi Jinping as the core. Lobsang Gyaltzen further emphasised the necessity of creating the monastery as a model area for ethnic and national unity and to propagate and promote publicity materials which state: "Tibet has been an inseparable part of the great motherland since ancient times, and that all ethnic groups in Tibet communicate, exchange and assimilate, and they should constantly enhance the recognition of the great motherland, the Chinese nation, Chinese culture, the Communist Party of China, and socialism with Chinese characteristics, and effectively forge a sense of community of the Chinese nation".

Bomi County held a special group meeting for the creation of a model area for national unity and progress

May 9, 2022

Bomi County, Nyingtri held the first plenary meeting in 2022 of a special group dedicated to creating a model area for national unity and progress across the country. The meeting studied Xi Jinping's important exposition on ethnic work, examined the decision-making and deployment of the district party committee and the municipal party committee on the establishment of a model area for ethnic unity and progress, and resolved the difficulties and problems faced by the counties in the special work of creating a model area for national unity and progress.

The meeting was attended by Nyima Tashi (in Chinese: Nima Zhaxi), Party Secretary of Bomi County PPCC, Chungdak, Deputy Head of Bomi County government, Deputy team

leaders and member units of a national model area for national unity and progress, totalling more than 50 people including all cadres of the United Front Work Department.

The meeting summarized the development of the county's national unity and progress creation work from January to April, and reviewed and approved 6 manuscripts including "The List of Special Groups for Bomi County's Efforts to Create a National Ethnic Solidarity and Progress Model Area". Nyima Tashi pointed out that "the county is currently in a critical period of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation, starting a new journey of rural revitalization and the development of the "14th Five-Year Plan", and it is of great significance to continue to deepen the cause of national unity and progress, and to do a good job".

Summarising the discussions, Chungdak emphasized that each member unit should focus on the goal of creating a national model area for national unity and progress. He asked them to summarise past experience, effectively enhance the sense of urgency and responsibility for the creation of national unity and progress, and closely integrate with the county party committee. The deployment arrangement of "Three Districts and One Highland" takes the promotion of long-term stability and high-quality development of Bomi County as the starting point.

Nyingtri held a promotion meeting of the Sichuan-Tibet railway construction guarantee work

May 10, 2022

Ao Liuquan, Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, presided over the promotion meeting for the construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway construction guarantee work. Bata, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Mayor, Liu Yeqiang, Dawa, Mei Jiakui, Deng Xiaohong, Xu Ping, Kalden Phuntsok (in Chinese: Gandan Puntso), members of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Zhao Yong, Chairman and Secretary of the Party Committee of Tibet Railway Construction Co., Ltd. also attended the meeting. The Tibet Railway Construction Co., Ltd., Bayi District, Bomi County, Municipal Development and Reform Commission, Transportation Bureau and other relevant departments reported on the progress and problems in their work.

Ao Liuquan emphasized that it is necessary to thoroughly implement the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on the construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, implement the spirit of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway Construction Guarantee Promotion Conference in the autonomous region, and ensure the requirements of the promotion work mechanism to consolidate the territorial management responsibilities and to effectively serve and guarantee the construction of the Nyingtri section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. He pointed out that since the 18th Party Congress, Xi Jinping has attached great importance to the construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway and Secretary Wang Junzheng personally inspected the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, conducted on-site investigations many times, and emphasised ensuring the construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway Nyingtri to Ya'an section.

He reminded departments at all levels in Nyingtri to deeply grasp the major political position of Jinping's deployment and promotion of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, unify their thinking and understanding, and always stand firm in defending "Two Establishments", faithfully implement the "Two Maintenance" and reach a new political height. They were told to focus on land acquisition and demolition, supporting projects, risk management and control, ecological supervision and the importance of doing a solid job in giving compensation funds for demolition and relocation, carrying out mass resettlement according to local conditions, and cooperating with enterprises in renting temporary land.

Lhasa- Nyingtri Railway begins container transportation business

May 11, 2022

China Railway Qinghai-Tibet Group Co., Ltd. introduced on March 29 that a 21-group container train loaded with 1,470 tons of coal ash departing from the Qingtongxia railway freight yard arrived at the cargo yard of Nyingchi Station. This was the first container train to arrive since the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway became operational. The report highlighted that 'container transportation via railway can save 3% of transportation energy compared with automobile transportation. At the same time, the successful arrival of the first container train signifies that the local enterprises in Nyingchi have a more balanced allocation of road and railway transportation resources, which will further optimize the transportation structure, expand the scale of freight customers of Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway, and achieve high-quality and diverse development of the railway.

TAR Party Secretary meets Village Cadres at conference held in Lhasa

May 13, 2022

On May 12, a conference was held in Lhasa for village party cadres across TAR and was attended by TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, Chairman of TAR People's Congress Lobsang Gyaltsen, Chairman of TAR People's Government Yan Jinhai, Secretary of TAR PPCC Zhuang Yan, Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee Chen Yongqi, and other TAR leaders like Wang Haizhou, Lai Jiao, Ren Wei, Dawa Tsering, Doto, Gyaltsen, Jiang Bai and Du Jianguo.

In his speech, Wang Junzheng pointed out that over the last ten years, ten batches of more than 210,000 cadres were stationed in villages at grassroot levels across TAR and that all these cadres have thoroughly publicized and propagated the Party's principles and policies, addressed both, symptoms and root causes of problems, and maintained social stability. Wang Junzheng said that since the 18th Party Congress the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core has attached great importance to Tibet work and cared for the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet. He added that all departments at all levels and party members and cadres must deeply understand that carrying out the work of cadres stationed in villages is an important manifestation of implementing the decisions and arrangements of the Party Central Committee, an important measure to focus on the "four major events" and the "four creations". Stationing of party cadres in the villages is an important measure to strengthen construction of grass-roots party organizations and for solving more deep-seated conflicts and problems. He told the village party cadres to improve political positions, and be propagandists of the party's principles and policies. Wang Junzheng insisted that the party cadres must carry out an in-depth fight "against separatist activities and consolidate ideological foundations to maintain social stability".

China's Panchen touring Tibet amid clamour for Dalai Lama-recognized lama's whereabouts

May 19, 2022

Xinhua (May 19) publicised that Gyaltsen Norbu, the Chinese government-appointed 11th Panchen Lama is visiting Tibet from Beijing for a series of religious and social functions,. The visit takes place as exile Tibetans led a renewed international call on China

to account for the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima on the anniversary of his abduction by it 27 years ago on May 17.

The Panchen Lama is Tibet's second most prominent religious figure. The Chinese government kidnapped the six-year-old boy just three days after he was proclaimed by the Dalai Lama on May 14, 1995 as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama. He has not been seen since. Later in the year, China installed another boy, Gyaltzen Norbu, in his place, and designated him as the 11th Panchen Lama.

China has since then made Gyaltzen Norbu a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a Vice President of the Buddhist Association of China, and President of the association's Tibet branch. He lives in Beijing and arrived in Lhasa on May 10 for his current visit.

It is not clear what he has been doing in Tibet all this while. Xinhua said he visited the Jokhang Temple on May 18 morning, chanted sutras, prayed, and presented hadas (ceremonial greeting and offering scarves) to Buddhist statues.

He was stated to have led more than 100 monks in chanting sutras, and prayed for world peace, national prosperity and stability as well as people's well-being, before giving 'head-touching' blessings to monks for nearly an hour.

The Xinhua report said that besides performing his duties at the Tibet branch of the Buddhist Association of China, the "Panchen Rinpoche" will attend a series of religious and social activities during his stay in Lhasa

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

China-Tibet: Tibet Airlines Passenger Jet Catches Fire While Taking Off At Chongqing But All Passengers And Crew Were Safe.

Al Jazeera (May 12) reported that a Tibet Airlines passenger jet has caught fire after veering off the runway in China's Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport as it was preparing to

take off at 8:09am local time (00:09 GMT). It said while all passengers and crew were evacuated safely dozens of people had minor injuries.

Zijin Mining Group to acquire lithium mine in Tibet for \$741 million

May 5, 2022

The Zijin Mining Group, the second largest mining company in China, is set to acquire a bundle of assets consisting of four assets in Tibet, including a 70% interest in the Lakkor Tso Salt Lake lithium mine. Kitco, one of the world's largest online retailers and full-service providers of precious metals in the world, has confirmed that the Zijin Mining Group agreed to acquire the lithium mine in Tibet for US\$ 741 million.

Kitco said "The total consideration of the target assets under the transaction is RMB7,682,124,435 (US \$1.2 billion), of which RMB4,897,332,050 (US\$ 741 million) will be paid for 100% equity interest in Jinshi Mining, which holds a 70% interest in the Lakkor Tso Salt Lake lithium mine."

The Jinshi Mining Company said in the report that "at the end of 2012, the Lakkor Tso Salt Lake had retained resources of 2.14 million tonnes of lithium carbonate (as lithium is contained in the lake water, its resources can be considered as reserves), with an average lithium-ion concentration of 270mg/L."

Jinshi Mining is the 7th largest mining company in the world. It has also stated in the report that "after the completion of the acquisition, it will decide the specific development plan according to Salt Lake development policies in Tibet." Additionally, the Chinese firm that engages in the exploration, mining and smelting processing of gold, copper, zinc, and other metal mineral resources has agreed to make a phased investment to acquire a 19.9% stake in Xanadu Mines, a Mongolian copper and gold exploration company in last week.

(Comment: Lithium is largely used to make batteries, where lithium is used as electrode and electrolyte material in both disposable batteries and rechargeable batteries for mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and electric vehicles. Lithium-ion batteries power electric vehicles and China dominates the global electric vehicle market. In 2021, China accounted for 53% of global sales.)

Dechen Prefecture launched the fourth round of national unity and progress "Ten Million" Demonstration and Leading Construction Project

March 5, 2022

A Three-Year Action Plan for the Demonstration and Leading Construction Project of "ten counties, hundred townships, thousand villages and ten thousand households" for National Unity and Progress has been launched by Dechen (in Chinese: Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province from 2022 to 2024. The main project will be based on the summary report of the first three rounds.

The fourth-round aims to reach out to around 'ten million' people to inform them how the National Unity Demonstration and Leading Construction Project of National Unity and Progress are based on forging the consciousness of the Chinese nation's community and adhering to the principles of people-centred joint advancement. The purpose of this campaign is to create a benchmarking model for forging a sense of the Chinese nation community, make breakthroughs in promoting high-quality development, make innovations in promoting national unity and progress, and build a 'model belt' or 'model circle' for national unity and progress.

Chinese Authority issued a notice to relocate Atsokgon Dechen Choekhorling, Tsolho Tibetan Autonomous

May 6, 2022

The Chinese authorities recently issued a notice to Atsok Dechen Choekhorling Monastery to relocate to the foothill of Khyokarnaklo, some 4-5 kilometres away from the current location, Drakar Dzong, Tsolho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The local government plans to build a hydroelectric power station at the location and the repeated plea from the monastery was denied. According to Qinghai's Hydropower Department, more than 114 monasteries were relocated due to more than 20 different size hydropower projects over the last 40 years.

The project site inspection was started in December last year and when the monastery and local people pleaded to revoke the order, they were told that it's an important national hydroelectric project and cannot be revoked or postponed. The project is supposed to begin in 2022 and be completed by the end of 2023.

China-Tibet: China Using AI To Build Yangqu Dam On Tibetan Plateau

The South China Morning Post disclosed (May 8) that China is using artificial intelligence to effectively turn a dam project on the Tibetan Plateau into the world's largest 3D printer, according to scientists involved in the project. The 180 metre (590 feet) high Yangqu hydropower plant will be built slice by slice – using unmanned excavators, trucks, bulldozers, pavers and rollers, all controlled by AI – in the same additive manufacturing process used in 3D printing.” When completed the Yangqu hydropower plant will deliver nearly 5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity each year to Henan province.

A multi-circle hydrological monitoring network built in Yarlung Zangbo River Basin

May 6, 2022

The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has built a multi-circle hydrological monitoring network in the Yarlung Zangbo River Basin by strengthening systematic monitoring and combining it with the existing monitoring stations around the Yarlung Zangbo River Basin. It is to provide scientific and technological support for the comprehensive water resources management and ecological environment protection of the basin. The research team is said to have generated high temporal and spatial resolution precipitation data in the Yarlung Zangbo River basin from 1981 to 2019 based on the multi-circle hydrological monitoring network in the Yarlung Zangbo River Basin. According to Wang Lei, the lead author of the paper and a researcher at the Institute of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the multi-circle hydrological monitoring network in the Yarlung Zangbo River Basin includes 12 stations for precipitation and temperature gradient monitoring, 5 stations for water level and runoff monitoring, and 9 stations for soil and vegetation monitoring at different soil layers from 10 cm to 120 cm, and surface temperature monitoring of permafrost at an altitude of 4500-5200 meters at 34 sites, and water and heat transfer process monitoring of 9 layers of permafrost at 2 sites.

The Environmental Change and Multi-Circle Process Team of the Institute of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Chinese Academy of Sciences have gradually built a large-scale multi-circle hydrological monitoring network including the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, pedosphere and biosphere since 2017. Systematic monitoring provides observations and quantitative data for analysis of hydrology, meteorology, glaciers, permafrost, vegetation and soil covering the Yarlung Zangbo River Basin.

Golog Authorities detained and interrogated more than 170 Tibetans, Qinghai

May 10, 2022

More than 170 Tibetan were detained and interrogated in Dedzong village, Golog Tibetan Autonomous on charges of protesting against revocation of the 50 years of land use rights/ownership. The local authorities conducted an inspection of the documentation of nomadic areas in Dedzong village and they revoked and refused to renew the land use rights any further. When people asked them about the policy change paper and why there is a sudden revocation, they were detained on the charges of questioning the government's land ownership rights.

Land use rights have been revoked in several other Tibetan areas in Qinghai including Machen Dzong, Matoe Dzong, Gadhe Dzong, Dharlak Dzong, Pema Dzong and Chikdril Dzong. There was a similar case in Kyekudo, Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in October 2021. Qinghai published a small red book on the subject explaining how farmland and nomadic land belongs to the country and a series of meetings were conducted to convey the message to the villagers.

China to electrify Golmud-Lhasa railway to enhance efficiency, boost tourism

May 23, 2022

China is to invest 14.84 billion yuan (\$2.22 billion) to electrify the Golmud-Lhasa section of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, "the world's highest, longest and fastest plateau railway," starting in June, reported China's official globaltimes.cn on May 22.

The three-year plan is meant to enhance the 1,136-kilometers section of the railway's transportation capacity and service quality, while lowering costs and improving safety, reliability and risk resistance, the report said.

The project includes upgrading of passenger facilities in the Anduo (Tibetan: Amdo), Naqu (Ngachu) and Dangxiong (Damzhung) stations.

The report cited Xiong Kunxin, a professor at the Minzu University of China, as saying the project will improve the logistics system in the area and promote connections with other provinces. Economic development will also get a boost, especially for industries like tourism.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

China's mind game on Tibetans a flop, Dalai Lama to visiting US official on Tibet issues
May 19, 2022

Despite more than 60 years of occupation rule and indoctrination efforts, China has failed to win over and transform the minds of the Tibetan people, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, told visiting US Special Coordinator on Tibetan issues, Ms Uzra Zeya, when she called on him at his residence in Dharamsala, India, on May 19.

During their brief meeting, Ms Zeya, who led a four-member delegation, conveyed greetings from US President Joe Biden and the American people to the Dalai Lama. She also offered best wishes for the Tibetan leader's good health and expressed the gratitude of the world for the messages of peace that he espouses.

The two sides discussed the rich traditions of freedom and democracy in the United States and India. The Dalai Lama explained to the visitors his four main commitments in life, namely the Promotion of universal values, Promotion of religious harmony, Preservation of Tibet's culture and environment, and Revival of ancient Indian wisdom.

Ms Zeya is on a two-day visit to Dharamsala, beginning May 18. She was appointed the Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues last December. She was the first person the Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Penpa Tsering, called on during his first official visit to the United States last month.

Penpa Tsering welcomed her on her arrival in Dharamsala. Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile, felt that the Special Coordinator's visit "sends a strong political message to China" of the need to work toward a negotiated agreement on Tibet.

During her visit to India and Nepal over May 17-22, Ms Zeya held meetings in Delhi on May 17, with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, launching a plan for India to lead a "cohort" on electoral integrity as a part of President Biden's "Democracy Summit"

this year, where the EC will share its experience in conducting elections with poll management bodies of other nations who are part of the conference.

(Comment: Ms Zeya met Tibetan refugees in Nepal, visited the Tibetan camp in Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, along with the Deputy Chief of the US Embassy on May 21. She inquired about the physical and other facilities like health and education in the camp while interacting with the Tibetan refugee representatives and residents living there. The meetings were perceived as a strong message to China).

