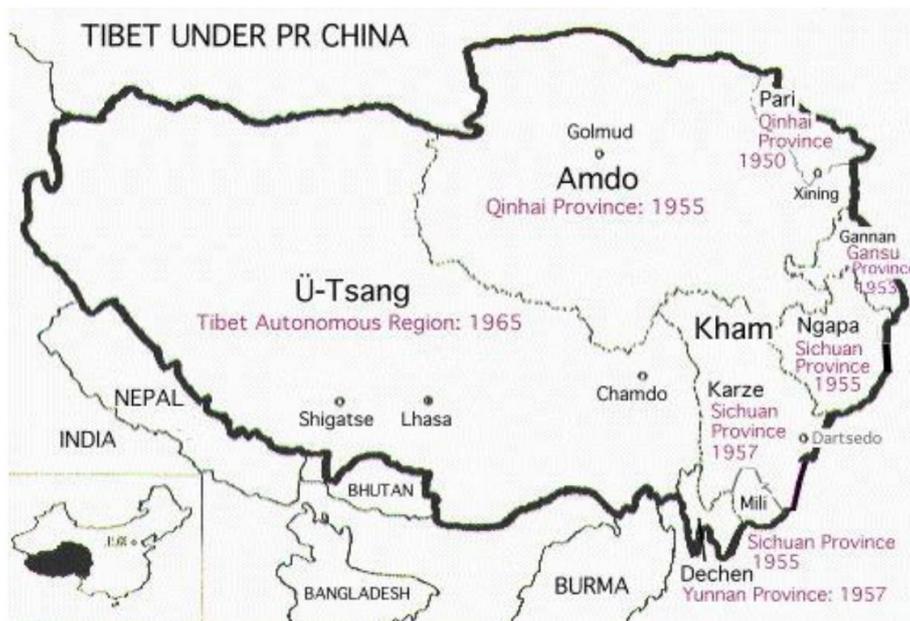
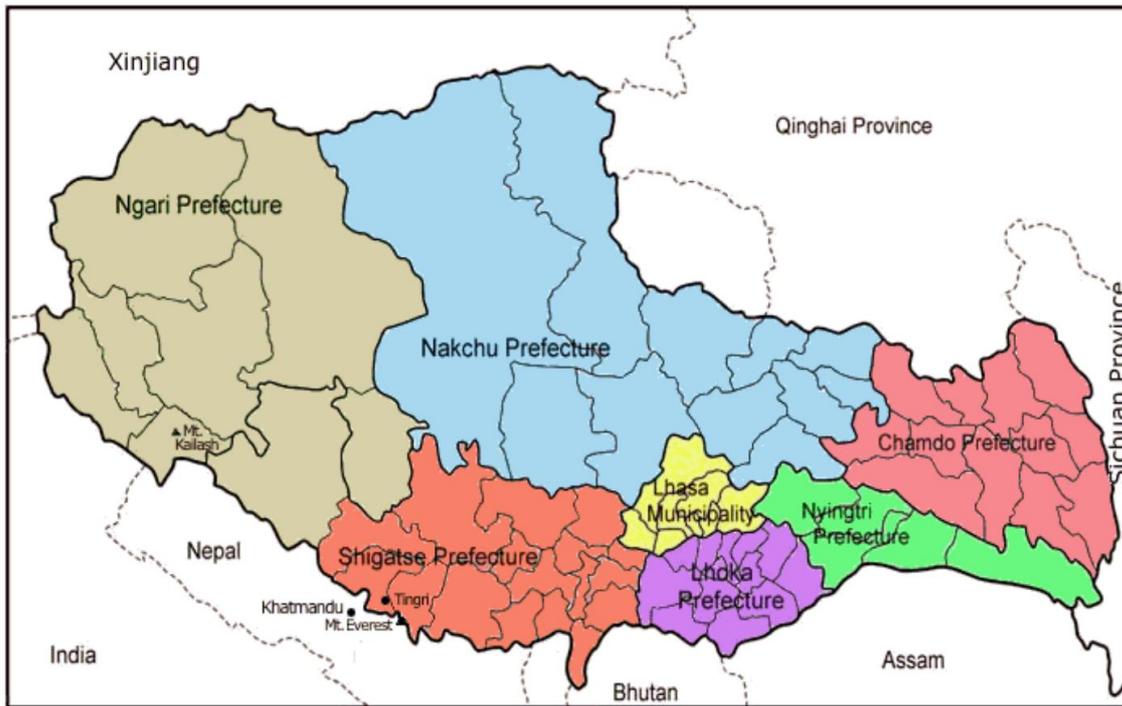




TIBET INSIGHT, 1-15 NOVEMBER, 2021



TAR NEWS

TAR Party Secretary inspects Barkhor Area to assess “social stability”

October 31, 2021

On October 30, the newly appointed Party Secretary of TAR Wang Junzheng, inspected the Barkhor area of Lhasa to assess social stability, ethnic unity, cultural tourism and people’s livelihood.

He went inside the Jokhang Cathedral, and visited the stone pillar that has an inscription of a Sino-Tibet treaty outside the cathedral. Looking at the stone pillar, he commented: “the Chinese culture is extensive and profound, and the stone pillar demonstrates the thousands of exchanges between Tibet and Tang dynasty”. He said the pillar is a great testimony that “Tibet has been an inseparable part of China since ancient times.” He urged religious institutions to “carry forward the fine tradition of patriotism, promote integration of all ethnic groups and make contributions in maintaining unity of the motherland and for long-term stability.”

Wang Junzheng, who was accompanied by the Acting Chairman of TAR People’s Government Yan Jinhai and the Secretary-General and Member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee Liu Jiang, visited Karma Kunsang Courtyard, Xia Sasu Community at Tromsekhang, Dorjee Khang Tibetan clothing store and had “exchanges” with people of all ethnic groups, and reiterated the importance of unity “like the seeds of a pomegranate”.

He stressed the need for “forging the communal consciousness of the Chinese nation with socialist core values, patriotism education, anti-separatism education, comparative studies on old and new Tibet,” and urged everybody to listen, follow, appreciate and follow the party.

Wang Junzheng also emphasised on strengthening “social governance” at grassroot levels and said “the grassroot party organizations must act like strong fighting fortresses which can solidify the communal consciousness of the Chinese nation while leading the masses in becoming rich, maintain social stability, guard the frontiers, territories, and safeguard unity of the motherland at the same time.”

Deputy Mayor of Ritu County Ngari (Ch:Ali) under investigation

November 02, 2021

Chen Jun, Standing Member of the Ritu County, Ngari (Ch:Ali) and Deputy Mayor of the County is “suspected of serious violations of discipline and law” and is under investigation by Ngari Prefecture Commission for Discipline Inspection. He was removed from his positions in October 2021.

Chen Jun was born in November 1976 in Chongqing and joined the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in June 2003. He has been posted in Ngari since July 1997 in various capacities including those of Deputy Director of Water Resources Bureau, Deputy Director of the Administration Office of Ritu County, Deputy Secretary of Ritu County Party Committee and Head of Rebang Township (a border Town).

He was Director of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau of Ritu County, Ngari from May 2017 to March 2019. In May 2021, he was made member of the Standing Committee of the Ritu County Party Committee and Executive Deputy County Chief of Ngari Prefecture.

Metok County opened a ‘Red Night Lecture Hall’

November 4, 2021

On November 1, Zhou Jun, member of the Standing Committee of the County Party Committee and Deputy County Mayor of the Metok County government delivered a special party lecture to leading cadres at the opening of the "Red Night School Lecture Hall" on November 1. He spoke on "Processing and Policy Interpretation of Forest Land Use in Construction Projects". Zhou Jun pointed out that Metok County is located on the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon National Nature Reserve. He said utilisation of forest land for construction projects should be carried according to the "forest law" and its regulations for implementation; the "Management Measures for the Review and Approval of the Use of Forest Land for Construction Projects" (State Forestry Administration Order No. 35); and the "Interim Measures for the Approval and Management of Construction of Facilities in National Nature Reserves" (State Forestry Administration Order No. 50). He warned cadres to ‘not forget the original missions and follow the principle of learning more and memorising more’.

TAR introduces more preferential social assistance policies to border and high altitude areas

November 11, 2021

Sonam Logok a second level inspector of the Civil Affairs Department of TAR briefed a press conference on the ‘TAR’s Reform and Measures for improving the Social Relief System’ and ‘Preferential Policies’ at the border and high altitude areas above 4,500 meters above sea level. TAR has proposed 33 specific reform measures from six areas of assistance aimed at establishing a modern social assistance system commensurate with the national development level and that improves the living standard of the border area. On the basis of the existing minimum living standards, it proposed issue of an additional 10% minimum living allowance to protect border areas and high altitude regions.

Yang Xiaorong, Director of the Social Assistance Division of the Civil Affairs Department of TAR said, ‘when calculating the income of border residents applying for assistance and their family, a special subsidy policy will be applied and won’t be included in the family income’. He said that various grassroots civil affairs departments would successively launch additional subsistence allowances for the border areas as required. So far, they have disbursed up to 958,200 yuan to more than 4000 people.

China Appointed Panchen Lama returns to Beijing after TAR visit

November 03, 2021

Gyaltzen Norbu, the China appointed Panchen Lama and a Standing Member of the National Committee of Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Vice Chairman of the Buddhist Association of China, Chairman of the Aid Tibet Development Foundation, and Chairman of Tibet Branch of Chinese Buddhist Association, concluded his trip to TAR on November 2 and returned to Beijing. During his stay, he visited and carried out “Buddhist and Social activities” in Lhasa, Nagchu, Shigatse and Nyingtri.

Gyaltzen Norbu came to TAR on July 30 and was received at Lhasa Gongga Airport by Danke (Ch: Tenkho), Standing Committee member of TAR Party Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC and Minister of TAR United Front Work Department (UFWD); Zhukhang Thupten Khedup, Standing Committee Member of the 13th

CPPCC, Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC, Vice Chairman of the Buddhist Association of China, Executive Vice Chairman of the Tibet Branch of the Buddhist Association of China, and the Dean of the Tibetan Buddhist College; and Samding Dorjee Phakmo (first female ‘living Buddha’) member of the 13th CPPCC, Vice-Chairman of the All-China Women’s Federation and Deputy Director of TAR People’s Congress. During his stay in TAR, he conducted various Buddhist activities, visited villages, monasteries and entrepreneurial centres. He also visited 11 monasteries in Shigatse in 11 days. Gyaltzen Norbu visited monasteries of different sects of Tibetan Buddhism including Narthang monastery, Gyantse Palkor Chöde Monastery, Ralung monastery, Shalu monastery and Yungdrungling Monastery. In July, he attended the 70th Anniversary of the “liberation of Tibet” with other dignitaries from Beijing.

On October 26, the 31-year-old Gyaltzen Norbu was conferred the title “Ka-Chen”, literally meaning ‘most difficult’ degree in Tibetan, and equivalent to a doctorate degree in western/modern education. He passed the examination at Tashilhunpo Monastery in Shigatse to obtain the degree, which is the highest in the Gelug Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. 800 representatives of monastic Teachers from various sects of Tibetan Buddhism witnessed the award ceremony at the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery lecture hall. He returned to Beijing on November 02, 2021.

(Comment: This was his longest stay in TAR. He had earlier spent three months in 2018 followed by about two months each in 2019 and 2020.)

The Chinese government-appointed 11th Panchen Lama Gyaltzen Norbu donated 1 million yuan (about 156,000 US dollars) on October 29 to people living in the border areas of Tibet for, among other purposes, strengthening national borders. Funds for the donation came from money gifted by people from all walks of life after the Panchen Lama attained the highest degree of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism, the Kachen degree, on October 26.

The People's Procuratorate of the TAR arrests Standing member Zhu Jiang

November 04, 2021

The TAR Supervisory Committee arrested Zhu Jiang, Standing Member of TAR Party Committee, and Secretary of the Nyingtri’s Political and Legal Committee of the Public Security Bureau. After investigation by the Supervisory Committee, he was arrested. Details of his “violations” are not reported.

Supervision Team of UFWD of Lhoka Inspects Religious Institutions in Nyaidong District

November 04 2021

The Supervision Team under the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of Lhoka (Ch:Shannan) carried out an inspection of all religious institutions in Nyaidong district of Lhoka from November 1-2, 2021. The Supervision Team led by Jamyang Tsering, the Deputy Minister of the UFWD under the Municipal Party Committee of Lhoka, inspected 12 religious institutions and venues including Yasang Monastery, to assess 'stability maintenance'.

The Team inspected whether the monasteries are regulated as per law and maintain stability. Jamyang Tsering and his team pointed out that the monastic cadres should not spare "hidden dangers" and must conduct on-site patrol inspections at regular intervals and strengthen on-site duty supervisions to ensure harmony and stability in the monasteries. He added that monastic management cadres must be vigilant at all times, implement the spirit of all conferences related to religious affairs, improve their political positions and enhance their ability to recognize "hidden dangers".

Hunan Communist Youth Delegation visited Lhoka

November 12, 2021

Li Zhichao, Secretary of the Hunan Provincial Committee of the Communist Youth League, and Liu Jing, Deputy Secretary of the Hunan Provincial Committee of the Communist Youth League, led a Hunan youth delegation to Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan) on an inspection and exchange program from November 8 to 10. Yang Chang, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Executive Deputy Mayor and Wang Xia, Deputy Mayor accompanied the delegation.

The Hunan-Lhoka Communist Youth League held a symposium on assistance to Tibet on November 8. The Hunan Provincial Committee of the Communist Youth League donated 4 million yuan worth of counterpart assistance to the Lhoka Municipal Committee to support the development of youth careers in the city. Li Zhichao affirmed that 'the Hunan Communist Youth League will unswervingly shoulder its political responsibilities, consciously implement the party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era, and promote the deep integration and

development of the Communist Youth League in Hunan and Tibet'. He told 'We must truly cultivate new people of the era who can shoulder the responsibility of national rejuvenation, and promote Hunan-Tibet youth who can forge a solid sense of the Chinese nation's community and fulfil the dream of great rejuvenation'. The delegation visited Lhoka No.3 Primary School, office of the ninth batch of Hunan Province Aid Tibet Task Force, and several counties including Sangri, Zanang, and Gongga.

Chu-sum County (in Chinese: Qusong) received 790 Washing Machines as Party's gift

November 15, 2021

In Sewu village, Qiuduojiang Township, Qusong, people were lined up early in the morning in traditional Tibetan dress to receive the gift of the Central Party Committee's delegation of the "70th Anniversary of Tibet's Peaceful Liberation" to TAR. The first batch of 790 washing machines reached Qusong County. The transport vehicles were adorned with huge banners emblazoned with the message 'Thanking Xi and the Central Party Committee for their care' and 'Building a beautiful Tibet to realise the dream of great rejuvenation'.

A portrait of Xi Jinping and another portrait of five Communist leaders (Mao, Deng, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping) were distributed along with the Washing Machines. Penpa (in Chinese: Bian Ba), Director of the County Party Committee spoke at the distribution ceremony. He said "The washing machines distributed to everyone this time bear the special care of the Party Central Committee, especially General Secretary Xi Jinping. It is a testimony of the Party Central Committee's deep concern for the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet. I hope that everyone will remember the kindness of the Party and General Secretary, and contribute to the construction of beautiful and happy Tibet by listening and following the Party".

It is reported that the portrait of the leaders and other gifts like electric baking pans, washing machines etc. were distributed in other counties as well starting from September 8. In Chu-Sum, another batch of 3,000 washing machines are expected to be distributed in the coming months.

Ao Liuquan visits border villages in Nyingtri

November 15, 2021

Ao Liuquan, Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee visited Badeng New Xiaokang village in Beibeng township, Metok county from November 9 to 10. The villagers of Badeng Village were originally scattered on the hillside, but now the whole village has moved into new residences in Xiaokang Village. The two-storey small buildings are staggered and the five-star red flags are hosted on the roof of every household. It also has a ‘New Era Civilization Practice Center’.

Ao Liuquan reminded border villagers to “feel the gratitude” of the Party and its preferential treatment at border areas. He added “why the border areas have such good development and changes today and the reason why everyone can live such a happy life today lies in the strong leadership and cordial care of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the Party Central Committee. You must bear in mind the general secretary and kindness of the Party Central Committee and make good use of the special preferential policies that the country gives to the vast number of people on the border”.

He also inspected the Paimok Highway and construction of G219. He told the construction committee that completion of this highway would enhance Metok's development opportunities as this highway remained a traffic bottleneck restricting Metok's development. He also visited Shengshi Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd., Madi Village Aquaculture Project, Lagong tea plantation and Renqingbeng Temple in Medog County.

He later visited Chayu County to investigate key projects, rural relocation sites, and rural revitalisation and characteristic industry development. In Chayu County, he inspected two border villages, Gangzang Village in Upper Chayu Town and Buba village in lower Chayu Town. Both are relocated villages under the resettlement and rural revitalisation project. Most of them were moved from the Nu river area. He also inspected the new reconstruction project of National Highway 219 from Metuo to Chayu section, which connects Medog County to the west and Gongshan County, Yunnan to the east. He said completion of this project can effectively solve the current situation of the National Highway 318 detouring from Chayu County to Linzhi city and will shorten driving time by nearly 3 hours. It can also help Chayu

to quickly connect to the Yunnan-TAR line and integrate into the Greater Shangri-La economic circle.

Chairman of TAR People’s Congress inspects borders of Lhoka

November 23, 2021

Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR People’s Congress Lobsang Gyaltzen was on a four-day inspection tour to Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) from November 18-21, 2021. He inspected Nyaidong District, Lhuntse county, and Tsona county to inspect maintenance of “strong frontiers.” During his inspection, he emphasised the need to adhere to Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, the importance of grasping the spirit of the Sixth plenary session of the 19th Party Congress, and implementing Xi Jinping’s strategic thinking of “governing the country first by consolidating and stabilizing the borders of Tibet.” He also emphasised implementation of the spirit of the Seventh Work Forum on Tibet, the party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new era including strengthening Tibet’s borders, instilling patriotism of people living in the borders, urging them to be the “guardian of the sacred land.”

Lobsang Gyaltzen also met a veteran party cadre, 97-year old Tsering, who joined the party in 1960 and had been a former Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Tsetang Township of Nyaidong district. He said “party veterans had witnessed the changes in Tibet and that they are a valuable asset of the party and the country.”

He inspected the homes of people in Xiaocun Langpo Township of Tsona County, Shiba village and Menba nationality Township in the county and asked questions about their livelihood, urged them to imbibe patriotism, and guard the border. He spoke about strengthening grassroot party organizations and consolidating them into a strong fortress which can propagate communal consciousness of the Chinese nation, increase people’s incomes, maintain social stability, guard the borders and territories.

Lobsang Gyaltzen who was accompanied by Xu Chengcang, the Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of TAR People’s Congress, also inspected Tibet Hongnong Agricultural Development Co. Ltd. and Tibet lhuntse County Yumaixiang Science and Technology

Development Co., Ltd. to learn about the production and operation of enterprises, and assessed tea planting and industrial development in Lexiang, Tsona County.

Lobsang Gyaltzen also paid tributes at the site of the former frontline post commander who had fought for “self-defense and counterattack” border conflict with India. He visited border guards and soldiers, and met cadres and monks in the temple at Traduk Monastery.

(Comment: Tsona is a county in Lhoka prefecture in the southern part of TAR. This county lies immediately north of the Line of Actual Control. Tsona Dzong (a historical fortress), the main town and the headquarters of the Tsona County, is on the bank of Tsona Chu (river). It is 34 km north of LAC (Bum La Pass). Earlier Tsona Dzong was connected to the Indian-administered Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh via an 80-km-route via the Bum La and Milakatong La passes.)

The Shigatse section of Tibet's Lari Expressway (control engineering) opens for trial operation

November 23, 2021

According to the Transportation Department of TAR, on November 22, the Shigatse section of the G4218 Lhasa-Shigatse Expressway (a control project) was opened to small vehicles for trial operation. Toll-free traffic is currently allowed and the maximum speed limit is 100 km/h, and the minimum speed limit is 100 km/h and the standard speed limit is 70 km/h. With the opening of this section, the mileage of Tibet's high-grade highways has reached 1,140 kilometres.

The Shigatse section of the Lhasa Expressway (controlling project) is a section of the G4218 Yaye Expressway from Lhasa to Shigatse Airport. It is 34.87 kilometres in length and starts from Dazhuka Village, Lianxiang, Samdrubtse District, Shigatse City, and connects in Jiangdang. When the Shigatse Airport Expressway is complete, the journey time from Dazhuka Village, Lianxiang, Xigaze City to the downtown area of Shigatse will be shortened to about 40 minutes.

At present, the G4218 Yaye Expressway from Lhasa to Shigaze Airport section highway project (intermediate section project) is under construction. The section starts from the Chabala

service area in Qushui County and terminates at Dazhuka Village, Lianxiang, Sangzhuzi District, Xigaze City. Construction was started in June 2020 and is scheduled to open to traffic in June 2024.

The Transportation Department of TAR stated that the G4218 Yaye Expressway from Lhasa to Shigatse Airport will become a major rapid transportation corridor from Lhasa City to Shigatse City and the Ngari Region. Tibet will create a three-hour comprehensive transportation circle centred on Lhasa, integrate into the Belt and Road Initiative , and be an important channel open to South Asia.

It is reported that during the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan period, Tibet invested RMB 251.6 billion in transportation and the mileage of roads opened to traffic reached 118,800 kilometres.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Dechen Prefecture carries out an intensive Party history learning session

November 2, 2021

Dechen (in Chinese: Diqing) PPCC Party Theoretical Study Center launched its 6th intensive Party history learning for 2021 on October 29. Miao Youfa, Secretary of the Party Leadership group of Dechen PPCC presided. The Party history learning and theoretical study includes Xi's speeches on various occasions including his speech at the 50th anniversary of PRC's membership at the United Nations, 34th collective study of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, commemoration of the 110th anniversary of the Revolution of 1911, Central Talents Work Conference, reply to the old party secretary in the border village of Cangyuan County, Yunnan Province, and also Wang Yang's speech at the Central Ethnic Work Conference and the spirit of the Ninth Congress of the Dechen TAP. Also as part of the Party history learning, the masses were directed to watch video lectures on "How to take the road to a powerful country on the Internet" and "National Unity and Progress Law".

The focus of the CPPCC intensive theoretical studies are on the Party's history learning; promoting national unity and stability; concrete actions on fighting against anti-separatism; and regulations to control and prevent the Covid epidemic.

Ngaba recruits “red Aba” Internet ambassadors among Internet celebrity and influencers

November 5, 2021

Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) announced the recruitment of global Ngaba Internet celebrity officers and check-in activity under the theme ‘Red Aba’. Under this project, Ngaba Prefecture will be recruiting bloggers and social media influencers as the spokesperson of the state in the fields of culture, tourism and food. All netizens are allowed to participate on Douyin, the Chinese version of Tik Tok. Four selected officers will be responsible for strengthening Ngaba’s global tourism attraction and being online ambassadors of the Ngaba people. The Sichuan Provincial Cyber Security and Information Office and Sichuan Culture and Tourism Department are sponsoring the programme.

China demolishes Tibetan Monastic School in Sichuan

November 10, 2021

Monastery Management Committee members of Drago Monastery were ordered on October 31 to demolish the Gaden Rabten Namgyaling School located at Drago Monastery in Drago County (in Chinese: Luhuo), Kardze TAP, within 3 days on the pretext that the building areas infringe on local land-use laws. They were told that failure to comply would result in the seizure the land and other serious consequences.

More than 130 students had to return home after witnessing the destruction of their dormitory and classes. The Tibet Times quoted an inside source who said that Drago County has been under strict surveillance and is targeted due to active participation in the 2008 protest. “The demolition of the school was ordered and supervised by Wang Dengsheng, Party Secretary of Drago County”.

(Comment: Wang Dengsheng is a Tibetan, born in Nyarong and known for his hard-line policy. He was transferred to Drago in October 2021. He was the Party Secretary of Serta County when the Yarchen Gar demolition project was carried out in 2016.)

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Three Ministers of the Tibetan Administration in exile were sworn in and took charge

November 10, 2021

The three nominees for the post of Kalons (Ministers) of the various departments of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) approved by the Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE) during its session in October have taken their oath of office and assumed duties on November 1.

Following the administering of oath by the Chief Justice Commissioner Mr Sonam Norbu Dagpo, Ms Gyari Dolma assumed charge as the Kalon for the Department of Security, Ms Tharlam Dolma for the Department of Education (DoE), and Ms Norzin Dolma for the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR).

Dolma Gyari is an old, well-known CTA hand, having previously served as a member and Deputy Speaker of the TPiE and, most recently, as the Kalon for the Department of Home under previous Sikyong Lobsang Sangay during his first term (2011-16). Tharlam Dolma was a teacher, and later an administrator of Tibetan schools in India throughout her career. Norzin Dolma previously served at the CTA's DIIR, as well as at the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Dharamsala, before she moved to New York.

During the confirmation voting on October 11, Sikyong Penpa Tsering had lined up seven nominees for confirmation. The TPiE confirmed three and rejected two, namely former Domey TPiE member and DoE Kalon Mr Thupten Lungrik and the Tibetan Children's Village school Director Mr Tsultrim Dorjee.
