



TIBET INSIGHT, MARCH- (II) 2022

TAR NEWS

Lhoka held a Grain and Material Reserve Work Meeting

March 18, 2022

Mou Yongwen, Member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Executive Vice Mayor, attended a Grain and Material Reserve Work Meeting in March. Mou Yongwen demanded that the ‘political position’ should be improved and all counties (districts) and all departments, especially the grain department, further improve their political positions, firmly establish the overall national security concept, adhere to the important task of stabilizing food security, actively promote the coordination and linkage of the entire grain supply chain, and accelerate the construction of “production, purchase, storage and transportation of grain at their respective areas”.

He also said that all departments at all levels should take practical actions to safeguard national food security, defend the "two establishments" and achieve "two maintenances". He said “It is necessary to strictly implement the responsibility of the party and the government” and ensure safe grain production, storage, and distribution”.

Civil-Military integration tree plantation project

March 18, 2022

The Miling Party Committee, Nyingtri ordered more than 40 party members from the military and local party branches to participate in the project “Military and Civilian Green Plantation to Protect the Frontier”. The project’s purpose is “deepening the connection between military and civilian like a fish and water and building a homeland together”. It is intended to add vitality to strengthen national unity, promote high-quality development of the plateau economy, create a national ecological highland civilization, strengthen the border,

and help the borderland people prosper. More than 100 willow trees were planted at Qionglin New village, Miling County because of their high survival rate and strong adaptability.

Nearly 100 soldiers were recruited from Lhasa in the latest conscription

March 21, 2022

The farewell meeting for new soldiers conscripted into the army in the spring of 2022 in Lhasa was held at a militia training base recently. More than 90 new soldiers wore sashes on their shoulders, red flowers on their chests, and white Khada on their necks. The new conscripts will be sent to various units to start their military careers. There is increasing propaganda in Lhasa to encourage the youth to join national defence and give back to the nation. Conscription publicity service windows have been opened, publicity brochures are being distributed and various online queries platforms have been established to give prompt answers. Lhasa also provides military training opportunities for new students entering school every year and promotes military reform knowledge. There are preferential policies for college students. According to the latest data, there are 472 applicants for conscription in the spring of 2022 in Lhasa, of which 240 are college students. The total number of applicants is 15.7% higher than in the spring of 2021.

Whereabout of three Tibetan students who questioned mandatory Chinese language curriculum still unknown

March 18, 2022

According to a report published by *freetibet.org* on March 16, three Tibetan secondary school students in Chamdo were incarcerated in October 2021 for questioning the lack of Tibetan language classes and their whereabouts are still unknown. The three students reportedly expressed their displeasure at having to learn the Chinese language and the ensuing difficulties. The three students; Palsang, 16; Sermo, 15; and Yangkyi, 11 were being incarcerated at Markham county's "reform through education centre".

(*Comment:* Since last year all subjects in Tibetan schools are being taught in Mandarin. Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics, patriotism, and love for the Communist Party of China constitute a major part of the school curriculum. While teaching

of Tibetan in schools, private and monastery-run schools has been restricted, coaching centres which teach the Tibetan language and culture, including outside routine school hours, have been banned or shut down throughout the Tibetan Plateau.)

TAR Party Secretary inspects Tibet Fire Rescue Bureau

March 23, 2022

The TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng, recently inspected the Tibet Safety and Rescue Bureau in Lhasa and emphasised improving emergency rescue capabilities of fire rescue teams in TAR, and their role in ensuring long-term stability. He visited the Headquarters of the Tibet Safety and Rescue Bureau, inspected fire rescue work, emergency communication mechanisms, performance parameters of fire equipment and their combat capabilities.

Wang Junzheng reiterated that the Tibetan fire rescue team is an important force in maintaining social stability and that all fire rescue officials and teams should understand the significance of the “two establishments.” He demanded absolute loyalty to the party, and said that they should implement the decisions and arrangements of the CCP Central Committee. Wang Junzheng also exhorted the fire safety and rescue officials to have the courage to act, and meet the party’s goal of maintaining harmony and peace in Tibet. He emphasised the need to enhance fire protection infrastructures, equipment, and capability building of the rescue teams.

(Comment: Since the Tibetan started self-immolations from 2009, the Chinese authorities have installed fire extinguishers and fire rescue offices on the streets and in every institute including in the monasteries. This year on February 25, 2022, Tsewang Norbu, a young and popular singer self-immolated in front of the Potala Palace. On 27th March, Taphun an 81 year Tibetan from Meruma nomadic village in Ngaba county in Amdo self-immolated near Kirt monastery. Both died).

Ngari carries out propaganda campaign in the countryside

March 24, 2022

On March 21, more than 20 Departmental units including the Ngari (Ch:Ali) Propaganda Department, Regional Culture, Science and Technology, and Health Department went to the

Bharga (Ch:Baga) Town in Purang (Ch:Burang) county to conduct ‘study and implementation’ sessions on the 19th Party Congress and the ‘Going to the countryside’ campaign. The ‘Going to the countryside’ campaign requires concerned party officials of the 20 Departmental units to propagate the party’s policies, principles, national laws and regulations, to every household in the villages and towns, and to undertake grassroot party building work in the farming and pastoral areas. It also requires the Party officials to cultivate the confidence and determination of the people to appreciate, love, follow and listen to the party through cultural performances. Leaflets, Tibetan medicines, Western medicines, water cups and backpacks were distributed to farmers. Party policies were explained and local people urged to understand where the benefits were actually coming from i.e. the Party.

TAR Plans 181 Construction Projects in 2022

March 25, 2022

In a video conference held in late March, the TAR revealed that a total of 181 construction projects with an annual investment of 140.4 billion yuan are planned in TAR during 2022. The construction projects are divided into infrastructure, industrial, civil, ecological protection, strong border defense and grass-root party building. Of the 181 projects, 61 are construction projects related to railways, highways, airports, water conservancy and municipal administration with an investment of 46.1 billion yuan, while 75 are projects related to clean energy, green industry, tourism, high-technology, border trade logistics, real estate and commerce with an investment of 76.5 billion yuan. 32 other projects are related to “improving people’s livelihood” with an investment of 6.7 billion yuan. In the name of ecological civilization, 8 projects estimated at 5.1 billion yuan will build national parks and greening projects in north and south Lhasa while 5 projects worth 6 billion yuan has been given to municipal governments for sewage and garbage treatment measures. The construction of 63 projects worth 534.3 billion were resumed in the first quarter of the year.

Students carried out propaganda activities at Kyirong Entry-Exit Border Inspection Station

March 25, 2022

More than 40 students from the Kyirong Township Quaquan Primary School, Shigatse along with their teachers were tasked on March 25 to carry out a propaganda campaign on the theme “History as a mirror and remembering the original mission”, to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the “liberation of serfs”. The Kyirong Entry-Exit Frontier Inspection Station officials, students and residents in and around Kyirong Township Quaquan Primary School conduct such propaganda campaigns to cultivate the feelings of “loving the party, country and socialism”. Raising the Chinese national flag, singing the Chinese national anthem, visiting exhibitions at the Policy history museum, and watching propaganda films are some aspects of the campaign.

Head of TAR UFWD inspects Chamdo and emphasised building a solid wall against “separatism”

March 30, 2022

On the instructions of the TAR Party Committee, Karma Tsetan, Head of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of TAR, inspected 11 counties of Chamdo (Ch:Changdu) from March 12-26, 2022.

Karma Tsetan stressed “it is a major political responsibility of all the departments at all levels, party members and cadres to do a good job in maintaining stability and security” particularly ahead of the 20th National Party Congress. He added “it is necessary to resolutely defend the two establishments, with practical actions, strengthen the ‘four consciousness’, ‘four self-confidences’, and achieve ‘two maintenances.’

The Head of the UFWD told party officials and cadres to be always “vigilant”, “tighten their strings of thoughts”, grasp the “prevent and control measures”, resolutely fight against the “Dalai Clique”, build a “solid wall against separatism”, and make “every effort to promote religious, social and national harmony”.

Chairman of TAR People’s Government meets Officials from Zhejiang Province in Lhasa

March 31, 2022

Yan Jinhai, the Chairman of TAR People’s Government met Zhu Gongjiu, the Vice Governor of Zhejiang Province in Lhasa on March 29, 2022. Ren Wei, Standing Member of TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of TAR People’s Government, and Jamphel, Vice

Chairman of TAR People's Government also met the Vice Governor who was visiting Lhasa to discuss "aid Tibet" work and deepen exchanges between TAR and Zhejiang.

On behalf of the TAR Party Committee, Yan Jinhai thanked Zhejiang Province for its "long-term support" to Tibet work. He also presented a report on the economic and social development in TAR and pointed out that these developments are due to the "special care and concern of the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, and also with contribution from and the support of the whole country including Zhejiang Province". Yan Jinhai said "Zhejiang Province has provided support and assistance, sent a batch of aid Tibet programme even in the "forbidden zone of life" including the grasslands of the Jangthang" (extreme north plains) in Nagchu (Ch:Nagqu). He hoped that Zhejiang Province will continue to support the development and progress of Tibet, and increase their counterpart support for long-term stability.

Yan Jinhai assured "we will fully implement Xi Jinping's exposition on Tibet work, and the Party's strategy of governing "Tibet in the new era" and focus on the four major areas of work i.e. stability, development, ecology and consolidation of borders". Zhu Gongjiu said "Supporting Nagchu is an unshrinkable and major political responsibility" and assured continuous support.

TAR Party Secretary inspects Sichuan-Tibet Railway Construction site

March 31, 2022

Wang Junzheng, Party Secretary of TAR recently inspected the construction site of the Sichuan-Tibet railway line, studied and discussed the key points and construction tasks in 2022 and the new work arrangements. He was accompanied by Chen Yongqi, Dawa Tsering and Zhang Hongbo in addition to persons-in-charge of the construction line in Nyingtri and Chamdo.

Wang Junzheng stated that construction of the Sichuan-Tibet railway line is the "dream of several generations of the Chinese people". He further added that since the 18th Party Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping had attached great importance to the construction of the railway line and had issued instructions on many occasions which pointed out the direction and gave the impetus to construct the Sichuan-Tibet railway. Wang Junzheng said the TAR Party Committee and the People's Government will implement General Secretary

Xi Jinping and the CCP Central Committee's decisions and work arrangements, focus on the politics and overall purpose of the railway line and construct the railway.

He urged departments at all levels to improve their political positions, and work to construct the railway with the overall planning of the party. He also asked them to improve prevention and safety control risks, strictly enforce ecological and environmental protection methods and techniques.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture has China's highest altitude mega hydropower plant

March 21, 2022

With the last 500,000-kW power generation unit officially put into use, a mega hydropower plant built at an average altitude of 3,000 meters, the highest one of its kind in China, went fully operational on March 18. With a total installed capacity of 3 million kW, the Lianghekou hydropower plant is located on the Yalong River in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. The Yalong River basin is one of the Tibetan plateau's 'clean' energy bases that China exploits. The operation of the Lianghekou hydropower plant is intended to ease imbalanced power generation in Sichuan and promote high-quality development of the Yangtze Economic Belt and the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle.

According to the Yalong River Hydropower Development Company, Ltd, the project has an investment of 66.5 billion yuan (about 10.5 billion U.S. dollars), started in October 2014 and is expected to be fully completed by 2023. The reservoir's storage capacity is designed to reach 10.8 billion cubic meters, and the annual power generation volume is expected to surpass 11 billion kWh.

China bans the Tibetan language on learning apps and online streaming services

March 23, 2022

Recently a Tibetan man from Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture went live on the streaming app Kuaishou and criticised the prefecture for adopting a racist and discriminatory

policy against Tibetans and other minority groups. His account was suspended the same day. Within a few hours of the post, he received more than a million views and comments showing their support and thanking him for raising the issue.

The Chinese government's restriction on the use of the Tibetan language has now spread to video services and other online platforms, as Beijing continues to push the assimilation of China's ethnic minorities into the dominant Han Chinese culture. Following recent Chinese government directives, the language learning app Talkmate and video streaming service Bilibili have now removed the Tibetan and Uyghur languages from their sites.

Restrictions are now in place on a wide range of social media platforms in Tibetan areas. An inside source told RFA “specifically, those platforms where users go live to perform and communicate with their audiences have seen more restrictions put in place”. He added that Tibetans are forbidden to speak in Tibetan while communicating, and if any Tibetan artist tries to represent Tibetan culture and tradition on their social media platform, their accounts are disconnected. And if such performances go live, they are immediately interrupted by the government.

Authorities in northwest China's Qinghai province have already banned Tibetan social media groups tied to religion, warning group members they will be investigated and jailed if they continue to use them. Language rights have become a particular focus for Tibetan efforts to assert national identity in recent years, with informally organized language courses in the monasteries and towns deemed “illegal associations” and teachers subject to detention and arrest.

National Common Language Learning Dictionary (Tibetan reference) review meeting held in Beijing

March 31, 2022

The China Tibetology Research Center and the Chinese Language Press held a discussion on the review and revision of the "National Common Language Learning Dictionary (Tibetan Reference)" on March 18. Zheng Dui, Director General of China Tibetology Research

Center, Gu Xinkuang, President of Language and Literature Publishing House, Wei Yunhua, Editor-in-Chief of Language and Literature Publishing House, Norbu Tashi, Deputy Director of Institute of Tibetan Medicine of China Tibetology Research Center, and members of the dictionary writing team and review team attended the meeting.

Zeng Dui said that the "National Common Language Learning Dictionary (Tibetan)" serves the overall situation of the country and is a practical resource for popularizing the national common language". More than 10 experts who are proficient in both Chinese and Tibetan languages have been selected to set up a dictionary review team, which will conduct three rounds of review. The review team will focus on reading "the political orientation and translation quality of the dictionary". He hoped that the China Tibetology Research Center and the Chinese Language Press will continue to cooperate in building the 'consciousness' of the Chinese nation's community.

Gu Xinkuang said the "National Common Language Learning Dictionary (Tibetan)" is close to the "actual needs of cadres and people of all ethnic groups in the Tibet Autonomous Region, especially primary and secondary school students, in learning and using the national common language". "Learning, mastering and using the common national language for all people is an important foundation for building a shared spiritual home for all ethnic groups and forging a sense of community of the Chinese nation," Gu Xinkuang added.

According to reports, this dictionary contains a total of 3,500 first-level characters in the "General Standardized Chinese Character list" and more than 11,000 commonly used words in the "Compulsory Education" common vocabulary list.

Two Tibetans self-immolate to protest against the Chinese government in March

March 31, 2022

After the self-immolation of Tsewang Norbu, a popular singer in February, two more self-immolations were recorded in March.

Tashi Phuntsok, or Taphun, an 81-year-old Tibetan self-immolated in Meruma (Ch: Maierma), Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture on March 27. Taphun died after being taken away by the police but it is still not known where they took him, and the circumstances leading up to his death are unclear. His body has not been returned to his family, who are

now subjected to intense surveillance, even as they stay at home and say prayers and observe funeral rituals for him. A year ago, when Taphun turned 80, he had told well-wishers: "Through His Holiness the Dalai Lama's blessing, the sun of happiness will rise in Tibet. The young [Tibetan youth] must not give up".

Another Tibetan named Tsering Samdup, or Tsering, self-immolated on March 30, near a police station in Kyegudo, Yushul (Yushu) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai. Locals told RFA that he was immediately taken away by the Chinese police and no one is allowed to meet or inquire about the self-immolator.

This is the third Tibetan known to have carried out a self-immolation protest this year. At least 160 Tibetans in Tibet have set themselves on fire in protest against the occupation since 2009, with the majority of such protests being fatal.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Tibetan leader to visit Washington DC as China warns top US lawmaker against any Taiwan trip

April 2022

Amid reports that China had warned US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi against her plans to visit Taiwan, the Sikyong (executive head) of the exile Tibetan administration, Mr Penpa Tsering, is to undertake his first overseas tour since assuming charge on May 27 last year. The Sikyong is visiting Washington DC from April 25 to 29 on an invitation from Pelosi. He is visiting Canada and Germany after that.

China's official Xinhua news agency April 7 quoted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian as saying 'China will take firm and robust measures to resolutely safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity and the US side shall bear all ensuing consequences'. He demanded that Pelosi's invitation be cancelled immediately.

Meanwhile, Penpa Tsering confirmed to the Tibetan Service of rfa.org (April 5) that he will be visiting Washington DC from April 25 to 29 on an invitation from Pelosi. "We have received an official invitation from the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who has been a

strong supporter and advocate for Tibet,” Tsering told RFA. “We will also be meeting with the State Department’s Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues Uzra Zeya and with many other government and non-governmental officials.”

Upon assuming charge as Sikyong after his election victory, Penpa Tsering, who is a former Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, set up a Permanent Strategy Committee for his plan to push for the resumption of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue on Tibet’s status under Chinese rule.
