

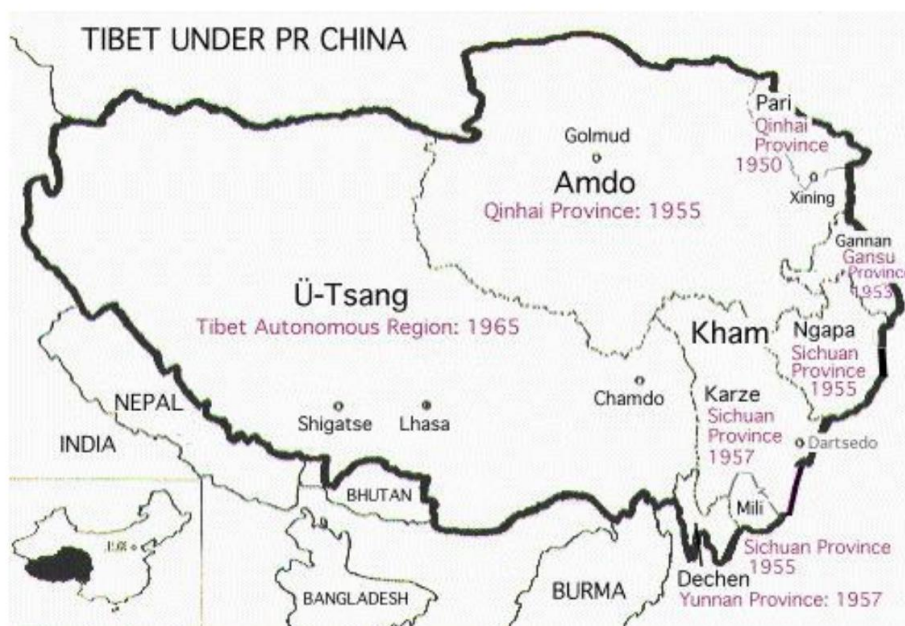
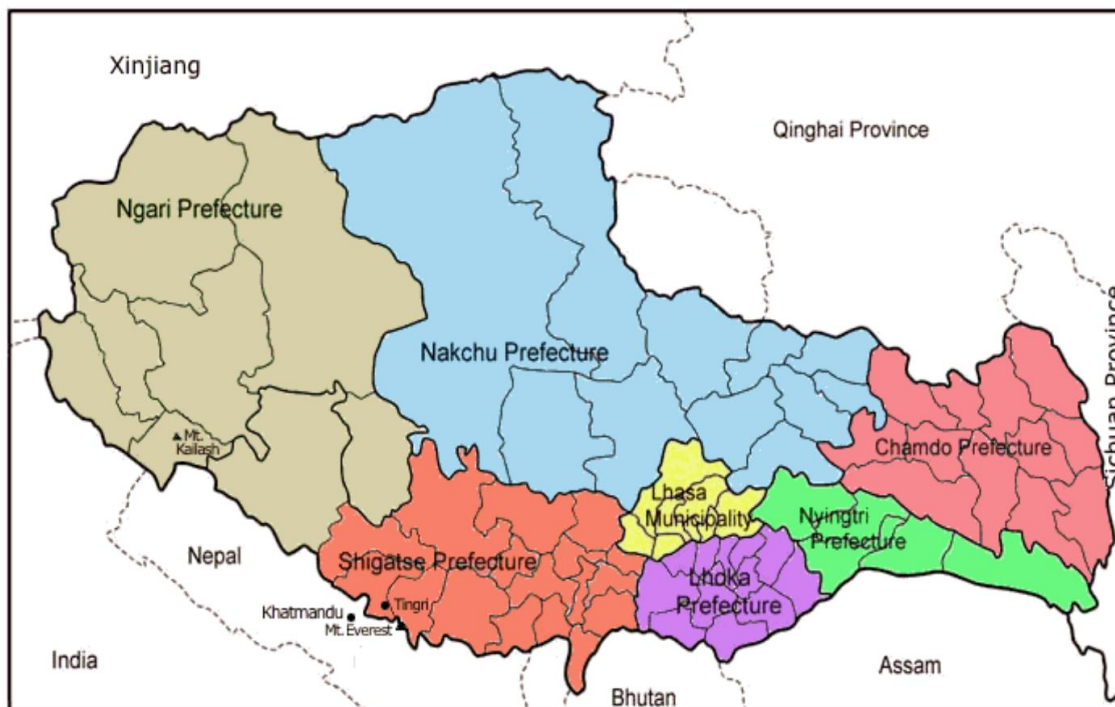


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TIBET INSIGHT, 15-28 FEBRUARY 2019



TAR NEWS

TAR Public Security Bureau meeting

February 26, 2019

Zhang Hongbo, head of the TAR Public Security Bureau (PSB) convened a meeting on February 24, in Lhasa as a follow up to a televised conference from the State Council's Poverty Alleviation, and Development Leading Group's Demonstration Rehabilitation Work Department. The meeting also discussed adhering to the "bottom line thinking and resolve to prevent risks" that TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie and Chairman of the TAR People's Government, Chedak/Qi Zhala had conveyed at an earlier seminar.

Zhang Hongbo emphasised 'correcting/and or improving' individual political positions, strengthening their stand on the 'four consciousness' and 'four self-confidences' and their 'absolute loyalty' to Xi Jinping and CCP Central Committee's policies and actions. He directed all officials including village task forces and cadres to be 'a responsible party member, rectify 'key points' and work harder towards party building and stability. He also emphasised defending 'national political security,' 'institutional security' and 'safeguarding' Xi Jinping as the 'core.'

Meeting of all Public Security Bureau Organs of TAR

February 28, 2019

On February 28, the TAR Public Security Bureau (PSB) held a meeting of all Public Security organs in Lhasa and relayed the 'important' speeches given by Xi Jinping at the Central Political and Legal Work Conference and the Meeting of all Chiefs of CCP Central PSBs held in January 2019. The meeting discussed the proceedings of the TAR Party Committee's Political and Legal Work Conference on 'peacekeeping' work deployment and arrangement of TAR PSB's work.

He Wenhao, Standing Committee Member of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of TAR Legal and Political Committee and Zhang Hongbo, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Legal and Political Committee, and Head of TAR PSB, presided over the meeting and delivered the work report.

He Wenhao in his speech, thanked the PSB police forces and auxiliary police for building a solid party foundation at grassroot levels, for maintaining strict discipline, and for entrusting the party and for being loyal to the party. He exhorted police officers in the entire TAR to resolutely continue to consider Xi Jinping's thoughts and, specifically, 'socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era' as the guide, implement decision making arrangements of the CCP CC, TAR Party Committee and TAR People's Government. He Wenhao further demanded a strong public security system that can fight against institutional problems that restrict the development of TAR Public security undertakings and to fight against 'separatism.'

TAR PSB Head, Zhang Hongbo in his work report entitled 'The need to enhance bottom line thinking to prevent major risks and to win over the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC' emphasized the 'importance' of unswervingly upholding the Party's absolute leadership, prepare for risks and firmly establish national political stability and security. The meeting was attended by members of the TAR Public Security Bureau, Municipal PSB organ members, leading heads of relevant departments, Police Forces etc. The meeting was telecast across the TAR.

China says Tibet access is restricted because some foreigners get altitude sickness

March 08, 2019

Talking to journalists on the side-lines of the National People's Congress annual meeting in Beijing on March 6, Wu Yingjie, TAR Party Secretary, said that the region remained open to foreigners but restrictions were necessary because some visitors suffered from altitude sickness. Tibet, he said, welcomes foreign tourists and media and travel restrictions are imposed by the government to ensure their safety. He also criticised the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act passed by the United States in December, saying it "totally does not tally with the facts" and "had seriously interfered in China's internal affairs". Wu Yingjie added "There have been many Americans [visiting] Tibet in recent years. After considering the special geographical and climatic conditions, we adopted a series of regulations on foreigners entering Tibet in accordance with the law." Wu Yingjie said many foreign visitors were "grateful" for the arrangements but "some Americans seem to have this on their mind and I have found that to be really odd". Wu Yingjie also denied there were extra restrictions on foreign journalists, insisting they were welcome as long as they followed the proper

procedures. He also rejected the suggestion that Tibetans supported the Dalai Lama, saying “The Dalai Lama has not brought the Tibetan people any good. While there may be some support for him internationally, Tibetans are very thankful for the prosperity brought to them by the Communist Party.”

Tibetan religious activity slashed, Lhasa mayor confirms

March 07, 2019

Just days before the 60th anniversary of Tibet’s uprising against Beijing’s rule, Go Khok, the Mayor of Lhasa on the sidelines of the NPC session in Beijing on March 7, said in Tibet the number of days spent observing religious events, and the number of people attending them, had both been reduced to less than 10 per cent. He told a room of Tibetan delegates and journalists in the Great Hall of the People “In 2018, Lhasa ... took a clear-cut stand in eliminating the negative influence the Dalai Lama exerted via religion and took great effort in ridding the passive religious influence. Based on the premise that believers’ religious needs were met, the number of days major religious activities were held and the number of people attending them both reduced to below 10 per cent.” Repeated calls to the Tibetan delegation’s press officer for clarification went unanswered. According to the 2010 census, 76.7 per cent of Lhasa residents are Tibetans. According to Tsering Woesser, a Tibetan poet and writer living in Beijing “These restrictions have been in place for years, and are very specific”. Retired party cadres, civil servants and other public employees are all banned from attending religious activities, with offenders risking reduced pensions, salaries or even dismissal. Students, from primary schools to universities, are also banned from the activities, Woesser said. “As a result, the number of believers taking part in religious activities nowadays is far fewer than before ... but this is only the appearance. The belief Tibetans – including the young people – hold towards Buddhism and the Dalai Lama are not only prevalent, but unflinching.”

Go Khok said maintaining stability would be a key task for the city government this year, because of the anniversary. He said the city had been doubling down on its so-called “grid management system”. Go Khok also said the government had “appointed specially assigned people to follow, serve and manage key Muslim targets who headed overseas”, without elaborating.

Tibet: Satellites Show New Internment Camps in Tibet

March 07, 2019

Internment camps like those built in East Turkestan for the Uyghur population are now spreading into Tibet. New satellite images show the recent construction of several prison-like camps in Chinese occupied Tibet. The Epoch Times said Retired Colonel Vinayak Bhat, a well-known satellite image research expert, has revealed construction done by Chinese authorities in Tibet. He said the so-called “temple” of Tibetan Buddhism is actually a concentration camp that is surrounded by high walls and guard towers and has the same structural design as a prison.

Linzi City held a conference on united ethnic and religious work

February 27, 2019

On February 27th, Linzi City held a conference to sum up ethnic and religious work of the United Front, in 2018. The meeting was attended by Xie Ying, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Dawa, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Minister of United Front Affairs, Wong Jinmei, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Congress, Xiao He, Vice Mayor of the Municipal Government, and Yang Zong, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC Central Committee.

The meeting conveyed the spirit of the National United Front Work, the Chairman of the National People's Committee, and the spirit of the united national and religious work conference. Xie Ying pointed out that party committees, and governments at all the levels had in 2018 emphasised unity and focused on strengthening the long-term development and stability of Nyingchi. He emphasised national unity, strengthening and innovating temple management and striving to build a pattern of great solidarity, and unified civil and military departments at all levels in city.

Xie Ying demanded that “This year the United Front and National and Religious Work should highlight the distinctive theme of "building a good atmosphere for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 60th anniversary of Tibet's democratic reforms”. He asked the party and government to strictly adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era; thoroughly

implement the important speeches of the General Secretary, and focus on the important national and religious work in the united front and the decision-making arrangements of the party committees and governments in the district. The centre's work focuses on six aspects of consolidating the common ideological and political foundation, consolidating equality, solidarity, mutual assistance, and harmonious ethnic relations, and maintaining harmony and stability in the religious field. He asserted in conclusion that “religious work has reached a new level, and the 70th anniversary of the founding of New China and the 60th anniversary of the national reform of Tibet have been celebrated with the outstanding achievements of national unity, religious harmony and patriotic united front”.

Yu Quan meets Chinese Panchen Lama

February 27, 2019

Yu Quan, a member of the Secretariat of the CCP Central Committee and Head of the CCP CC United Front Work Department on February 26, met and congratulated the Panchen Lama ‘for the progress he made in 2018’. He expressed the hope that the Panchen Lama could make new achievements in maintaining China's reunification and ethnic unity as well as in promoting Tibetan Buddhism to be more adaptable to socialist society. The Panchen Lama replied that he will closely follow the CCP CC’s thinking, political orientation, and actions. He added that he will keep his responsibilities in mind, serve the believers and contribute to national reunification, ethnic unity, religious harmony, and the people’s well-being.

No widespread support for Dalai Lama in Tibet: CCP Chief in occupied Tibet

March 07, 2019

Exiled Tibetan leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama has no widespread support in Tibet and that the Tibetan people there are prosperous and happy under the Chinese Communist Party’s leadership, a senior Chinese official said at a meeting on the side-lines of China's annual parliamentary meeting on 5th March in Beijing.

Speaking on the side-lines of the NPC on March 5, in Beijing, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie insisted that "Since defecting, the Dalai Lama has not done a single good thing for the Tibetan people. Tibetan people have gratitude in their hearts. They are grateful to the

Communist Party for bringing them a happy life." He claimed that the Tibetan people's right, including that to preserve their mother tongue, is respected in Tibet.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Chemi Dorjee is awarded 'Model of the Times' title

February 20, 2019

56-year-old Chemi Dorjee, a native of Gongyi Township, Dege County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, who joined the postal enterprise in 1989 and is currently head of the long-distance postal driver and driving group of China Post Group Corporation in Ganzi County, was acknowledged on January 25, 2019, by the CCP CC Propaganda Department with the title of "Model of the Times".

(Comment: Chemi Dorjee has been promoted as a 'model worker' and has won a string of awards since 2016.)

Tashi Wangchuk denied access to lawyer by Chinese authorities

February 20, 2019

The London-based Tibet Watch said (February 20) that Tashi Wangchuk, who has been accused of "inciting separatism" was denied access to a lawyer by the authorities. Tashi was imprisoned for five years last May. Tibet Watch said the Chinese human rights lawyer and Tashi's family were reportedly able to discover where he was being held only through Tashi's brother in law who is a high-ranking government official.

Dartsedo promotes four mechanisms to alleviate poverty

February 21, 2019

Dartsedo (Kanding) city in an effort to push up the speed of poverty alleviation, introduced four mechanisms. The first mechanism is 'to strengthen the leadership'. In order to adopt a comprehensive working mechanism among the leading groups and the headquarters at both horizontal and vertical level, more frequent quarterly and monthly research needs to be submitted. They need to achieve making a foundation within one year, a major change in the

second year, and achieve complete well off level in five years.

Second is to '*strengthen the responsibility mechanism*'. Under this they intend to promote a 'double team leader' amongst the 'three level secretary' of the city, village and the state level. To implement this they would recruit 34 city leaders, 87 support units, 3, 775 helpers and 22 special departments to visit village sand individual households.

Third, is to strengthen the support mechanism by selecting 338 outstanding cadres to help the mainly 59 poverty stricken villages. They will divide the villages into poor villages and non-poor villages. In this, a secretary, poor households and non-poor households will work together for poverty alleviation. The public official and herdsmen will help each other and cadres will be sent to villages in three different batches. Poor households in the city and non-poor households will be paired up with cadres. For the cadres, their effort in poverty alleviation becomes important for promotions.

The fourth is to 'strengthen the supervision mechanism' by mobilising the enthusiasm of cadres and workers. Supervision of poverty alleviation funds has been improved with 'zero tolerance' for violations of any laws and regulations.

Xunhua establishes Party Branch WeChat group, Qinghai

February 27, 2019

Xunhua Salar Autonomous Prefecture has established a party branch WeChat group to promote grassroots party building and keep pace with digital world. It has created "one ministry and one WeChat group" within the county. The 289 branches of the county have established a branch of the WeChat learning exchange group, and it claims that party building work has achieved remarkable results in the form of "micro-classroom, micro-interaction, and micro-management". Under this scheme, the people are constantly under the watch of the party member, where their every movement is under surveillance. The party states that the people now have the opportunity to hear directly from the party and learn the spirit of the party from first hand.

Xiuzhen Gaoqiang Village illegally split the mutual aid funds, Yushul city (Qinghai Province)

In April 2017, Jiadeng, the Secretary of the Party branch of Gaoqiang Village, and the Director of the Village Committee organized a village meeting, where he decided to distribute the village's poverty alleviation mutual aid funds to the villagers equally. After that, RanZhou the Director of the village committee, Zhoujia Nyima, the President of the company, Zhou Jiu the President of the second society, Karma Lhaden, the President of the three social clubs, and Namgyal Tsering, the President of four clubs withdrew 1 million yuan from the mutual aid funds. The per capita distribution is 515 yuan. In May 2018, the Gaoqiang Village Poverty Alleviation Association of Xiuling Township successively recovered 100 million yuan mutual aid funds and an interest of 30,000-yuan was generated. In June 2018, Kalden, RanZhou, and Namgyal Tsering were severely punished by the party. Nyima, Zhou Jiu, and Jiadeng were subjected to warnings within the party. Suon Wenjiang, the Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the township, and the Deputy Mayor of the city were also severely criticized for their failure in leadership.

Misappropriation of the industrial dividend funds, Dongliu Village, Hualong City, Haidong City, (Qinghai Province)

In 2017, Ma Shalikai, the Secretary of the Party Branch of Dongliu Village, Gandu Town, and Ma Qingyun, the Director of the Village Committee distributed 60,000 yuan of investment in industrial development support funds, and illegally used that money to pay for the compensation of the construction of village squares. Ma Qingyun has violated other laws and regulations. In October 2018, Ma Shalikai was severely punished by the party and Ma Qingyun was expelled from the party.

Tashi Gyatso misappropriated the subsidy for the renovation of old houses; Zhihaibu Village, Xinghai County, Hainan Province

Tashi Gyatso, Secretary of the Party Branch of Zhihaibu Village, Xinghai County, Hainan, at the beginning of 2017, was alleged to have concealed the fact that he had enjoyed the nomadic settlement project in 2009, and applied for the renovation of the old house in the name of his wife, and built the new house on the original site after the nomadic settled house was demolished. In December of that year, the county urban construction bureau allocated the subsidy of 25,000 yuan for the renovation of the old house on his wife's name. In

September 2018, Tashi Gyatso took advantage of his position and repeatedly enjoyed the subsidy for the renovation of dangerous old houses. He was to undergo further investigation within the party and issued a warning.

TIBETAN NEWS DIASPORA

Wreath-laying and flag-raising events held in UK for 60th Tibet uprising day

March 07, 2019

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day on March 10, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Innocent Victim's Memorial in the Westminster Abbey in London and the Tibetan national flag raised in front of the Guildhall in Northampton on March 5. The Westminster Abbey event was organised by the All Party Parliamentary group for Tibet (APPGT) in the UK Parliament along with the Tibet Society UK. Khenpo Kadrak Ngodup Sonam, a visiting member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile, made a speech. Representatives from Tibet Support Groups in the UK as well as Tibetans and public attended the ceremonial event. In Northampton, visiting exile Tibetan parliament MP Mr Sonam Norbu Ratsa, and others raised the Tibetan Flag at the Guildhall for the 20th year. Northampton City Mayor Councillor Tony Ansell and he Mayoress Jayne Crofts attended and were joined by the Central Tibetan Administration's London-based Representative Mr Sonam Tsering Frasi, visiting exile Tibetan parliament MP Mr Sonam Norbu Ratsa, who raised the Tibetan Flag at the Guildhall for the 20th year.

Huawei sets up three 5G stations in occupied Tibet's TAR bordering India

March 04, 2019

Chinese internet service provider and telecom giant Huawei has set up three 5G stations in the Tibetan Autonomous Region, near the Indian border in what is being called a fortification of Chinese government infrastructure by experts. Chinese state media Xinhua reported that on March 1, Chinese telecom giant China Mobile launched the first 5G base station in Lhasa. Government owned China Mobile which has partnered with Huawei has two additional 5G base stations in Lhasa. The newly opened station's outdoor terminal tests offered an average internet speed of some 500 Mbps that is capable of downloading a 1GB file in only two seconds, said China Mobile's Tibet branch. The 5G network labelled a 'game

changer' in the tech and telecommunications world is 10 to 100 times faster than 4G LTE networks. The Chinese company has said that the new network is aimed at linking TAR with the rest of China and to enable farmers and locals to have advanced and modern communication services for overall economic development. However, internet and security experts have said that the stations will act as arms to Chinese military and offensive infrastructure in the region that borders India. "As a number of Chinese defence academics and engineers have postulated, 5G could improve battlefield communications with faster and more stable information transmission, increasing the timeliness and integration of information," said Elsa B Kania, an adjunct fellow at the Center for a New American Security in the US.

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