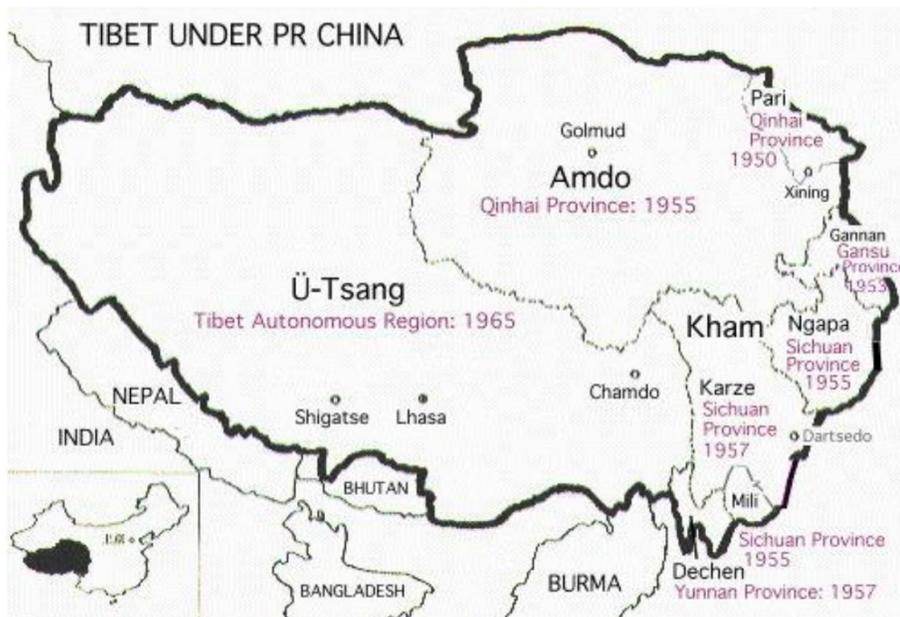
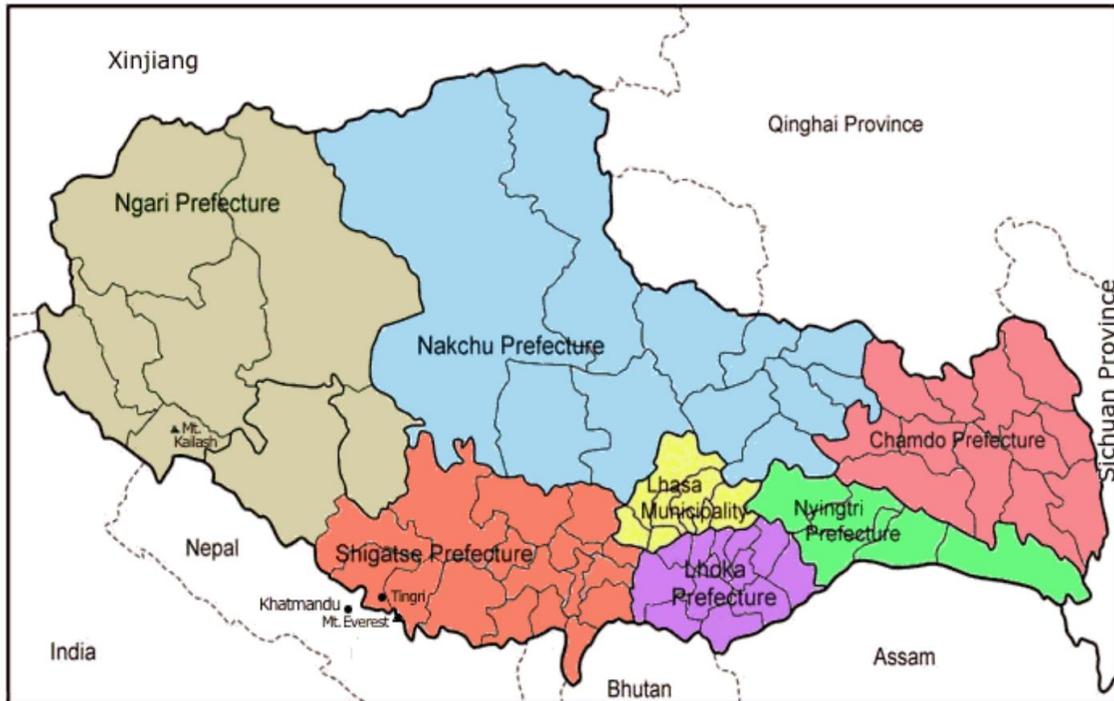




TIBET INSIGHT, FEBRUARY 15-28, 2020



TAR NEWS

TAR UFWD officials inspect Monasteries

March 04, 2020

Five Inspecting groups under United Front Work Department (UFWD) and Religious Bureau of the Chengguan District Committee of Lhasa carried out on-site inspections in the city mostly of the monasteries and met the Monastic Management Committees. The first group led by Nyima Yonten, Deputy Secretary of the Chengguan District Party Committee and Director of the District People's Congress inspected the main urban area while Kelsang Wangchuk, Minister of the District UFWD and member of the Standing Committee of Chengguan led a group of inspectors to mountainous areas of the District. Gongka, Director of the Religious Bureau of Chengguan District led a group to six monasteries located atop mountains in the Tshel Gungthang region. The other groups of inspectors went to other areas and nunneries in the District to supervise the stability of these religious institutes and inquired about the implementation of the Party's Religious Policy in general and 'the four standards to become a model monk/nun' in particular.

During the inspections the officials of the District UFWD and Religious Bureau listened to the ground reports of the Monastic cadres and urged them to improve the discipline of the cadres stationed in the monasteries and nunneries and strengthen capabilities to unearth 'hidden risks.' The inspecting officials told Monastic cadres to grasp the thought process of the monks and nuns, let them implement the principles to become a 'model monk/nun' and ensure smooth running of the institutions.

Key Construction Projects in Tibet to resume work

March 2, 2020

Tibet State Grid Electric Power Co. reported that the 338 'key' infrastructural projects in Tibet including the Alibaba Network Project and construction of Power Grids in three main regions of Tibet resumed on February 29. 106 construction workers from Chengdu arrived at the Nyingtri Airport, Tibet on March 1 by charter flight. Yu Jiajin, Leader of the Construction team said nearly

50 colleagues had stayed in Nyingchi city while others who intended to return and resume work on January 29 had been delayed by the epidemic.

Other charter flights brought workers to Shigatse, Chamdo and Lhasa. All workers will be quarantined for 14 days before being sent to their assigned construction sites.

Xinhua separately reported on March 2 that the region planned to invest 187.2 billion yuan (approx. US\$ 26.8 billion) in 179 projects this year, or 18 percent more than in 2019.

TAR official visits Tibetan “Living Buddhas”

February 22, 2020

Tsering Samdup, Standing Committee Member and Minister of United Front Work Department of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee visited three Tibetan “Living Buddhas” namely, Rinzin, Qu Zhong and Xia Zhong, who were quarantined after their return from China. He commended the three monks for adhering to the Party’s efforts in adapting Buddhism to ‘socialism with Chinese characteristics’, for being ‘patriotic’ and for extending their help in maintaining national unity, religious harmony and social stability. They were applauded for their initiatives in pooling donations for people affected with the Coronavirus. He thanked them on behalf of the County Party Committee and County People’s Government.

Second batch of supplies from Tibet to Hubei, Drinking Water and Pork

February 29, 2020

TAR Party Committee authorities sent 2000 tons of drinking water and 30 tons of pork by the China Railway Express to ten ‘first line’ hospital staff, including the staff of Wuhan Central Hospital, Wuhan First Hospital and Wuchang Hospital on February 28. Earlier, donations of 8.5 million Yuan were transferred to Hubei Province from Tibet as support to the fight against the Coronavirus epidemic. The items were contributed by the Lhasa, Nyingtri and Chamdo Municipal Organizations. Phurbu Dawa, Deputy Mayor of Chamdo Municipal Committee, said “I hope the Tibetan pork will provide energy, and nutrition to the front-line medical staff in Hubei.” The supplies reached Wuhan before March 2.

NYINGTRI NEWS (CH: LINZHI)

Nyingchi begins reconstruction of National Highway 219 from Metok to Chayu

February 26, 2020

The Transportation Bureau of Metok County disclosed that the new reconstruction project of National Highway 219 from Metok county to Chayu county in Nyingchi, with a budget of 6.091 billion RMB, is progressing smoothly. This is the third important channel to open exchanges between Metok and neighbouring counties. The road has the technical standard of a Grade III highway and is divided into seven bidding sections. The second section extends from Duolonggang to the Bukongla Mountain. Construction started from September 10, 2019 and is planned to be completed by the end of this year.

LHOKA NEWS (CH: SHANNAN)

Lhoka holds on-site meeting for construction of well-off village on the border areas

February 29, 2020

An on-site meeting was held from February 19-21, to discuss construction of a well-off village on the border of Lhuntze (in Chinese: Longzi) county, Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan). The meeting was attended by Phurbu Dhondup, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Mayor of Lhoka. He emphasized that building a well-off border village carries a strong sense of historical mission and political responsibility. He said close attention should be paid to completing all tasks of building a well-off village on the border and creating a new situation of stable development and border consolidation.

He visited the relevant departments of four border villages in Lhuntse county, including Nangkazi village, Tsona village, Sambadong village and Yanwa New village. He inspected on-site construction and industrial development around these border villages. He appreciated the achievement in construction of a well-off village with proper industrial development on the border of Lhuntse County. Conveying the appreciation of the Municipal Party Secretary Xu Chengang

to all levels of departments, cadres and workers for working for long on the border frontline, he added “we must focus on building a well-off society in an all-round way, preventing and resolving major risks, ensuring the consolidation of the frontiers of the motherland, and grasping the implementation of the goals, re-optimizing the well-off plan, optimising and improving planning and design of rural revitalization strategies, carrying out the improvement of human settlements and planning industrial support projects”. He told them to maintain the high political demands and achieve a mark in their political standing in the party. He also visited the homes of border residents, inspected their production and living conditions and extended Tibetan New year greetings to cadres and border residents.

SHIGATSE NEWS (CH: XIGAZE)

District UFWD leader inspects Monasteries in Shigatse

February 21, 2020

Pasang, Minister of the Shigatse United Front Work Department and Standing Committee Member of the Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, went to the Dratsang Monastery and Takmo Lingka in Shethongmey (Ch. Xaitongmoin) Dzong and monasteries in the area for on-site inspections on February 20. Pasang who inspected prayer halls and rooms in the monasteries, told the monks to strictly adhere to the ‘four standards’ and become a ‘model monk/nun’ and emphasized that cadres stationed in the monasteries should take their responsibilities effectively, recognize the severity of the Corona epidemic, act responsibly in the religious field and unify their thoughts on the decision-making arrangements of the party. He also urged that “the concerned authorities and the monks should reinforce their ability to manage religious affairs as per the laws and regulations of the Party.”

Party Secretary investigates construction site of border-village

February 17, 2020

Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Zhang Yanqing, conducted an on-site inspection of the construction site of a border village in

Dromo- ཡོ་ཤོང་ (Ch: Yadong) County, which borders Bhutan and is located at the mouth of the Chumbi valley in Sikkim. It is a frontier county with a population of almost 10,000.

Zhang Yanqing reiterated that accelerating the construction of well-off border defense villages is an important exposition of Xi Jinping's instructions on governing borders and stabilizing Tibet. He also quoted TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie and Chairman of the TAR People's Government Qi Zhala, on the importance of improving the livelihood of people living in the border areas and how it would ensure a strong security barrier to protect and safeguard 'national interest.' He asked concerned officials to work towards economic and social development and fight against the current coronavirus epidemic. He demanded early completion of construction projects in the border-defense village and told concerned officials and construction workers to take cognizance of local resources, climatic conditions and tailor the infrastructural facilities appropriately.

Xianghe Water Conservancy and Irrigation Channel Project nearing completion

29 February 2020

The Xianghe Water Conservancy and Irrigation Channel Project located in the upstream section of the Xianghe River on the north bank of the Yarlung Zangbo River in Namling County of Shigatse is almost at the final stage of construction. One of the 172 water conservancy projects approved by China's State Council the 'key' project is part of the 13th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) and has a total investment of 2.7 billion Yuan. Construction of the Water Conservancy project officially started on April 3, 2019 and is scheduled for completion in December 2022. Once completed, the project is expected to improve irrigation conditions for farmland, pastoral area and forestry, hydropower resources and provide industrial water to rural and urban population.

NGARI NEWS (CH: ALI)

Ngari Municipal Party Committee meets to review stability in the region

March 02, 2020

Zhang Huiming, Deputy Secretary of the Ngari Prefectural Party Committee, said the Prefectural Party Committee of Ngari met to review stability maintenance in the region during the "sensitive"

period of the epidemic. The meeting was chaired by Party Secretary Zhu Zhongkui and attended by members of Ngari Prefecture like Shen Zhaoshan, Gao Baojun, Yuan Fuguo and Wang Xingyi. Director of Ngari Regional Working Committee, Phuntsok Tenzin and members of the Ngari People's Congress, Ngari PPCC, President of Ngari Intermediate People's Court and Chief Prosecutor of the Ngari Procuratorate Branch also attended.

The meeting reviewed stability maintenance work in the region and emphasized that all counties and departments should resolutely “strengthen implementation of the four consciousness” and “two maintenances.” The importance of unifying thoughts and actions of officials in the region in correspondence to the CCP CC and TAR Party organs was reiterated. The meeting discussed the need to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in the region, especially with the increase in cadres and construction workers returning from China while also giving due consideration to the resumption of infrastructural projects. Presumably referring to the upcoming March 10 Tibetan National Uprising day, Party Secretary Zhu Zhongkui emphasized that March is a ‘sensitive’ month in terms of stability maintenance and that all Counties should build the capability to recognize a ‘risk’ before it occurs.

CHAMDO NEWS (CH: CHANGDU)

Tibetan Nun Expelled from Buddhist Centre Commits Suicide in Internment Camp

February 14, 2020

Radio Free Asia reported (February 14) that a Tibetan nun, who was expelled from a Buddhist centre in a Tibetan area of Sichuan province and placed in an internment camp at an unspecified location, committed suicide because she could not bear the hardship of life in detention. A source who lives at the centre told RFA's Tibetan Service that the unidentified nun was among thousands of Tibetans living at the Yachen Gar Buddhist study centre who were evicted from their homes after authorities razed nearly half of the 13,000 dormitories housing members of the clergy in August 2019.

(Comment: The nun was reportedly originally from Jomda county in the Tibet Autonomous Region's (TAR) Chamdo (Changdu) prefecture.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Tawu Tibetan Community consults His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the spread of Covid-19, Sichuan

February 15, 2020

More than 60 Tibetans were infected with the coronavirus in Tawu (in Chinese: Daofu) county in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, one of the most affected areas in Sichuan. The Tibetan people in Tawu sent a ‘consultation’ to His Holiness the Dalai Lama about the spread of the disease and possibility of it spreading wider. His Holiness issued a public open letter to the monasteries and people of Tawu to be cognisant of overall health and to chant the mantras of Tara and Avaloketishvara.

Kardze claims to have achieved 12 counties out of poverty alleviation, Sichuan

February 19, 2020

The People’s Government of Sichuan announced (February 18) that 31 counties in Sichuan have been “fully alleviated” from poverty and achieved the national standard for removal from the list of Poverty Counties. 12 of these counties, including Nyakchu Dzong, Tawu Dzong, Drakgoe Dzong, Kardze Dzog, Nyakrong Dzong, Dege Dzong, Payul Dzong, Sershel Dzong, Serta Dzong, Lithang Dzong, and Derong Dzong, are under the administration of Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Another four counties, namely Dhartsedoe, Rongdrak Dzong, Chatring Dzong and Dhapa Dzong were removed from the list in 2019.

With this all the counties under Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture have been fully alleviated from the poverty. The Kardze Poverty Alleviation Committee praised the effort of all levels of the department for this success and said the achievement was possible because of the party’s support and guidance. All were advised to meet the deadline of building a well-off society in 2020 and carefully control and investigate the situation of coronavirus.

(Comment: There is no standard definition of poverty alleviation in China.)

Two Deputy County Leaders in Kardze Prefecture suspended

February 26, 2020

The Discipline Inspection Commission of Ganzi Prefecture of Sichuan Province on February 24, reported the suspension of two-party leaders, namely Tashi Rongbu and Quta, in Daofu County for ineffective implementation of responsibilities. Tashi Rongbu is a member of the Standing Committee of the Tawu (in Chinese: Daofu) County and also a minister of UWFD. He was charged with ineffectiveness in controlling the spread of the disease and of superficial effort made. Quta is the Deputy Head of Daofu County Government and Director of the County PSB. He was also charged for failing to control the disease at the early stage and failure to control personnel and isolate people thereby causing an adverse impact on social order. The Ganzi Discipline Inspection Commission stated in its report that epidemic prevention and control is a responsibility and that at the present moment of war on the "epidemic", negligent people will definitely be held accountable.

Chinese Panchen Lama donates a million worth medical supply to Ganzi

February 26, 2020

Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama, member of the CPPCC and Vice Chairman of the China Buddhist Association, donated 1 million Yuan worth of medical supplies to the Buddhist Association and religious communities of Kardze (Ganzi), Sichuan. He also donated 200,000 masks to the frontline medical workers. Shenyang, Deputy Director of the UWFD and Director of the Tibetan Affairs Office of Sichuan, attended the donation ceremony and conveyed the 11th Panchen Lama's wishes to religious people and recognized their efforts for epidemic control. Du Deqing, Vice Mayor of Ganzi and Jiadeng Luorong, Deputy Director of the Buddhist Association in Sichuan and Director of the Buddhist Association in Ganzi thanked the 11th Panchen Lama for the donation. Du Deqing said "There are no newly confirmed or suspected cases in the last three days in Ganzi. The donated supplies will ease the shortage of epidemic prevention materials."

Ngaba introduces four measures to advance the veterans' work in 2020

February 27, 2020

Ngaba (in Chinese: Aba) in its effort to advance the work of veterans in 2020 introduced four measures. These are: (i) to carry out "basic infrastructure construction and building of service centers for the retired veterans. This will be accompanied with special training and education to help retired military personnel improve their capabilities and ensure them of resettlement, preferential treatment and other facilities to improve the efficiency and quality of the retired military system. (ii) to launch "Ideological and Political Education where all the retired soldiers to impart party education." This includes creating a platform for party cadres, general staffs and retired soldiers to pool their resources and establish retired veterans' service stations. (iii) to advance the unity of the military and civilians to the next level and focus on creating a model of dual support in the whole region, strengthening association of the military and civilians and making stronger connections between the people and troops stationed in the state. (iv) to fully promote the upgrading of memorial facilities, promote the construction of memorials for Red Army martyrs in the snow mountains or grassland, and increase protection and management of memorials for martyrs in Aba.

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

Chinese Consulate cancels Tibet exhibit in Queens Library

February 24, 2020

The Chinese Consulate in New York put up an exhibition titled "Everyday Life in Tibet" at Elmhurst Queens Public Library, New York from February 3. The Students for a Free Tibet, U.S (SFT) appealed to the Queens library to shut down the exhibition because of its offensive nature, propaganda and lies. After protests by more than 150 Tibetans in New York and New Jersey outside the venue against the exhibition and an online petition initiated by SFT, the Queens library announced on February 22 that it would no longer stage the controversial exhibition at its Elmhurst branch.

Exile Tibetan schools postpone reopening due to Covid-19 fears

Reopening of schools run by the Dharamshala-based Tibetan Children's Village (TCV) for most of the boarding students on March 3 after the annual winter break has been postponed due to concern about the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic. The school authority said the move was a "precautionary measure. Its schools reopened only for the two day-schools as well as for students of Class 9 upwards as they will have to sit for board exams.

"The life of the students is more important than resuming classes at the moment," said TCV schools President Thupten Dorjee. However, Mr Namgyal Yemphel, the Director of Sambhota Schools Society of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and Mr Karma Chungdak, the General Secretary of the autonomously run Tibetan Homes Foundation Mussoorie under the CTA, have said their schools will remain open.

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