

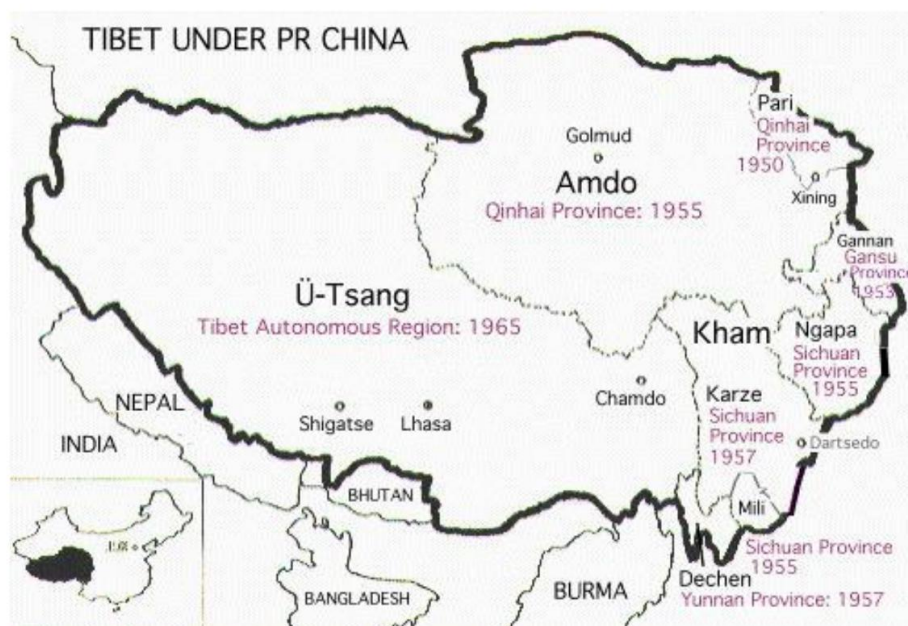
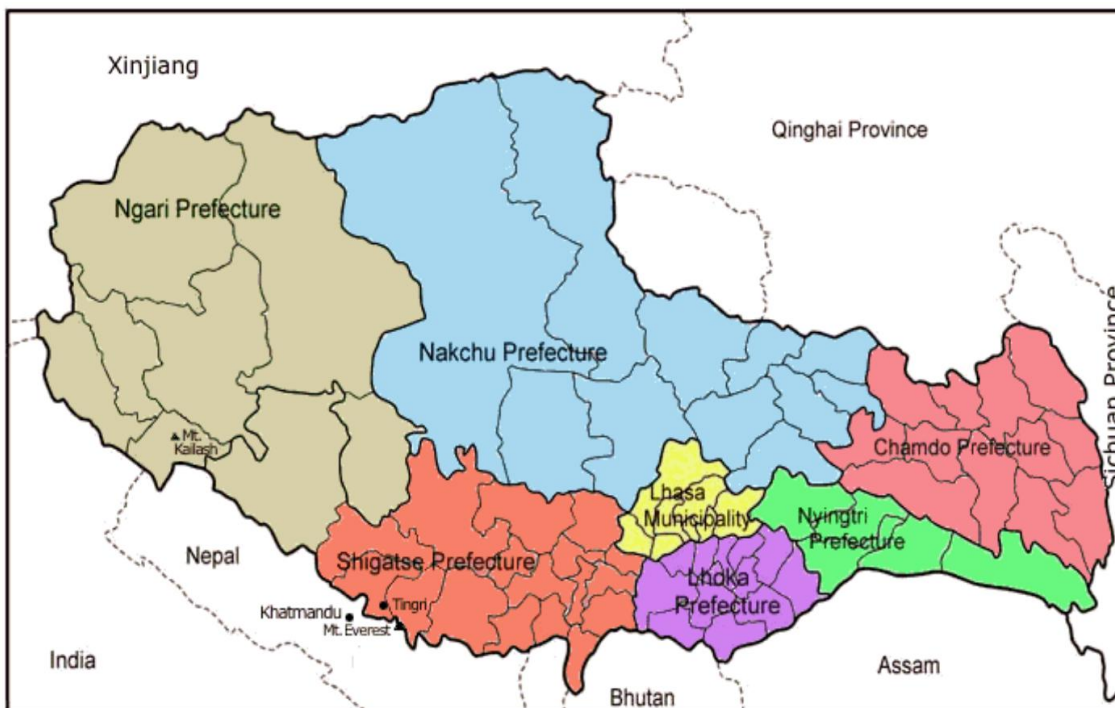


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TAR NEWS

Convocation ceremony of Doctorate monks held in Jokhang

April 24, 2019

Convocation ceremony of 12 doctorate monks in Buddhist Philosophy was held on April 26, at Jokhang temple in Lhasa. The ceremony was chaired by Meng Xiaolin, Vice Chairman of TAR, who awarded the monks with 'gift money'. Zhukhang Thupten Khedup, Vice Chairman of TAR CPPCC and President of the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association who is also Head of Tibetan Buddhist Academy and Director of the Appraisal Committee, presented the monks their degree certificates. The Annual pre-degree test was reportedly conducted last year at Sera monastery and Phuntsok Tendar from Gadan Monastery won the first prize.

Meeting held to strengthen 'overall governance' of Tibet

April 25, 2019

On April 25, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie convened a meeting of all officials of the TAR Party Committee to study the 'important speeches' of General Secretary Xi Jinping since the 19th Party Congress and implement the spirit of the Sixth Tibet Forum held in Beijing from August 24-25, 2015. The Forum, presided over by Xi Jinping, spoke of promotion of social and economic development in Tibet. It also stressed that Tibet "has entered 'a critical stage' toward fulfilling the country's goal of building a moderately prosperous society in a comprehensive way" and that special financial, tax and investment policies will continue to be in place in the future in order to develop social cohesion, stability and unity. The General Secretary also emphasized the importance of governing borders emphasising that "governing border areas is the key for governing a country, and stabilizing Tibet is a priority for governing border areas."

The TAR Party Secretary reiterated the General Secretary's instructions on governing border areas, ethnic unity and on adhering to 'four consciousness' at the meeting where top TAR leaders, Lobsang Gyaltsen, Chairman of TAR People's Congress, Qizhala, Chairman of TAR People's Government, Ding Yexian, Deputy Secretary of TAR CPPCC, and TAR Standing Committee members, Wang Yongjun, He Wenhao, Liu Jiang and Chen Yongqi were all present.

Wu Yingjie pointed out at the meeting that since the 18th Party Congress with Xi Jinping as the 'core leader,' the Party had implemented and laid out the rule of laws, developed relationship between the Party and masses, and made 'historic changes.' The Party Secretary further added that Tibet as a

‘special frontier region’ has a greater task for development and stability. He urged the officials attending to grasp ‘key tasks’ in administrating Tibet; propagate and strengthen the Party’s leadership and help safeguard the constitutional authority of the Party. Regulations on the implementation of religious affairs in TAR and obstruction of ‘negative influence’ of the Dalai Lama were discussed at the meeting.

‘Reform in Tibet is Tibetans will’ says Chinese Panchen Lama

April 11, 2019

The 11th Chinese Panchen Lama, Gyaltzen Norbu visited the “Tibet Million Serf Emancipation Memorial Hall” at the Beijing Cultural Museum on April 10, and 60 members of the National Committee of the Tibetan Autonomous Region’s CPPCC visited on April 12. The Vice Chairmen Sonam Renzeng and Sangay Dakpa led the CPPCC members from TAR and claimed that more than 900 monks and nuns from the Tibet Buddhist College visited the exhibition.

During his visit Gyaltzen Norbu said "It is not the Chinese Communist Party that unilaterally wants to carry out democratic reforms in Tibet, but under the long-term and intense expectations of the Tibetan people, the Chinese Communist Party has followed the people's heart and carried out democratic reforms. Just like my predecessor, the 10th Panchen Lama said, 'in 1959, it was a year in which the Tibetan people achieved a decisive victory’". He further said that this kind of exhibition will allow more people and young people at home and abroad to understand the historical truth, cherish the hard-won reform results and have a happy life. At the same time, it also encourages everyone to continue working hard to create a better future.

Watching photographs of past and present Tibet, he reflected that though “there are many monuments in the history of Tibet, which are engraved on the wooden boards, and are engraved on the stones, but the monuments of the abolition of the slaves are engraved on the hearts of the people”.

The other monks and nuns who visited the memorial hall were also made to give video statements to Xizang TV about how this made them realize the gratitude of the center and Party. One nun said that ‘she will learn four consciousness and four loves by heart, and pursue to be become an advanced nun’. Zhang Liangtian, a Party Secretary of the college, said the event was also to educate the monks and nuns to remember the contribution of the Communist Party of China for Tibet and to confirm their confidence of following the Party, as the museum showed the dramatic changes in the region before and after democratic reform in 1959.

Reports highlighted members of the CPPCC saying that Tibet has been an inalienable part of the sacred territory of the motherland since ancient times. It is necessary to resolutely safeguard the reunification of the motherland and fight against any separatist activities”.

Lhoka held special lecturing session for the cadres

April 18, 2019

A special lecture session for the city’s leading cadres was held on April 17, 2019 to strengthen their adherence to ‘political position’ and ‘bottom line thinking’ to avoid any “major risks”. All the cadres had to affirm their effort in strengthening the ‘four consciousness’ and ‘four self-confidence’, to resolutely oppose splittism, safeguard the motherland’s reunification, strengthen national unity and defend national political security. All these are closely related to the main work of “accelerating the development of the border areas and ensuring the security of the border frontiers”. They were told that the idea of the 19th National Congress of the CPC is ‘ensuring the national sovereignty and not losing an inch of the territory of the motherland’.

There were warned to not fall in religious ideology and strictly follow the Party’s principles on religion and actively guide religion to adapt to the socialist society and educate the masses to treat religion rationally and to work hard for a happy life. With a people-centered development goal, everyone should work to firmly grasp the socialist ideology, party’s leadership and correct political direction. There should not be any risks on the political, social and cultural front.

ZTE to build smart 5G campus in Lhasa

April 25, 2019

The official Global Times reported (April 25) that Chinese telecommunication equipment maker ZTE will work with Tibet University in Lhasa to build a smart campus using a combination of technologies including 5G networks and augmented reality and virtual reality (VR), reportedly to boost 5G deployment in TAR.

In a statement, ZTE said the company “will integrate emerging 5G-based technologies into campus facilities to build a smart ecosystem that supports VR laboratories and robotics laboratories as well as an immersive distance education system that will allow students in Tibet to take advantage of educational resources in China's better-developed coastal areas. “

On February 27 this year, China Mobile opened its first 5G internet base station in Lhasa, with a peak downloading speed of 530 megabytes per second. Tian Guangqiang, Assistant Research Fellow at the

National Institute Global Strategy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told Global Times that deployment of 5G in Tibet is part of a greater effort to build a logistics centre in Tibet that can facilitate communication not only between Tibet and provinces in China, but also with countries in South Asia. He said "For many countries in South Asia, freight transportation with China still relies heavily on ports in India and shipping goods across the Indian Ocean. With better communication networks enabled by 5G, combined with better railway systems that are taking shape in the region, it can be expected that much of the shipments can move directly to China through Tibet at a lower cost."

Nyingchi pushes to fight against ‘evil’ in the city

April 26, 2019

On April 24, the Nyingchi (Linzhi) authorities held a special meeting on the cases of fighting against the evil. The Secretary of the Nyingchi’s Municipal Party Committee Ma Shengchang, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee and Public Security Bureau Zhu Jiang and the Secretary of the Party Municipal Committee Mei Jiakui, attended the meeting.

Ma Shengcheng emphasized that since the launch of ‘special struggle’, departments at all levels had resolutely focused on the political and legal aspects as well as the slogan ‘break the net to break the umbrella’, and used all types of propaganda and mobilization to identify and accurately crack down on the ‘black and evil’. He said ‘unless the black and evil are swept clean, it will be difficult to achieve social stability and ease the people’s heart’. The campaign, he asserted, flows from an order from General Secretary Xi Jinping to completely eradicate evil forces and create a purified political ecology. He emphasised that to achieve the ultimate mission of stabilizing the border, it is important to combine the fight against ‘Tibet separatists’ and crimes in the city. For this, departments at all levels in the city were asked to further consolidate the ‘four consciousness’ and strengthen ‘four confidences’, achieve ‘two maintenance’ and further improve political positions.

(Comment: The reference to ‘Tibet separatists’ points clearly to the inclusion of pro-Dalai Lama elements in the drive to eradicate ‘evil forces’.)

TAR Public Security Bureau chief inspects local PSB in Shigatse

April 07, 2019

The Head of the TAR Public Security Bureau (PSB), Zhang Hongbo inspected the local PSB branch of Namling County in Shigatse (Ch:Xigaze) and inspected the work of the branch on April 5. He met village cadres, village resident teams and village committees in Shigatse and evaluated progress on poverty elimination project works. Zhang Hongbo stressed on ‘Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism

with Chinese characteristics in the New Era', maintaining stability at grassroots levels, fighting against poverty and consolidating well-off border villages.

Fan Jun, head of the local branch of the TAR PSB in Mangmu village presented a progress report. The TAR PSB head was accompanied by local leaders like Huang Dongsheng, who is a member of the Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Director of Shigatse's Political Department and standing committee member of the Shigatse Municipal Committee; and Hong Li, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee.

Lhasa to Nyingtri tunnel opened to traffic

April 26, 2019

TAR authorities announced the opening of the 'world's highest' highway tunnel, which is 5.7 kms long and at an altitude of 4750 metres above sea level, to traffic from Lhasa to Nyingtri (Ch:Linzi).

Construction of the tunnel was started in 2015 on the 5,018-meter-high Mila Mountain.

Gong Bin, Project Manager of the Mila Mountain Tunnel of the China Railway No. 2 Bureau, said "more than 10 technological breakthroughs have been made in the course of the construction, such as improving the accuracy of surveys of mountain tunnels in extremely cold weather and at high altitudes." He said in addition to the cold and lack of oxygen, more than 2,000 construction workers faced the challenges and inconvenience of transporting living and construction materials to the site. Xu Yong, Party chief of the construction project, said "We have worked here for more than four years and lived in makeshift houses at the entrance to the tunnel."

Chinese food cooking trainings for farmers

April 24, 2019

A group of junior Chinese Chefs from the mainland were sent to villages in Lhundrup County of Lhasa for giving farmers a 45-day training course as a part of 'employability skills and capacity building' training. The training was organized by the Lhundrup County Human Resources and People's Social Security Bureau. The training started on April 24, 2019.

TAR Public Security organized basic norms and etiquette training for its officials

April 12, 2019

TAR Public Security Bureau(PSB) recently held an inaugural function to launch its 'basic norms and etiquette' training sessions for 2019. Among the top leaders who attended were TAR PSB Director and Deputy Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee, Zhang Hongbo, Deputy Director TAR Public Security Bureau Lu Tao and TAR PSB officials Jing Ming and Phuntsok.

At the function, the TAR PSB outlined the training agenda for the year while the ‘anti-terrorist special investigation committee’ conducted a demonstration of police activities. The TAR Police Officers’ College prescribed house-keeping and dress rules.

Rectification of political and personal discipline, cultivation of a ‘good image’ and gaining the loyalty of the masses were among various ‘issues’ discussed at the function.

400 cadres and policemen from different departments under the TAR Party Committee attended the function.

‘Expert’ Advisory Committee on Sichuan-Tibet Railway conducts site survey

April 24, 2019

Jiang Jie, Standing Committee Member and Executive Vice-Chairman of the TAR Party Committee received an ‘Expert’ Advisory Committee team of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway to Tibet on April 23. The team, led by Deputy Dean of the Chinese Academy of Engineering He Huawu, is in Tibet to conduct site selection and site inspection for routes of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway line. The Executive Vice Chairman told the team that “the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is another fast and convenient railway that will connect Tibet with mainland China, and that it is a major national defense project, will promote ‘Belt and Road Initiative,’ and is good for long-term stability and unity of the country.”

The expert team conducted on-the-spot investigation, listened to the design report of the technicians for the construction of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway and assured scientific planning, technical support, ecological protection, safety and reliability. Xinhua reported (January 3) that the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, which is expected to start construction in late 2019, will be a major transportation artery linking China with South Asian countries, such as Nepal and India.

The report cited the State-owned China Railway Corp as saying it aimed to complete a feasibility study of the railway (meaning the Kangding-Nyingchi section of the railway) by the end of the second quarter of 2019 and seek approval from the central government in the third quarter.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. It will go through one of the world’s most geologically active areas. Zhao Gancheng, Director of the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, was quoted saying that once completed, the railway can possibly help connect China and Nepal, which could be a major route for China to reach South Asia.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will start from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province and go through Ya’an to enter Tibet Autonomous Region via Qamdo (Chamdo). It will then go through Nyingtri

before arriving at Lhasa. Its total length will be 1,700 kilometres and the cost 250 billion yuan (\$36.88 billion). The 140-kilometre Chengdu-Ya'an section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway within China officially started operating to 11 stations on December 28, 2018.

Propagation of Social and National Security 'education' in villages in Tibet

April 28, 2019

The TAR Social Security Bureau had recently started a propaganda campaign in rural parts of Tibet in the name of 'educating masses' on political awareness, ideological standing and promoting grassroots party building. The campaign started in Lhundrup County of Lhasa and aims to instil in the masses the importance of 'safeguarding national security' and mastering 'certain national security knowledge.' 80 people including 'village cadres' participated in the first campaign. The campaign also discussed 'acts' that undermine national security and the villagers were told that they must realise that 'safeguarding national security' should be the responsibility of all.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

A Tibetan student arrested for critical essay against unemployment

April 19, 2019

Sonam Lhundup, a Tibetan student from Northwest Normal University was arrested for writing an essay criticising the lack of government job opportunities for Tibetans in his civil service exam. He was arrested from the Minzu University in Lanzhou where he is studying. His work has been posted on the social media and went viral on a range of platforms including WeChat. Sonam Lhundup's location and condition are unknown, but Tibet Watch quoted sources as confirming he is still being held and that his arrest was linked to the essay.

(Comment: Tibetan students have been expressing growing frustration over a lack of government job opportunities available to them in the last two years.)

China tightens control over new enrolment in Larung Gar Institute

April 19, 2019

Authorities of Sichuan province have further tightened controls at the Larung Gar Buddhist Academy, declaring that no new residents may now be admitted to live and study there. The authorities ordered senior monks of Sertha Buddhist Academy, located in Sichuan's Sertha county, not to enroll any new

students or practitioners. According to an insider source, ‘the restriction requires that not even one new admission from outside Larung Gar will be permitted’. If the authority knows of any new residents who have been admitted, they are to be turned away immediately. The authorities warned that failure to comply with government orders will meet harsher policies and punishment.

It is learnt that new walls have been built around large sections of the Larung Gar compound, and three checkpoints put in place to prevent unauthorised entry. Radio Free Asia (RFA) cited sources as saying that arrivals and departures of monks and nuns are closely monitored and “they are kept under strict surveillance around the clock.”

(Comment: On April 16th, Khenpo Tsultrim Lodoe, one of the main abbots of the institute said “2019 may be a difficult year for residents at the center” and warned that “almost any kind of problem may be encountered if we don’t exercise necessary caution and care”. He also urged that “for the sake of the institute’s continuity and survival, everyone should behave appropriately in their actions and their speech”. Larung Gar is the biggest Tibetan Buddhist Academy in Tibet where both monks and nuns study various Buddhist philosophy and chantings.)

Nine Tibetans imprisoned for participating in "underworld" activity, Qinghai

April 20, 2019

Nine Tibetans from Amdo Rebkong (Tongren), Qinghai were sentenced between April 10 to 14, by the County People’s Court of Rebkong to prison terms ranging between three and seven years for what Tibet Times called organized crime, extortion and assembling a mob to disturb the social order. Those charged were Dukbum Tsering, Shawo Tsering, Khashan Gyal, Sonam Gyal, Gedun Soepa, Choesang, Tashi Tsering, Dhargye and Pendhi Dorjee. They come from Horgyal village, Rebkong County, Malho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province.

Ngaba (Aba) prefecture held a National Unity and Progress work report meeting

April 23 2018

The Ngaba Prefecture presented a summary of the work of “accelerating the establishment of a national model of national unity and progress”. The report said “Aba has adhered to the important exposition of General Secretary Xi’s guide on national work and always holds the banner of national unity high and firmly implemented the common unity, common prosperity and common development of all ethnic groups”. It has also put forward the main strategic goal of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 11th National Committee of accelerating the construction of "one state, two districts and three homes" and Ngaba will create itself as the demonstration state of “National Unity and Progress”, as

the core backbone and adhere to the establishment of the national unity and progress. The focus has been on five major events: ecology, development, people's livelihood, stability, and working style of the party. Stating that presently the whole county has a good working condition, healthy economic and social development and significantly improved people's life, it said there is harmony in national religion and the construction of society and party is stable and strengthened.

The report said Ngaba had established seven national demonstration units and education bases; one national model county; 21 provincial demonstration units and education bases, five provincial demonstration counties; and 1136 state-level demonstration (advanced) units. 338 and 1008 people were awarded national and provincial awards respectively.

In order to further strengthen the people's awareness of national unity and progress, they also adhere to carry out propaganda on the theme of "casting the Chinese Community Consciousness" as the main theme, vigorously carrying out the monthly activities on National Unity and Progressive whereby re-educating all walks of life. Apart from re-educating thousands of households, they promoted grassroots party building and creation of a state with rule of law. The report also added that "Propaganda and education have made national unity and progress deep into the hearts of the people. Since 2018, the state has distributed more than 160,000 books (books) and publicity materials of more than 210,000 books, more than 9,000 kinds of publicity lectures, and more than 800 performances of various performances, posting slogans and light poles. More than 18,000 billboards were set including 50 large size".

The party building focused on the leadership of the party as the 'core' to promote new initiatives for reaching out to the masses. The cadres and party members could reach out to more than 192,000 farmers and herdsmen and 18,00 religious people. It said the masses of all ethnic groups now live in harmony and live like a family in Ngaba.

(Comment: Ngaba has one of the highest incidences of Tibetans self-immolating in protest against the Chinese government.)

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

China angry as CTA President Sangay addressed press with Lithuania's first post-Soviet President

May 09, 2019

En route to the 7th World Parliamentarians' Convention on Tibet in Latvia's capital Riga, President

Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) met Tibet supporters, including lawmakers and prominent national figures, in Lithuania's capital Vilnius on May 6. At a press conference in the Seimas, the country's parliament, he was joined by Prof Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuania's first post-soviet era head of state, and other MPs. The event was organized by Andrius Navickas, chair of the Provisional Group for Solidarity with Tibetans in the Seimas.

Lithuanian national television telecast Lobsang Sangay's talk on 'Geopolitics of China in Europe: Tibet a case study', at the Vilnius Institute for Policy Analysis. Sangay also met Prof Dr Dainius Zalimas, President of The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania.

China expectedly condemned the event. The Chinese Embassy in Lithuania, in a statement, condemned the press conference organized by Andrius Navickas in the Seimas and the invitation to Lobsang Sangay. It asserted that the comments of A. Navickas, V. Vidunas, V. Landsbergis "are full of prejudice against and hostilities on Chinese government and Chinese people including the Tibetans. Their words about China are totally unacceptable."

Intelligence consultant reaffirms suspicion about Beijing's involvement in mortal, vile online threats on Tibetan on her student union election victory

A consultant to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), Charles Burton, has told London-based Free Tibet advocacy group that the death threats and abuse targeted at a Tibetan student who got elected in Feb 2019 as a university student union president in Toronto likely originated from Chinese diplomats in Canada. The Tibetan student, Ms Chemi Lhamo, was elected as president of the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Student Union, triggering an online petition by Chinese, which gained over 10,000 signatures, demanding that she be stopped from becoming president, citing her stance in favour of Tibet's independence from Chinese occupation rule.
