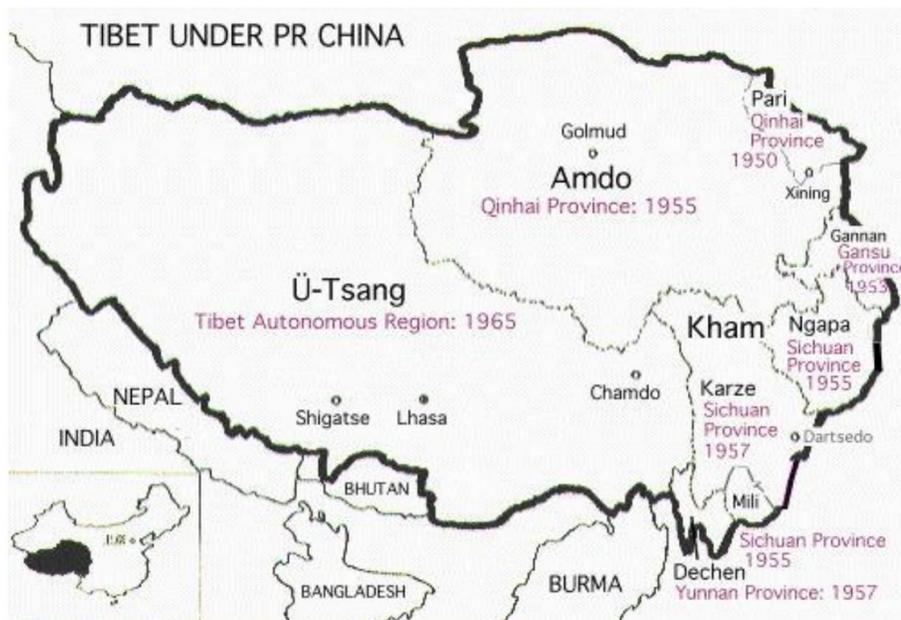
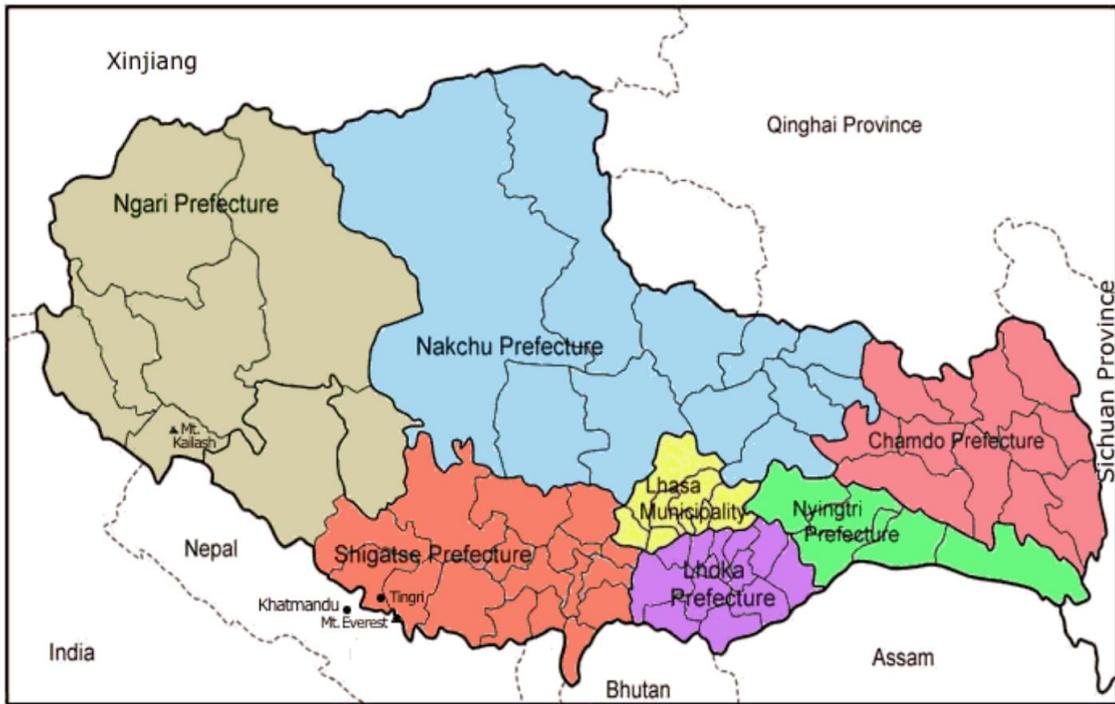




TIBET INSIGHT, SEPTEMBER 15-30, 2018



TAR NEWS

Gonggar Airport commences direct flights to Wuhan

September 21, 2018

On September 20, the TAR Tourism Commission and Lhokha (Ch: Shannan) Municipal People's Government's Tourism Commission, Wuhan Cultural Exchange Centre and Chengdu Airlines hosted the opening ceremony of the Winter Tour and inauguration of the Lhoka-Wuhan Direct Flight at Gonggar Airport. Ji Yue, Deputy Director of the TAR Tourism Commission, said the opening of the new route will bridge the government, tourism, civil aviation and other departments of the two provinces.

Chengdu Airlines General Manager Cha Guangyi said that the flight took off from Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport and after 2 hours and 20 minutes landed at Gonggar Airport. Chengdu Airlines has opened a route from Gonggar to Wuhan. Earlier, on May 18 this year Tibet Airlines opened a direct flight between Lhasa and Wuhan. The Lhoka Municipal Government, Hubei Provincial Aid Tibet Office, Wuhan Hanzang Cultural Exchange Center, Hubei Kanghui Group and Chengdu Airlines joined hands to connect a new route from Gongga Airport to Wuhan after reaching a cooperation agreement.

The new route will facilitate the development of Lhoka's tourism and will help realise the goal of 800,000 Hubei people visiting Lhoka during the 13th Five-Year Plan period.

China has built bunkers to shelter fighter planes at Gonggar Airport, Lhasa

October 02, 2018

China has built underground bomb-proof shelters to house fighter planes at the Gonggar airport near Tibet's capital Lhasa. A Hindustan Times report (October 3, 2018) commented this could be in apparent preparation for possible conflict with India, which it considers realistic following the tense, drawn out Doklam standoff last year.

Three unnamed officials were quoted saying the airfield, earlier meant to boost “regional connectivity”, is now being turned into a military airbase. One of them said a “taxi track” from the airstrip leads to blast- or bomb-proof hangers dug deep inside the mountains nearby. They said the underground facility can hold around three squadrons of fighters or about 36 aircraft. A second official said “You need blast- or bomb-proof hangers for fighters only if there is a possibility of hostilities. Fighters kept in the open are vulnerable to attacks during hostilities; therefore they are kept safe inside bomb-proof shelters. When required, they are pulled out of the shelters and launched.” The third official said the People’s Liberation Army Air Force has such facilities along its border with Russia and the underground bomb-proof facilities along the India-China border in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) is a “new development.”

The officials also said there are Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) bases near some of the airfields that are being augmented and expanded along with helicopter bases. For instance, the SAM base near the Shigatse airfield situated across Sikkim has also been augmented.

(Comment: The Chinese and, for that matter, the Taiwanese, Koreans and Russians have for years been building underground silos for missiles, bomb-proof hangars for aircraft and berths for ships. Missiles, including in Tibet, are long known to have normally been based/stored in tunnels dug deep into mountain sides.)

Lhasa Economic Development Zone Party Working Committee Theory Learning Center Group held a special study session

September 20, 2018

On September 18th, the Lhasa Economic Development Party Working Committee held the 8th Learning Conference of 2018, and invited Professor Li Hong from the TAR Party School to speak on "Learn and implement Xi Jinping socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era." Guo Gangfeng, member of the Party Working Committee of Lhasa Economic Development Zone and Deputy Director of the

Administrative Committee, presided over the study meeting. Cadres and workers of various bureaus attended.

Professor Li Hong spoke on Xi Jinping's new era of socialist economic thought with Chinese characteristics, Xi Jinping's basic framework of new economic thoughts, persisting in problem-oriented solution to China's main contradictions, opening a new chapter in China's economy, and providing fundamental guidance and practice for Tibet's economic and social development.

Guo Gangfeng iterated that one should take this special study as an opportunity to comprehensively and systematically deepen study and understanding of Xi Jinping's socialist economic thought with Chinese characteristics. He further affirmed the importance of strengthening the party's centralized and unified leadership and improving understanding of political thoughts as well as to strive to be the vanguard and pioneer of innovation and development in the new era.

Xinjiang and Tibet Military Region Cultural and Art Corps retained

27 September 2018

On September 27, Ren Guoqiang, Deputy Director of the Information Department of the Ministry of National Defense and spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defense, said at the regular press conference that the Central Military Commission had decided to optimize the establishment of military literary and artistic forces and improve its structural functions and that therefore the Xinjiang and Tibet Military Region Cultural Art Organizations would be retained while the Chinese military service and military police groups' cultural corps would no longer be retained.

Ren Guoqiang said that this is based on the decision to deepen the defense and military reform and deployment arrangements, to further strengthen the fundamental positioning of the military literary and art forces "combat team" and "light cavalry."

The People's Government of the Autonomous Region and the China Meteorological Administration signed a new round of provincial cooperation agreement

September 21, 2018

On September 20, the TAR People's Government and China Meteorological Administration signed a cooperation agreement on promoting high-quality development and meteorological modernization in Tibet.

Che Dalha aka Qi Zala, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR People's Government, and Liu Yaming, Party Secretary and Director of the China Meteorological Administration, signed an agreement on behalf of TAR People's Government and the China Meteorological Administration. According to the new cooperation agreement, the two sides agreed to cooperate in strengthening grassroots meteorological service capabilities, optimization of network observatories, improving remote sensing applications, strengthening the building of talent teams, and refining the level of economic and social development of meteorological services in Tibet.

Che Dalha pointed out that Tibet has a vast territory and complex meteorological conditions and that TAR will conscientiously implement the contents of the agreement and do a good job in all aspects. He added, "We hope that the China Meteorological Administration will continue to support and develop meteorology in Tibet, participate in the second comprehensive scientific research activity of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and promote continuous meteorological undertakings in the region."

In his speech, Liu Yaming expressed his 'gratitude' to TAR for its long-standing support for meteorological work. He said that the China Meteorological Administration will thoroughly implement the decisions of the Party Central Committee, go all out to support relevant work in Tibet, and further consolidate, enrich and enhance the quality of cooperation, strengthen leadership over meteorological work in Tibet, develop meteorological capacity and provide a strong meteorological guarantee for the long-term development and stability of Tibet.

TAR Supervisory Committee inspects Meldro Gungkar County of Lhasa

September 30, 2018

Wang Yongjun, Member of TAR Party Standing Committee, Secretary of TAR Discipline Inspection Commission and Director of TAR Supervisory Committee went to Meldro Gungkar (Ch: Maizhokunggar) county in Lhasa to inspect Tangya Township's Sandstone Factory, Kunggar Town, Nyimajangra's Handicraft Development Co., Ltd and visit the households. The main purpose of the visit was to oversee the implementation of 'eight' rules and regulations, to understand functioning of the Party's work style and implementation of transparent government.

Wang Yongjun pointed out that central regulations are to be meticulously followed to win the Party's and People's hearts. He told concerned officials and the households he visited, to maintain ideological and political actions in line with the CCP CC and with General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core. He urged party organizations and officials of all levels to stabilize and improve their ideological understanding first before guiding grassroot party members, cadres and masses.

(Comment: The eight regulations are: organized and disciplined inspection and supervision organs, transparent bureaucracy, focusing on key issues, focus on key minorities, identify problems and issues, focusing on long-term stability, organizing study sessions and to have clear ideological and political stand.)

Lhasa Discipline Committee meets village Cadres

September 26, 2018

Lhakpa Tsering, Deputy Secretary of the Lhasa Municipal Commission for Discipline Inspection and Deputy Director of Lhasa Municipal Supervision Commission and a team of officials inspected Dezhong Village of Mamba Township under Meldro Gungkar, Lhasa.

Through discussion, interviews, reports, and accessing materials, the team learned in detail about the implementation of the “seven tasks” in the village work and the life and work status of the cadre members stationed there and gave financial rewards.

The Deputy Director stressed that the village/resident cadres should adhere to the guidelines of Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, strictly follow the arrangements of TAR Party Committees, focus on the "seven tasks" of the village work, and earnestly perform their respective duties. He further added that essence of stability is timely response to ‘loopholes’ and implementation of preventive measures and innovation of ways and means to discover ‘hidden dangers.’

Tibet strives to connect all villages by road by 2020

September 18, 2018

The TAR Communications Department announced that out of 697 villages and townships across the Lhasa, 695 villages and townships have access to roads and highways. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, 78.9 billion yuan was invested in rural road construction in TAR. According to a TAR Communications Department official the current status of rural roads in TAR, except Metok County, all the counties have even roads. Out of 697 townships 695 townships, or is 99.71%, have highways. 541 townships have surface hardened roads accounting for 77.62% of the total or an increase of 36 percentage since 2012. Out of 5,467 villages, 5,437 have roads while 2048 villages have roads with hardened surfaces, or an increase of 23 percent since 2012.

During the "13th Five-Year Plan" period, the TAR government issued a decree "Implementing Opinions of the General Office of the TAR People's Government on Investment and Financing System of Rural Infrastructure" and further increased investment in rural road construction through the Ministry of Transport. The TAR government will strive to bring highways with hardened surfaces to all villages, qualified townships and administrative villages by 2020 as also 100% shuttle bus services in all the townships (towns) and 80% bus services in all the administrative villages.

Li Wenge, Party Secretary of the Autonomous Region Business Department, visited the Lhasa Economic Development Zone

September 29, 2018

On September 27, Li Wenge, Party Secretary of the TAR Business Department, visited the Lhasa Economic Development Zone. The Director of the TAR Department of Commerce Penpa, and Director of the Foreign Investment Department of TAR, Deyang, accompanied Li Wenge. Liao Sha, Deputy Secretary of the Party's Working Committee under Economic Development Zone, Liu Xiaopeng, Director of the Administrative Committee, and Huang Fulong, Director of the Safety Supervision Bureau accompanied the team.

Li Wenge and his entourage inspected the planning and construction sites of the Lhasa Comprehensive Bonded Zone, Tibet Plateau Natural Water Co., Ltd., Tibet Tiandi Green Beverage Co., Ltd., Lhasa Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tibet Yuyue Medical Investment Co., Ltd., Tibet Wahaha Food Co., Ltd., Tibet Tianyoude Qinglan Liquor Industry Co., Ltd.

At the site of the Lhasa Comprehensive Bonded Zone, Li Wenge and his team listened to the Lhasa Comprehensive Bonded Zone's construction agreement, investment attraction and enterprise occupancy progress.

After the field investigation, Li Wenge and his team held a symposium for the Lhasa Economic Development Zone Management Committee wherein Liu Xiaopeng presided over the meeting. Liu Xiaopeng, briefed the team on the status of Lhasa Economic Development Zone, industrial opening, business environment and issues and challenges. Li Wenge told Liu Xiaopeng and his team to unify thinking and shoulder more responsibilities. He told them to pay close attention to the investment promotion works for foreign-invested foreign-funded enterprises, and strive to introduce high quality domestic trade to foreign enterprises into the Lhasa Comprehensive Bonded Zone. He emphasized on the need to vigorously develop Tibetan medicines, acupuncture

and agricultural products.

Work Conference with Central SOEs in Lhasa

September 09, 2019

A work Conference was held on September 5 in Lhasa where delegates from more than 40 Central State owned Enterprises (SoEs) attended. The SoEs involving an aggregate capital input of 16.96 billion Yuan signed 15 new cooperation agreements.

Addressing the Conference, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie said “having central SoEs proves assistance to Tibet is "a state strategy of China revealing the advantages of the Chinese socialist system," as it will help narrow the regional development gap and make it possible for the country to be a well-off society in all aspects.“ Central SoEs in Tibet have capitalized their respective advantages to cultivate new business, provide technical training, offer medical assistance, build schools and facilitate cultural and economic exchanges. During the 13th Five-year period (2016-2020), central SOEs arranged aid packages worth 1.665 billion yuan to Tibet -- 474 million yuan, or 40 percent more, than in the previous five-year period. In the past two years, 16 SoEs have financed 175 poverty relief programs with more than 600 million yuan, benefiting 21,000 people in 240 villages.

China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO), the biggest food processor, manufacturer and trader in China, has cultivated a circular agricultural program in Lhozhag County where worm breeding and vegetable cultivation have been developed to produce natural feed for an egg farm, and therefore made the organically produced Tibetan eggs a new hit product. Li Guowei, COFCO manager who has been working in Tibet for nine years dealing with poverty alleviation, said the production value of this project surpassed two million yuan in 2017, benefiting 51 impoverished people. Through its subsidiary company China Mengniu Dairy, COFCO also provided technical assistance to a dairy in Chengguan district of Lhasa, which went into operation on September 5. With a daily processing capacity of 150 tones of milk and an annual

output of 50,000 to 100,000 tones of dairy products, the factory is expected to generate a production value of 550 million yuan and tax revenue of 50 million yuan annually. It has created 300 jobs and enriched 2,460 dairy cattle breeding households nearby.

Li Guowei said "Tibet's poverty alleviation is particularly challenging because of its weak economic foundation, adverse natural environment, and lack of skilled workers and high costs. By sharing our experiences in the food industry, we hope to foster new businesses based on local resources for sustainable growth.". He said by participating in poverty alleviation work, COFCO had shouldered its corporate social responsibilities, as the goal of an SOE is to benefit the public. "We seek no profits here, and we focus more on capacity building and technology transfer rather than charities."

Since the central government instructed central SoEs to provide long-term assistance to support the development of Tibet in 2001, more than 300 managers like Li Guowei have traveled to Tibet to help alleviate poverty. So far, central SoEs have implemented more than 1,300 poverty relief projects and established a poverty relief fund of more than three billion yuan. Central SoEs contributions have also put hugely improved local infrastructure facilities, making people's life much easier and optimizing the local business environment.

China Telecom, for instance, has invested more than 10 billion yuan since 2011 on the construction of communication networks. Currently, optical cables and 3G networks are accessible in all townships, and 90 percent of Tibetan counties can use the 4G network now. State Grid Corporation China (SGCC) has invested 36.3 billion yuan from 2013 to 2017 in upgrading the main power grids from 110 kilovolts to 220 kilovolts. It also financed upgrading of the power grid in 2,797 villages with 12.7 billion yuan.

Sources said SGCC's goal is to enhance the region's power supply capability and bring electricity to remote and impoverished counties. Because of the improvement in these power and communication facilities, mobile internet access has extended to pasturing areas. Wu Haiyan, a local telecom employee said "In the past, we seldom saw herders

sharing videos on Wechat. Now they are very involved in the use of various mobile APPs. We often see interesting short videos shot by herders on various social media platforms. It's easy to know what it is like living in the pasturing areas." To solicit the support of more central SoEs, the local government has prepared an investment catalogue comprising 167 projects in seven key sectors.

2nd Public Security Bureau's Police Practical Knowledge and Skills Competition

September 21, 2018

On the morning of the 20th, the 2nd session of the public security system police knowledge and skill competition was officially opened in Lhasa. Ding Yexian, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Party Secretary of the District Political Consultative Conference, announced the opening. He Wenhao, member of the Standing Committee of the District Party Committee and Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee, spoke at the function.

The competition was held from September 17 to 23. More than 260 'elite' police personnel from Public Security Bureau of seven cities, the Lhasa Railway Public Security Bureau and the Tibet Police College participated. Subjects for the competition included shooting, examination of theoretical knowledge, information system application, case review and audit, "four construction" micro-curriculum and open class, police dog, technical combat skills, traffic management skills and network security combat skills.

After the opening ceremony, Ding Yexian visited the police equipment exhibition and the public security system education and training work exhibition. He inspected and guided construction of the special police detachment of the Lhasa Public Security Bureau. TAR military leaders Shi Moujun and Zhou Shenggang attended the opening ceremony.

The Public Security Frontier Defense Corps of the Autonomous Region launches "National Defense Education Day" Publicity Campaign

September 21, 2018

Recently, the TAR Frontier Defense Corps organized a "National Defense Education Day" publicity campaign in Zongyap Lukang Park in Lhasa. During the day long activity, PLA officers and soldiers publicised the "National Defense Education Law", "Regulations for the Border Administration of the Tibet Autonomous Region" and other relevant legal provisions by hanging banners, displaying pictures, distributing brochures, etc.

The main theme of the day long propaganda was to call on Tibetan masses to firmly establish the concept of national defense and consciously improve National defense awareness, actively care, support, and understand public security frontier defense work. PLA officers and soldiers publicized the significance of national defense construction, and explained the duties and tasks of the autonomous regional border guards. They issued more than 200 copies of brochures and answered 6 questions concerning the legal issues of the border.

NGARI (CH: ALI) NEWS

Special training for Young Party School graduates

September 30, 2018

The Ngari (Ch: Ali) Party Committee organized a special training session for young party cadres at the Party School on September 27. Zhang Huiming, Party Secretary of the Party Committee spoke at the session and emphasized the importance of practicing "four consciousness, and being loyal to the Party. He explained that the purpose of the session was to make young cadres study and understand General Secretary Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era. He added that ideological consciousness, scientific based governance, allegiance to law and order and efforts to unite all ethnic groups should be priorities for cadres of the Party School. Forty students enrolled at the school. Zhang Huiming urged the graduating students to apply their learning's from the Party School and implement that for promoting development and creating long-term

stability in Ngari. He asked the students to be firm in their political awareness, sense of conformity to the party, core beliefs of the Central CCP CC and resolutely safeguard ideals. Zhang Huiming issued certificates of completion to the forty students. Three graduating students also spoke at the ceremony.

CHAMDO (CH: CHANGDU) NEWS

China relocating residents of nine Chamdo villages for mining work

October 03, 2018

The Tibetan Service of Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported (October 1) that China is moving residents of nine villages in eastern Tibet's Chamdo City to two rural counties on the outskirts of Lhasa City as their land has been taken over to build mining infrastructures. The number of villagers being forced to move out is not known. The villages – all in the city's Gonjo (Chinese: Gongjue) County – have been named as Chaka, Pallo, Yasha, upper Deb, lower Deb, Chulsum, and Garnyi. The county's population, according to China's 2010 census, was 40,000.

The report said residents of the designated villages have to move by the end of this year and are to be relocated in Meldrogungkar (Mozhugongka) and Toelung Dechen (Duilongdeqing) Counties in Lhasa City, and to areas in Lhoka (Shannan) City further west. The Tibetan villagers have not been told why they were being moved out. RFA quoted a local as saying “The Tibetans in these villages believe that the local Chinese authorities in Gonjo plan to build an electric power plant and do mining in the area, and that this is why they are being moved from their ancestral lands.” The affected villagers had started selling their livestock .

Gonjo County is rich not only in mineral ores but also in caterpillar fungus, a highly prized medical fungus. RFA said “Under the terms of the China-ordered relocation scheme, the villagers are allowed to come back during harvesting of the caterpillar fungus for the next 20 years.” The report cited sources as saying that about 10 years ago,

residents of several villages in the same county had been similarly forced to relocate to a city in Nyingtri (Lingzhi) County .

The report also said that in May 2015, Chinese authorities had cracked down on villagers protesting against the building of a road to a mining site on a sacred mountain in Gonjo when many had been injured and an unknown number detained.

SHIGATSE (CH: XIGAZE)

Tibet Stops Mountaineering License Issuance

September 19, 2018

Tibet Mountaineering Association said that in order to strengthen the management of mountaineers in accordance with the Measures for the Administration of Mountaineering in China and the Tibet Autonomous Region Mountaineering Regulations, climbing licenses will not be issued for mountaineers who have applied for mountaineering permits. Mountaineers at home and abroad who do not have a mountaineering permit are strictly prohibited from any type of mountaineering expedition, mountaineering examination, mountaineering photography and other activities in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Secretary of the Tibet Mountaineering Association, Sonam, said that due to mountaineering safety and environmental issues, mountaineering permits for climbers who applied after the deadline for registration will not be issued. He clarified that the Tibet Mountaineering Association had given mountaineering licenses to nearly 180 mountaineers, including 78 mountain guides in the Fall of 2018 and these mountaineers could climb the Cho Oyu and Shishapangma above 8,000 meters above sea level.

Sonam also said that to ensure mountaineering safety and environmental protection in the mountains, this year the Tibet Mountaineering Association increased the proportion of climbers and mountain guides to 1:1, ensuring that each climber has an exclusive guide. Earlier there was only one liaison officer in each mountain, and now the number has been increased to three. One liaison officer is responsible for mountaineering safety. Before

the mountaineers leave from the base camp, the liaison officer will check all the equipment and give safety instructions. One liaison officer is responsible for mountain environmental protection work, requiring mountaineers to carry 8 kg of garbage on the way down. The liaison officer is responsible for communicating with the local government while another is responsible for business contacts between mountaineers and the Tibet Mountaineering Association and local government, where the climbing peaks are located.

Reconstruction of the Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge and the Geelong Thermal Cable Bridge

September 12, 2018

On September 9, Tibet officially held a ceremony to renovate the building of the Consulate General of Nepal in Lhasa and the restoration and reconstruction of the Dram Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge and the Kyidrong Thermal Cable Bridge in Lhasa. The “4·25” earthquake in Nepal destroyed the Dram Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge in 2015. The bridge is necessary for restoring the Dram trading port. The reconstruction and reconstruction project will take 8 months. At the ceremony, the leader of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region, Lobsang Gyaltzen, said that China and Nepal are good neighbors and good partners, and Sino-Nepalese friendship is rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. Nepal is an important partner for China in the “Belt and Road Initiative”. He said the Dram Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge and the Dram Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge are not only bridges between China and Nepal, but also bridges between hearts of two people.

Qi Zhala/Chedak la Chairman of Tibet Autonomous Region, said at the ceremony that the leaders of China and Nepal shared consensus on smooth operation of the Kyirong port and restoration of the Dram port that was damaged in the earthquake. Qi Zhala said after the commencement ceremony that all supervision units will fully support the construction of the three projects while ensuring quality and timely completion.

Nepal's Speaker of the House of Representatives Krishna Bahadur Mahara said that the reconstruction of the Nepalese Consulate-General in Lhasa and the reconstruction and reconstruction project of the Dram Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge and the Kyirong Thermal Cable Bridge played a very important role in connecting Nepal and China. He believed that Nepal and China are multi-cultural and multi-ethnic countries and the two restored and rebuilt bridges play a very important role in promoting tourism and cultural exchanges between Nepal and China. The total investment in the three projects exceeds 76.6 million yuan. The total investment for the thermal cable bridge restoration and reconstruction project is 20 million yuan.

Deputy Secretary-General of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee and Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Working Committee of Shigatse Municipal Government, under disciplinary review and supervision

September 29, 2018

Dorje Wangchuk, Deputy Secretary-General of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee and Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Working Committee of Shigatse Municipal Government, is suspected of serious violations of the law and he is currently under investigation by the TAR Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Dorje Wangchuk, a Tibetan, was born in March 1962 in Shigatse. He is a college graduate and joined work in July 1981. He joined the Communist Party of China in October 1986. Since November 1997, he has served as Deputy Magistrate of Rempung County, Magistrate of Nyalam County, Deputy Secretary of County Party Committee of Shaithongmon County, and County Magistrate. In July 2004, he served as Party Secretary and Deputy Director of the Judicial Department of Shigatse District. In September 2007, he served as Deputy Secretary and Director of the party group of the Shigatse Regional Audit Bureau; in May 2012, he served as Deputy Secretary and Director of the Party Group of the Shigatse Region (city) Land and Resources Bureau. Since September 2017, he served as Deputy Secretary General of the Shigatse Municipal Committee and Municipal People's Government and Deputy Secretary of the Working Committee of

Party.

LHOKA (SHANNAN) NEWS

Central Military Commission visits Medog County to investigate Poverty Alleviation

September 13, 2018

On September 12, a team from the Central Military Commission (CMC) (5 from the Health Bureau of the CMC, 2 from the Health Department of the Tibet Military Region, and 2 from the 115th Hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army) led by Deputy Director of the Central Military Commission's Logistics Department, Deputy Director of Health Bureau, Ji Jianhua went to Metok County to investigate and guide support works and meet local officials.

During the meeting, the Deputy Director of the Medical Department of the 115th Hospital of PLA, Xu Yuan and member of the Metok County Health Service Center, Deng Shengmin, reported on the 115th Hospital's support to the county health service center.

Ji Jianhua emphasized that building and strengthening Metok County's Health Service Center is their common responsibility and common goal. At present, poverty alleviation is an important task at all levels and departments and health is important in poverty alleviation work. To achieve the goal everyone must work in accordance with the relevant guidelines issued by the central government for assisting work of all three levels of hospitals. Ji Jianhua and his entourage visited 115th hospital's aid-assistance work at various departments in the county. The team laid the foundation stone of the Medog County Health Service Center.

Tsona County Holds Border Well-Off Village Construction Meeting

September 19, 2018

On September 11, Tsona County of Lhokha City held a meeting on construction of well-off villages in the border, and analyzed and studied the difficulties and problems faced in the construction of the existing well-off border villages. Dasang, member of the Standing Committee of the County Party Committee and Executive Deputy Magistrate, presided over the meeting. Liu Zhongquan, Vice Chairman of the county CPPCC and Mayor of the town, and Phuntsok, Party Secretary of Langpo Township also attended the meeting.

The meeting conveyed the Notice of the Municipal Housing and Construction Bureau on Printing and Distributing the Measures for the Assessment of Dust Prevention and Control Work in the Construction of Housing and Municipal Infrastructure in Lhokha City, and notified the quality and safety inspection of the construction of Xiaokang Village in the third quarter. Dasang stressed diligence in dust control and the need to implement the requirements of the regulations and finish construction within the time period.

NYINGTRI (CH: LINZHI) NEWS

Karma Tashi Inspects Drung Border Well-Off Village in Lhodrak

September 26, 2018

The Chairman of Lhodrak County CPPCC, Karma Tashi and his entourage recently visited Drung Village to inspect and guide the construction of the border well-off village project. Accompanied by the members of the village committee, the resident team, and the main person in charge of the project department, Karma Tashi went to the Drung Village Group 3 project department to learn the status of recent works, the problems in the construction process, etc.

Karma Tashi stressed that the housing issue related to the vital interests of the people and that the construction company must take a high degree of responsibility. He said “everyone must do a good job in safety production during construction, regularly check

construction safety hazards, ensure regulations and complete the project in time.”

H also announced establishment of an excellent organization award and individual award and said the winner of the gold medal will be awarded the honorary title of "Mount Everest Craftsman.” Prize winners will be given the opportunity to gain related professional qualification authentication and certificate.

Nyingtri Dro village, a national civilized village

September 29, 2018

Dro village of Nang County of Nyingtri (Ch: Nyingchi) won the title of "National Civilized Village.” It is the second administrative village of Nang County to be declared a national civilized village. Dro village has made great efforts to integrate tourism resources and established an amalgam with local characteristics. Dro village pursues "local employment, upgrading of industries and adding value of agricultural products locally". The promotion of tourism industry also promotes the development of agriculture and boosts the local economy.

With the assistance of 11 Communist Party members, the first batch of family inns integrating catering, accommodation and entertainment has been built. They can provide tourists with fresh fruits, the experience of feeding fowls and picking vegetables and campfire parties. It has received over 2,960 visitors since the beginning of this year, generating almost 90,000 yuan in revenue. The tourist reception center of Dro village is under construction.

In recent years, Dro village has actively explored the development model of courtyard economy. So far, 900 mu (60 hectares) of walnut trees, 150 mu (10 hectares) of apple trees, 100 mu (about 6.67 hectares) of peach trees and 110 mu (about 7.3 hectares) of interpolating have been planted, bringing more than 20,000 yuan in income per household.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

The Fourth Joint Meeting of Six Cities Held in Yunnan

September 18, 2018

The fourth joint meeting of Ganzi, Guoluo, Chamdo (Qamdo), Yushu, Diqing, Ngaba (Aba) six-state (city) government was held at Shangri-La, Yunnan from September 12-14. The meeting was attended by Gu Yu, Secretary of the Diqing State Party Committee and Director of the Standing Committee of the State People's Congress; Yang Kening, Governor and Deputy Secretary of the Ngaba (Aba) State Committee; Xiao Youcai, Deputy Secretary of the Gulog State Committee; Pachen Tashi, the Governor of Golog Qinghai Province; Tsering Gyurmey, the Deputy Secretary of Yushu Prefecture; and Qi Jianxi, the Deputy Mayor of Changdu.

The main theme of the meeting was to deepen cooperation and promote coordinated development on the Qinghai-Tibet border. They discussed how to accelerate the pace of poverty alleviation and construct a comprehensive well-off society on the border area between Tibet and Qinghai apart from discussing how to further strengthen the spirit of the 19th Party Congress, and 6th Tibet Work Forum.

The meeting discussed and adopted the Shangri-La Declaration, which listed cooperation between the six states (cities) in the fields of infrastructure, ecological civilization, tourism development, cultural exchanges, poverty alleviation, and ecological agriculture and animal husbandry. The meeting also discussed adoption of the fifth joint meeting of the rotating state (city) for the Ngaba state.

Yang Kening, Governor and Deputy Secretary of Ngaba Party Committee mentioned that Ngaba prefecture still lags behind compared to other fraternal states in terms of infrastructure building, industrial transformation, and poverty alleviation. He said that Ngaba will adhere to Xi's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics as a guide

and work towards the strategic goal of Sanjiayuan, which is to speed up construction of the Ngaba Ecological Demonstration Zone in northwest Sichuan. This project focuses on building a new pattern of “one screen, four belts, global ecology, three cities, and five industries.

He also suggested a ‘Sichuan-Tibetan Youth’ Collaborative Information Network amongst the six states to improve the joint police logistics collaboration platform, joint mediation committee and public security team that will help investigation of criminal cases, public security, joint defense and traffic safety cooperation to ensure the harmony and stability of the border.

The First National Youth Tibetan Studies Seminar Held in Beijing

September 21, 2018

On the theme ‘New era, new thinking, and new mission’, the first ever National Youth Tibetan Studies Seminar was held in Beijing on September 19-20. The Young Tibetan Society under the China Tibetology Research Centre (CTRC) initiated the four days conference. The main guests were Damdul, the Director General of China Tibetology Research Centre and Central Tibet Work Coordination Group Office; Sithar, former head of Tibetan Affairs, UFWD; and Liu Yinghua, Deputy Director General of Tibetology Research Centre. Hua Yanlong, Lian Xiangmin and more than 70 young Tibetans from the Tibetan Research Centre participated in the conference.

According to Sithar, the concept of Tibetology emerged only after the formation of new China and this conference is convened by the China Tibetology Research Centre in accordance with the major strategic arrangement of the Party Central Committee on Tibet in strengthening the cadre of Tibetologists and nurturing more researchers in Tibetology. This follows General Xi’s belief that ‘if youth prospers, the nation will prosper, if youth are strong, the nation is strong’. Emphasising that the position of Tibetan studies in the international stage depends upon the efforts of new generations of young Tibetan scholars. For this, young Tibetan scholars are expected to follow three things: (i) they

must arm their mind with Xi Jinping's thoughts of new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, (ii) they should study both ancient and modern studies of Tibet in China and abroad, (iii) and finally, apart from doing a good job in Tibetan Studies, they should work and align with the work of the Party and state.

Damdul, Director of the China Tibetology Research Centre in his speech also mentioned that young Tibetan scholars in the new era should have high morale and should work to strengthen the 'four consciousness's'. They must grasp the right political direction of the party and be politically accurate. He said the younger generation should be able to use their educational growth for enhancing the party's overall growth and strive to achieve their academic research as a practical service for Tibet. The organising committee selected 70 young scholars out of more than 170 applicants to present their papers.

Ngaba Monasteries Demonstrate Dissatisfaction with the Government, Qinghai

September 18, 2018

Ngaba County witnessed two incidents of major dissatisfaction with the government from Guomeng monastery and Kriti Monastery, Ngaba County in Qinghai Province in September. The first incident occurred on September 5, where Dorjee Rabten, a monk from Kriti monastery did a solo protest calling for "Freedom for Tibet" on the streets. The next day Tenzin Gelek and another monk again protested against the unjust treatment towards Tibetans and demanded freedom for Tibetans. All three were arrested.

Prior to the protest, monk Tenzin Gelek published two critical articles on the conditions in Tibet today. He often writes under the pseudonym Sa-rin, which roughly translates as (Land Cost).

In the second incident, five monks from Guomang Monastery, Amdo Ngaba were arrested and taken into custody on September' 11. In this particular case, Shakya, the abbot of the monastery and others complained against the local officials who visited the construction site of a government building in front of the monastery. The monastery

appealed against carrying out construction in the front premises of the monastery as it blocked the road to the monastery. However, the local authority ignored the petition and grievances filed by the Guomeng Monastery. The abbot and four other monks confronted those local officials who visited the site . One of the monks said ‘despite the fact we always listen to the government, the government engages in ethnic discrimination and always neglects our concerns’.

The abbot was released after two days, whereas the others are still detained.

Chatring (Xiangcheng) Conducts Propaganda Education on National Defense

September 19 2018

Coinciding with the 18th National Defense Education Day of the PRC, Chatring Dzong (Xiangcheng County) held a propaganda and publicity education on national defense at Xiangsha Leisure Square. Chatring is a county under the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The publicity activity was sponsored by the Chatring Party Committee and the County Government and conducted by County Education Office and County Propaganda Department.

The main theme of the event was *"Inheriting Red Genes and Keeping In Mind of Revolutionary History"*. Activities promoted and publicised knowledge of national defense laws, national defense skills and its concept. The activities included putting up publicity boards, a national defense education signature campaign, publicity posters, and a LED screen on the main street. The target audiences were county garrison troops, the ministers of towns, workers and cadres of various departments and enterprises, and the primary and secondary school students.

AC311A Helicopter begins its Test on Tibetan Plateau

September 20, 2018

On September 19th, the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC)

announced that China's newly developed light utility helicopter AC311A has entered the plateau flight phase. According to the report, the two-tonne new helicopter is undergoing flight tests at the Yushu Airport, Qinghai where the altitude is around 4,000 meters. Avicopter under AVIC designed and developed this new model and the AC311A is now undergoing multiple flight tests, such as near-ground-maneuvering and hovering, with an aim to thoroughly test its capacities of anti-side wind and sand-prevention at various altitudes. The report highlights that flight tests will continue at various plateau airports with altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 meters.

Based on the AC311 light helicopter, the AC311A has an upgraded high power engine and an integrated avionics system. The model was described as meeting China's surging demands in the general aviation sector such as border patrol, law enforcement, rescue and relief missions and forest firefighting. Avicopter is now among the world's leading helicopter manufacturers with more than 50 models in 12 series.

Tibet's Transportation: New Developments in First three Quarters of 2018

September 29, 2018

By the end of 2017, the total mileage of highways in the TAR reached 90,000 kilometers, total length of railways reached 954 kilometers, and the number of domestic and international routes increased from 37 in 2007 to 79. Yong Ji, Director of the TAR Transportation Department, said there were 33 key highway construction projects in Tibet in 2018, and 2 resettlement projects.

Communications: Roads and Bridges

1. The Mura Mountain Tunnel will be officially opened on National Day (October 1st 2018) from Lhasa to Nyingchi. The Mira Mountain Tunnel will further shorten travel time and it will take only 4 hours from Lhasa to Nyingchi.
2. Lhoka (Shannan) accelerates construction of two cross-Yajiang Bridges

Lhoka has maintained the speed of building the new Zedong Bridge and Sangri Bridge, which project started in October 2017. The starting point of the Zedong Bridge in Naidong District is the S306 line of Provincial Highway. The new Zedong Bridge is located on the straight section of the Old Bridge. The south bank of the newly built Sangri Bridge is connected to the provincial road S306. The original bridge will not be demolished for the time being. The total investment in the two projects is 200 million yuan and they are expected to be completed by the end of October 2019.

3. Lhasa Bridge resumed operation

Operations resumed on Lhasa Bridge on July 28, 2018 after major repairs and maintenance under the supervision of the Municipal Engineering Maintenance Department. The Lhasa Bridge spans Lhasa River and connects the Sichuan-Tibet Highway with the East Jiangsu Road. It was completed in 1965 and has been a Class I Conservation Bridge for more than 50 years.

4. Lhasa-Liudong Bridge

According to a report, the Lhasa- Liudong Bridge has entered the final stage and is expected to open at the end of 2018. Liudong Bridge is 2,755 meters in length and is designed as a six-lane two-way highway. Once opened, traffic pressure on Lhasa is expected to reduce enormously.

5. Lhasa to Shigatse Airport high-grade highway

Construction of the high-grade highway project from Lhasa to Shigatse Airport is expected to finish at the end of September. The Shigatse Municipal Transportation Bureau said, “The high-grade highway from Lhasa to Shigatse will greatly improve the traffic conditions from Lhasa to Shigatse and will reduce travel time from 6 to 3 hours.

Civil Aviation

Three more airports in TAR

China Civil Aviation supported by the Tibet Airport Construction and Development Work Conference announced on June 8 that Tibet's civil aviation airport expansion will

continue. It plans to build Lhunze Airport in Lhoka, Dingri Airport in Shigatse, Burang Airport in Ngari and expand the Lhasa Gongga International Airport. The project is called 3+1, and will have an investment of 16.7 billion yuan (2.6 \$ billion). The average altitude of the three airports will be above 4,000 meters, and they are expected to be completed and put into operation by 2021.

Railway Line

Construction of railway stations at all levels of the Lalin Railway is on track with the completion on September 16, of the Lhasa-Nyingtri section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway and the first phase of paved roads at Gongga Station in Lhoka (Shannan). The Lalin Railway consists of 34 city-level and county-level stations, and plans to operate 17 at the beginning.

2. Completion of the main project of the expansion of the Qing section of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway was announced on August 30. The project mainly includes 13 new stations (6 in Qinghai and 7 in Tibet) and upgrading the Lhasa West Freight Yard. The Gormu-Lhasa section of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway is 1,142 kilometers long. This railway is at the highest altitude with the longest route and fastest speed in the world. It runs 4000 meters above sea level is 960 kilometers long and includes 550 kilometers of frozen soil.

3. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway opened the Xining-Shigatse “Tanggu Ancient Road” brand train

From July 1st, China Railway Qingzang Group Co., Ltd. opened the ZANT1/2 "Tanggu Ancient Road" brand train from Xilling (Xining) to Shigatse, and opened Xilling to Lhasa Z9811/2 during July-August summer vacation. The temporary passenger train Z9879/80, for the convenience of passengers travelling from Lhasa to Nagqu is also operational.

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

Exile Tibetan election rules amended in hope to minimize provincial friction

September 29, 2018

Hoping to minimize friction and turbulence prompted by provincial partisanship which marked the last election held in 2016, especially in the case of the Sikyong (President) polls, the Tibetan election rules have been amended to prohibit non-governmental organizations, including regional associations and religious sects, from endorsing and campaigning for candidates for the Sikyong and Parliament in Exile elections. This was a private member amendment bill introduced by Serta Tsultrim and it won the support of more than two-thirds of the Tibetan MPs in exile during the biannual session of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile held from September 18 to 28.

Any Tibetan getting more than 60 percent of the votes in the open preliminary poll, which is actually meant to facilitate the listing of official candidates for the election of the Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration, will be declared elected without having to face the otherwise requisite final round of election.

While the Tibetan Election Commission will be required to finalize at least two candidates for the final Sikyong election based on the preliminary poll outcome, in the event of there being only one candidate – due to withdrawal by other candidates or other possible reasons – he or she must get at least 51 percent of the votes in order to be declared elected. Otherwise, the entire Sikyong election will be held anew.

US House passes bill to seek Tibet's opening up

September 28, 2018

A bipartisan bill seeking to impose a visa ban on Chinese officials who deny American citizens, including especially government officials and journalists, access to Tibet has been passed by unanimous voice vote in the House of Representatives on Sep 25. The Bill now goes before the Senate before it goes to US President Donald Trump for his signature before the end of the year.

Karmapa acquires Dominica passport

October 03, 2018

Ughyen Thinley Dorje, acknowledged by the Chinese authorities and the Dalai Lama as the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa, has acquired the citizenship of the Dominican Republic. Reports have been circulating that Ughyen Thinley Dorje, who unilaterally extended his stay in USA by a year, has refused to return to India allegedly because of travel restrictions imposed by Indian authorities.

Amitabh Mathur, former advisor to the Centre on Tibetan Affairs told The Hindu that “obtaining a foreign travel document was an irrelevant issue. Acquiring foreign citizenship is an old issue; it does not make the Karmapa less of a Tibetan. It is only for ease of travel and doesn’t diminish his stature”.

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