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TAR NEWS

Shigatse UFWD Head warns against “double-faced” Officials, asked to draw clear-cut line from the “Dalai-Clique”

January 17, 2021

Ahead of the Chinese new year, Penpa Tashi Standing Member of Shigatse Party Committee and the Minister of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of Shigatse convened symposium from January 13-14, for retired party officials and officials successively (13th and 14th respectively in Lhasa and Shigatse. After presenting white scarves (khataks) to all retired party officials and leaders, Penpa Tashi thanked them for their selfless hard work and contribution, and told them that the party will not forget their achievements. He quoted a saying “when you drink water, do not forget the people who dig the well.” He said “your wealth of knowledge, work experiences, and broad influence still play an important role in the party’s work”, adding that they must continue to contribute for the united front work in Shigatse.

Penpa Tashi also urged the retired Party officials and leaders to always have a clear-cut and firm political stance especially in opposing “separatism,” safeguarding national unity and in a drawing clear-cut line from the “Dalai Clique.” He asserted that the party will not tolerate “two-faced” people. He hoped all senior leaders and officials will participate in the various activities organized by the United Front Work Department.

Medog County Party Committee Held Economic Work Conference

January 20, 2022

Metok County convened an Economic Work Conference on January 20. Wei Changqi, Secretary of the County Party Committee, attended the meeting and delivered a speech. Li Jiji, Deputy Secretary of the County Party Committee and County Magistrate, and other County Standing Committee members including Tong Yufang, Deputy Secretary of the County Party Committee, Yang Yudong, Li Qingyun, Chen Jinxin, Tashi Dunzhu, Baima Dorji, Feng Qinghong and Zhou Jun attended.

Wei Changqi pointed out that 2021 was the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CCP, the 70th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet, and the first year of the "14th Five-Year Plan". The Medog County Party Committee had adhered to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, coordinated the work of epidemic prevention and control and economic and social development, promoted the expansion of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, and achieved new results in high-quality development.

He emphasised that the goals and tasks determined by the County Party Committee must be followed by the Central and Municipal Party Committees as also the important instructions of Wang Junzheng, Secretary of TAR Party Committee. He highlighted four main focus areas for the high-quality development in Metok:

i) Focus on social harmony and stability, and create a favourable environment for promoting high-quality development

It is important to firmly establish an overall national security concept, unwaveringly maintain stability as the first task, seek long-term strategies and actions to strengthen the foundation, and constantly build a national security barrier. One must unwaveringly carry out the struggle against separatism.

ii). Focus on national unity and progress, and build a strong synergy to promote high-quality development.

The focus should be on building the consciousness of the community of the Chinese nation, resolutely implementing the party's ethnic policy, and doing a good job in various ethnic affairs in the new era. All the ethnic groups should be guided to establish a correct view of the country, history, nationality, culture, and religion.

iii) Focus on the construction of ecological civilization and provide green guarantees for promoting high-quality development

Comprehensively promote the construction of ecological environment protection and ecological civilization, with the creation of beautiful villages (Xiaokang) as the carrier and comprehensive environmental management as the focus. Continue to strengthen supervision, and strive to build ecological security barriers.

iv) Focus on strengthening the border, prospering the border and enriching the people, and building a security barrier for promoting high-quality development

The emphasis should be on securing and strengthening the border and vigorously promoting border defence. With the urgent need for the stabilization of the border, the urgent need for the anti-encroachment struggle, it is important to implement a "push forward strategy". Orderly promote the transfer of people in the central areas to the front line, speed up the construction of settlements in the border areas, and ensure that the people move into new homes as soon as possible. It is also necessary to deepen the development of military-civilian integration and carry out various policies for supporting the army giving priority to their families and doing a good job in socialized logistics support services. It is important to consolidate and improve joint prevention and control capabilities in strengthening the control of border areas, keep an eye on the front line of the border, and build a steel Great Wall that guards the border.

The meeting called for the whole county to unite more closely around the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, support the "two establishments", strengthen the "four consciousnesses", strengthen the "four self-confidence", and achieve "two maintenances".

Party History Learning campaign carried out in Palchoede Gonpa, Nyingtri

January 20, 2021

The Party Branch of Nang County, Nyingtri carried out a party history learning campaign in the Palchoede (in Chinese: Balqude) Monastery on January 18. The meeting was presided over by Sonam Dorji, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Director of the Monastery Management Committee. It was attended by local police and party cadres.

The meeting emphasised the need “to study the spirit of Xi Jinping's different speeches and Party Constitution, Xi's guidelines for political life in the Party under the new situation, and guideline issued by the Party History Learning and Education Leading Group of TAR Party Committee, the main spirit of the 10th Party Congress of TAR, and Ao Liuquan, Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee’s guideline on work safety and forest fire prevention”. Those attending were reminded that the priority should be on unifying their thoughts and actions and strengthening theoretical and ideological understanding. Sonam Dorji stressed that the Monastic Management Committee must plan in advance and create an environment to study the party history, party discipline and party responsibility. He said “All party members and cadres of the management committee should follow the decision-making arrangements of the Party Central Committee, District Party Committee, Municipal Party Committee and County Party Committee, strengthen political rules and discipline, improve the awareness of "red line", and earnestly perform the three functions of the management committee of "management, education and service", actively guide Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to socialist society, and strive to achieve a new level of religious management, education of temples and monks”.

Nyingtri Agricultural and Science Technology Park accepted in Eighth Batch of National Science and Technology Park

January 21, 2022

Nyingtri applied for the National Agricultural Science and Technology Park construction project in May 2016 and was officially recognised by the Ministry of Science and Technology as the eighth batch of National Agricultural Science and Technology Parks on December 7, 2018. The Nyingtri Agricultural Science and Technology Park successfully passed the eighth batch of national agricultural science and technology park standardisation

three years after construction. It is one of four national-level agricultural science and technology parks that have passed the acceptance inspection in TAR, providing a platform for Nyingtri to accelerate the transformation of modern agricultural scientific and technological achievements in the fields of characteristic forest fruits, Tibetan medicine, and edible and medicinal fungi.

The core area of the park has been established in Miling Farm over 5,300 acres. The main focus will be on the development of three industries: forest fruits, edible and medicinal fungi, and Tibetan medicinal herbs. Over the past three years, the core area has organized and implemented 21 projects, and invested a total of 76.011 million yuan in the implementation of scientific and technological planning projects, special projects for aid to Tibet from Guangdong, and poverty alleviation and agricultural reclamation. A total of 53 new demonstration varieties have been introduced, and 21 demonstration bases have been established with an area of more than 5,440 mu. For the project, they hired more than 1,300 local farmers who specialized in planting and breeding. The park intends to speed up the construction of more hardware facilities, and strive to build the park into a base for agricultural science and technology innovation that combines production, learning and research.

(Comment: 1 mu = 0.06666667 hectares)

Yan Jinhai met the Nepalese Consul General in Lhasa

January 21, 2022

Yan Jinhai, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR People's Congress met Navaraj Dhakal, Nepalese Consul General in Lhasa on January 18. Yan Jinhai was accompanied by Xiao Youcai, a member of the TAR Party Committee's Standing Committee.

Yan Jinhai briefed Navaraj Dhakal on TAR's economic and social development as a result of Xi Jinping and the Party Central Committee's special care. He mentioned Xi Jinping's visit last year and said it is the "first time in the history of the party and the country that Xi Jinping went to Tibet to celebrate the "peaceful liberation of Tibet" as the General Secretary of the CCP Central Committee, Chinese President and Chairman of the Central Military

Commission. The whole region is full of joy and warmth, and it has further strengthened the confidence and determination of cadres and the masses of all ethnic groups to listen to the party's words, appreciate the party's gratitude, and follow the party".

Yan Jinhai stressed that history has proved that China and Nepal have always been good neighbours, good brothers and good partners. China is working with the people of the whole country to take advantage of the momentum to achieve the second centenary goal. China and Nepal will conscientiously implement the "Joint Statement" signed by the leaders of the two countries, adhere to good neighbourliness and friendship, and continue to promote the joint building of a community with a shared future for mankind. He hoped that the traditional friendship between China and Nepal will continue to flow like the Brahmaputra.

Dhaka thanked China and TAR for their assistance to Nepal, especially the strong support in the fight against Covid. He emphasised that the Nepali side firmly supports the one-China policy and will never allow any anti-China activities on its territory. He said "Nepal is always willing to deepen the cooperation, jointly promote the joint construction of the "Belt and Road", and further deepen and consolidate the traditional friendship between Nepal and China".

TAR Symposium for Monks, Nuns Representatives and Monastic Management Cadres held in Toelung Dechen District

January 21, 2022

On January 20, Shi Yuben, Secretary of TAR Party Committee; Dawa Tsiring, Standing Member of TAR Party Committee, Minister of the United Front Work Department (UFWD), Deputy Secretary of TAR PPCC; Sonam Choezin, Secretary of the Toelung Dechen District Party Committee; and Yin Meiling, Member of the Party Group and Vice Chairman of the PPCC, were among those attending the symposium.

At the symposium, four representatives of monks and nuns from Monasteries and nunneries presented their reports on the understanding and study of the spirit of the Sixth plenary session of the 19th CCP Central Committee, National Religious Work Conference, and 10th TAR Party Congress and expressed their desire to "carry forward the tradition of patriotism,"

and assured their commitment to “listen to the party, follow the party, practical actions to maintain harmony and stability in the field of religion.”

Shi Yunben, Secretary of the TAR Party Committee, thereafter stressed that the monks and nuns in the monasteries and nunneries should “strive to be models with clear-cut stands, and that they should be models for law abidance, political reliability, morally convincible to the public and efficient in crucial times.” He urged them to follow and propagate the “four standards” to become exemplary monks and nuns, and work towards maintaining harmony in the religious field in the region.

A total of 70 officials including Secretaries of the Party Work Committees, United Front Work Departments, Monastic Management Cadres, Representatives of monks and nuns of TAR attended the symposium.

Former Deputy Mayor Ruthok County of Ngari expelled from poverty

January 26, 2022

Ngari (Ch:Ali) Commission for Discipline Inspection and Commission launched a case review and investigation against Chen Jun, Standing Member and Executive Deputy County Mayor of Ruthok (Ch:Ritu) County of Ngari for “serious violation” of discipline and law.

After the investigation it was found that Chen Jun’s awareness of law and discipline was “weak”, that his ideals and beliefs were lost, he resisted organization leadership and transferred “stolen money and property”, and accepted gifts that might have affected fair execution of official duties.

Renounce Dalai Lama to get jobs, China tells Tibetans

January 27, 2022

An official Chinese announcement stated that Tibetans looking for work in their region’s state sector must first renounce all ties to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as a condition of employment. The directive sent on January 25 to all provinces and municipalities of the Tibet Autonomous Region states that workers employed in Tibetan government offices, schools or hospitals must be “trustworthy and reliable citizens” and

remain loyal to the ruling Chinese Communist Party. They must also renounce the Dalai Lama and his followers, the directive says, referring to the group of supporters that has formed around the exiled spiritual leader over the years as a “clique.”

Speaking to RFA, a source in Tibet said that China’s new order further restricts the rights of Tibetans living under Beijing’s rule and violates China’s own laws. “Whether it’s for new employment, admission to schools, or promotion in your current job, your basic rights are denied if you don’t fulfil the conditions mandated by the Chinese government,” RFA’s source said, speaking on condition of anonymity for reasons of security.

“The Constitution of the People’s Republic of China clearly states that all citizens are equal before the law, so this new announcement denies Tibetans their basic rights. It is sad that the Chinese government’s need to control Tibetans living in Tibet is based on the strength of Tibetans’ loyalty and devotion to the Dalai Lama,” he said.

(**Comment:** Severe restrictions already exist on Tibetans residing in TAR. The prohibition insisting that Tibetans seeking government-related employment must renounce the Dalai Lama and his followers follows the recent directive by the Shigatse UFWD about ‘double-faced’ cadres.)

TAR raises Social Assistance and Security Standards

January 27, 2022

The TAR Department of Civil Affairs has taken multiple measures to improve social assistance and security standards in light of the actual economic and social development of Tibet. Starting January 1, 2022, the Civil Affairs Department raised the minimum living security subsidy standard for urban residents to 927 yuan from 910 yuan per person per month; and to 5160 yuan for rural residents from 5,060 yuan per person per year benefitting 158,000 people. Subsidies for destitute people financed by centralized support and branch support in cities has been raised from 14,196 yuan to 14,461 yuan per person per year, and the basic living subsidy standard for the ‘extremely’ poor people who are supported by branch support in rural areas has been raised from 7,590 yuan to 7,740 yuan per person per year.

Tan Minghu, Director of the Office of the TAR Civil Affairs Department, said “that in order to continuously improve the ability of social assistance and has continued to promote the civil affairs departments of the region to do a good job in consolidating and expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation and the effective connection of rural revitalization.”

TAR Party Secretary inspects Tibet Entry-Exit Frontier Inspection Station

January 28, 2022

TAR Party Secretary Wu Junzheng, recently went to the Tibet Entry-Exit Frontier Inspection Station in Kyirong (Ch: Geelong) to inspect border strengthening work, border stability maintenance and port control work. During his visit, he emphasised Xi Jinping’s thoughts on Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, told officials and border guards to thoroughly study the ‘spirit’ of the Sixth Plenary Session of the CCP Central Committee, and to consolidate border defense work, border security and to resolutely defend the “southwestern border of the motherland.” Wang Junzheng also told them to take political responsibility, build an indestructible steel like border barriers and make new contributions for long term and comprehensive stability in Tibet.

At the main command centre station at Kyirong port, Wang Junzheng was briefed on the construction situation in the border areas in detail, met the duty team of the Kyirong port, the Everest Border Police Station and the Pangong lake Border Police Station, listened to the development of frontline services, and told the ‘border guards to stick to their post in the ice and snow, but also to take care of their health’.

Wang Junzheng pointed out that the overall social stability situation in TAR is stable, there is economic development and progress, ethnic unity, religious harmony and that the people live and work in peace and contentment. These achievements, he said, is due to the “strong leadership of the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, his thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, his instructions on Tibet work, the party’s strategy of governing Tibet in the new era.” He added that credit for the current situation also goes to the hard work of the TAR Party Committee’s leading cadres, and sweat of the frontier policemen and soldiers. He expressed his “high respect and gratitude to all frontier policemen who have been fighting on the frontline for a long.”

Wang Junzheng stressed that social stability in Tibet is related to national stability, and border security in Tibet is related to national security. He said; “without peace on the borders, there will no peace for thousands of families.” He demanded absolute loyalty to the party, and in-depth understanding of the “two establishments” and insisted on putting the cause of the party and the people first, “loyalty to the core, support to the core, maintain the core and defend the core to ensure security and stability on the border.”

The TAR Party Secretary informed the personnel that the 20th Party Congress will be held this year and it is therefore important “to consolidate and protect the frontiers.” He added that Party Committees and Governments at all levels must always attach importance to border defense work, care for frontier police, help solve their issues and challenges and must create a “conducive, good working and living atmosphere for them.”

The TAR Party Secretary was accompanied by TAR leaders Liu Jiang, Dawa Tsering and Zhang Hongbo.

Director of TAR Press and Publication expelled from all Party Positions

January 28, 2022

The TAR Discipline Inspection Commission conducted an investigation of Liu Liqiang, who holds multiple positions such as the Director of TAR Press and Publication Bureau, Member of the Propaganda Department of TAR, and President of the Tibet People’s Publishing House, for “serious violations of law and discipline.”

After investigation, Liu Liqiang was dismissed for losing his “ideals and beliefs”, for betraying the original mission, for being disloyal to the party and for not reporting personal matters honestly. Liu Liqiang was accused of violating the spirit of the eight central regulations, and organizational discipline. He was expelled by the TAR Discipline Inspection Commission, which confiscated his “illegal income” and transferred his case to the procuratorate for examination and prosecution.

Dui Hua Analysis: Decoding State Security Trials, Part I: ESS Cases in Tibet Rose Sharply in 2020

Dui Hua's recent publication on state security trials in China in general and in Tibet and Xinjiang in particular concluded that the number of state security trials (ESS) increased exponentially in 2020. The findings on ESS trials in Tibet are as follow:

Crimes of endangering state security in China achieved international attention in 2021 with high-profile cases related to hostage diplomacy, even as available information about individual trials decreased. Such crimes include subversion, splittism, incitement to subversion/splittism, espionage, and state secrets violations. They carry a mandatory supplemental sentence of deprivation of political rights, precluding individuals from writing articles, giving interviews, voting, standing for office, and working in a state-owned company.

It said Tibet covers one-eighth of China's territory and has a relatively small population of 3.6 million people, but a disproportionately large number of China's ESS trials are concluded in the region. With a level of transparency not seen in other provinces, the high court of the Tibet Autonomous Region has annually disclosed the number of ESS trials in the region for the years 2018-2020. In 2018, 25 people were tried for inciting splittism and providing funds to entities/individuals to endanger state security. The following year, 37 people were tried in 24 ESS cases involving the same offenses. The latest available 2021 work report stated that the number of ESS cases in 2020 increased to 65 involving 74 defendants.

Official figures disclosed in Ganzi Prefecture also hint at the extent of crackdown in the Tibetan autonomous region in western Sichuan. Although trial numbers are not available, the prefecture's procuratorate approved the arrest of nine individuals in seven ESS cases in 2020, according to its 2021 annual work report. That same year, 15 people were indicted in 12 ESS cases. While figures are available for Tibet and Ganzi, it is not known how many people were arrested, indicted, or tried in other Tibetan regions in Sichuan, Gansu, Ningxia, and Yunnan.

Tibetans stand accused of ESS for sharing news and opinions on social media and for contacting relatives living in exile, sometimes with news of anti-government protests. Chinese authorities maintain tight control over information flows across the Tibetan regions.

Dui Hua's research into court judgments found the names of nine Tibetans who were tried for inciting splittism in Ganzi between June and August 2020. From September to December of the same year, six more Tibetans were tried in Ganzi, and seven Tibetans were tried for the same crime in its neighbouring Ngawa (Ch:Aba Prefecture). These judgments provided no information beyond their names, the charges against them, and the dates of the judgment.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

China arrested a young Tibetan college graduate, Qinghai

January 20, 2022

The Chinese authority arrested Loten, a college graduate student from Matoe County, Qinghai and kept him at a detention centre in Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province. Loten shared his concern and disagreement about 'sinicization' of the Tibetan language and education system in the region on his social media. He was arrested after he spoke on the online messaging group on WeChat, expressing disagreement with the policy of sinicization of the education system in Golog. He mentioned that the implementation of Chinese medium education and introduction of Chinese textbooks in Tibetan schools aims to cut off the link between the mother tongue and Tibetan kids from a very young age. According to the sources, his family was not informed of the reason for his arrest, but they suspect it's due to his writings. His family were informed that he is at Xining for 're-education' and has to pay for his accommodation and other expenses.

Qinghai Propose to include Xining-Yushul-Chamdo Railway project in the 14th Five Year Plan National Railway Construction Plan

January 21, 2022

At the Fourth Session of the Thirteenth National People's Congress 2021, the Qinghai Provincial Delegation proposed to "include the Xining-Yushul-Chamdo Railway Project in the 14th Five Year Plan of National Railway Construction. The National Railway Commission responded that after revision of the "Medium and Long-Term Railway Network Planning", they will work with the relevant departments, local governments and railway enterprises to coordinate the regional development plans and inspect the network layout,

transportation demand and fundraising, the construction timing and engineering plan of the project and, if conditions are ripe, they would include the project in the 14th Five Year Plan.

The Xining-Yushul-Chamdo railway project is important and will connect Qinghai's Tibetan areas to TAR and Yunnan. The line starts from Xining, Qinghai Province, passes through Hainan, Guoluo Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and connects to the Chamdo Station of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway which is under construction. The total length of the railway line is approx. 1,070 kilometres. The Qinghai Provincial Development and Reform Commission highlighted that the project is significant to Qinghai as it will closely connect the northwest region and the southwest region, establish an important transportation corridor between Qinghai, TAR and Yunnan, and effectively serve and support the implementation of national strategies such as the "Belt and Road", ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin. It will also promote the accelerated development of tourism, clean energy, ecological animal husbandry and other industries, and help not only regional economic and social development but also connect to external development. It mentioned that the Xining-Yushul-Chamdo Railway is the second railway entering Tibet in Qinghai province, which will effectively ease the transportation pressure on the Qinghai-TAR Railway.

Qinghai Tibetans banned from online religious presence

January 26, 2022

Implementing a new national law that bans efforts to spread religion or disseminate religious teaching through online channels ahead of this fall's crucial five-yearly congress of the Communist Party of China, authorities in Qinghai Province have on January 20 ordered Tibetan social media groups tied to religion to disband or face punishment.

The new law – “Measures for the Administration of Internet Religious Information Services” – forbids, or strictly limits, a broad swathe of online activity and is to come into force from March 1. The law issued on January 20, which promised that investigation and punishment will follow those who violate the order. It said any religious content accused of opposing the Communist Party’s leadership or inciting subversion of state power will be banned.

RFA’s Tibetan Service (January 24), citing a local source, reported that “All online coordinating of religious activities and related events will be banned.”

(Comment: People across Tibet have created many social media groups which coordinate religious activities online and share information about pilgrimages, religious holidays and special religious charitable observances that include activities to free captive birds, fish etc, earmarked for slaughtering.)

Tibetan Plateau Data Center released over 4,600 scientific datasets on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

January 28, 2022

The Tibetan Plateau Data Center (TPDC), a research institute under the Chinese Academy of Science, at its annual working conference on January 27, claimed they have collected and published more than 4,600 scientific datasets on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and its surrounding areas, providing vital data support for the research on "the roof of the world." TPDC supported 689 scientific research projects and more than 450 SCI papers in 2021.

Established in 2019, the TPDC collects scientific datasets in the cryosphere, solid Earth, ancient environments, land surfaces, and other fields. It now has more than 50,000 registered users, attracting an average of 860,000 visits per month. It provides data support for major scientific studies and discoveries on the cryosphere and ecological changes in climate changes and enhancing regional disaster prediction and early warning and disaster relief.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Hundreds of Tibetans stage protest against IOC President

February 03, 2022

On the eve of the opening of China's 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, several hundred Tibetans staged a protest in front of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, objecting to its inability or unwillingness to make human rights an issue of concern at the event. They accused the IOC of complicity in "atrocities" committed against ethnic minorities in the People's Republic of China.

A protest letter signed by Tibetan community leaders from Austria, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Liechtenstein was submitted through the security staff. It accused the IOC of failing to carry out human rights due diligence while organizing the Beijing Games.

The letter asked the IOC to issue a public statement, acknowledging that the “Winter Olympics-2022 is taking place amid atrocities and genocide by the Chinese government”. It further urged the IOC to “respect and take the voices of victims of human rights abuses by China into account for any future activities.” Reuters reported (February 3) that in Beijing, however, IOC President Thomas Bach decried the protestors for “rearing their ugly heads again”.

The protesters, many wrapped in the red, yellow and blue flag of Tibet and dressed in traditional robes, were joined by Uyghurs and they marched from the IOC headquarters to the Olympic Museum. The marchers chanted and played drums, holding a minute of silence for their “martyrs” before starting a “peace march” along Lake Geneva.

(Comment: Only Australia, Canada, Japan, the UK, and the US, and a handful of EU states viz. the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, and the Netherlands publicly confirmed they were boycotting the ceremony on human rights grounds.)