

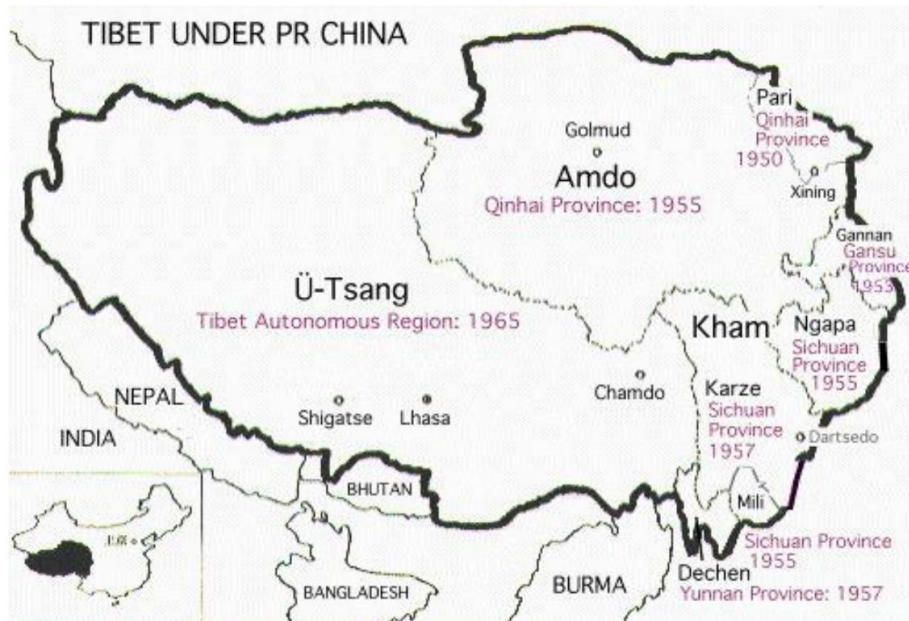
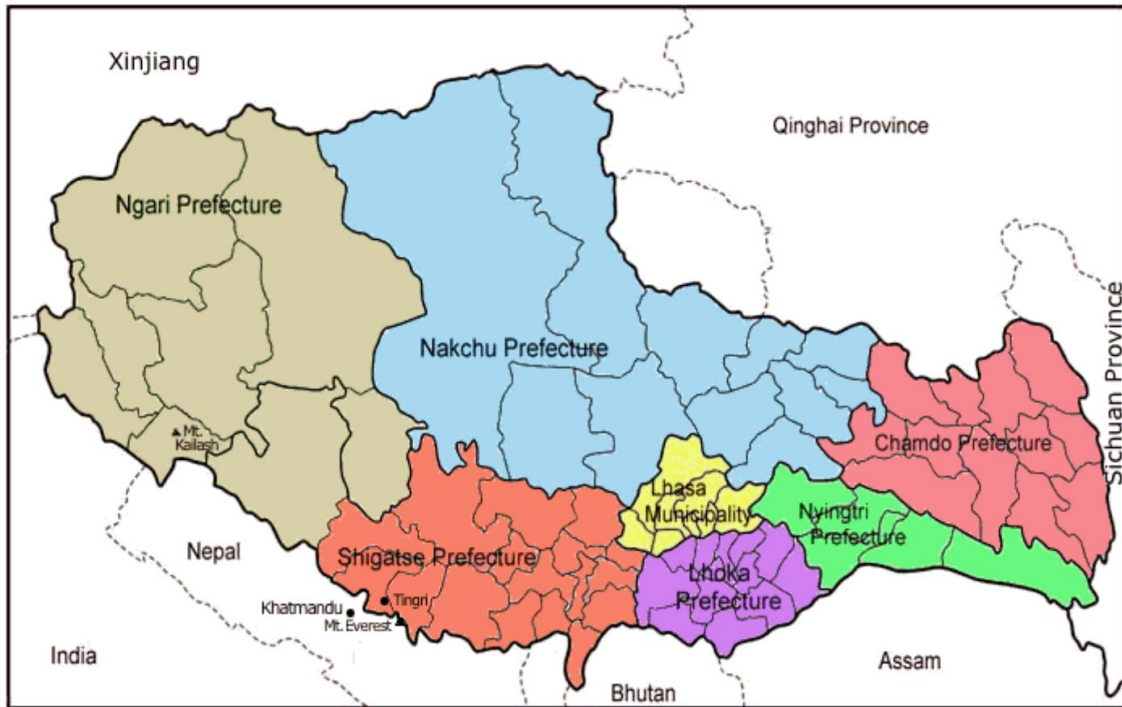


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TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 JULY 2018



TAR NEWS

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on visit to TAR tells Buddhist leaders to defend ethnic unity

July 27, 2018

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang made his first publicly reported visit to Tibet on July 25 -27, 2018. During his tour Li Keqiang visited the capital Lhasa and the southern prefectures of Nyingtri and Lhokha, pledging to boost infrastructure investment to improve the economy and calling for ethnic unity between Tibetans and the country's Han majority. He was accompanied throughout the tour by TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie and Choedak (Qi Zala), Chairman of TAR People's Government.

Premier Li Keqiang visited the Tibet Autonomous Region on July 25. Reaching Nyingtri first, he headed straight to Shenkar Monba Village, Qiangna Township, Milin County. This is an immigrant village where villagers are relocated from "poor areas". Li Keqiang went to a family in the village and asked them their main source of income, etc. The family answered that they rely on farming, land transfer and tourism. The annual income of the family is 150,000 yuan, and both medical care and education are reportedly guaranteed by the government. He learned that there are 72 households in the village, and 90% of them have reached the income level of this family.

On the evening of July 25, Li Keqiang who was on inspection in Nyingtri, Tibet came to the intersection of the Yarlung Tsangbo River and the Niyang River to investigate water resources and ecological protection. The Yarlung Tsangbo River is one of the world's highest rivers and has the longest river plateau in "China's Tibet". The Niyang River is a large tributary of the Yarlung Tsangbo River and is regarded as the 'mother river' of Nyingchi. The Premier said that Tibet is the "water tower" of China and Asia and asked the people to build Tibet and protect Tibet's water resources. He described it as necessary to build ecologically fragile plateau protection into a highland of ecological civilization.

On July 26, the Premier went to a site in Lhokha where he inspected the construction site

of the Lhasa-Nyingtri section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. The Sichuan-Tibet Railway is a key project of the National 13th Five-Year Plan, with a total investment of 270 billion yuan. Li Keqiang said “the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is not only the hope of the Tibetan people, but also the wish of the people of the whole country. Its investment and construction will drive huge economic and social benefits. It is an effective investment project that we have already identified and will build sooner or later. China's current development is unbalanced, and infrastructure construction in the central and western regions lags behind. It is necessary to speed up the filling of this shortage, accelerate the construction of infrastructure in the central and western regions by expanding effective investment, and gradually narrow the development gap in the eastern, central and western regions.”

In Lhasa on July 26, Li Keqiang met Buddhist leaders at Jokhang Temple and urged them to defend national ethnic unity. He Keqiang visited the life-sized gilt bronze statue of the 12-year-old Shakyamuni brought to Tibet by Princess Wencheng of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), who was given in marriage to Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo. He stopped at the Tang-Tubo (Tibet) Alliance Monument, which is 1200 years old and stands outside the Jokhang Temple. At the site, Premier Li Keqiang hoped the ‘great national unity will develop for numerous years to come, just like the monument, impervious to the changes over time’.

Premier Li Keqiang also met veteran Tibetan leaders and comrades in Lhasa on July 26 afternoon including Phagpa Lha Gelek Namgyal, Ragdi, Jampa Phuntsok, Lekgchock, and Pasang. Li Keqiang said: “You have made important contributions to Tibet's development, construction, harmony and stability. On behalf of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, I would like to extend my heartfelt blessings to you. I wish you a happy and healthy life, and wish Tibet long-term development and long-term stability.”

The following morning on July 27, Premier Li Keqiang inspected an innovation center at Liuwu new district in Lhasa. Eight incubation service platforms for entrepreneurship and innovation and nearly 100 enterprises are located there with a reported potential of nearly

2,000 jobs. Among them, there are non-local enterprises, like SF Express and Jiangsu Yuyue medical equipment & Supply Co Ltd, as well as various science and technology and cultural companies established by local graduates. Premier Li Keqiang spoke highly of the strong vitality of entrepreneurship and innovation here and encouraged people in Lhasa to establish a larger space for entrepreneurship and innovation, and attract more people to start businesses to inject more vitality and more impetus into the development of Tibet.

He also inspected the cultural relics at the Potala Palace in Lhasa. He visited some temples in the Potala Palace, where he was informed that a vast number of scriptures in five languages of the Han, Mongolia, Tibet, Manchu and the Vatican had been preserved there. Only 60% of them have so far been catalogued. Li Keqiang asserted that the cultural relics of the Potala Palace are not only treasures of the “Chinese nation”, but also of human civilization. He said they must be well protected, studied and that the government will increase support for their preservation.

Later he visited the People’s Hospital of Tibet Autonomous Region and met medical volunteers who came from different parts of China. Premier Li Keqiang affirmed the selfless contributions of the medical staff to the “development of Tibet.” He expressed his hope that the medical staff will train good apprentices who can contribute to the future development of the region when these doctors leave. He also inspected a medical institute studying high-altitude-related illnesses and visited patients on July 27 in Lhasa. Premier Li Keqiang said high-altitude-related diseases are the main health threat to the people living on the plateau and deters those who want to live in and travel to Tibet. He hoped that there would be a breakthrough in the research as soon as possible.

The Chinese Panchen Lama completed his visits to Lhasa

July 28, 2018

On July 27, 2018 the Chinese Panchen Lama Gyaltzen Norbu, who is currently a member of the Standing Committee the CPPCC National Committee and Vice President of the Chinese Buddhist Association, returned to Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, Shigatse -- the

monastic seat of previous Panchen Lamas -- from Lhasa by train.

In Lhasa, on July 19, he visited Tsuklakhang or the Jokhong temple and held an 'empowerment' and prayer session with 'mandala offering' followed by a public procession. He made money offerings to the resident monks at Tsuklakhang and gave a 'protection knot' and distributed his photographs to the audience. He also exchanged the traditional Tibetan 'khatak' (scarf) with Trukhang Thupten Kedrol, President of the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association.

During his stay at Lhasa, on July 23, he visited Siphug nomadic pastureland at Medro Gangkar, and various development project sites at Lhasa city. On July 24, he visited the Xulia Narasa Pure Land Health Industry Demonstration Park at Chushur County, Dushe Tashi Village. He inspected the community animal husbandry project, property alleviation and ecological 'civilization' status of Lhasa.

Khangba TV said 'it was the Panchen Lama, who recommended the Qinghai-Tibet Animal Husbandry Project in 2012 and received state funding'. The report highlighted that 'nomads and farmers were hoping to receive the blessing of Panchen Lama and dedicate their livestock to him'.

(Comment: The report said he decided to visit the locations riding a horse "to display his youthfulness and energetic side").

Milashan Tunnel, Lalin High-grade Highway is near completion

July 31 2018

The last part of the Mila Mountain (Mila Shan) Tunnel on the Lhasa to Nyingtri high-grade highway was blasted open on July 30. With this the entire line of the Lalin road has been opened and it will be completed this October.

This is the second part of the Lhasa- Nyingtri Highway. The first part of the highway connecting Lhasa-MedroGonkar and Gongbujiangda- Nyingtri was completed in 2015 and has been operational from October 2017.

The Mila Shan Tunnel is one of the key control projects of the high-grade highway in the Lalin section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway (National Highway 318). The tunnel has a total length of 5720 meters and is standard two-way and four-lane high-grade highway.

The tunnel is jointly built by the China Railway Second Bureau and the China Railway 12th Bureau. Construction began in 2015 and involved more than 2,000 labourers and engineers most of who suffered from cold and oxygen deficiency. The total length of the Lalin highway is 400 Kilometers and Mila Shan tunnel at almost 5000 meters above sea level is at the highest point on the highway. The Lhasa-Nyingtri highway is expected to reduce the travel distance from 10 hours to 4 hours.

Symposium on Party building and anti-corruption

July 23, 2018

The Social Welfare Department of TAR in collaboration with the Discipline Inspection and Supervision Team held a meeting on July 12, to focus and analyse progress on ‘clean government’ and party building measures in the first half of the year. Jie Haiyuan, Secretary of the Welfare Department, was in charge of the symposium while it was presided over by Li Fuzhong, Deputy Secretary and Director of the Welfare Department. Leaders in the Home Office, Discipline Inspection and Supervision Team and officials of Workers’ Affairs participated.

Students in Tibet banned from taking part in religious activities

July 25, 2018

The state-run Global Times reported on July 24, that students in Tibet have been banned from taking part in religious activities during the summer holidays. The regulations apply to all “underage students” in Tibet. An official at a school in Tibet’s capital Lhasa told the Global Times said “We have sent notices to both students and their parents, and have had students sign an agreement that they will not take part in any form of religious activity during the summer vacation.”

(Comment: Similar regulations have been enforced by the authorities in Xinjiang.)

China criminalises support for autonomy in Tibet for first time Hong Kong

July 31, 2018

China has criminalised expressions of support for increased autonomy in Tibet for the first time, NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a 101-page report on July 30. It said the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Security Bureau published a revised list of definitions of “organised crimes” in February, including “instilling in the masses reactionary ideas such as the ‘middle way.’” The TAR Security Bureau’s new notice promised citizens anonymity if they reported “crimes by underworld forces” or “gang crimes” to the police. Another notice issued in the Tibetan city of Nagchu offered a 100,000 Yuan (HK\$114,993) reward for tip-offs about any of the listed activities, which include challenging China’s territorial claims over Tibet, raising funds for the “Dalai clique,” and advocacy for the greater use of the Tibetan language. Additionally, traditional Tibetan welfare associations – known as “kyidu” – are now reportedly considered illegal.

NAGCHU (Ch: NAGQU) NEWS

Nagchu Federation of Industry held Party Congress

July 26, 2018

The Federation Industry of Nagchu held its first Party Congress on July 24. Members of the Federation and Nagchu Municipal Party Committee Members: Phurbu Tsering, Standing Committee Member of Nagchu Party Committee and Chairman of Nagchu United Front Work Department; Chime Tsering, Secretary of Nagchu County Committee; Sonam Tsering, Deputy Mayor of Nagchu; and Qin Lin, Deputy Director of the Secretariat of TAR Chamber of Commerce attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Sonam Dekyi, a member of the Nagchu Federation Industry.

Phurbu Tsering spoke of the achievements and positive contributions made till now by

the Nagchu Federation of Industry. He emphasised the need to: to strengthen and improve ideological and political standing; encourage and promote the healthy development of the economy on the basis of ‘Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era’; guide party building work of non-public enterprises; and strengthen social management including social stability and harmony. Phurbu Tsering added that the new leadership (to be appointed soon) of the Federation of Industry of Nagchu must be politically firm, distinctive in characteristics, efficient in service and sound in mechanism.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Nagchu, Sangay Tsering presented the work report and the tasks for the next five years.

Nagchu Party Secretary inspects Key Construction sites

July 16, 2018

From July 10-11, the Party Secretary of Nagchu Municipal Committee Sangay Tashi along with a special team from eleven counties of Nagchu inspected poverty alleviation project construction sites in Lhari County, Madika Town, Lingti Town, and Aza Town of the County to check on progress of a ‘Cow Dung Fuel Processing Plant,’ construction of ‘One Town One Society,’ an Animal Husbandry company, Water Mill etc.

At Madika Town, the Party Secretary urged cadres to work wholeheartedly to educate and guide the masses about science and technology and prevents them from believing in superstitions, “bad habits” like having illegitimate children, weddings and funerals.

At the Cow Dung Fuel Processing Plant and the Economic Cooperative Centre, Sangay Tashi stressed on the need for change and importance of upgrading traditional industries by improving quality and efficiency and strengthening vocational training skills for farmers and herdsmen.

In the post-inspection meeting to assess feedback, the Party Secretary stressed the need to further deepen the study of ‘Xi Jinping’s Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the

New Era' and study the first and second volume of Xi Jinping's governance system, which discusses economic, political and legal thoughts, especially on the importance of guarding the border of the 'motherland'.

CHAMDO NEWS (Ch: Changdu)

Chamdo held educational activities for 'political discipline'

July 31, 2018

The Propaganda Department of the Chamdo Municipal Party Committee has been directed to speed up and strengthen 'educational activities' to correct political discipline of all the cadres and workers of the Department and at the grassroots levels. The Department was told to publicize the importance of political discipline through 'educational activities' via columns, TV, propaganda reports, opening of public Wechat accounts and holding of seminars on relevant topics and themes. The Propaganda Department was instructed to consider 'educational activities' as an important measure to study and implement the spirit of the 19th Party Congress. To become a "qualified party member", a potential candidate has to remember the difference between "old and new Tibet", has to guide farmers and herdsmen, have a Marxist outlook and be loyal to the party's religious theories and policies.

Employment Fair for College graduates in Chamdo

July 11, 2018

The Chamdo People's Government held the first employment fair of 2018 for college graduates in Chamdo. All relevant departments were told to adhere to employment guidelines and its implementation. According to the Chamdo People's Government report, there are 2,295 college graduates in Chamdo and six hundred and sixteen graduates were employed through various channels as of June 27 2018. The present employment rate of college graduates in Chamdo is 26.84%.

TAR Leadership Appointments and Dismissals

(Appointed at the Fourth Meeting of the 11th Standing Committee of the Autonomous Region on July 3, 2018)

New Director of TAR Public Security Bureau

Zhang Hongbo, a Han (Male) born in March 1965 in Xuanhan, Sichuan was appointed as the new Director of TAR Public Security Bureau. He joined the Communist Party of China in May 1985 and has a postgraduate degree in administrative management from Sichuan University. He has earlier held the posts of Deputy Director of the TAR Political and Legal Committee, Deputy Secretary of District Internet Working Committee, Secretary of TAR Public Security Bureau and Inspector General of TAR. After his appointment as the Director of TAR Public Security Bureau, he was relieved of his other positions such as Deputy Secretary-General of TAR Party Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR People's Government as well as Director of the Beijing Office of TAR People's Government of TAR.

Liu Liang, who was the Director of TAR Public Security Bureau and Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government, was replaced by Zhang Hongbo. Liu Liang continues as Standing Committee Member of the TAR Party Committee, Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary of TAR Political and Legal Committee and Secretary of the Working Committee of the District Office. He was appointed as Director of TAR Public Security in June 2016.

Appointment and Removal of other TAR Leaders on July 27, 2018

Appointment:

Zeng Gewu as Deputy Director of the Standing Committee on Personnel Elections of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region

Ni Zhongwei as Vice President and Judge of the third court of the Civil Trial of the Higher People's Court of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Removed:

Phuntsok Tashi as member of the Judicial Committee of the High People's Court of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

SHIGATSE (Ch: XIGAZE) NEWS

Zhang Yanqing Chairs Shigatse Municipal Party Committee Standing Committee Meeting

14 July 2018

On July 13, Zhang Yanqing, Vice Chairman of TAR and Secretary of the Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee to convey the ‘spirit’ of the important speeches of General Secretary Xi Jinping at the Sixth Collective Learning Meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the National Organizational Work Conference and the ‘spirit’ of Dong Yunhu’s (Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal CPPCC and Secretary of the Party) ‘important’ speech at the Symposium on Shanghai’s Counterpart Aid Work

Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Mayor Liu Hushan, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Director of the Standing Committee of the Municipal People’s Congress, Cheng Siqu, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Executive Deputy Mayors Feng Jikang, Ni Junnan, Xu Xiangguo, Wang Xiangmin, and Municipal Standing Committee Standing Committees Xin Xinlong and Ma Lingtian attended the meeting.

The meeting pointed to the need to strengthen political beliefs, adhere to the political direction, uphold the leadership of the party, and cultivate political ecology. The meeting emphasized the need to comprehensively strengthen the party’s grass-root organizations, ‘backbone’ teams, venues, and security systems. Zhang Yanqing said, “Weak grassroot party organizations have to work hard to build grassroot party organizations into strong fighting bastions that will not get confused in critical moments. It is necessary to build a

team of high-quality cadres who are loyal to the party, dare to take responsibility, and clean the officers. Adhere to the "good cadres" standards and the "three special" requirements of cadres in ethnic areas, adhere to strict standards, strict procedures, strict supervision, vigorously cultivate and select good cadres who need the party and the people, and constantly optimize leadership and cadres at all levels." He added that all must take party building as the biggest political task and pay close attention to the work of party building. The team structure provides strong organizational guarantees and cadre support for the long-term development of Shigatse and long-term stability. The Party Secretary went on to add that Party committees (Party groups) at all levels must earnestly fulfill their main responsibilities with full political enthusiasm and a high degree of responsibility, and carefully organize and carry out their political discipline education activities to ensure effective results. He urged discipline inspection and supervision departments at all levels and supervision departments to pay close attention to those who do not implement things, and fail to pursue the responsibility of relevant departments.

The meeting stressed that the 16th Everest Cultural Tourism Festival must be well organized and wonderful as it is an important platform for showcasing the deep historical and cultural resources of Shigatse and tourism resources and to highlight the status of Shigatse as a major channel in South Asia and a central city in the Himalayas. It is also an important way to supply and meet the growing needs of the people and a better life and for the promotion and development of Shigatse.

Municipal leaders Nima Tsang, Zhang Yunbao, Feng Xiaoyi, Yang Yong, Dawa Dradule, Qiu Lin, and Li Shirong, the municipal units, and responsible persons of relevant counties, districts, and state-owned enterprises attended the meeting.

Guru Village ‘Border Well-Off Demonstration Village’ in Dromo County (Yadong) Construction at advancement stage

6 June 2018

Yang Zhiyong, member of the Standing Committee of Dromo County Committee and Minister of the Propaganda Department, recently introduced reporters to the Guru Village

‘Border Well-Off Demonstration Village’ construction in Dromo County (Yadong). Reports filed by the journalists said according to the plan, Guru Village will build 72 sets of light steel structure pre-fabricated houses and the villagers will be allotted houses of 180 square meters, 220 square meters and 240 square meters according to the population and economic strength of the family. Current population of the village is 1500. Guru Village is among the first front-line demonstration villages being constructed in Tibet. There are more than 510 square meters for a village committee room and 400 square meters for the village cultural activity room, which includes facilities such as the veterinary station, the public laundry room, and the public restroom.

Construction projects include water, electricity, road, communication, network (wide network, postal network and financial service network), teaching, science, culture, health and security (social security, housing security), supporting construction of other infrastructures. Construction projects here use assembled steel structure. All the components are manufactured in a factory and transported to the site for installation. The assembled steel structure houses are reportedly green and environmentally friendly, there is almost no construction waste and the dis-assembled steel can be recycled. Further, construction periods are shortened by half, and the structures are safe, durable, resistant to earthquakes of 8 degrees magnitude and warm and comfortable.

A 1200-acre artificial forage base is being cultivated near the village. The Gangba sheep breeding base, which is operated and managed on the model of “herders, cooperatives and company” is under construction. In 2016, the net per capita income of villagers in Guru Village was reportedly 15,000 yuan.

(Comment: Assembled steel structure is still a new thing in Mainland China. In recent years, the State Council has vigorously promoted the popularization and use of prefabricated buildings, and large-scale fabricated buildings have been used in Xiongan New Area (Hebei province).

Zhang Yanqing Meets with New Zealand Ambassador to China Clare Fearnley

27 July 2018

On July 26, Zhang Yanqing, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government and Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, met New Zealand's Ambassador to China Clare Fearnley when they exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in education, economy, trade, agriculture and tourism.

Welcoming Clare Fearnley and his entourage, Shigatse Party Secretary Zhang Yanqing said since the establishment of diplomatic ties 45 years ago, China-New Zealand relations have maintained a good momentum and achieved remarkable results. Zhang Yanqing said that from 2011 to 2015, New Zealand and TAR had cooperated in drinking water, sanitation, and assistance for the disabled. Since 2013, a total of 1,401 New Zealand tourists have come to Tibet. New Zealand-based senior expert Ian Robert Hall introduced high-end foreign experts projects to TAR through the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs in 2014, and research on edible fungi in Tibet had achieved good results in 2016. Received the "Chinese Government Friendship Award." Since 2013, TAR has received three official missions from New Zealand and since May 2011, a number of TAR 'leaders' had visited New Zealand.

Zhang Yanqing said that since the "peaceful liberation" in 1951, under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China and the Central People's Government, the Tibet Autonomous Region has experienced great historical process of democratic reform, socialist construction, and reform and opening up, and achieved unprecedented achievements. The social scene, that spanned thousands of years, had undergone tremendous changes in just a few decades. In 2017, the GDP of the region reached 131.06 billion yuan, an increase of 10%. The per capita disposable income of farmers and herdsmen reached 10,330 yuan, an increase of 13.6%. The per capita disposable income of urban residents reached 30,671 yuan, an increase of 10.3%. The number of domestic and foreign tourists was 25.614 million, and the total tourism revenue was 37.94 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 10.6% and 14.7%. The Tibet Autonomous Region has generally shown a situation of good and fast economy, continuous improvement of people's livelihood, good ecological environment, progress of national unity, harmony of religion and harmony, and social harmony and stability.

Shigatse Party Secretary Zhang Yanqing said that “in recent years, under the special care of the Party Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping as the core”, under the strong leadership of the Party Committee of the Autonomous Region, with the unselfish assistance of the people of the whole country and the joint efforts of the people of all ethnic groups of the city, Shigatse has made great progress, and development of stable ecology is one of the best periods in history. The ‘people of all ethnic groups in Shigatse deeply felt the care and concern of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the Party Central Committee, felt the incomparable superiority of the socialist system, felt the warmth of the big family of the motherland, and felt the party from the heart. They listen to the party, follow the party, clearly opposed “splittism” and consciously safeguard the unity of the motherland and national unity’.

Zhang Yanqing also briefed Clare Fearnley on the poverty alleviation work in the city. He expressed his willingness to actively cooperate with New Zealand in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry and tourism, increase the intensity of open cooperation and exchanges, and explore the potential for cooperation. At the same time he told the Ambassador, “I hope that New Zealand understands and supports China's position on Tibet-related issues, does not provide a platform for any separatist activities, does not allow its personnel to visit New Zealand, and does not arrange for officials to contact them.”

Clare Fearnley replied that China-New Zealand relations have always been friendly, and the history of cooperation and exchanges have a long history and include not only government-to-government exchanges, but also cooperation and exchanges between institutions, experts and enterprises. He said the purpose of this trip is to understand the real situation in Tibet and let New Zealand businesses and people understand the real Tibet. He also expressed his willingness to strengthen cooperation and exchanges with Tibet, especially in the areas of economy, trade, agriculture, dairy industry, tourism, education and training, and to further enhance mutual trust and mutual development.

Ma Qiang, Deputy Director of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of TAR, Gan Liquan, the city's leader, and the relevant person in charge of the Foreign Affairs Office of the

Municipality attended the meeting.

NYINGTRI NEWS (Ch: NYINGCHI/LINZHI)

Barla Mountain Tunnel Penetrated

9 July 2018

On June 10, 2018, digging of the right-hand portion of the Barla Mountain Tunnel on National Highway No. 318 from Lhasa to Nyingchi High-grade Highway was successfully completed. The total length of the Barla Mountain Tunnel Project reportedly is 18.181 km, with an estimated total investment of 3 billion yuan. Construction started in April 2015. The left portion of the Barla Mountain Tunnel is 5,727 meters long and the right portion is 5,720 meters long. The design speed is 80 km per hour.

The Department of Transportation attaches great importance to construction of the Barla Mountain Tunnel Project and wants all participating units to accelerate progress in completing the remaining 197 meters of the left hand side of the tunnel and supporting projects such as electromechanical works, while ensuring quality and safety. It wants to ensure that the tunnel is opened on the National Day this year.

Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway Track Laying

17 July 2018

China Railway 11th Group Third Engineering Co., Ltd. Lhasa-Nyingtri Railway Project Management Department, which undertakes the entire railway track laying task of the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway, revealed on June 28 that the rail-track is expected to be laid in September. The Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway track design uses 500 meters length of seamless track each welded together. The current length of 500 meters long rails for more than 60 kilometers of track has been transported to Lhasa and kept there. To ensure smooth running and improve passenger comfort, the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway track design uses a series of seamless lines.

The project manager of the company, Shen Yubin, said "With the interval seamless line, the train's operation will absorb shocks, reduce noise and be smooth and comfortable. He said that compared with the mainland, the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway faces two major problems: the temperature difference between day and night is large, the tunnel clusters and the temperature difference between the road and the roadbed are large. With the intervening seamless lines, the stress generated by the thermal expansion and contraction of the ultra-long seamless rail can be released at the station end.

The total length of the Lhasa-Nyingtri Railway is 435.48 kilometers. Total length of the new main line is 403.144 kilometers. The total length of the bridge and tunnel is 300.975 kilometers, and the bridge and tunnel ratio is 74.66%. China Railway 11th Bureau Group Third Engineering Co., Ltd. undertook construction of the 1819 tunnel bridge and the 399-kilometer track laying.

Wu Yingjie Inspects Grassroots Party Building and "Double Creation" in Nyingtri City

25 July 2018

On July 24, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie visited the construction site of the 5.7 Kms long Barla Mountain Tunnel on the Lhasa - Nyingchi High-grade Highway. Appreciating the builders, he asked them to care for their safety adding that the Barla Mountain Tunnel Project is a key control project for the Lhasa to Nyingtri Highway.

Liu Jiang, member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee and Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the TAR People's Government, and Ma Shengchang, Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, accompanied Wu Yingjie. Wu Yingjie later went to Tsogoh Township in Kongpo Gyamdha County to inspect grassroot party building and "double creation" work. In the township he visited the Shingtso lake Scenic Area where he was briefed on the scenic area planning and inspected tourism development. Pointing out that Tibet is an important world tourism destination and that tourism is the leading and pillar industry of Tibet, he asked officials to conscientiously implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on 'ecological civilization', handle

the relationship between protecting the ecology and enriching people and adapting to local conditions, highlighting characteristics, scientifically developing tourism resources, focusing on building tourism brands, and vigorously developing full-time tourism throughout the country.

From Kongpo Gyamdha, Wu Yingjie went to Nyingtri to see a poverty alleviation and double-concentration demonstration base to gain an in-depth understanding of the employment and entrepreneurship of college graduates. The demonstration base included Nyingctri Medicinal Materials Store, Nangzong xiangming Construction Co., Ltd., Karma Commerce, Tsagong Drogrong Tibetan Medicine, Pingguo Culture Media Co., Ltd., and companies founded by college graduates.

LHOKA NEWS (Ch: Shannan)

New Border Well-Off Demonstration Housing Project in Yulmai

17 July 2018

The 197 residents of 56 families in the Yulmai Border Well-Off Demonstration Villages in Lhuntse County in Lhokha City will be moved to new houses on October 1, China's national day. Of them, 9 households with 32 persons are the original residents. 47 households with 165 people are moving from the nearby towns and villages to Yumai Township.

56 sets of light steel assembled structures, including 24 on the first floor and 32 on the second floor will be constructed for the project, which will provide public facilities such as drainage, electricity, communication, roads, township government, health centers, schools, etc. The project, which has a total investment of 110 million yuan, will have a planned land area of 440.98 mu (72.65 acre) and a total construction area of 17254.24 square meters.

The project's plans are for two new municipal roads, of which the central street is 453.703 meters long and the riverside road is 658.97 meters long. There will be a new

central park and six squares, namely White Stupa Square, Temple Square, Kalsang Metok Square, Sports Fitness Square, School Square, and township government square. Local tree species such as Tibetan poplar, cypress and cedar are being planted with shrubs such as alpine rhododendrons to create an ecological and comfortable living atmosphere.

Construction of the project is being done by the Hunan Construction Engineering Department. According to Luo Liguang, Executive Manager of Hunan Construction Engineering Department, said that since construction started in December 2017, 39 residential houses had been completed and also the basic works of 49 residential houses by July 14, 2018. The two roads have also been essentially completed.

Hu Xueming, Head of Yulmai Township, said that the houses are assembled with light steel and can withstand earthquakes of magnitude 8 or above. All new residential houses have reserved rooms, and villagers can open some rooms as family hotels according to their own wishes and increase their income through tourism.

(Comment: Yulmai is one of several poverty alleviation ‘Border Well-Off Demonstration Villages’ being built along Tibet’s borders after the 19th Party Congress in October 2017.)

Building a Dream Moderately Prosperous Society on the Southern Border of Tibet

28 July 2018

A team from the China Central Media Interview Group recently travelled to Tsona County of TAR’s Lhokha City, as part of “Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Reform and Opening up”. Ma Ma Monpa Nationality Township (referred to as Ma Ma Township) is one of four Monpa Townships in Tsona County and is adjacent to the border. The Ma Ma Village in the township is less than 3,000 meters above sea level.

In 2006, Tibet implemented the housing and peasant housing project and Ma Ma Village was included as one of the three ecologically civilized border well-off demonstration

villages being built in Lhokha. Director of the Propaganda Department of the county, Sonam Dekyi said that investments from Lhoka, supporting funds from ‘Aid Tibet’, supporting funds from Tsona county, and the fund for Ma Ma ecological civilization border well-off demonstration village accounted for the total investment of 88.58 million yuan to build 15 projects including houses for farmers and herdsmen, roads, communication pipes, tourist reception centers and health centers. 62 houses are being built for farmers and herdsmen, which includes 40 for households that are to be relocated. 15 houses have been rebuilt. The houses are divided into three large-sized units and two-storied small units.

In July 2015, villagers moved into new houses. With the support of the local government, many opened a family hotel. Accordingly to Penpa Drumdul a villager “ the government subsidized 200 yuan per square meter for every relocated house. Our family has received a total of 16,000 yuan. After the new house was built, the government also provided furniture.”

The hotel in the border area has an annual income of about 40,000 yuan from tourism. In addition to tourism revenue, local preferential policy subsidies are also one of the main sources of income. Penpa said, "I get a border resident subsidy 5,000 yuan per year. In addition, as a forest guard, the annual ecological subsidy of 8871 yuan, as well as old age pension subsidies, etc., and the subsidy is nearly 30,000 yuan a year. ”

In 2016, Ma Ma Village was rated as “China's beautiful leisure village” by the Chinese government. That same year, Ma Ma Township relied on the favorable resources of the Border Well-Off Demonstration Village and opened 49 family hotels, 7 restaurants, 6 teahouses and sales points of ethnic specialties as part of industrial transformation. The goal of “civil-military combination” for border security was also achieved.

NEWS OUTSIDE OF TAR

Qinghai Tibet Plateau Signed Strategic Cooperation Agreement with Tibet Tourism Commission, TAR

July 16, 2018

On July 15, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Research Institute signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Tibetan Autonomous Region's Tourism Development Committee at the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Department, Lhasa. The Director of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Chen Fahu and the Director of Tibet Tourism Commission, Wang Songping signed the agreement. A Baozhen, Deputy Director of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Department, hosted the ceremony.

According to An Baozhen, this strategic agreement was signed to project the importance of the deep integration of science and tourism, protection and development and figure out ecological barriers in tourism. This platform is also to promote Tibet's tourism, exchange experience and gradually realize the construction goals of high-end, special features, boutiques and eventually make Tibet a world tourism destination.

It aims to jointly promote global tourism in Tibet by bringing together the tourism industry's advantages and scientific advantages of Tibet Plateau Research. The priority of this agreement is construction of the 'Metok Earth full Spectrum Landscape Park'. Chen Fahu said it is important to remember General Secretary Xi Jinping's message at the first anniversary of the second Qinghai-Tibet scientific research of strengthening cooperation between the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and Tibetan Autonomous Region. He also said that Qinghai-Tibet Plateau research has always been highly valued and cared for by the Central Party Committee.

Meiruma Village, Ngawa, Sichuan awarded Township status

July 18 2018

On July 11, thousands of people of Ngawa (Ch: Aba) gathered at the Mandela Park to celebrate Mierouma village being awarded township status. County Party Secretary Su Jun, Deputy Director of the State Political and Legal Committee and Director of the Office of Stability and Management and Feng Yongyong, Director of the Standing Committee of the County People's Congress attended the ceremony. Representative from

six neighbouring towns from Gansu, Sichuan and Ngawa and 20 more from various county level or town level departments and the local people also attended.

Mieruma village is 33 miles away from the Ngawa County. In December 2017, the local government authorized changing Mierouma into a town. Most of the villagers are nomads and rear animals for their livelihood. The village covers a total area of 734 sq kilometers and has around 122 families with a population of 5553. The village was turned into a commune in 1974, but later in 1984 it abolished the commune system.

China's latest White Paper on Ecology of Qinghai-Tibet and CTA's Response

July 20, 2018

The State Council Information Office published a 7-part White Paper on the present status of the 'Ecological Civilization Construction of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau'. The area comprises China's western regions including the Tibetan Autonomous Region and areas outside TAR namely Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, Yunnan and Xinjiang. The White Paper considers this area as one of the key areas for building China's ecological civilization and as the water tower of Asia.

The CTA website published a response from Tempa Gyaltzen, one of the researchers of the Tibet Policy Institute. He criticized the report as full of "lies and factual errors" accusing that despite all the laws and strict rules, there are numerous cases of mining activities against the will of local people. The White Paper, he said, totally ignored the two areas of eastern Tibet, Ngawa and Karze, where there are natural disasters and the maximum number of protests against mining.

Tibetan Service Robot Launches in Qinghai

July 27, 2018

On July 24, Qinghai Province launched a robot that has been developed for public legal services. The robot covers more than 50,000 questions and answers and stores data on the cloud. Sha Chongfan, of China Democracy and Legal System Publishing House, said

services like information on law firms, notary organizations and forensic appraisal, legal aid and mediation are available from the robot. The Legal System Publishing House and Qinghai Provincial Department of Justice spent 10 months jointly developing the robot, which will be distributed to all the legal service centers in prefectures and cities from July 28. Sha Chongfan also said that to cater to the many minorities groups in Qinghai including the Tibetan ethnic group, the robot would have dialect recognition features and Tibetan services. The Deputy Chief of the Qinghai Provincial Department of Justice said ‘the development and application of high-tech products are important in innovation and improving the public legal system’. He said legal resources are limited in Qinghai province and there are 11 counties with no lawyers at all.

ACTIVITIES OF TIBETANS INSIDE AND ABROAD

Arunachal state establishes official ties with exile Tibetan administration, moves to resolve ongoing trouble

August 02, 2018

The Arunachal Pradesh state government and the central Tibetan Administration (CTA) launched a programme of cultural exchanges and student ties between the two sides, which share a territorial boundary and historical cultural links, at Dharamshala on July 31. Jamphel Wangdue, Chairman of Religion and Cultural Affairs of the state government, CTA President Lobsang Sangay and CTA’s Additional Secretary at the Department of Home Mrs Tsewang Dolma Shosur addressed a press conference on the occasion. The programme was described as a step towards restoring communal harmony in Arunachal Pradesh in the backdrop of recent protests and agitations carried out by a fringe section of the state’s student community against implementation of the Indian government’s 2014 “Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy”. Jamphel Wangdue announced that 10 Monpa students from Arunachal Pradesh had joined the CTA’s Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts at Dharamshala to gain knowledge and practical experience of Tibetan culture and traditions.

(Comment: The Monpa tribals constitute a prominent section of the Arunachal state

population and shared close cultural and historical ties with Tibet.)

Nepal halts decision to send 8 Tibetan refugees to India

August 03, 2018

The government of Nepal has halted a decision to send eight Tibetan refugees, who had crossed over illegally from Tibet or otherwise overstayed their visas, to India. The Nepal authorities had reached the decision to send them to Dharamshala after informal consultations with India and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They were scheduled to leave Nepal on July 31.

The eight Tibetans are: Lobsang Phuntsok, 17, male; Thupten Tsering, 13, female; Sherab Kunsel, 19, male; Rinchen Namgyal, 19, male; Sonam Chokdue, 19, male; Yung Tsuk, 22, male; Tenzin, 23, male; and Ngawang Choeying, 38, female. It was not clear whether any of them are monks and nuns. They entered Nepal from border points in Dolakha and Rasuwa. Earlier, on July 17, Nepal had sent two Tibetan refugees — Wanbo, 20, a resident of Shigatse, and Kunga, 25, from Lhasa to Dharamshala, India.

(Comment: Approx 14,000 Tibetan refugees are currently living in 12 settlements in Nepal.)

Karmapa looks to return to India in November

August 01, 2018

Ending speculation whether he plans to return to India, Uyghen Thinley Dorje, acknowledged as the XVII Gyalwa Karmapa by Beijing and the Dalai Lama, said in an interview with the Tibetan Service of *Radio Free Asia* on July 30 that will definitely return. The head of the 900-year-old Karma Kagyu sect, a branch of one of the five main schools of Tibetan Buddhism, has been staying in the United States for just over a year, undergoing medical checkups and visiting many of the Kagyu religious centres there, including the main one in Woodstock, New York. He said, “I have no doubt or question that my return to India is absolutely certain.” The Karmapa hopes to take part in an

important meeting of the heads of the major Tibetan Buddhist traditions at Dharamsala in Nov 2018. He also said “I wanted to clarify these things by having constructive talks with the Indian government, and we are going ahead with discussions now. If things turn out well, I am ready to return. When I first arrived in India, I faced many difficulties, including accusations that I was a Chinese agent.” He added that his access to Indian authorities was for a long time limited to lower-level officials, “But now we have an opportunity to meet with higher-level Indian leaders (something he was denied while at Dharamshala) to explain my situation, which has made a huge difference:.

(Comment: Uyghen Thinley Dorje has a history of high blood pressure, a possible throat problem, some possible indications of diabetes, and a minor heart condition. Born in Tibet in 1985, Uyghen Thinley Dorje was enthroned at Tsurphu Monastery, his traditional seat, located on the outskirts of Lhasa. He escaped to India in 2000.) .

The medical issues – all stated to be not major – he suffers from were stated to include a history of high blood pressure, a possible throat problem suspected by a German doctor, some possible indications of diabetes, and a minor heart condition for which the Karmapa has said screening and testing were ongoing.

Born in Tibet in 1985, Karmapa Orgyen Trinley Dorje was enthroned at Tsurphu Monastery, his traditional seat located in the outskirts of Tibet’s capital Lhasa. Tibet’s exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, endorsed his recognition and the Chinese government went along with it. Top Chinese leaders met with him in Beijing. But he later escaped to India, citing lack of access to religious teachers whom he hoped would mentor him.

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