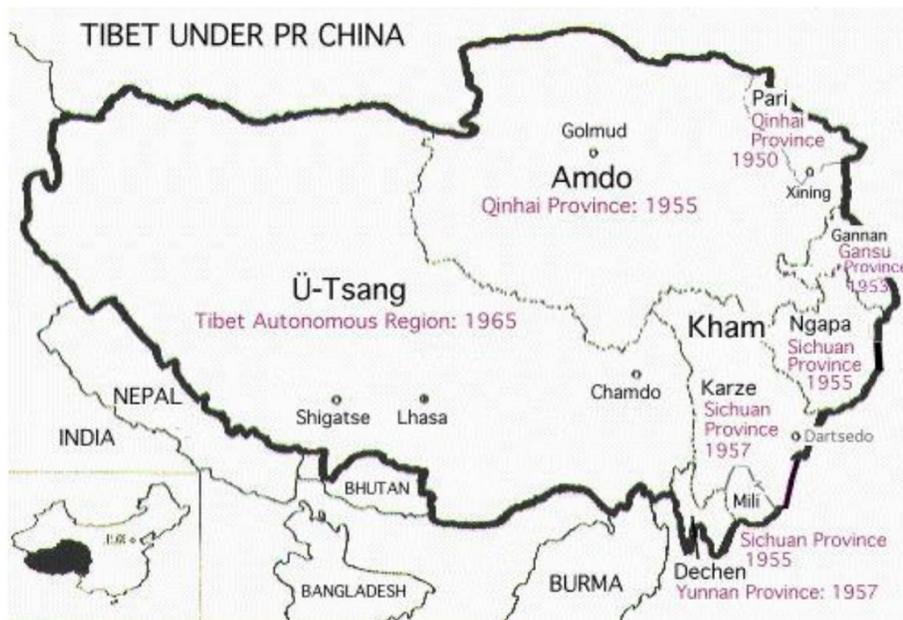
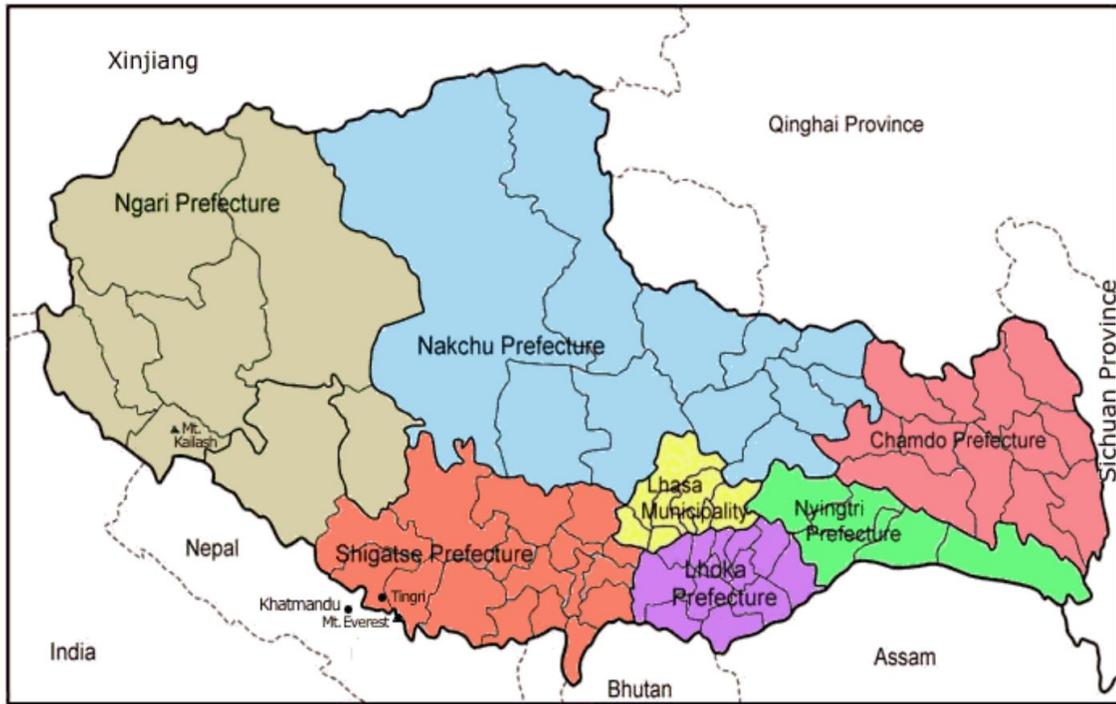




TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 MARCH 2018



TAR NEWS

Youth Representatives to the two sessions held a seminar

March 26, 2018

The youth representatives/delegates from TAR to the two sessions of the CPPCC and NPC upon their return held a seminar for young students in Lhasa entitled “New age dreams for the Plateau.” The delegates shared that they gained a deeper understanding of the spirit of the two sessions by participating, and they in turn are “committed to take greater political responsibility.” They urged the students to do the same. The students expressed their enthusiasm by adding youthful energy for the realisation and rejuvenation of the Chinese dream.

TAR Party Secretary inspects Monastery

March 27, 2018

Wu Yingjie, Party Secretary of TAR went to inspect Shugseb Monastery near Lhasa on March 27 to “meet monks, nuns, and temple cadres and to publicize socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era and spirit of the two sessions.” The Party Secretary emphasized on the implementation of religious guidelines and regulations. He was accompanied by Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee Jiang Jie, Pema Wangdue and Lobsang Tenzin. The Shugseb Monastery was founded by the legendary 20th century female saint, Ani Lochen and follows the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism. A nunnery with the same name was re-established in exile, in India. Wu Yingjie interacted/interrogated the cadres, civilian police stationed at the Monastery and directed them to continue to strengthen, innovate religious affairs and to guide the monks and nuns to adapt to the socialism. He went on to add that “positive patriotism and moral education should be fully brought into play to guide the monks, nuns in adapting to socialism and to promote social harmony.”

TAR People’s Government held a special meeting

March 28, 2018

The member and vice chairman of Standing Committee of TAR Party Committee, Jiang Jie presided over a special meeting on March 26 to study and implement “a three-year action plan” for the rural resettlement of people from agricultural and pastoral areas. The action plan reportedly is a part of the ‘Rural Revitalization Strategy’ put forward in the work report of Xi Jinping during the 19th Party Congress in October last year. The vice chairman stressed that the three-year action plan is significant as it “improves the living standard of the farmers, herdsmen,

and to boost their confidence in the future of the party”.

Jiang Jie directed all the concerned departments to consciously identify the relocating/resettling areas, guide the farmers and herdsmen in an orderly manner keeping in mind Tibet’s situation, to adhere to scientific technologies to maintenance, rural road network construction, domestic garbage disposal and sewage treatment. He also emphasised on proper management of the allotted funds for the action plan.

Sichuan—Tibet Railroad Construction

March 26, 2018

Accordingly, to a Tibet daily report, the construction of the Yaknga section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is completed. It is 41.8 kilometres in length and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

The Sichuan-Tibet railway from Lhasa to Nyingtri section and from Chengdu to Yaknga are all part of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway and the project started in 2014. The Chengdu-Yaknga section has a total length of 41.18 km. The national railway grades I double-track railway runs at a speed of 160 km per hour. Yaknga segment is expected to be completed and put into service by the end of 2018.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway is the second “Tibet Road” into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. Starting from Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, Ya'an, Ganzi, Chamdo, and Nyingctri arrived in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region. The total length of the operation is approximately 1900 kms and the construction length is approximately 1800 kms.

With completion of the Sichuan -Tibet railway the current 48 hours of traveling timing from Chengdu to Lhasa will be reduced to around 13 hours.

Qinghai-Tibet railway trips hit record high on Spring Festival travel rush

March 29, 2018

According to the statistics of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Company, during the Spring Festival travel period, Qinghai-Tibet railway delivered a record number of 1.6 million passengers, a year-on-year increase of 18.82 percent. The Spring Festival travel rush, also known as "Chunyun", lasts for 40 days from Feb 1 to March 12 this year.

133 temporary trains and 565 more carriages were put into operation during the Spring Festival travel period. Besides, 7581/2 train has been added since 1st February, which mainly aims to

carry farmers and herdsmen living along the Qinghai-Tibet railway. This train delivered a total of 26,900 passengers during the period of “Chunyun”.

Qinghai-Tibet Railway Company has taken some measures to upgrade the train ticket booking system, providing passengers with five ways (online, telephone, ticket window, ticket offices and ticket vending machine) to purchase the train tickets. There are 157 train ticket windows and 86 ticket vending machines. In addition, railway passengers can check information about purchasing or changing tickets on the mini program for 12306 on Wechat. About 11,000 passengers get information via “12306” hotline service. Besides, Lhasa Station offers health service for passengers during the Spring Festival travel rush.

TAR Party held Standing Committee Meeting to discuss Xi Speech

March 24, 2018

TAR Party committee held a meeting of the Standing Committee to discuss the speech given by General Secretary Xi Jinping at a symposium to commemorate the 120th birthday of late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Beijing and at the first plenary session of the 19th Central Military and Civil Integration Development Committee.

Tar Party Secretary Wu Yingjie presided over the meeting. “We should never forget that we are Communists and revolutionists, nor should we lose ideals and faith at any time,” Xi said, urging adherence to and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Referring to Zhou as a loyal Party member who maintained the overall situation, Xi urged Party members to strictly observe political discipline and rules, maintain Party solidarity and unity, closely follow the CPC Central Committee in terms of thinking, political orientation, and actions, and follow the Party’s political line. We must regard it as our fundamental political responsibility to be loyal to the Party, share the Party’s concerns, fulfill our obligations to the Party, and work for the people’s wellbeing, and forever preserve the political character of Communists,” Xi added.”

Wu stated at the meeting at the meeting that Tibet is the main battlefield against anti-separatist struggle and as such, it is important to improve political standing and comprehensively implement socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and build long term stability. The TAR Party Secretary further stressed construction of infrastructures like roads, bridges, culverts in the border areas, integration of military and civilian, speed up of construction of well-off border villages like Yumai through the ‘Rural Revitalization Strategy.’ He also highlighted the need to provide service securities to troops stationed in Tibet and help them solve practical difficulties and consolidate civilian and military unity.

The Standing Committee meeting also discussed the prohibition of Party Members and National Workers from participating in gambling and the importance of developing a healthy working style.

TAR Civil Aviation Bureau's Safety Measures for 'Winter Tour to Tibet'

March 26, 2018

TAR People's Government launched the 'Winter Tour to Tibet' Program on March 25 while the Tibet Regional Bureau of Civil Aviation has ensured "safe air transport measures" during the program.

The Civil Aviation Bureau of Tibet Municipality strengthened supervision and inspection on on-site duty and timely rectification of "existing problems and prevent man-made incidents." The Public Security Bureau has also been told to ensure stability in the airport area, security inspection station and reinforce inspection of explosion-proof entrances, people and luggage section. Department of Security conducts fire inspections, conducts comprehensive investigations of fire-fighting facilities and equipment within the jurisdiction, conducts emergency drills, while the meteorological departments releases timely updates on weather condition. The Bird Strike Prevention Department conducted bird ecology research, and guarded against bird-fighting aircraft incidents.

Shigatse gets approval for large diameter Pipeline Project

March 26, 2018

According to a report by Shigatse City Bureau of Industry and Information Technology that proposal of the large-diameter pipe project for polymer materials of Tibet Minsheng Pipeline Co., Ltd. was reviewed and approved on March 25. The project will promote technological transformation of enterprises, industrial investment and financial integration. Tibet Minsheng Pipeline Co., Ltd. is a large-diameter pipe project for polymer materials and was selected among 453 projects in the "Made in China 2025" project proposals.

Top TAR leader says Tibet development in the new era is unstoppable

March 28, 2018

Chairman of TAR People's Government Qi Zhala (Tib: Chedak la) in a televised speech on the eve of "Tibet's Serfs' Emancipation Day" said, "No force could prevent Tibetan people from having a well-off life and realize their great dream, as long as we rally closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, and hold high the great banner of Xi

Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.” He further added, "Any attempt to split the country will be doomed to fail, will be condemned by the people and penalized by history.”

TAR launched the “Serfs' Emancipation Day” established on March 28 by the regional legislature in 2009 to “mark the start of Tibetan democracy, which ended the feudal serf system in 1959.”

The chairman added, Tibet’s GDP has shown 10 percent growth and reached 131.06 billion yuan (around 20.5 billion U.S. dollars) in 2017.

Test held for monks on laws and Regulations

March 23, 2018

A test on laws and regulations referring to the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* and *Regulations on Religious Affairs* was held in Sera Monastery, one of the three major monasteries in Lhasa on March 21, with more than 400 monks participating. After his test, Awang, a monk of Sera Monastery, said that learning laws was helpful to the practice of Buddhism.

"For example, I know stealing not only breaks religious disciplines and the monastery's rules, it also violates the law," said Awang.

According to Penpa Tsering, Head of the monastery's Publicity and Education Department, it was the first time for Sera Monastery to hold such a test in recent years during which monks would study legal knowledge each week, and he hoped this test could help improve monks' understanding of the law and better promote the culture of Tibetan Buddhism. It is learned that other major monasteries in Tibet will also hold tests in the near future.

Chen Dong Takes Deputy Commander of Tibet Armed Forces

March 07, 2018

Tibet TV News Network on 2 March 2018 reported that the TAR held a meeting for peacekeeping forces and an armed mobilization exercise. Deputy Commander of the Tibet Armed Police Corps Chen Dong on behalf of the security forces made statements.

On 4th March, Tibet Daily reported that the Regional Stability Command of the Autonomous Region held a videoconference in the afternoon of March 2. . The Deputy Secretary of the District Party Committee and the Chief Commander of the District Stability Command Ding Yee attended and spoke at the meeting. The report mentioned that Regional military leaders Tenzin Namgyal,

Wei Se, Xu Xueguang, Chemi Rinzen, Ju Jianhua, Li Wenhan, Nyima Tsering, Ji Guogang, Ma Shengchang, Wang Jun, Xu Chengcang, Dorjee Tsedrup, Jian Shen, Liu Jiang, Wang Haizhou, Shi Moujun, Zhang Yanqing, Luo Mei, Meng Xiaolin, Jiang Bai, Gao Yang, Losang Guyrme, Sonam Renzin, Ah Wang, Wang Yaxi, Zhuo Yu, Li Shizhong and Chen Dong attended the meeting.

It is learned from these two news reports that Chen Dong now has been promoted to the post of Deputy Commander of the Tibet Armed Police Corps and has been ranked as a regional-level leader of TAR. According to public information, Chen Dong has served as the Detachment Captain of the Nanning Armed Police Force, Deputy Commander of the Guangxi Armed Police Corps, and Chief of Staff.

Both the military and political officials of the Tibet Armed Police Force were reshuffled in June 2017. Currently Liu Guorong is Commander and Zou Jianxiong is holding the post of Political Commissar.

Tibet gets tough to guard against tourism pollution

March 9, 2018

According to Vice chairman of TAR People's Government, Qi Zhala aka Chedak la, Tibet has adopted the toughest environmental protection measures in China to prevent pollution caused by the tourism industry.

The vice chairman during the 8th plenary meeting of the Tibetan Delegations to the 13th National People's Congress said that although tourist activities haven't harmed Tibet's ecosystem, we have already taken measures to prevent possible threats to the environment.

He said last year 25.7 million tourists visited Tibet, an increase of 11.8 percent year-on-year. Considering the region covers 1.22 million square kilometers, the impact of tourism on its ecosystem is limited. But preventive measures have been adopted to protect the environment from being harmed by future tourist activities. No tourist facilities are allowed to be built in the key areas of any nature reserve. The measures are the toughest in China.

Head of the Tibet Environmental Protection Bureau Norgyai, at the meeting said that authorities will strike hard against illegal and unauthorized activities in the autonomous region's nature reserves this year. He made the remark during a meeting in Lhasa, to discuss environmental protection in Tibet.

Norgyai said that TAR has 47 nature reserves, covering more than 33 percent of its land area; the highest ratio in China and authorities will step up efforts on environmental monitoring.

Wu Yingjie, TAR Party Secretary, said he has high hopes for the second national comprehensive scientific expedition to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, due to be launched in June. The expedition will focus on studying climate, biodiversity and environmental changes in recent decades, as well as assess the potential benefits and risks of climate change.

TAR promotes construction of the "toilet revolution"

March 15, 2018

Tibet Autonomous Region Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department said that Lhasa has attached great importance to the construction of the "toilet revolution" project and broke through the toilet-cleaning problem in water-scarce areas. A total of 1,934 toilets were newly built and rebuilt in townships (towns), villages, commercial outlets, and gas stations.

It's said up to now, there have been a total of 456 "toilet revolution" projects in the region, and 270 have been completed.

Tibet Delegation Holds Plenary Session

March 19, 2018

Tibetan delegation of the 13th National People's Congress on 19th March held a plenary meeting to review six reports on government work, annual plans, annual budgets, the work report of the NPC Standing Committee, the Supreme People's Court work report, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate's work report. The draft resolution and the draft supervisory law propose a voting draft.

Wu Yingjie, Head of the Tibet Delegation and TAR Party Secretary and Deputy head of Tibet Delegation to National People's Congress, Pema Thinley, and Vice Chairman of 13th National People's Congress, Yang Chuantang, Secretary of the Party Committee of the Ministry of Transport and National People's Congress Members Lobsang Gyaltzen, Qi Zhala, Wang Yongjun, Suoda and Zhu Yabin attended the meeting.

In the meeting Yang Chuantang pointed out that since the reform and opening up, especially since the party's 18th National Congress, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, the economy of the Tibet Autonomous Region has sustained healthy development, social stability has reached a long-term stability, ecological

system has remained intact, and people's living standards have been maintained. Significant improvement has been achieved, national unity has been consolidated, and various undertakings have made historic achievements. In particular, major achievements have also been made in the transport and transportation industry, which has made important contributions to Tibet's economic development, social progress, national unity, and consolidation of border areas.

He pointed out that this year's government work report fully affirmed the achievements made in the construction of high-speed railways, highways, rural roads, civil aviation airports, and transportation equipment manufacturing, and also promoted transportation and tax reduction and construction of "Four Good Rural Roads". Giving priority to the development of public transportation, it will focus on promoting effective investment in transportation, promoting new business development, promoting green travel, and deepening the reform and opening up of transportation, etc. Tibet Autonomous Region must continue to attach great importance to the construction of the "Four Good Rural Roads" and build, manage, maintain, and operate rural roads to provide support and support for the fight against poverty and to implement the Rural Revitalisation Strategy.

Yang Chuantang emphasised that the Ministry of Transport will continue to care about supporting the development of various undertakings in Tibet, especially transportation. It will support Tibet's efforts to promote the "precise poverty alleviation" project for rural roads. It will vigorously support the construction of major passages into and out of Tibet and support the acceleration of border and border area traffic.

During the deliberations, the delegates unanimously voted in favour of the six draft resolutions and the proposed a draft supervisory law.

Public Security, Border Defence, Fire Fighting and Security Forces to Withdraw from Active Service

March 21, 2018

CPC Central Committee has issued the "Strengthening Plan for Deepening Party and State Institutional Reforms," and issued a circular demanding that all localities and departments implement the plan in accordance with actual conditions.

With regard to "deepening the reform across the military," the original plan is as follows:

We must fully implement the Party's absolute leadership over the People's Liberation Army and other armed forces. We must implement the decision of the Party Central Committee on adjusting the leadership system of the armed police force, and follow the principle that the military is the

military, the police are the police, and the people are the people. The armed police force listed under the State Council's departments will be completely withdrawn from the active armed police force. The marine police force led and managed by the State Oceanic Administration will be transferred to the armed police force. The gold, forest, and hydropower forces with the civil attribute tasks of the armed police forces will be transferred to the relevant state functional departments and adapted them into non-active professional service. Meanwhile, the customs and on-duty forces withdraw and receive will be done by thoroughly sorting out the leadership and management of the armed police force.

(55) Public Security Border Defence Forces restructuring. The public security frontier troops will no longer be listed as armed police forces and all are to be withdrawn from active service.

After the public security frontier troops transferred to the localities, they will be incorporated into public security organs and the newly established National Immigration Bureau will make appropriate adjustments and integration. All the current active forces will be transferred to the People's Police Force.

(56) Reform of the Public Security Fire Fighting Units. The public security fire-fighting force will no longer be listed as Armed Police Forces and all will be withdrawn from active service.

After the public security fire brigade transferred to the local government, all the active forces will be transferred to the administrative establishment, and the establishment will be under the emergency management department to undertake fire-fighting, rescue, and other emergency rescue work. They will fully play the role of the emergency rescue force and the national team.

(57) Public Security Guards' restructuring. The public security guards will no longer be listed as armed police forces and all are to be withdrawn from active service.

After the public security guards' troops are transferred to the locality, the Guards' Bureau (department) will not change the system managed by the public security organs at the same level. They will undertake the prescribed guard duties, and all the active forces will be transferred to the People's Police personals.

(58) The maritime police team will be transferred to the armed police force. In accordance with the methods of "first transfer and then reorganisation", the maritime police team and related functions under the leadership of the State Oceanic Administration (China Maritime Police Bureau) shall all be assigned to the Armed Police Force.

(59) The Armed Police Force will no longer lead the management of armed police gold, forest, and hydropower forces. In accordance with the methods of “first transfer and then reorganisation, the armed police's gold, forest, and hydropower forces will be transferred to the relevant national functional departments. Officers and soldiers will be collectively transferred to non-active professional teams.

After the Armed Forces' Gold Corps transferred to a non-active professional team, it will be merged into the Ministry of Natural Resources to undertake the tasks of basic non-profit geological work for the country and the exploration task of mineral resources survey. Some of the original corporate functions will be transferred to the China National Gold Corporation.

After the Armed Police Forest Force converted to a non-active professional team, the current service establishment will be converted into an administrative establishment and merged into the Emergency Management Department to undertake emergency fire-fighting tasks such as forest fire extinguishing, and to play the role of a national emergency rescue professional team.

After the People's Armed Forces Hydroelectric Force transformed into a non-active professional team, it will make full use of the existing professional and technical forces to undertake the task of water conservancy and hydropower project construction. It will be established a state-owned enterprise by continuing the name of China's Anneng Construction Corporation, the state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council management.

60) The Armed Police Force will no longer undertake the task of conducting customs duties. The troops participating in the Customs and Excise Department will take a one-off total withdrawal and returned to build the armed police force.

In order to supplement the gap in the customs supervision after the removal of the Armed Police Force, the customs system must integrate the inspection and quarantine system. It must increase internal potential tapping and at the same time approve some of the transferred officers and soldiers through the approval of the military transfer establishment, and implement services such as purchasing services and hiring security personnel.

SHIGATSE NEWS (XIGAZE)

National Unity and Progress Demonstration Event

March 26, 2018

Kangma County People's Domicile Bureau organized the "first national unity and progress" demonstration event in Kangma County of Shigatse. The demonstration reportedly had thirty five participants from religious personnel, inter-ethnic marriage couples, and from general masses.

Lobsang Tendar, Party Secretary of Kangma County said "Kangma village believes that the establishment of National Unity and stability is important to improve people's livelihood, to alleviate poverty and to develop industries" He further added, "It is important to propagate education on national unity, and revitalize economies of ethnic regions." The event awarded representatives of ethnic marriages/couples, religious personnel, family and masses present at the event with 5200 Yuan gifts.

NAGCHU NEWS (Ch: NAGQU)

TAR Vice Chairman inspects major ongoing projects in Nagchu

March 21, 2018

Member of TAR Standing Committee and Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government, Jiang Jie went to Sog County, Dachen County, and Lhari County of Nagchu to inspect major ongoing construction projects such as road, infrastructures, shantytown reconstruction, urban heating and water supply.

In Sog County, Jiang Jie investigated urban reconstruction of urban shantytowns, town planning and relocation projects.

In Dachen county, the vice chairman pointed out that County Party Committee and County People's Government should "emancipate" the minds of the masses and rely on the advantages that the 317 National Highway passing through the border. He also investigated the progress of waterworks construction projects in the region, and urban-rural resettlement projects.

Other infrastructural projects the vice chairman inspected were the construction plan of a highway linking to Tiazhao, Zhejiang.

CHAMDO NEWS (CH: QAMDO/CHANGDU)

Chamdo gets approval of the first Economic Development Zone in TAR

March 27, 2018

According to an announcement by TAR People's Government, Chamdo (Ch:Changdu) has become the first prefecture in the TAR to get approval for the establishment of an Economic Development Zone. The Total planned area for the development of the economic zone is 808.33 hectares, and is located at 90 kilometres away from the Bangda Airport and 33 kilometres from the main downtown area of Chamdo. The economic zone reportedly will focus on development of bio-pharmaceutical industry, new energy, health, agricultural products with highland characteristics, national handicraft, cultural tourism, modern logistics and high end services, science and innovation park etc. There are about four hundred companies in the zone till date and there are plans to increase the number of companies to more than 1000 by 2020 contributing over 60% of Chamdo's tax income.

New Reconstruction Project for Highway No. 214 from Chamdo to Jiaka Section officially commenced

March 12, 2018

This project is the first high-grade highway in Chamdo and the design period of the project is up to five years. It adopts a four-lane highway technical standard across the line, with the planned speed of 80 km/h. The starting point of the road is located near Shengge Village in Karuo District, Chamdo. The route is set up along the Lancang River and passes through Karuo Town, Qingda Village, Reba Village and ends at the economically developed region in Tigong Village.

Break the cocoon, become a butterfly, lay a solid foundation for rapid development: A summary of transport work in Chamdo

March 12, 2018,

In 2017, total investment for Chamdo transport project was 6.2 billion Yuan and actual cumulative investment of 6.295 billion Yuan, increased by 22.14% as compared to 2016. Among them there were total 4 key projects with the cumulative investment of 1.01 billion Yuan; total investment for rural road project was 5.285 billion Yuan (91 projects in continuation, total investment 1.652 billion Yuan; 513 new projects, total investment 3.633 billion Yuan). Provincial roads such as S202 Gonjo town, Jomda County to Qinghai, S202 Gongjo to Makham, S203 line Gama to Chaiwei, S203 Dayab county to Mangkang, S302 Bianba to Dingqing have been made and Chamdo has gradually formed the network structure of surrounding neighboring provinces and internal places.

Chamdo carries out the civil-military dual support series activities

March 26, 2018

On 14th, Chamdo Military, Chamdo Detachment armed police, fire brigade unit and the vast number of officers and soldiers of 75 hospitals carried out dual support activities such as environment and health clean-up, medical rounds and distribution of medicines, distribution of promotional materials in the main areas of the city.

Chamdo initiates strategic cooperation with Postal Reserve Bank, Tibet Branch

March 26, 2018

On 23rd, Chamdo People's Government and Postal Reserve Bank of Tibet Branch signed a strategic cooperation agreement and the Postal Reserve Bank of Chamdo branch was set up. Reportedly, under the agreement, over the next 5 years, Tibet branch of Postal Reserve Bank will provide financial support to the development of economy, traffic construction, hydropower, urban infrastructure, small towns with special features, industrial poverty alleviation, special superior industries, PV power plants, key enterprises and key project fields and fully serve the economic construction and social development of Chamdo.

In the ceremony, the postal Bank of Chamdo branch issued a total of 108 million Yuan for industrial "poverty alleviation" loans. It is learned that till end of February this year, Postal Reserve Bank of Tibet branch has signed the Industrial Poverty Alleviation Cooperation Agreement 27 counties of Lhasa, Lhoka, Nyingtri, Chamdo and Shigatse and issued loans of 1.582 billion Yuan.

LHOKA NEWS: (Ch: SHANNAN)

Stethang to Sangri Bridges Construction in Lhokha

March 22, 2018

TAR Municipal Bureau of Transportation said that two new cross Yarlung Tsangpo bridges between Sethang and Sangri in Lhokha (Ch: Shannan) are expected to be completed by the end of October next year.

It is reported that from the south to the north of the Sethang Bridge, the starting point of the route is connected to the S306 line, the terminal point is connected with the existing S202 line and the new ZeDang Bridge is located on the straight section of the Old Bridge. The proposed Sangri Bridge is located in the middle reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo and the south bank of the bridge

station is connected to Provincial Highway 306. The original bridge will not be dismantled for the time being, and will be used as a pass-through passage during construction period. the total investment of the two projects is 200 million yuan. It was started at the end of October 2017 and is expected to be completed by the end of October 2019.

Presently, the Stethang Bridge completed construction of 51 pile foundations and completed the basic construction of the beam field. The Sangri Bridge completed 20 pile foundations and completed the construction of the beam field foundation. The total output value was over 47 million yuan

ACTIVITIES OF TIBETANS INSIDE AND ABROAD

US Congress Confirms Support For Funding For Tibet programs in 2018 Budget

March 23, 2018

The United States Congress continued its steady support for Tibet through the provision of approximately \$20 million for Tibet programs in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (H.R. 1625). The House of Representative approved the legislation on March 22, 2018 with a vote of 256 to 167, and the Senate passed it early on March 23 by a vote of 65-32.

The Bill funds several long-standing programs, including:

- Grants to non-governmental organizations to support sustainable development and cultural traditions on the Tibetan plateau (not less than \$8 million);
- Humanitarian assistance for Tibetan refugees (grants traditionally set at \$2.5 million);
- Programs for Economic Development in Tibetan Exile Communities (not less than \$6 million);
- Programs to strengthen the capacity of Tibetan institutions and governance (not less than \$3 million). This is a new provision in the 2018 budget that increases the overall funding for Tibet programs in 2018;
- Funding for the Tibetan Scholarship and Ngawang Choephel fellows' programs (more than \$1.4 million);
- Funding for the office of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the State Department (\$1 million); and
- Funding for independent broadcasting into Tibet by Radio Free Asia and Voice of America; and democracy grants through the National Endowment for Democracy.

Tibetan Monk Jailed Five Years on Charges 'Related to Self-Immolation' Protest

March 30, 2018

Police in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu detained and threatened to deport earlier this month a Tibetan man for having posted on Facebook a photo of himself with a Tibetan national flag and writing to embassies in Kathmandu about human rights concerns in Tibet, said Washington-based International Campaign For Tibet (ICT) Mar 28 and others. The experience has led Adak, a man in his early 40s, to remark, "the situation for Tibetans in Nepal is almost the same as for Tibetans in Tibet."

He has said that three days after posting the image on Facebook, Nepalese police near the Boudha stupa accosted him. They slapped and kicked him as they took him into custody after confirming his posting. The detention lasted 10 days, during which police threatened to deport him to Tibet.

Adak was released on Mar 22 after the Nepalese human rights organization HURON and others intervened on his behalf. They pleaded with the Nepalese police and undertook to send him out of Nepal so there was no need to deport him, he said in an interview with the Voice of Tibet (Oslo) Tibetan-language radio broadcast service Mar 29.

Adak did not know how the Nepalese police learnt about the photo on Facebook, but believes it a result of Chinese involvement.

Tibetan parliament in Exile concludes budget session

March 26, 2018

The budget session for the fiscal year Apr 2018-19 of the 16th Tibetan Parliament in exile concluded on Aug 24. During its 11-day session, the parliament in exile debated and approved an over Rs 2.65 billion budget for the Central Tibetan Administration for the coming financial year.

The parliament in exile also approved by majority-vote, Canada-based Dr Pema Yangchen as the CTA's new education minister. However, no name was proposed for a fulltime minister for the Department of Information and International Relations. Sikyong Lobsang Sangay currently doubles as that minister.

The session was dominated to a substantial measure by discussions on the much-controverted removal of the CTA representative at the Office of Tibet in Washington, DC, by a decision of the CTA cabinet in Nov 2017. That controversy and the acrimony surrounding it still linger despite a heated debate within the parliament in exile and a protest outside it. Those protesting over the

issue during the parliamentary session vowed to carry forward their fight.

Sikyong Lobsang Sangay reiterated his position that the matter could only be resolved by recourse to judicial process, suggesting that the issue had become partisan, even if not of the provincial or sectarian kinds. During the session, Sikyong Lobsang Sangay also said the question whether former Kalon Tripa of the CTA Prof Samdhong Rinpoche did or did not visit China in November last year was a personal matter and therefore did not warrant a discussion in the parliament. Some news reports had said Prof Samdhong had visited China and met with Chinese officials but this was reported to have been denied by the professor himself.

In this connection Sikyong Lobsang Sangay said that while it was understandable that Tibetans would visit their homes in Chinese ruled Tibet after gaps of many years, it was politically and morally incumbent on anyone who meet with Chinese officials to discuss Tibetan issues to inform his administration about it. He also said the Dalai Lama's recent decision to put off overseas visits was entirely his own and had nothing to do with a recent meeting that Prof Samdhong Rinpoche may have had with Chinese officials.

-----End of the Report-----