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**TIBET INSIGHT MAY 19-31, 2024**

**TAR NEWS**

### **Lhasa's Chushul holds the first rotational political training for grassroots spokespersons**

May 17, 2024

The Organization Department and Party School of Chushul recently conducted their first rotational political training for grassroots spokespersons for 2024. A total of 70 grassroots spokespersons participated in the training.

The training is mainly based on theoretical learning, combined with "promoting learning through case studies", and integrated into party discipline study and education. The training was conducted entirely in Tibetan. District and city experts and leading cadres were invited to the Party School to conduct the training. In addition to sessions on how to achieve the "Two Maintenances", and "Building a strong communal sense of the Chinese nation", "Party building and grassroots governance", other "special courses" were also taught.

### **Lhasa Municipal People's Government and Lhasa Customs Office sign MOUs to build efficiency to open up foreign trade "blocking points"**

May 20, 2024

The Lhasa Municipal People's Government and Lhasa Customs Duty Office recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to establish a close cooperation working mechanism and jointly launched 15 measures to promote the quality and efficiency of Lhasa's foreign trade and enhance the level of foreign trade.

According to the MoC, the two parties:

- will establish a closer and more stable cooperative relationship, carry out in-depth cooperation on foreign trade,

- optimise the business environment, promoting the construction of "five cities" in Lhasa, and the construction of "three highlands" in Lhasa Customs,
- focus on strengthen information sharing and complementation of advantageous resources, guide enterprises to deeply explore markets along the "One Belt and One Road" in South Asia such as Nepal,
- support the development of the Lhasa Comprehensive Bonded Zone,
- assist the construction of a comprehensive cross-border e-commerce pilot zone,
- strengthen the cultivation of advanced certification for "specialized, specialized and new" enterprises, and promote the "regional-shore linkage" and "direct export" supervision models; and
- jointly enhance the level of Lhasa's opening up to the outside world

The Lhasa Municipal People's Government and Lhasa Customs simultaneously jointly launched measures to help export specialty products, deepen trade with Nepal, guide companies to make good use of FTA rules, help promote the development of new business formats such as cross-border e-commerce, strengthen overseas market information services, and promote the normalization of the "clearance mechanism" for problems.

Sonam Paljor, business manager of Tibet Nozong Cashmere Industry Co., Ltd., said: "We are very excited about the introduction of these 15 measures. In the next step, the company will make good use of this policy advantage to improve its competitiveness and expand Tibet's Wool and cashmere products and will sell to more countries and regions."

### **Executive Vice Chairman of the TAR meets foreign Think Tank Scholars and Media representatives in Lhasa**

May 22, 2024

On May 21, Ren Wei, Standing Member of the TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Government met a group of foreign think tank scholars and media personalities (social media influencers) in Lhasa. Ren Wei welcomed them on behalf of the TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng and Chairman of TAR People's Government Yan Jinhai. In his speech to them, Ren Wei claimed that "Tibet has been an inseparable part of the Great Motherland since ancient times." He elaborated on the strategic importance of Tibet as an important ecological security barrier in China and even in Asia, an important channel for

China to open up to South Asia, and an important cultural preserve of Chinese national characteristics. Ren Wei further highlighted the social and economic development and comprehensive infrastructure development in Tibet and claimed that freedom of religious belief and a sense of happiness and security existed among all ethnic groups.

He urged the scholars and media personalities to make use of the visit and introduce a “true, open, harmonious and prosperous Tibet of China to the outside world.

*(Comment: Names of the foreign think tanks, scholars and media personalities are not mentioned in the reports. However, it appears one group is from Nepal’s ‘Friends of the Cloud’ internet personalities with whom, Lang Fukuan, Vice Chairman of the TAR People’s met on in Lhasa on May 24.)*

### **Chushul County holds symposium for veterans**

May 22, 2024

The Veterans Affairs Bureau of Chushul County in Lhasa recently organised a 2024 Spring Veterans Exchange Symposium. Officials of the Townships in Chushul and all cadres of the Chushul County Veteran Affairs Bureau attended.

At the meeting, Chushul County issued family preferential allowances and one-time financial subsidies to retired soldiers in the spring of 2024. Subsequently, staff from the Bureau of Veterans Affairs answered policy questions related to preferential care and treatment for veterans, and organized exchanges and discussions among participants. Retired soldiers sought consultations on aspects such as re-enlistment, medical insurance, applying for full-time firefighting, and taking civil service examinations. According to reports, this event “fully carried forward Chushul County’s tradition of supporting the military and giving priority to their families, consolidated the service and support responsibilities of veterans, improved the service and support mechanism for veterans, exchanged advanced experience in employment and entrepreneurship of veterans, and listened to and solved the practical difficulties of veterans.”

## **Nyingtri and Nagchu conduct “Joint Emergency drill exercise” in high altitude and cold regions**

May 23, 2024

On May 22, the TAR Earthquake Disaster Relief Command, the Regional Emergency Management Department, and the People’s Government of Nagchu (Ch:Nagqu) and Nyingtri (Ch:Linzi) jointly conducted the "Emergency Mission: Tibet 2024" exercise in high altitudes and cold regions of Nagchu and Nyingtri. The main exercise site was in Seni District, while additional exercises took place in Lhari County (Nagchu), Milin County (Nyingtri) and Bomi County (Nyingtri). Ren Wei, Standing Member of the TAR Party Committee and Executive Vice Chairman of the TAR People’s Government participated in the exercises and delivered a speech. Representatives from the Ministry of Public Security, the CCP Central Committee, the Ministry of Emergency Management CCP Central Committee, the National Fire and Rescue Administration, and the Xinjiang/Uygur Autonomous Region attended the drill/exercises as observers.

The exercises focused on regional priorities, adhered to real-combat standards, and comprehensively demonstrated the emergency rescue scenarios, for example, the critical "golden 72 hours" after an earthquake.

In his speech, Ren Wei emphasized that the drill serves both as preparation and as actual combat. It is crucial to build defense through drills and prepare for combat through training. Ren Wei added “it is important to normalise concepts of disaster prevention, mitigation and relief efforts, responsibly conduct thorough risk and hazard investigations, and that efforts should focus on the tasks of all type of disaster and emergency types.”

A total of 33 teams and 1,560 people participated in the full-scale exercise.

## **Major Chinese gold mine in Tibet resumes operation**

June 01, 2024

The China Gold International Resources resumed operations at the Phase II processing plant of its Jiama mine near Lhasa, Tibet, after more than a year of closure due to a dam overflow. The overflow at the Guolanggou dam, which occurred on March 27, 2023, caused the

suspension. The dam has since been repaired and reinforced. The plant, now operational with government approvals, has a daily processing capacity of 34,000 tonnes. Consequently, the Phase I plant, which had been operating at 6,000 tonnes per day, will cease operations. The company is reportedly constructing a Phase III tailings dam, expected to become operational in the first half of 2026. Production targets for 2024 include 95-98 million lb. of copper and 42,439-45,333 oz. of gold from the Jiama mine, together with 106,097-112,528 oz. of gold from the CSH mine in Inner Mongolia.

## NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI) NEWS

### **A major bridge in Nang county of Nyingtri to be completed by July**

May 22,2024

Progress in the construction of “Nang- Huizhou Bridge”, a project reportedly assisted by Huizhou City, Guangdong Province, has reached 78%. The bridge is expected to be completed in July this year.

The Bridge construction project is located in the middle of the planned area of Nang County and said to be an important node for the development of Nang "one city and four districts" plan. It connects Jiangnan New City and Guangming New District, spans the Yarlung Tsangpo/(Brahmaputra River, and is more than 500 meters long. After completion, it will promote the development and construction of Jiangnan New City, and will be conducive to the overall planning and development of Guangming New District and Jiangnan New City.

The project was assisted by the Nang County Huizhou working group of the 10th batch of Guangdong Province's Tibet Aid Team. The total investment in the project is 65 million yuan and it was constructed by the Second Engineering Co., Ltd. of China Communications Construction Company No. 1 Bureau.

In order to further strengthen technical and intellectual assistance to Tibet, the Huizhou Municipal Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau and Guangdong Institute of Construction (Guangzhou) Construction Technology Co., Ltd. dispatched experts to Nyingtri Municipal Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau and Nang County Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau to discuss the integration of party building, project

construction, management, conduct in-depth exchanges on quality and safety management, provide on-the-spot guidance on construction projects and build professional capabilities.

### **Delegation from Nyingtri attends 32nd Guangzhou International Tourism Exhibition**

May 23, 2024

On May 16, a Nyingtri (Ch:Linzi) delegation comprising Nyingtri City Tourism Development Bureau led by Mainlin City Culture and Tourism Bureau, Kongpo Gyamda County Culture and Tourism Bureau, Metok Culture and Tourism Bureau, Nang Management Committee and all kinds of enterprises in Nyingtri attended and participated in the 32nd Guangzhou International Tourism Exhibition. Zhao Hong, member of the party group and Deputy Director of Guangdong Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism and Li Ruolan, member of the party group and chief engineer of Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, Film and Television Tourism, visited Nyingtri Pavilion set up by the Nyingtri delegation.

A main purpose of participating in such exhibitions is to attract tourists from mainland China to Nyingtri.

### **Meeting held in Nyingtri's Bayi District counter "evils"**

May 24, 2024

On May 23, Bayi District in Nyingtri (Ch:Linzi) held a meeting to find ways to counter "Evils" in the district. Attended by Dong Ninghui, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Vice Mayor of Bayi District and Ma Zengkang, Secretary of the Public Security Bureau, Standing Member of the TAR Party Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee, the meeting deliberated on in-depth study and implementation of Xi Jinping's important instructions on the normalization of the fight against "black and evils", the implementation of the requirements of the CCP Central Committee, the TAR, and Municipal Party Committees on how to fight against "black and evils" and improving the mechanism as a major political task. It also deliberated on ways to strengthen rectification, stand firm with ideological position and to continue to consolidate the results of the fight against "black and evils."

The meeting also discussed Party principles and strategies related to law enforcement and crime prevention, particularly focusing on combating organized crime and corruption in specific sectors such as networks, rural families, clans, and various industries. It emphasised that concerned officials should strictly adhere to law and quality of verification without leniency, that they should know the importance of thorough reporting, and intensify efforts to rectify and punish.

The meeting discussed propaganda and awareness efforts to promote ‘Anti-Organized Crime Law’, to conduct various legal propaganda in different forms to raise awareness, and to urge the entire society to fight against “crime and evil forces.

### **SHIGATSE (CH:RIKAZE)**

#### **Governor of Dromo Dzong inspects key construction projects in border vilages**

May 06, 2024

Governor and Deputy Secretary of the Dromo (Ch:Yadong) Dzong Party Committee Gong Shijun recently conducted extensive inspections of key construction projects in northern high altitude towns and borders villages of Dromo. He visited 13 key project sites, including a border village elementary school and kindergarten, a pastoral road project in Pari Township, and inspected infrastructure repairs in Chumai village. Gong Shijun stressed the urgency of completing projects and emphasised the importance of project development for overall growth. He highlighted the need for enhanced service support, strict adherence to safety protocols, efficient scheduling, and environmental protection. He urged construction units to responsibly manage construction waste to prevent environmental pollution and ensure projects are completed on time and safely.

#### **Governor and Deputy Secretary of the Dromo Dzong Party Committee Gong Shijun Inspects Department Units**

May 14, 2024

On May 13, Gong Shijun, Governor and the Deputy Secretary and Governor Dromo People’s Government of the Dromo (Ch:Yadong) Dzong of Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) inspected the

County's Rural Revitalization Bureau, Civil Affairs Bureau, Border Trade Commission, Commerce Bureau, Audit Bureau, Foreign Affairs Bureau and other department units.

At the County's Rural Revitalization Bureau, Gong Shijun listened to work reports, examined key construction projects and reviewed expenditure. He emphasized the need to expedite the consolidation and expansion of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization projects. He said good outcomes for 2024 should include ensuring efficient convergence of funding projects, adhering to construction timelines and budgetary targets. He also stressed the importance of declaring projects for the second phase of consolidation and expansion of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization like improving the results of projects in Rupinggang village and seven other villages, completing construction work in Duna village and the Gambu plateau.

In his visit to the County Civil Affairs Bureau, Gong Shijun enquired about social assistance and temporary aid with the staff and highlighted the imperative of enhancing the quality and efficiency of civil services to better serve the community.

Visiting the Border Trade Commission, Gong Shijun emphasized Dromo County's ongoing efforts to expand its engagement with the outside world. He highlighted the county's proactive stance in aligning with the "One Belt, One Road" initiative and Shigatse city's development as a "South Asia-oriented central city." Recognizing Yadong County's unique geographical advantages, he stressed the Commission's role in facilitating the growth of foreign trade.

At the Commerce Bureau, Gong Shijun emphasized the need to draw upon successful experiences of other regions and innovate work methods. He urged active planning of consumer promotion events while accelerating the expansion of e-commerce into rural areas in Dromo County, so as to enhance the county's e-commerce logistics system.

In the Audit Bureau, Gong Shijun highlighted the need to concentrate on tracking and auditing government investment projects and emphasized the importance of thorough auditing to identify and rectify issues promptly. Gong Shijun also stressed the significance of self-improvement among audit staff, stressing the cultivation of political standard, professionalism, and a strong sense of responsibility to build a cadre of loyal, clean, and high-quality audit professionals.



In the Foreign Affairs Office, Gong Shijun stressed the importance of studying and implementing Xi Jinping's directives on Tibet's affairs and the Party's governance strategy for Tibet in the new era. He stressed the integration of domestic and international situations as well as the alignment of developmental and security considerations. He emphasized the need for continuous increase of foreign affairs capabilities and unwavering commitment to safeguarding the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### **Shigatse Mayor meets Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu**

May 27, 2024

On May 22, Wang Fanghong, Deputy Secretary of Shigatse (Ch:Xigaze) Municipal Party Committee and Mayor of Shigatse, met Yuan Jianuo, Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu, and his delegation. The Deputy Mayor of Shigatse, Sonam Gyatso also attended the meeting. In addition to giving a briefing on Shigatse's economic and social development, Wang Fanghong highlighted the strategic importance of Shigatse as Tibet's agricultural, animal husbandry, cultural, and ecological hub, as well as an important channel for China's engagement with South Asia under the "One Belt, One Road" initiative. He expressed eagerness for high-quality investment from Hong Kong enterprises into Shigatse and urged the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu to facilitate this.

Yuan Juanuo, agreed to improve cooperation between Hong Kong and Shigatse.

### **Party Secretary of Shigatse inspects border town of Drethang in Shigatse**

May 28, 2024

From May 25-26, Sonam Nyima, the Party Secretary of Shigatse (Ch:Xigaze), went to the border town of Drethang (Ch:Chentang) in Dingkye Dzong (county) of Shigatse and inspected border trade markets, party building work in Drethang, and met grassroot party cadres.

Sonam Nyima went to Drethang, which had recently opened the China-Nepal Border trade point, and met more than 150 traders from China and Nepal selling more than 50 goods including daily necessities, building materials, food and beverages, agricultural products, Nepalese handicrafts, etc. While meeting the traders, he said that traditional border trade activities, are an important way to ensure the supply of production and living materials for the

border people of China and Nepal and promotes prosperity and development in border areas. He added that reopening of the border trade point between China and Nepal is an opportunity for China and Nepal to work together to promote and improve bilateral relations.

In Drethang, the Party Secretary inspected and listened to work reports on grassroots party building work and party discipline education programmes. Meeting grassroots party officials and cadres, Sonam Nyima urged them to enhance party building work by implementing “innovative measures”, such as the village party committee and the "Pomegranate Seed" red station. He said that village level organizations should utilize avenues created by activities in the villages to explore new and effective ways for party building practices, and improve grassroots governance, social stability and harmony.

Shigatse Party Secretary Sonam Nyima also visited Kimathanka, a Nepalese border town located on the southeast side of Mount Everest, also known as the number one Sherpa village. Sonam Nyima urged for a systematic approach to coordinate port construction and border trade. He interacted with entrepreneurs and told them to seize opportunities.

The Party Secretary of Shigatse also conducted on-site inspections of the repair and maintenance work on highway 514 in Dingkye Dzong which was damaged by a flood. He was accompanied by Shigatse Municipal Party Committee member Liu Huazhong and other officials from Dingkye Dzong Office, Shigatse Municipal Party Committee Office, Shigatse Municipal Commerce Bureau, and Shigatse Municipal Emergency Management Bureau to the inspections.

*(Comment: Dingkye Dzong/County borders Nepal's Sankhuwasabha and Taplejung Districts to the south and India's Sikkim state to the southeast. A majority of people in Drethang are Sherpas who are not a recognized ethnic minority of China but apparently classified as “Others” on their citizenship.)*

## NGARI (CH:ALI)

### **Ngari Public Security Bureau holds regional police rank training courses**

May 14, 2024

An annual training programme of the Public Security Bureau (PSB) of Ngari in collaboration with TAR PSB was conducted in Ngari on May 11, to “improve the capability of personnel in

police ranks.” The training was conducted by the Political Division of the Public Security Department for the political and industrial departments of the seven counties of Ngari.

Deputy Director Lobsang Choesang of the Political Division of the Ngari PSB conducted this training which included sessions like "Regulations of the People's Police of the People's Republic of China on Police Ranks", "Measures for the Management of Police Ranks of the People's Police", "Standards for the First Evaluation and Awarding of Police Ranks to the People's Police", "Interim Measures for the Selection and Promotion of Police Ranks of the People's Police", and the "People's Police Ranks Management Measures.”

Additionally, the "Notice on Further Strictly Standardizing the Review of Police Rank Evaluation and Award Materials" was explained in detail. The training aimed at improving understanding of the latest procedural standards and to enhance the integrity of the police rank application process. The training included the study in depth of the "Notice on Further Strictly Standardizing the Review of Police Rank Evaluation and Award Materials.”

### **Head of the Civil and Religious Affairs of Ngari Inspects Confidentiality Practices Across Various Departments**

May 16, 2024

On May 13, Long Xiaowen, the Director of Ngari (Ch:Ali) Civil and Religious Affairs Bureau along with the Bureau’s confidentiality work leading group conducted inspections on confidentiality practices across departments in Ngari. The inspection aimed at improving staff awareness about confidentiality, and to review strict adherence to confidentiality protocols. The inspection team inspected standardizing document registration and archiving processes, examined that Internet-connected devices were not used for handling sensitive information, that confidential information was not stored on devices connected to the Internet, ensured properly marking office equipment with the necessary confidentiality signage, correctly handling CD-ROMs and standardizing the copying of secret-related documents and apparently identified issues, provided alerts and reminders, and set clear requirements to address loopholes and potential leakages.

## **Collaborative Effort Promotes Agricultural Development in Diya Township**

May 17, 2024

The Ngari Agriculture and Rural Bureau and the Yan'an Municipal Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Affairs launched an experimental demonstration project aimed at boosting the agricultural industry in Tiyak (Ch: Diya) Township, Tsamda (Ch: Zada) Dzong. This collaboration seeks to promote the cultivation of characteristic forest fruits as part of the rural revitalization project. He Chunxiang, Chief of the Political Secretary Section of the Yan'an Fruit Industry Center, highlighted the significance of Tibet-aid policies and the framework agreement between the two governments. The collaboration project involves cooperation in the introduction of over 700 apple plants of two varieties, introduction of 400 jujube plants of two varieties, and distribution of more than 5 catties of jujube seeds. After the launch of the collaboration project, a team of technical experts conducted a three-day visit to various local groups, including Shibuqi Group, Sergun Group, and Geni Group. They assessed the progress of the fruit forest industry, implementation of related projects, and income levels of farmers and herdsmen through field visits, discussions, and reports. The team provided guidance on establishing demonstration gardens and offered technical training to local farmers and herdsmen. The Yan'an Municipal Party Committee's Tibetan Professional Technical Guidance Group visited Tiyak (Ch: Diya) Township to “educate” farmers and herdsmen on fruit tree and field management techniques.

## **Purang Village Teams’ completes “Five Key Tasks”**

May 21, 2024

The 12<sup>th</sup> batch of village-based party teams in Purang (Ch:Pulan) Dzong of Ngari (Ch: Ali), completed their “Five Key Tasks.” The batch, stationed since May 2023, had focussed and conducted tasks on the following five aspects in the village;

1. **National Unity and Progress:** 175 sessions were conducted for farmers and herdsmen on Xi Jinping’s Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristic for the new era. 18,660 people were “educated.” Additionally, 113 propaganda campaigns were carried out on the “Communal sense of the Chinese Nation” in which 9444 people were “educated,” while 67 propaganda sessions on the theme “The Chinese Nation is One Family, Building the Chinese Dream Together” was conducted covering 4,785 people. Another

54 propaganda campaigns to build unity was held covering 4,352 people, and 91 literary and artistic activities were organised covering 15,336 people

2. **Promoting Economic Development:** The village team let the members of the “Two Committees” in the villages organize special seminars to solve the problems and difficulties in the collective economic development of each village (community) and low income households. The team provided guidance to 10 village-level party organizations.
3. **Maintaining Social Stability:** The village Team had considered maintaining social stability as one of their key tasks, an overriding political task and, therefore, deepened party building work and led grassroots governance and jointly built the "first line of defence" for maintaining social harmony and stability. The 12<sup>th</sup> batch “assisted” the “Two Committees” of the villages in Purang to formulate 67 plans including emergency plans, formulated 10 lists of stability maintenance responsibilities, set up 26 village protection teams, road protection teams, school protection teams, patrol teams, etc., carried out 17 emergency drills and 652 patrols
4. **To Protect Border Territory:** A key task of the 12<sup>th</sup> Village based party teams was to defend and protect border territory and adhere to the theme of “first stabilizing Tibet in governing the borders” stipulated during the seventh Tibet Work Forum. As part of their responsibilities, the village-based team gathered the strong synergy of the military and the local People’s government to work together to strengthen border defence. The team carried out 51 military-civilian friendship activities, 8 organizational life meetings and 28 themed party days. 22 national defence knowledge lectures and national security education activities were carried out among farmers and herdsmen, with 2,890 people participating, and 53 advanced deeds of patriotic border defence models were widely publicised and propagated, and 3,726 people were “educated.” Additionally, the 12<sup>th</sup> Batch Team assisted in the formation or recruiting of 27 party members as border patrol team, also served as border dynamic observers, situation recorders, and problem reporters while producing, grazing, and forest protection, and carried out 259 border related activities, border grazing, and border patrols, and had reportedly, constantly strived to be the “guardian of the Holy Spirit land and the builder of a happy homeland.”

5. **Building an iron wall against separatism:** Another key task of the villaged based teams was to build an “iron wall” against separatism and to work towards the reunification of the “great motherland.” As it is located close to the borders of China, India, and Nepal, the work teams stationed in Purang Dzong of Ngari have “always taken a clear-cut stand in safeguarding the reunification of the motherland and the great unity of the nation, fully understand the important nature of the anti-separatist struggle.”

*(Comment: Purang Dzong of Ngari borders Nepal's Sudurpashchim and Karnali province, Darchula, Bajhang and Humla District in Southwest, and India's Uttarakhand State, Pithoragarh district and Chamoli district borders further west. It is the main route for Buddhist, Hindu and Jain pilgrims going to Lake Manasarovar and Mount Kailash enter from Nepal via Simikot and from India via Dharchula.)*

### **Balance national security and development, implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on diplomacy, says Ngari Party Secretary**

May 24, 2024

On May 23, Duan Hai, Party Secretary of Ngari (Ch:Ali) chaired the 14<sup>th</sup> Prefectural Committee meeting and stressed Xi Jinping's recent speeches and emphasized the importance of implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and instructions on Tibet work, integrating Ngari's work into national and Party strategies, while particularly focusing on foreign affairs departments. He spoke on the importance of balancing development and security, integrating Ngari into the 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI), improving risk mitigation, and integrating Ali into BRI through deep reforms and high-level openness. He stressed acceleration of key infrastructural construct such as Purang port and Tangga border trade market. Duan Hai also stressed the importance of social governance in border areas for ensuring prosperity and stability. He emphasised the need to enhance the quality and relevance of ideological and political courses in schools, aiming to cultivate well-rounded individuals for national rejuvenation.

### **Deputy Secretary of Gerze Hyperbaric construction**

May 24, 2024

On May 29, 2024, Zhang Peng, Deputy Secretary of the Gerze Dzong/county Party Committee, conducted an “in-depth” inspection of hyperbaric oxygen chamber construction, road traffic services, and folk street projects. Accompanied by other officials, he emphasized the

significance of these projects in implementing key policies and enhancing people's livelihoods. Departments were instructed to prioritize safety measures, accelerate construction progress, and provide proper training for project personnels. Three main points were emphasized: maintaining a focus on safety in all activities, expediting project construction, and ensuring adequate training for professionals involved in the hyperbaric oxygen chamber project.

He also stressed adherence to construction protocols, timely payment of wages to workers to prevent labor disputes.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR**

### **China's religious ban has driven depressed teenaged Tibetan monk to commit suicide**

May 29, 2024

The Tibetan service of Radio Free Asia on May 28 reported that the emotional pain of being forced to leave his monastery and join a government-run school instead, with the imposition of a ban on wearing his monastic robes again, drove a 17-year-old Tibetan Buddhist monk in Qinghai province (Amdo) to take his own life. Kunzang Longyang, died in mid-April in the province's Dragkar (Chinese: Xinghai) County, Tsolho (Hainan) prefecture. RFA cited three sources as saying that China has since 2018 required monks below the age of 18 across the Tibetan Plateau region to be removed from their monasteries. "Even during their school winter and summer break, the young (former) monks are not allowed to return to their monasteries or go on visits," one of the sources said. "Government officials send people to monitor if monasteries are allowing young monks to visit or return, and monasteries are threatened with severe consequences if they allow the children to return." Kunzang Longyang was stated to have been removed from the county's Yulung Monastery three years ago. He was then made to join a local school where he was ordered to stop wearing his monk's robes and, instead, switch to layman's attires while attending classes. As a result, he suffered from severe bouts of depression, during which he did not eat for many days, and became ill. Quoting a source, RFA said "This happened several times and each time, school authorities called his family to take him home." Longyang took his own life when he again fell into depression and was sent home in April.

## **Surveillance ramped up after anti-dam protests**

May 29, 2024

According to a news report published on the official WeChat platform of Wonpotoe Township, Dege County, in Sichuan Province between 13 and 14 March 2024, Huang Jun, Secretary of the Leading Party Group and Chamdo Municipal Bureau of Statistics, who also serves as the Deputy Director of Chamdo City, went to the villages of Chage and Zhouge of Wonpotoe Township to oversee “the entry of thousands of cadres into thousands of villages, scrutinising the conflicts and potential security risks” including anti-dam protests.

Information about all Tibetan farmers and nomads in Wonpotoe Township - including the two villages Huang Jun visited- is expected to have been collected through door-to-door visits under the campaign of “One household and One file” (yī hù yī dǎng) - a household information management system that came into force in the Tibet Autonomous Region since last year.

The village-based party cadres conducted door-to-door "investigation, watching and interrogation" visits which are also known to be used to extract opinion and political sentiments about the Chinese Communist Party and its policies from residents, and to coerce residents into complying with government orders.

The same news report also said that in the name of “strengthening social control”, the village-based cadres have been patrolling the villages, monasteries and other sensitive sites. This task has been carried out by members of the village-level party committees and the heads of the double-linked households in Wonpotoe Township. The latter is a system of social control in which households are divided into groups of 10 to monitor each other’s activities for the dual purpose of maintaining public security and ensuring poverty alleviation.

## **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

## **Dalai Lama to visit US this month for knee treatment**

June 03, 2023

The Dalai Lama is to travel to the United States in the coming couple of weeks -- his first abroad in many years, to seek treatment for his knee problem. His office has not yet disclosed his dates of travel. It merely said “no engagements, including public audiences will be scheduled from June 20 onwards until further notice.” The Dalai Lama last visited the United



States in June 2017, when he underwent a routine, annual medical check-up at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota state.

*(Comment: The Dalai Lama has a series of five teaching and other schedules in September in Dharamshala, including the conferring of the Avalokiteshvara Initiation (chenresig wang) and a long-life ceremony offering from the Monpa Community of India's Tibet-border state of Arunachal Pradesh over Septemer 6-7, 2024. The Dalai Lama has also accepted a request by the Ladakh Buddhist Association, All Ladakh Gonpa Association and Sapi village to visit Ladakh this summer.)*

### **Congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his term**

June 5, 2024

According to the website of the Dalai Lama, His Holiness wrote congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his and the National Democratic Alliance's victory in the Lok Sabha elections.

He said: "It fills me with admiration and pride to see India upholding its responsibility as the world's largest democracy. These elections have indicated how much the people of India value their democracy. India is one of the great ancient civilizations, a distinctive and fundamental feature of which has been ahimsa and karuna and is increasingly being regarded as a leader in the community of nations. On this occasion too, I would like to take the opportunity to express the Tibetan people's immense gratitude to the government and people of India for its warm hospitality. It is due to India's consistent generosity and kindness to us that we have been able to preserve our ancient cultural heritage in exile, in peace and freedom. We have also been quite successful in creating a greater awareness and interest in ancient Indian wisdom among new generations of our Indian brothers and sisters".

"As you prepare to resume office for a new term, I wish you continued success in meeting whatever challenges may lie ahead in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people of this great nation." His Holiness concluded his letter by offering his prayers and good wishes.

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