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TIBET INSIGHT MARCH 1-15, 2024

TAR NEWS

“Special Meeting” on resuming Chinese Companies Huatailong Mining(Gold Mining Business) and Julong Copper

March 4, 2024

The Party Secretary of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, Xiao Youcai chaired a special meeting on February 29 regarding the resumption of operations at the Tibet Huatailong Mining Development Corporation and Julong Copper Mine located in Gyama township, Maldrogungkar county, Tibet, the largest copper mine in the whole world. Those attending included municipal leaders Wang Qiang, Deputy Secretary of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, Damdul, Deputy Secretary of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, Zhang Chunyang, Standing Committee member and Secretary-General of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, Tashi Palden, Deputy Mayor of the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, Lu Congfu, Deputy Mayor of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee, Kuang Hui, Deputy Mayor and Zhao Shidong, Deputy Mayor of Lhasa. The meeting focused on addressing challenges and facilitating win-win development. It emphasised a problem-oriented approach, prioritizing enterprise needs, and providing frontline services. Xiao Youcai stressed the importance of strict implementation of local management and industry supervision, adherence to legal procedures, and resolving the reasonable demands of the people. He emphasised the need to accelerate completion of the project while safeguarding the environment, fostering conducive economic growth and social stability in Lhasa.

TAR Party Secretary publishes article, reiterating Xi Jinping and CCP's Strategy of Governing Tibet

March 06, 2024

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng published a lengthy article in Xinhua Daily Telegraph (March 6) titled "Implementing the Party's Tibet Strategy in the new era for long-term peace, security and high quality development in Tibet." Wang Junzheng wrote that the TAR Party Committee is steadfast in leading the "Tibet work" using Xi Jinping's ideology on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and that it diligently follows Xi Jinping's "crucial directives" regarding Tibet work and the Party's governance strategy for Tibet in the new era and ensuring that Tibet's affairs are firmly under the control of the party. He added that the TAR Party Committee is committed to the "four priorities" of stability, development, ecological civilization and border security. The goal is to establish "Tibet" as a model region for national unity and advancement, a leading region for top-tier economic growth in plateau areas, and a pivotal hub for ecological conservation on a national scale. Additionally, Tibet aims to take effective measures to enhance the security of border regions while improving the livelihoods of people living in border areas.

Wang Junzheng asserted that "National security is the foundation of national rejuvenation, and social stability is the prerequisite for national strength." He added that the TAR Party Committee, is closely focussing on safeguarding the reunification of the motherland and strengthening national unity, fighting against "separatism" and regards maintaining stability as the first political task.

Wang Junzheng wrote that by implementing the "grid style social governance + digital governance" model, the TAR is advancing the creation of a "modernized social governance system with enhanced capabilities. Initiatives such as "sowing the seed of love for China" as part of the "Six Actions" campaign are being thoroughly implemented in addition to implementing the "spirit" of the "Forum on Building Awareness of the Communal sense of the Chinese nation held in September 2023), and popularising the "National Common Language". Wang Junzheng said the Party's policy on religious affairs is being extensively propagated through campaigns in the religious community on the "three awareness" ("national awareness, citizenship awareness, and awareness of the rule of law"). He said that TAR intends to extend

this campaign beyond the religious institutions and religious community. He also noted the progress in the process of sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

Wang Junzheng also stressed the need to prioritize both military presence and the well-being of the people in the border areas. He emphasised border security, the revitalization of border regions to ensure robust defense, and the security and happiness of border residents. He reiterated Xi Jinping's statement "Only when there is a country can there be a family. Without the peace of the country, there will be no peace of thousands of families." The TAR Party Secretary said the TAR Party Committee has improved infrastructure, intensified 'smart' border defense, and fostered unity between the military and civilians. He said subsidies to border residents had been enhanced, living conditions improved and industry promoted in border areas. This has led to increased prosperity, strengthened patriotism, and heightened awareness of border defense among border residents who, he said, are striving to protect their homeland and build prosperous communities.

(Note: "Sowing the Seeds of Love for China" involves implementing programs to promote Chinese culture, language, and education in Tibet. It aims to increase the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture among Tibetans, and foster connections between Tibet and the rest of China.)

Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs of the TAR conducts inspections in Lhasa on March 10

March 11, 2024

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan national uprising on March 10, Liu Jiang, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary of the TAR Political and Legal Affairs Committee, conducted inspections in and around Lhasa to oversee "stability and social security, to examine possibilities of alarms for trouble, vigilancy and overall social harmony."

Liu Jiang inspected the TAR Stability Maintenance Headquarters, Barkhor Street, Gucheng Public Security Bureau, and Jokhang Temple to assess stability maintenance efforts in each locality. He also oversaw and examined the readiness and safety measures. Liu Jiang stressed that it is imperative for all departments at every level within TAR to consistently adhere to the directives issued by the TAR Party Committee, which include upholding social security and

stability, bolstering political accountability, executing political duties, heightening vigilance, adopting a proactive mindset, embodying resilience, and decisively combating complacency, inertia, fatigue, and over-reliance on luck. He urged cadres to be steadfast in their commitment and ensure robust stability maintenance and prevention measures.

Liu Jiang emphasized effective resolution of conflicts and disputes at the grassroots level to prevent them from escalating. Liu Jiang urged joint patrols involving the party, government, military, police, and civilians. He said this would swiftly identify and eliminate various potential risks, thereby further strengthening the foundation of social governance at the local level.

NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI) NEWS

Nyingtri Party Secretary conducts inspections in Nang County

March 08, 2024

Ao Liuquan, Party Secretary of Nyingtri (Ch:Linzhi) Municipal Party Committee, conducted a two-day (March 6-7) inspection in Nang county to examine rural revitalisation, grassroots party organizations, industrial development and land greening projects in Dromda Town, Dungkar Town and Nang Town. During the inspections, Ao Liuquan stressed the need to deeply comprehend and implement Xi Jinping's Thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era. He also emphasised implementation of rural revitalization, particularly through the "one village, one policy" approach. At Drungkar village in Dromda town, he inspected village households, inquired about the rural housing renovation and upgrading project started in 2023, and attributed the project to the "special attention" from the CCP Central Committee under the leadership of Xi Jinping. Ao Liuquan also stressed the importance of ideological allegiance and a "sense of solidarity between the Party-government leadership and the people.

Inspecting the Ganden Rabten monastery and the People's Government of Dungkar Town, Ao Liuquan, stated that the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Department of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) must accord top priority to "social stability maintenance", attach importance to fire safety and cultural relics protection, and intensify the 'three awareness' propaganda campaign. He exhorted officials of the UFWD to educate the monks and nuns and

impress upon them that “unity and stability are blessings, separatism is a disaster” and they must “safeguard national unity and social harmony.”

Ethnic and Religious Bureau and Women’s Committee conducts “voluntary service” in Monasteries, urges unity, equals “separatism” as disaster

March 08, 2024

Lan Junwei, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Party Branch of the Nyingtri Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau, along with seven party cadres from the Women's Committee, conducted volunteer service activities at Dorjeephakding monastery and Demo monastery in Bayi district on March 8. The theme was “warming people’s hearts; advancing with the party in the new era.”

Lan Junwei and the team first visited Dechen Dolker, a female party cadre of the Dorjeephakding Monastic Management Committee, and Tsering Dolkar, a nun from Demu monastery, with essential supplies such as rice, noodles, and cooking oil. They inspected the fire safety measures of the monasteries and examined the work reports of the Monastic Management Committees. They the monks and nuns to discuss legal and “educational” topics including study materials on “national” ethnic and religious policies, and the importance of social stability and opposing “separatism.”

More than 70 volumes and copies of propaganda materials, relating to China’s ethnic and religious policies and implementation of Putonghua were distributed.

Head of Metok County People’s Government inspects major project construction sites

March 06, 2024

On March 5, Li Jiejie, Deputy Secretary of the Metok County Party Committee and Secretary of the Party Leadership Group of Metok County People’s Government, along with County Magistrate Li Chengxi, visited the construction site of Meiduo Garden of the Renqing Beng Area Upgrading and Renovation Project, as well as the Renqing Beng Monastic Management Committee and Dromo Yatung Police Station to inspect the progress of key projects. Officials from various county government departments including the County Government Office, Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau, Culture and Tourism Bureau, and Metok Town participated in the inspection.

Li Chengxi and his team first visited the Meiduo Garden construction site to assess the project's status and held detailed discussions with developers and construction teams for briefings on progress, material availability, and staffing. He stressed that timely completion of Meiduo Garden is crucial for the people's livelihood, social stability, and public interest. All relevant units must understand the significance, shoulder the political responsibility, enhance supervision, and ensure smooth project delivery. He said that construction units should optimize organization, ensure sufficient workforce and materials, and prioritize speed without compromising quality and safety. He asked developers to secure finances and allocate funds promptly to keep the project on track.

Next, Li Chengxi and his team inspected the Renqing Beng Area Upgrading and Reconstruction Project. They reviewed project reports and plans while emphasizing the need for efficient coordination and completion. Li Chengxi stressed that the County Culture and Tourism Bureau must plan and coordinate projects effectively to expedite the area's transformation.

At the Renqing Beng Temple Management Committee and Yatung Police Station, Li Chengxi reviewed duty schedules and work logs, discussing duties, emergency responses, and overall operations. He stressed the primacy of maintaining stability as the top political task, emphasizing adherence to stability maintenance directives and rigorous management to prevent errors and risks.

Metok County Organization Department conducts survey to “identify talents”

March 04, 2024

Chen Jinxin, Member of the Standing Committee of the Metok County Party Committee and Minister of the Organization Department, led a research team to Damu Lhoba Ethnic Township, Gedang Township, and Resa Township for identifying talent and assessing grassroots party building work. Emphasizing the importance of selecting capable individuals and aligning personnel with job requirements, Chen Jinxin stressed the significance of 2024 as a pivotal year for “national” and regional development initiatives. He highlighted the county party committee's focus on grassroots party building and the programme "Love Me, Medog, Guard My Border" and stressed commitment to the ‘core leadership’ and the unity of military

and civilian efforts. He said it is essential for grassroots party organizations and members to uphold these principles and contribute to the region's development goals.

Chen Jinxin also emphasised the need for unity between local military personnel and civilians, who would join forces to protect the border, safeguard the sacred land, and develop a thriving homeland. He said unity mobilizes officers, soldiers, party members, cadres, and the local populace stationed in Medog to collaborate in border defense efforts. Hence, it is imperative for all grassroots party organizations and members in the county to emphasize their affection for Medog and their steadfast commitment to their duties.

Nyingtri Forest Fire Fighting Detachment's Milin Squadron carries out training on picture recognition and use of pictures

March 04, 2024

To enhance practical training, the Nyingtri Forest Fire Fighting Detachment's Milin Squadron recently conducted training on picture recognition under real combat scenarios. By interpreting and utilizing maps, the team members were required to locate target locations and execute rescue missions in mountainous terrain in Milin.

The squadron leader split all personnel into two teams and provided each with terrain maps of nearby areas. Armed solely with a blank sheet of paper, a map, ruler, and pen—without the aid of GPS or a map—the training sought to assess the judgement of team members in difficult mountainous terrain.

Team members calculated points, navigated obstacles, and located targets within specified timeframes. The training was a test of judgment, physical strength, and application of knowledge.

Nyingtri's Bayi District builds a Tibetan medicine bath brand

March 05, 2024

Drayib/Bayi district in Nyingtri (Ch:Linzhi) has invested in healthcare in recent years, with the focus on Tibetan medicinal baths and traditional practices to develop the region as a pioneer area for reform and opening up. Drayib District arranged for key personnel to visit Qinghai, Sichuan, and Yunnan to learn about Tibetan medicine baths, incorporate modern management concepts and actively promote industries with distinctive “national characteristics.” Since 2023, the Drayib District has pooled 3.4 million yuan to establish a comprehensive Tibetan

medicine bath system. Additionally, 12.3 million yuan has been invested to develop critical specialties like surgery, medicinal baths, disease prevention, and promote Tibetan medicine at the Drayib District Tibetan Hospital.

Simultaneously, Drayib District has focussed on enhancing personnel training by arranging follow-up studies and training sessions for grassroots township medical staff and village doctors.

SHIGATSE (CH:RIKAZE)

Sakya Monastery in Shigatse conducts emergency evacuation drills

March 07, 2024

The Sakya Monastery in Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) conducted emergency evacuation drills on March 5, to train monks. Organized by the Monastic Management Committee of the Sakya monastery, in collaboration with the monastery's fire rescue brigade and Monastery police station, over 40 monks participated in the drills.

The head of the Sakya Temple Fire Rescue Brigade briefed the monks on emergency evacuation procedures and precautions. The Monastic Management Committee cadres posed as tourist pilgrims, while the monastery incense lamp master coordinated the actual evacuation drills. Firefighters analyzed and identified areas for improvement, proposing specific measures for enhancement.

Summarizing the drills, Phurbu Wangdui, Director of the Public Security Management Department of the Sakya Monastery Management Committee, stressed: (i) the importance of maintaining a vigilant awareness of emergency responses and consistently prioritizing safety and stability measures; (ii) the significance of continuous learning emergency protocols and equipment to establish a solid foundation for managing emergencies; and (iii) the necessity of implementing techniques acquired through drills into practical scenarios to effectively safeguard lives and property during emergencies.

Shigatse Party Secretary meets Chairman of Huadian Energy Co.Ltd.

March 05, 2024

Sonam Nyima, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government and Party Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, met Wang Liang, Chairman of Huadian Tibet Energy Co. Ltd. on March 4. They focused on deepening cooperation, emphasizing mutual benefit and sustainable development. Sonam Nyima, expressed his gratitude to Huadian Tibet Energy Co., Ltd. for its support to Shigatse and said Shigatse plays a significant role as a major agricultural, population, cultural, ecological, and border city in Tibet. He emphasised its vast potential for development, especially in the clean energy sector.

Sonam Nyima added that Shigatse aims to become a regional sub-central city and an international land port and urged Huadian Tibet Energy Co., Ltd. to leverage Shigatse's advantages, foster collaboration, and explore opportunities in clean energy development. Replying, Wang Liang pledged to strengthen communication and facilitate cooperation.

LHOKA (CH:SHANNAN)

Regulations on Management of human settlements in Agricultural and Pastoral areas released in Lhoka

March 01, 2024

The "Lhokha City Regulations on the Management of Human Settlements in Agricultural and Pastoral Areas" was officially released on March 1. The "Regulations" contain 22 articles, covering the principles, scope, purpose and significance, specific measures, publicity and education methods, reward and punishment measures, rights and obligations and other aspects of the management of human settlements in agricultural and pastoral areas.

Party Officials in Lhoka tune in the “Two Sessions”

March 06, 2024

On March 5, CCP officials in Lhoka (Ch:Shannan), including Xu Cheng Cang, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of TAR People's Congress and Party Secretary of Lhoka Municipal Party Committee, and Pema Wangdu, Vice Chairman of the TAR PPCC, joined other cadres

to watch the opening of the 14th CCP National People's Congress (NPC). Also in attendance were members of Members of the TAR Supervision Group and Lhoka Municipal leaders Bakdu, Nyima Tenzin, Wang Yunqing, and Tashi Phuntso, along with prefectural-level leaders, watched the event together.

NGARI (CH:ALI)

Ngari Party Secretary convenes meeting to study speeches of Xi Jinping

March 08, 2024

The Party Secretary of Ngari Municipal Party Committee, Duan Hai convened the 6th Prefectural Committee meeting on March 8, to discuss the recent speeches of Xi Jinping and TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng. He said Xi Jinping's speeches address the "the unique challenges and opportunities facing energy development in the Ngari region" and emphasise the need for innovative approaches and high-quality development strategies. Duan Hai urged all levels and departments within the Ngari region to prioritize cadre education, align with Xi Jinping's vision for inspiring young cadres and promote party learning and innovation.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

China's continued crackdown targets Tibetans who might have sent out Dege dam protest videos

March 8, 2024

In February, China arrested over 1,000 Tibetans in Dege County, Sichuan province, following protests against a hydroelectric dam called Gangtuo Dam.

Around 40 Tibetans were released later, but prohibited from communicating with outsiders. Once built, the project would submerge homes of around 2,000 Tibetans and centuries-old monasteries, including valuable artifacts. Tenzin, a monastery administrator of Wonto monastery, and Tamdrin, a village official of the Wonpotoe, were transferred to a detention center after being severely beaten by Chinese police. Authorities are targeting those who shared videos of protests and are monitoring social media accounts and restricting movement and

internet access. Daily searches and interrogations are being conducted. Tibetans have expressed anger and warned of violent protests if forced relocation occurs.

(Comment: Gangtuo Dam, which is part of a plan announced by China's National Development and Reform Commission in 2012 to build a massive 13-tier hydropower complex on the Driчу. It is located at Wontok (or Gangtuo, in Chinese) in Dege county, northwest of Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The total planned capacity of the 13 hydropower stations is 13,920 megawatts.)

Tibetan institutions cyber-attacked by China-linked threat

March 9, 2024

A group of cyber hackers linked to China and called “Evasive Panda” has been identified as responsible for a series of targeted cyberattacks against Tibetan users since September 2023. The attacks, discovered by cybersecurity researchers at Essential Security against Evolving Threats (ESET) in January 2024, utilize “watering hole” and “supply chain” attack methods. In watering hole attacks, malicious code is inserted into websites frequented by targeted users, infecting visitors with malware. Supply chain attacks involve compromising an organization's suppliers to gain unauthorized access to their systems or data. Evasive Panda's objective is to distribute malicious downloaders for both Windows and macOS systems, including a known backdoor called MgBot and a previously undocumented Windows implant named “Nightdoor”. The group compromised at least three websites for watering hole attacks and infiltrated a Tibetan software company's supply chain.

One of the compromised websites is Kagyu International Monlam Trust, a religious organization promoting Tibetan Buddhism internationally. The attackers inserted a script on this site to identify the IP addresses of potential victims and prompt them to download a malicious file disguised as a certificate fix.

These attacks specifically target users in India, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, and the U.S. and aims to reach Tibetan communities across different countries. The attackers utilize Google Drive API for command-and-control purposes and compromise websites to host malicious payloads.

Evasive Panda's arsenal includes multiple downloaders, droppers, and backdoors, with MgBot and Nightdoor being key components. Nightdoor, a recent addition, primarily targets networks in East Asia.

Mother of detained Tibetan writer passes away after prolonged depression

March 11, 2024

The mother of incarcerated 29-year-old Tibetan writer, Tenzin Khernrab, died on February 17, 2024, at the age of 53. The Chinese authorities refused to give her news about her son who has been imprisoned for over a year. Tenzin Khernrab was arrested for allegedly possessing a photo of the Dalai Lama on his phone and various e-books. He is from Lower Wuthok Village in Nyakchu County and is well-educated in Tibetan and Chinese languages.

Tibetan quarter in Chengdu under tight surveillance on uprising anniversary

March 16, 2024

Tibetans and their supporters worldwide marked the 65th anniversary of their national uprising on March 10. China intensified security measures ahead of the event, as is customary each year, and a report in japannews.yomiuri.co.jp on March 16 revealed that similarly security restrictions were imposed in the Tibetan quarter of Chengdu, Sichuan province.

It said heavily armed police officers were stationed at every intersection in one area of Chengdu, where shops sell Tibetan Buddhist items and books.

According to Xinhua, Chengdu hosts a significant Tibetan community, with approximately 30,000 permanent residents and up to 200,000 temporary residents. The Tibetan Quarter in Chengdu has grown, partly due to its proximity to Tibet and the presence of landmarks like the Kangding Hotel and the South West University of Nationalities. The university offers courses in Tibetan language, attracting many Tibetan students.

Tibetan prisoner released with disabled leg after forced labour

March 13, 2024

Ludup, a Tibetan prisoner, was released from prison last month after serving a three-and-a-half-year sentence during which he was subjected to forced labor, resulting in serious leg injuries. Despite returning home, Ludup is regularly interrogated and subjected to politically re-education by the authorities. He was arrested in Ngaba County in June 2020, 12 years after participating in a protest near Kirti Monastery in 2008. His family was not informed about his trial or charges. Ludup spent 2008 to 2020 in hiding and faced difficulties accessing medical care due to the loss of his identity card. He remains under surveillance and is unable to meet family and friends even during the Tibetan New Year. Ludup, 54, is originally from the Samsang family in Ngaba County, and was enrolled as a monk at Kirti Monastery at a young age.

Tibetan writer continues to remain disappeared in fourth year of Chinese arrest

March 15, 2024

Gendun Lhundrub, a well-known Tibetan writer and poet, was taken away by police in Malho prefecture of Qinghai province more than three years ago and his whereabouts are still not known. Gendun Lhundrub, formerly a monk at Rongwo Monastery, was taken away without any explanation on December 2, 2020. He was under police surveillance for some time prior to his disappearance on suspicion for “separatist” activities. Gendun Lhundrub, born in 1974, was known for his poetry collection "Khorwa" and his writings advocating artistic freedom. He is respected among Tibetans worldwide.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

No evidence against MP Monlam Tharchin meeting Chinese embassy staff, concludes Dept. of Security report

March 14, 2024

Months after the adjournment of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile's session last September, the Department of Security of the Tibetan government in exile concluded that there is no evidence to support allegations of Bon MP Monlam Tharchin meeting with Chinese embassy staff on

July 6, 2023, in Siliguri. Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tempel announced during the continuation of the sixth session on March 13, 2024, that MP Monlam Tharchin is exonerated of the accusations made by MP Dawa Phunkeyi. The sixth session last year was adjourned due to a lack of quorum, with some MPs refusing to participate until the allegations against Monlam Tharchin were resolved by the Department of Security.

New resolution on Tibet introduced in the US House

March 15, 2024

A resolution titled "Recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising Day of March 10, 1959, and condemning human rights violations related to the hydropower dam construction project in Derge" has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives. Led by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts) and Young Kim (R-California), the resolution condemns China's mass arrest of peaceful Tibetan protestors and reaffirms support for Tibetan self-determination. It acknowledges historical events surrounding the Tibetan Uprising Day and recent protests against a hydropower dam project in Derge County, eastern Tibet. The resolution demands the release of protestors and prisoners of conscience and urges the Biden administration to enforce laws to hold China accountable. It also calls for halting the dam project and respecting Tibetan input into development projects. This resolution builds on previous Congressional actions supporting Tibet, including the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018 and the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020, as well as the recently passed Resolve Tibet Act.
