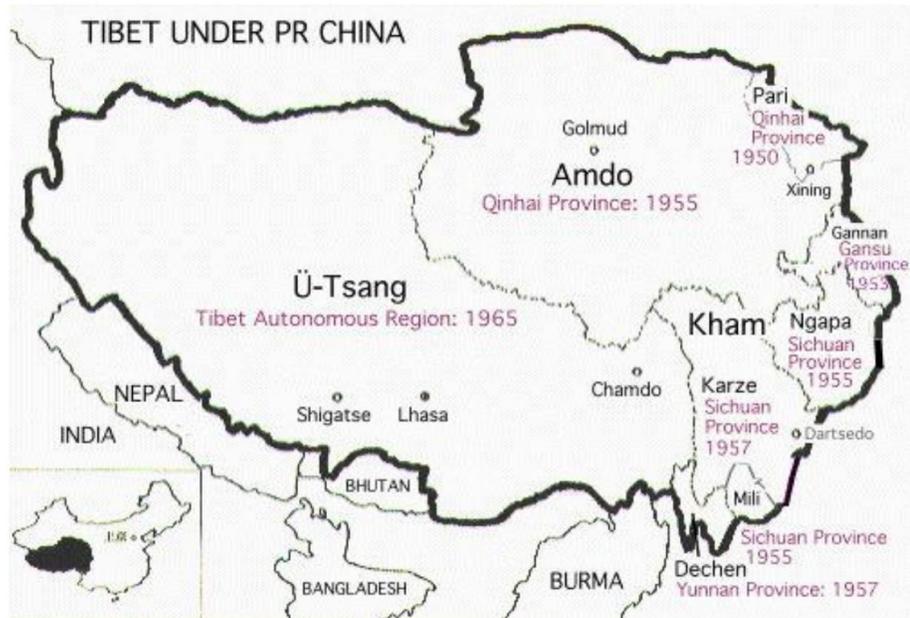
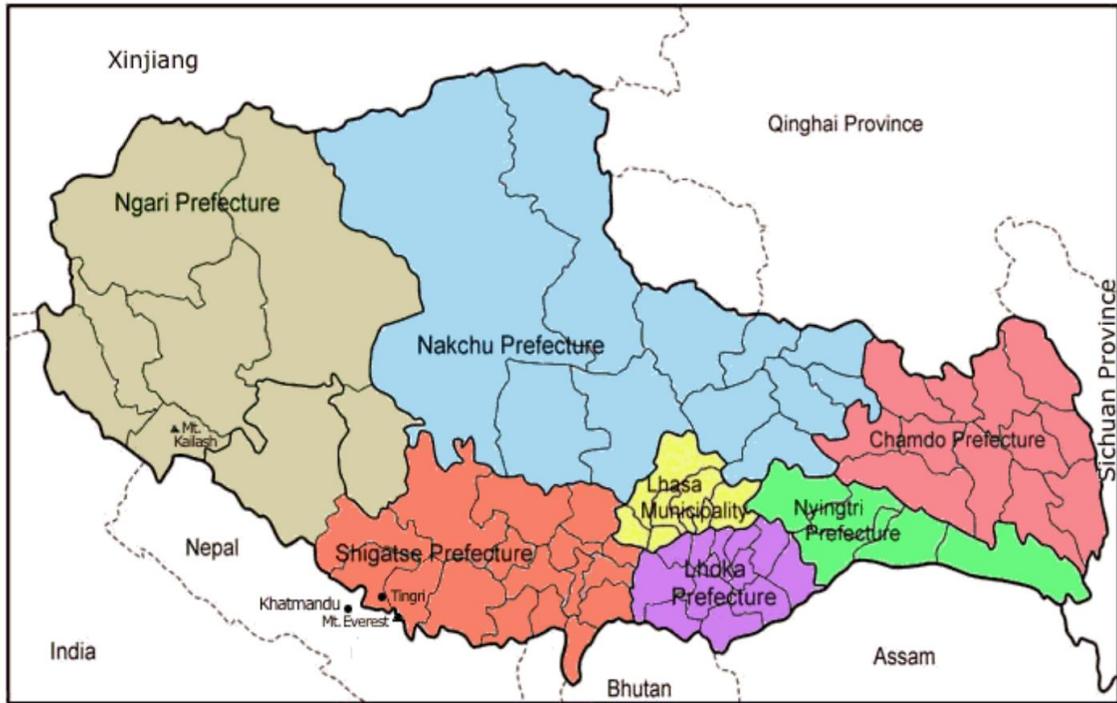




TIBET INSIGHT 15-31 JULY 2019



TAR NEWS

Promotional Seminar on investment opportunities in Nepal held in Lhasa

June 19, 2019

Gobinda Bahadur Karkee, the Consul General of Nepal in Lhasa, organized a seminar in Lhasa on June 17th to promote investment opportunities in Nepal by Tibetan companies. The Seminar was attended by Luo Mei, Vice Chairman of the TAR Party Committee and the Deputy Commissioner of the Nepal Consulate in Lhasa, Shushil Kumar Lamsal among others. The meeting discussed Xi Jinping's 'congratulatory letter' to the China Tibet Development Forum where he urged 'more open and conducive' exchanges with foreign countries. The meeting noted that Kyirong Port and Zhangmu Port are open to neighbouring countries and also for freight transportation. The meeting promoted infrastructural construction investments on the Kyirong and Zhangmu Ports and observed that small scale trade in the border regions has increased.

Participating entrepreneurs were asked to further strengthen communication and coordination with Nepal, cooperate with the government, broaden channels for cooperation with Nepal, expand two-way investment and bilateral trade cooperation, and strive to achieve mutual benefit and win-win development.

A delegation of twenty two entrepreneurs of TAR led by Luo Mei, Vice-Chairman of TAR, attended the 'Nepal Investment Summit, 2019' in March this year.

Lhoka Public Security Bureau cadres undergoes training in Anhui

July 24, 2019

Police forces and Public Security cadres of Lhoka (Ch:Shannan) underwent an intensive tactical training course in Anhui Province on July 23, 2019. The Anhui Provincial Public Security Department's training corps carried out the training, which was attended by the concerned departments of Anhui Province including police officers.

Reservation required to visit Potala Place

July 22, 2019

With effect from July 21, the Potala Palace Management Office has made it compulsory for visitors coming for pilgrimage to make online and on-site appointments to visit Potala Palace. Second-generation resident identity cards are mandatory for visiting as well as booking reservations. The Jokhang Temple Management Committee issued a similar notice on July 22.

9th TAR and Nepal Economic and Trade Committee meeting held in Lhasa

July 05, 2019

The 9th Meeting of TAR and Nepal Economic and Trade Committee was held in Lhasa on July 2-3. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 22 issues concerning Infrastructure development in the border areas including port, trade and construction of 'important channels' for opening up to South Asia were signed. The MoU signed between the TAR People's Government and Nepal's Ministry of Commerce and Supply in 2009 mandates that the two sides hold Economic and Trade Coordination Meetings every year alternately in Lhasa and Kathmandu. The 9th meeting in Lhasa was organised by the TAR Department of Commerce . The meeting pointed out that the Economic and Trade Committee has strengthened policy communication between TAR and Nepal and has become an important channel for addressing trade concerns. It provides critical platforms for exploring new areas of cooperation including port and border trade and infrastructural development in border regions.

Nepal and China sign 8 agreements during Nepal Prime Minister's visit

Nepal and China signed eight agreements in Beijing during the visit of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on June 19. Businesspersons and officials from both countries signed MoUs on construction of a cement factory, hydropower projects, establishing a Highland Food Park and matters related to trade and economic cooperation at an event held at the Nepali Embassy.

Nepalese and Chinese investors sign agreement to construct Nepal Kaligandaki Gorge Hydropower Project, Syuri Nyadi HPP and other hydro projects

Nepali and Chinese investors signed agreements to construct jointly the Nepal Kaligandaki Gorge Hydropower Project, Syuri Nyadi HPP and hydro projects in the Marsyangdi Basin. They signed a co-operation framework agreement on the Trishuli Galchhi HPP. The combined output of these projects would reach around 900 megawatts of power. The Investment Board of Nepal (IBN) and China's Huaxin Cement Company signed a project investment agreement to build a cement factory in Nepal with an installed capacity of 3,000 metric tons per day. The project, with an investment of \$144 million, is projected to create 1,000 jobs. Also, Nepal and the China Communication Construction Company signed an MoU for the feasibility study on Eastern Tarai River Training. The President of the Federation of the Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Bhawani Rana and Guizhou Federation of Industry and Commerce President Li Hanyu signed the MoU on trade and economic co-operation between the two countries.

Chinese Panchen Lama in Ngari to carry out 'Buddhist Activities'

July 25, 2019

The Vice President of Chinese Buddhist Association, Standing Committee Member of CPPCC and President of Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association, the China-appointed Panchen Lama, Gyaltsen Norbu went to Ngari on July 20 to carry out 'Buddhist activities' and to do some social research. The Chinese Panchen was reportedly received at Ngari Gunsa airport



by people of all 'ethnic groups' dressed in traditional costumes and white scarves. On the way from the airport, the Panchen Lama visited the Modern Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Centre of Gunsa and a Science and Technology Demonstration Park.

On July 21, he visited the Kailash Range or Gangdese Mountain and the Chuguo Monastery at the foot of the Kailash range, located at the south bank of Mapham Yutso lake (Lake



Mansorovar). The monastery is a site for pilgrims from India and Nepal. A grand ceremony including a prayer session at the Mansorovar lake was held by the Panchen Lama.

On July 22, the Panchen Lama visited Korchak Monastery, a monastery of the Sakya sect of Tibetan Buddhism, located in southeast Burang

County.

Flag Hoisting Ceremony every Monday in Shigatse

July 2019

People of Buzha Township of Dingri County, Shigatse are mandated by the head of the Village Committee to hoist the Chinese national flag and sing the national anthem in the compound of the Village Committee. Deputy Director of the Village Committee, Tsering Dupojie, said “we are indebted to the Party, and we cannot repay their kindness. However, the least we can do is to keep the Frontiers safe, maintain national unity and cooperate for the reunification of the motherland.” The Deputy Director also spoke about the Party and the Party constitution for two hours during the gathering.

(Comment: The flag hoisting ceremony was started in 2018. It was initially confined to the first secretary of the village Party Branch and village residential teams and later expanded to include the masses.)

Nyingchi Social Security Card Issuance rate reaches 99.2 Percent

July 4, 2019

By June 30, Nyingtri City was reported to have received 153,212 social security cards. Except for those cards that have errors or belong to deceased personnel, the remaining 152,033 social

security cards have been distributed to the cardholders. The social security card issuance rate is 99.2%. At present, there are 24 fixed-point hospitals and 29 designated pharmacies in Nyingtri that have installed social security card readers. The system of social security cards has been successfully debugged, and social security cards have been promoted and applied in various parts of Nyingchi. With a social security card and number, the movement of people can be easily checked and restricted.

Social security cards are an essential indicator of the people's access to various social security rights and for providing general services to ordinary people. In order to hasten the issue of social security cards, Nyingtri's municipal and county-level social departments jointly established a coordination mechanism in terms of personnel, funds and workplace. To strengthen supervision and inspection, the Municipal People's Social Welfare Bureau and the Municipal Cooperative Bank often inspected the status of issuance of social security cards at the county and township level. The Nyingtri Municipal Bureau of Human Resources and Social Security has vigorously promoted the advantages of social security cards through TV, electronic screen, WeChat public account, website and the Linzhi newspaper.

Work team promotes special grassroots campaign in Lhoka to fight evil

July 26, 2019

The eighth batch of a work team in the village of Lhoka (Shannan) province promoted proximity to grassroot masses, and actively assisted village residents in carrying out in-depth special campaigns to eliminate 'evils' and 'fight against evil'. The education guides the masses to consciously stay away from 'evil' forces and illegal organizations and actively support participation in 'special struggles'. The village (residential) work teams in Shannan City held meetings to convey and implement the spirit and relevant requirements of the Party Central Committee, TAR Party Committee, the District Party Committee and the Municipal Party Committee to eliminate 'evils' and fight against 'non-disruptive special struggles', and mobilize the masses to actively participate in the elimination of 'evil'. They held more than 600 such mobilization meetings and propaganda campaigns at the village-level involving more than 80,000 people. The work team circulated notifications and announcements by banners, posters,

brochures, WeChat groups, and on-site meetings. They claim to have launched more than 1,800 special campaigns and distributed 722 banners, 936 posters, and more than 48,000 promotional materials with the participation of 198,000 people.

Lhoka organises cadre training session

Yayu Forum, a cadre education training, was conducted on July 25 in Lhoka (Shannan). This is the first 'Yayu Forum' in Lhoka, and was carried out in Dranang Professor Jiang Guohua of Wuhan University was invited to deliver a special lecture titled "Promoting the rule of law and building a socialist country ruled by law". The purpose of this training was to improve the theoretical literacy of the broad mass of cadres and focus on how to govern the country according to law, new ideas and new strategies in a socialist state with the rule of law.

Xinhua comments Dalai Lama influence is receding in Tibet

July 5, 2019

The authoritative Chinese official newsagency Xinhua (July 5) published a Commentary by its editor Mingmei highlighting why the 14th Dalai Lama's influence inside Tibet is ebbing and the number of his followers is declining. The report reiterated China's claim that the Dalai Lama is responsible for instigating violence and secessionist activities and self-immolations in Tibet. The Commentary cited three reasons for the fading of the Dalai Lama's influence inside Tibet. The first is that people who fled to seek his hospice and blessings chose to return to Tibet. Second, that following development and improvement in the livelihood of people they are prefer to pursue a path of stability and prosperity, rather than one of the bondage and ignorance under the rule of theocracy. It reiterated that the Tibetan people's rights to political and public affairs are protected by law; they enjoy freedom of religious belief; and enjoy huge economic success and cultural fulfilment. Third, the people's happiness depends upon the Chinese Communist Party and not the Dalai Lama. "The fundamental guarantee of development, stability and progress in Tibet is provided by the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Simply putting the Dalai Lama on the pedestal has never brought and will never bring happiness to the local

people”. It cited as example the case of a 76 years old man named Tashi from Lhoka who used to swear by the Dalai Lama, but he has now stopped using that expression.

The commentary claimed that a poll was conducted among village officials in 2019 to ascertain the influence of the 14th Dalai Lama in the villages, but of the 1,500 village-level officials, 80% replied that the influence is minimal or has been on the wane.

Wu Yingjie’s extensive inspection tour of Milin County in Nyingtri

July 14, 2019

Wu Yingjie, TAR Party Secretary visited Milin County, a border county of the Nyingchi (Linshi) Prefecture. He met with grassroot cadres, troops, officers, soldiers, and inspected the grassroots party building, construction of a well-off village on the border, the promotion of poverty alleviation, the development of the border people, and the in-depth development of military and civilian integration in the area. Wu Yingjie stressed that all levels and departments should adhere to the guidance of ‘Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics’, and understand the scientific connotation of General Secretary Xi's important exposition on the stability of the border, strengthen the "four consciousnesses" and strengthen the "four self-confidences". To achieve "two maintenance", not forgetting the initial heart, keeping in mind the mission, always adhering to the people-centred development thinking. He said the people's livelihood work such as the party's grassroots organization construction, rural revitalization, and the construction of a well-off village on the border would be promoted. Wu Yingjie pointed out that the party's grassroots organizations are the basis for ensuring the implementation of the party's line, principles, policies, and decision-making arrangements.

Liu Jiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Party Committee of the District Party Committee and Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of the District People's Congress, and Ma Shengchang, the Secretary of the Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee, accompanied him.

In Qionglin Village, Milin County, Wu Yingjie met the villagers and asked details of the subsidies that they have received and what is still lacking and their difficulties. Dawa, the

Secretary of the Party Branch of Qionglin Village, replied that 'the villagers were hungry and frozen, and they depended on hunting for living. With 'three guarantees', they now enjoy a happy life with border residents' subsidies and medical insurance. Everyone in the village feels the gratitude of General Secretary Xi'. Wu Yingjie replied that the 'Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core' is always concerned about the welfare of all ethnic groups in Tibet. He has never forgotten the people who have lived in the border areas for a long time and made contributions to the motherland. Many special policies for benefiting the people and enriching the people were to be adopted. He told villages "We must bear in mind the general secretary's trust, always remember the party's kindness, consciously support the loyalty to defend the party's core and the people's leaders, vigorously carry forward the patriotic sentiments, and guard the border of the motherland".

He visited the Tibet University of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry where he talked about making employment a priority and his effort in making preferential policies for the autonomous region in both government and market employment. He inspected the 'key' laboratory of Animal Genetics and Breeding, the Research Center of Tibetan Pig Association, and the Plateau Plant Cultivation Laboratory etc. According to the report, a significant source of income of Nyingchi depends on black and green sorghum, Tibetan pig breeding, tea plantation and booming tourism industry.

At the school of Water conservancy and Civil Engineering, students made a presentation to Wu Yingjie. He talked to Sangay and Phuyang, student party members of the school and told them to use their knowledge to influence their relatives to treat religion rationally and lead a happy life. Wu Yingjie emphasized that colleges and universities in the whole district should conscientiously implement the famous speech of General Secretary Xi Jinping at the National Symposium on ideological and political work and the symposium of school ideological and political theory guidance, and the spirit of congratulatory letter to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet National University. They should listen and believe in the core values of socialist education, the anti-separatist struggle education, the national unity education, and guide the students to establish the "three inseparable" thinking firmly, and effectively enhance the "five identifications".

He also visited Jiayi Village, Bayi district, and met families relocated from the hills. He reminded everyone to bear in my mind the goodwill of the General Secretary and the Party Committee. They should actively play the vanguard and exemplary role of the party members, educate and guide, unite and lead everyone to proactively respond to the call of the party and the government, integrate in the local area, and mingle with the local people, obey the law, obey management, overcome immediate difficulties, work hard, and jointly build a new happy home at the border.

He visited the Tourist Reception of Lulang Town and exhibitions of the municipality and province. He emphasized the need to grasp the 'great opportunities' of national support and expand and strengthen the tourism industry and other special industries. Extending the industrial chain will drive more people to live a happier life through industrial development. During the inspection, Wu Yingjie visited the frontline officers and soldiers and sent them the national flag. He said, "I hope that they will complete the glorious task of keeping the border solid so that General Secretary Xi and the Party Central Committee can rest assured that they can give a satisfactory answer to the people of all ethnic groups."

Tsona County (Lhoka) hit by earthquake of 5.6 magnitude

July 20 2019

On July 19, an earthquake of magnitude 5.6 occurred in Tsona County, (Lhoka) Shannan which was followed by another earthquake of magnitude 3.8 and 3. All units of the Shannan Border Management Detachment of the Tibet Border Inspection Station immediately launched an emergency plan and organized more than 50 police forces to conduct comprehensive inspections of the disaster situation of the nine border jurisdictions. There were no casualties reported. Many regions were alerted to the chances of floods in the coming days.

Lhasa signed an agreement with Alibaba Cloud to promote a 'Digital Lhasa'

July 25, 2019

The Lhasa Municipal Government and Alibaba Cloud Computing Co., Ltd. officially signed (July 23) the “Digital Lhasa” strategic cooperation agreement. Zhao Minmin, the Director of Tibet affairs, Alibaba Cloud, said "The digital technology provided by Alibaba Cloud will be put into use in the city's government administration, traffic, and tourism predictions." The project intends to cover medicine, education, city management, and agriculture and animal husbandry.

Wang Niandong, a member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Executive Deputy mayor, signed the agreement with Chen Bin, the Vice President of Alibaba Cloud Intelligence and General Manager of Southwest Region. It was witnessed by Wu Hanqing, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Mayor and the Secretary of the Chengguan District Party Committee and the Vice President of Alibaba Group and Alibaba Cloud Intelligent Chief Security Officer.

In the first half of 2019 alone, the region's number of ‘Taobao’ online stores surpassed 7,000, with online sales exceeding 600 million yuan (\$87 million). Alibaba stats reveal that among the hundreds of products, caterpillar fungus and yak jerks are the most popular items. According to Alibaba Cloud, it first introduced its Smart City program in Hangzhou, where it helped digitize the city's traffic system. The company then conducted smart city projects in Suzhou and Macao. In 2018 it launched a refined, smart city model in Shanghai and Haikou, Hainan province.

In addition, the “Alibaba Cloud (Lhasa) Innovation Center” will be officially established in the Lhasa Economic Development Zone this year. From the aspects of ecological resources, technical support, talent cultivation and channel empowerment, Lhasa will build a new camp for innovation and entrepreneurship and build Tibet’s Digital Economic Industry Demonstration Zone. Chen Bin, the Vice President of Alibaba Cloud Intelligence and General Manager of Southwest Region said: "Alibaba Group has always attached importance to the development of Tibet. The development of Lhasa's digital industry will surely become a pioneer and role model

for the digitalization of western cities. Alibaba Cloud is proud to use digital technology to create a cloud-bound road for Lhasa."

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

The Public Security Bureau (PSB) of the Nangchen County held a meeting to promote the cadres and eliminate 'evil' forces

July 1, 2019

On June 29, the Nangchen (Qiuqian) County PSB convened a meeting to strengthen and promote investigations against evil forces. In order to implement the various tasks of a special fight against evil, layers of inquiry will be carried out for each case "two units, one case and three investigations". The Director of PSB, LiYongqian, members of the party committee, heads of various business departments and all the members of the Office of the Evil Elimination Committee attended the meeting.

The meeting pointed out that this year is a crucial year for the 'special fight against evil', and 'we have entered a crucial period where we must build on the ideological foundation to verify these cases equally and standardise a method in handling the cases involving black and evil. Everyone should firmly work on 'four senses', four self-confidences and do an excellent job of 'two maintenances' as a realistic test of the special fight against evil'.

The meeting emphasized that with deepening of the special struggle against evil, the focus should be on the overall goal of practising new mission and loyalty to the party. The Director of the PSB and Deputy Head of the County, Li Yongqian spoke as the party representative. He talked about the current situation, several cases, overdue verification, untimely verification and irregular procedures. The relevant departments were advised to follow a standardized system of verification of the case and its evidence. Once verified, they are to follow 'one case, one special class and one special record'. The police involved in the cases and its investigation were told to improve the rectification stations, strictly handle each procedure, standardized the case handling the procedure and report to related departments like the court, PSB, criminal police, anti-black

office, and other relevant departments. To wipe out the evil forces, everyone should follow it as an opportunity, and there is no space for 'do not want' or 'cannot do it'.

Nine New Stations extend Sichuan-Tibet Railway

July 9, 2019

Chinese railway authorities said construction of the Sichuan-Tibet railway is picking up steam, with construction work on nine new stations on the Lhasa-Nyingchi section in the TAR to start from this month. The Office of the Leading Group of Railway Construction and Operation in Lhasa said the nine stations will be built by China Railway Construction Group and China Railway Construction Engineering Group and will be completed by the end of 2020.

The third section of the line, between Ya'an and Nyingchi, is considered the world's most challenging railway projects because it winds through the Sichuan Basin, Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, climbing from 600 meters above sea level to nearly 4,500 meters, according to Zhao Jian, Professor of Rail Transportation at Beijing Jiaotong University. At the annual work conference in January, the China State Railway Group, now named as China Railway Corps, said it would complete the feasibility study for the Ya'an-Nyingchi section by June and finish preparations for construction by the end of September.

The People's Railway Daily in June that the company reviewed the feasibility study for the Ya'an-Nyingchi section and reached a consensus that would be conveyed. Sichuan Party Secretary Peng Qinghua said the Ya'an-Nyingchi section spanning around 1000km would soon begin construction. The construction comprises 90 per cent bridges and tunnels -- nearly 800 km of tunnels and around 100 km of bridges. The China State Railway Group or 'China Railway Corps', has established a new office to lead the Sichuan-Tibet railway project. This new company is additional to the 18 railway bureaus and companies presently controlled by the Group. "Once in operation, the rail line will help Sichuan province build itself into an inland transportation hub within China as well as a bridge that connects the country with South Asian countries including Nepal and India, which will greatly boost the economy in southwestern China with convenient transportation."

More law enforcement on Sanjiangyuan National Park, Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

July 13, 2019

After an extensive pilot study of the law enforcement on Tsa Sum Chu Do (Sanjiangyuan), the Qinghai government formulated comprehensive law enforcement management activities for natural resources like criminalization of natural resources and an effective linkage between administrative law enforcement and national part law enforcement. They also established a law enforcement supervision office in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and a relevant department in other counties.

The Sanjiangyuan National Park administration and the five protected area administrations, including Xinjiang and Tibet, jointly signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Ecological Environment Protection of the Qinghai-Tibet Five Nature Reserves. They formulated the "Articles of Association for the Collaborative Alliance of the Five New Nature Reserves of Qinghai-Tibet" and established a joint meeting system with the Qinghai Provincial Procuratorate. They issued a "Three Rivers National Park Ecological Protection Administrative Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Linkage System", and established the Sanjiangyuan Ecological Court to provide a judicial guarantee for the ecological environment protection of Sanjiangyuan National Park as well.

As of the beginning of this year, 15 special campaigns have been launched to combat the destruction of natural resources and wildlife resources in nature reserves, and centralized coverage of 18 protected areas of Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve has been carried out. On July 12, the first meeting of the leading group of the construction of the nature reserve system in Qinghai with a national park as the main theme was held at the State Forestry and Forestry Bureau. The plan is to make Qinghai a demonstration province of the natural protection land system. Liu Ning, Governor of Qinghai said "the construction of a model province of nature reserve system with the national park as the main body is a vivid practice of practising Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought, and is the realization path for implementing the "three largest" requirements, and is guided by ecological priority and green development".

Crackdown on Anti-gang and Evil Forces Intensifies in Tibetan Areas of Sichuan and Qinghai

July 16, 2019

Both Qinghai and Sichuan called for the 7th meeting of “Elimination of the evil forces and separatist and intensified security apparatus. A number of arrests have been made from Golog, Tsolho and Yushul. In May, twenty-one Tibetans have been imprisoned in connection with this including two heads of villages and a nomadic camp leader accused of founding an environmental protection organization. The common charges were of having a connection with separatists and betraying the party. Special offices have been established since March in more than fifteen districts of Golog and Yushul for phone-related surveillance mainly of Wechat groups and those who have contact outside Tibet. There is increased surveillance and restriction on the movement of people both in and out. A special enquiry is conducted of returnees from exile in India and many of them have been told to leave the country. The investigation includes interrogation of the individual even without suspicion, phone confiscation, tapping of incoming and outgoing calls, checking of phone photo gallery etc.

According to an inside source, more than 200 people from Golog have been arrested and more than 700 people from all counties. According to the official data of the 18th Elimination of Evil Forces, they have arrested 658 people from Qinghai and had received arrest warrant approvals for another 333 people till July 10. This campaign is underway in TAR, Tsolho TAP, Kanlho TAP, Yushul TAP, Golog TAP, Malho TAP etc.

Temporary identification can be obtained from all five airports in Tibet

July 19, 2019

According to the Civil Aviation Tibet Bureau, a temporary identification can be obtained at all five airports in TAR, Lhasa Gongga Airport, Linzhi Milin Airport, Shigatse Peace Airport, Changdu Bangda Airport, and Ali Kunsha Airport. A propaganda assistant of the Party Committee Office, Jia Zhenhui said it was planned in September 2018 to utilise scientific and

technological means for the masses' convenience. He said that now temporary check-in identity self-service terminal equipment was placed at all Terminal Public Security Duty Rooms in these airports. However, the temporary passenger identification certificate is valid for seven days and can only be used when flying on Chinese civil aviation aircraft. Passengers who have not applied for the second generation ID card cannot use the self-service system for temporary identification.

Red student guard team exceeds 300 in Xilling, Qinghai

July 26, 2019

Schools in Xilling (Xinning) have started establishing 'Red Armband Guards' in an effort to create a 'more civilized campus'. The city has established more than 300 'Red Guard School Teams' in different schools. In recent years, Xilling city has focussed on the goals of promoting ideological and political education, and improving civilized behaviour and propaganda of the minors. Youth moral education training will be both, on-campus and off-campus.

There are 24 batches of research activities on 'Red Genes'. More than 50,000 people went to the West Road Army Memorial Hall to receive 'red education'. Around 40,000 student volunteers participated in more than 200 volunteer service activities such as "Lei Feng" and "Clean Home". There are more than 500 special reports on Ai Sanyou and nearly 800 sessions of 'red themed' class. At present, the city has created 150 municipal-level civilized campuses and established more than 300 "red-sleeve standard school teams" to protect students.

At the same time, strengthening the joint efforts of educating people and deepening the social linkage between home and school, 230 community "parent schools" and "minor growth stations" were established, and 149 schools actively contacted 151 "minor growth stations" to carry out thematic education activities. The Xining Citizens Green Convention during the rest of the year will rely on the "Family Education Instructor Group for primary and secondary schools" to hold 14 special lectures and the "Parents Open Day" and other activities to help parents establish a 'scientific education concept'. It has issued more than 180,000 copies to guide the school, family and society together.

China imposes National flag on Yushul Traditional Horse Racing Festival in Qinghai

July 26, 2019

The Chinese authorities instructed all the horse racers at the Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture famous annual horse racing festival this week to carry the Chinese national flag instead of any other banners including the Buddhist flag. Usually they carry Buddhist flags after monks offer prayers and incantations to nature. This year everyone was made to carry the same size five-star red flag.

On 25th July, Yang Fenchun, the Deputy Governor of Qinghai Province, and Li Zhongxie, the Deputy Director of the Supervision and Inspection Department of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission presented to Yushul County the award of the model of National Unity and Progress State. Li Zhongxie named Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture as the model state and said, “the decision we made hope that Yushu Prefecture will use this name as a new starting point, not forgetting the initial heart, remembering the mission, continuing to forge ahead, building new achievements for the construction of a national unity and Progress Province in Qinghai.”

Large-Scale Demolition Begins at Sichuan’s Yachen Gar Tibetan Buddhist Center

July 27, 2019

Authorities in Sichuan province have begun large-scale demolition at the Yachen Gar Tibetan Buddhist center. The destruction follows the forced removal beginning in May of over 7,000 residents of the sprawling center in Palyul (in Chinese, Baidu) county, which once housed around 10,000 monks and nuns devoted to scriptural study and meditation. Demolition of the nuns’ dwellings began on July 19 and moved ahead quickly, with at least 100 structures now torn down, according to RFA’s Tibetan Service. Senior monks and administrators at Yachen Gar have written over 40 petitions so far to Chinese authorities “at all levels,” appealing for a halt to the removals and destruction, but their requests have been rejected.

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

Taiwan's ruling party delegation calls at Dalai Lama

A delegation of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) on July 25 paid a courtesy call on the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala to offer greetings on his 84th birthday. The delegation comprised the DPP Secretary-General Luo Wen Jia, spokesperson Lii Wen and Director of Public Relations Hsieh Yu-Li. Luo Wen Jia cited the Dalai Lama as saying that China had no legitimate role in his reincarnation and that he will choose to reincarnate in a Buddhist country. He has not ruled out Taiwan, noting that it was a Buddhist country. The Tibetan leader was also cited as having expressed confidence to live to be more than 100 years old. The Dalai Lama has called democracy the biggest strength of Taiwan. DPP spokesperson Lii Wen said "We mainly came here to express our good wishes to His Holiness' health and wish him a happy birthday since his birthday just passed recently. As for whether His Holiness will come to Taiwan or not, we respect the decision of the Tibetan people and of course of His Holiness himself."

The DPA news agency quoted (Jul 26) Luo Wen Jia as saying the meeting lasted more than an hour with the discussions being focused, among other things, on shared opinions on the nonviolent approaches to resolve the issue of Tibet and Taiwan. "Taiwan and Tibet should cooperate closely because we share same values and face the same threat." He also said the DPP representatives and the Dalai Lama discussed the possibility to conduct more exchanges on issues ranging from religion to democracy. The delegation toured the local Tibetan community from July 17 to 19.

CTA's Gangjong bank offers equity shares, North America Tibetans pledge \$ 1 million

July 31, 2019

The Central Tibetan Administration's finance wing said its public offering for equity shares for the Gangjong Bank (TibFin) has been met with a pledge of \$1 million as investment from Tibetans in North America. Non-profit Social and Resources Development Fund (SARD) under the Department of Finance of the CTA said it offered 49% of the required initial capital of INR100 crores (USD15 million) to the Tibetan community in two offerings of a minimum of

USD15,000 in equity shares and a minimum of USD 25,000 in short-term preference shares. SARD said “55 investors had pledged a total of \$1 million in investment with many more expressing interest. There was a high level of interest in TibFin and the Institution projects investments from North America to exceed \$1.5 million in the coming months.” The majority of the investors are said to be ordinary Tibetans motivated to support the community and efforts of the CTA rather than seeking any significant financial gain. SARD’s Chief Resilience Officer Kaydor Aukatsang and Chief Planning Officer Dr. Kunchok Tsundue, toured nine cities in the United States and Canada including Washington, DC, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California, Minneapolis, Toronto, and New York between June and July to pitch investors and gather capital for Gangjong bank. Of the initial capital requirement of INR100 crores (USD15 million), only INR 6.88 crores (\$1 million) has been pledged which amounts to less than 7% of the required marker. In January 2018, when the company was first introduced, its Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Kunchok Tsundue said that it will be some time until the Non-Banking Financial Corporation grows into a fully-fledged bank as planned and that success and public involvement in terms of capital will be crucial factors for the same.

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