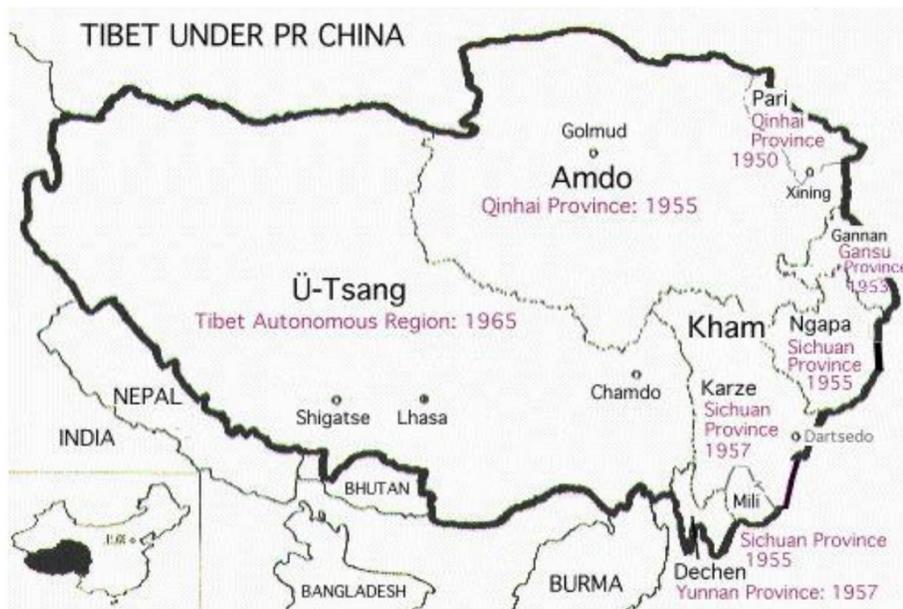
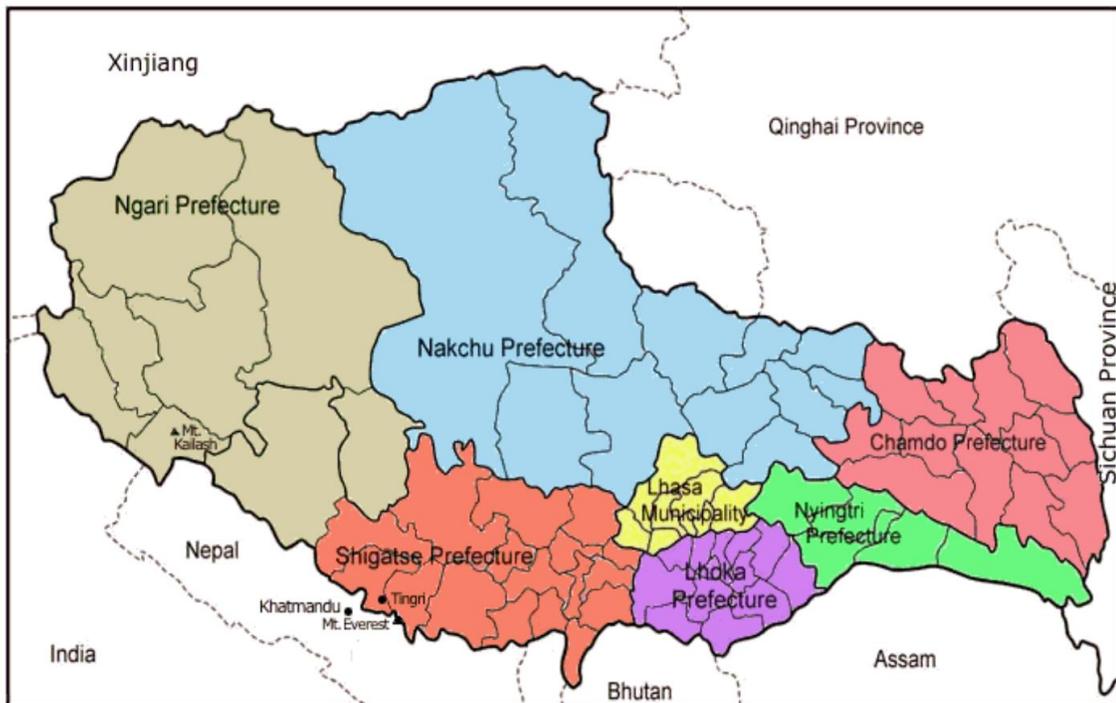




TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 May 2018



## TAR NEWS

### **TAR People's Government Chairman Visits Yumai**

May 24, 2018

Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR People's Government Che Dalha aka Qi Zhala visited Yumai village in Lhunze County of Lhoka from May 19-20, 2018. The purpose of the visit was reportedly to inspect the progress of the Xiaokang Village (Moderately Prosperous Society). The Chairman met cadres and masses and told them to remember General Secretary Xi Jinping's 'care and concern' towards them, to remember the CCP's 'kindness,' and to 'protect the motherland.' Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the TAR People's Congress and Secretary of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) Party Committee Xu Chengcang accompanied Che Dalha. Construction of the well-off border village was reported to have made great progress with a Chinese national flag fluttering in the village. Che Dalha examined the construction plan and industrial development of the Xiaokang village on the Yumai border in great detail. On May 20 evening, he met the cadres and troops of Yumai and conveyed Party Secretary Wu Yingjie and Lobsang Gyaltsen's greetings, told them that General Secretary Xi Jinping had great hopes and trust on the cadres and people of all ethnic groups in the region. He emphasized reform, development and stability in Tibet and security of borders of the motherland. He urged them to be the 'Guardians of the Holy land', promote civil-military integration and reiterated TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie's earlier statement that 'we will not allow an inch of territory to be separated from the great motherland'! He concluded by stating that 'construction of Xiaokang villages' is necessary to ensure safety of territory. He visited officers and frontier policemen, and border defense officers of Yumai Public Security Frontier Defense before returning to Lhasa.

### **TAR People's Government Chairman Meets Nepali Ambassador to China**

May 19, 2018

On May 17, 2018 the Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR

People's Government Che Dalha met the Nepali Ambassador to China Leela Mani Paudyal in Lhasa on behalf of TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie. Jiang Jie, Member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee and Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government accompanied the TAR Chairman. Che Dalha thanked Nepal for adhering to the 'One-China Policy' and not allowing external forces to use Nepalese territory for anti-China activities and briefed the Ambassador about the socio-economic development of Tibet. Che Dalha emphasized the close China-Nepal ties and said the two nations have always maintained healthy and friendly relations especially in recent years with frequent high-level exchanges. He added that Nepal has an unprecedented opportunity with China's opening to South Asia through the 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative.

Che Dalha said that as friendly neighbors, he hopes the two continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation through high-level exchanges of visits, Tibet Expo and other platforms to jointly safeguard the positive momentum of 'Sino-Nepalese relations and continue the traditional friendship between China and Nepal.'

Nepal's Ambassador thanked China for its help and support to Nepal and congratulated Tibet on its remarkable achievements in economic and social development. He said the Nepalese government has consistently adhered to the 'one-China policy' and will never allow anyone to use Nepalese territory for anti-China activities.

### **Chinese Tibetan Scholar Exchange Delegation Visits Berlin**

May 26, 2018

A delegation of Chinese Tibetan scholars visited Germany's capital Berlin from May 21 to May 23 2018. The delegation met a number of German government officials and media reporters and held discussions on Tibet's history, culture, religion, economic and social development, and current international concerns. Zhang Yunren, Director of the Institute for the Study of History of the China Tibetology Research Center, headed the Delegation consisting of Tibetan experts and scholars from the China Tibetology Research Center and the Tibet Conservation and Development Association of China. Zhang Yunren maintained that the delegation aims to correct the misunderstandings and

prejudice in western countries about China's policies.

In an exclusive interview with the Times Weekly, Zhang Yunren spoke on the economic and social development in Tibet, tourism, Tibetan medicine and ethnic handicrafts. He said, "Tibet is welcoming a growing number of domestic and foreign tourists with an increasingly open attitude. It is hoped that the foreigners will objectively reflect the current social conditions in Tibet based on facts, and transmit real information to the international community. Through long-term communication and in-depth exchanges, they will eventually eliminate prejudice and misunderstandings in Tibet."

The Delegation later visited Hamburg, the Netherlands, and Latvia.

### **China to stage dance drama "The Railway to Tibet"**

May 26, 2018

China's premier National Center for Performing Arts (NCPA) will stage a dance drama this summer to mark 12 years of operation of the world's highest railway.

"The Railway to Tibet" is an NCPA production dedicated to the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. To be shown from June 30 to July 3, the dance-drama is a collaboration of Director Wang Ge, composer Yin Qing, head of The Dancers Association of China Luo Bin, and some young dancers. It uses a Tibetan first-person narrative of 'a friend telling a stranger the story of railway workers and local Tibetans.'

The 1,956-km railway, with its highest point 5,072 meters above sea level, is the world's longest railway on the plateau. It opened on July 1, 2006.

### **Tibetan Scripture Debate Exam Held in Beijing**

May 18, 2018

The 14th Scripture Debate Examination for the advanced title of Tibetan Buddhism was held in Beijing at the High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China, which claims to be the highest Buddhist academy of China. 20 monks of the Tibetan Buddhist Gelug and Sakya sects participated for the advanced title of 'Geshe Thorampa'. The scripture debate examination method is a traditional form of examinations, which includes intensive and

rigorous questions and counter- questions from experts on Buddhist philosophy to promote candidates from one level to the next.

Successful candidates of this advanced title of High-level Tibetan Buddhism College not only have to pass the debates in scriptures but also have to pass in their written thesis. This aims to blend traditional and modern education. It is, in addition, an attempt to institutionalize and securitise Tibetan Buddhism and bring it more under state control. The High-level Tibetan Buddhism College established the advanced title ranking system in 2004. Till 2017, almost 148 monks were conferred this degree. Those who obtain a degree from here can work in any Buddhist monastery or association.

### **You Quan meets advanced Tibetan Buddhist scholars**

May 21, 2018

On May 19, You Quan, member of the CCP CC Secretariat and Head of the CCP CC's United Front Work Department (UFW) met graduates of the *Thorampa* degree an advanced ranking in Tibetan Buddhism, from the 14th Tibetan Buddhism advanced title examinations, and took a photo together.

You Quan emphasized that the Tibetan Buddhist community should thoroughly study and understand 'Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era', unswervingly adhere to correct political positions; firmly uphold national unity; positively adapt to developing trends of the current times; vigorously promote interpretations of Buddhist doctrines and make new contributions to the future inheritance and development of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition.

The Thorampa title is awarded by the High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China. In order to obtain this academic title, monk students must first study within a monastery for more than 15 years and only those having a good command of religious discipline and earning good scores can sit for the entrance examination to the High-level Tibetan Buddhism of China. After they are admitted, they are required to undergo two years of

comprehensive, systemic studies, not only learning traditional religious doctrines, but also science, culture, law, and management. Upon graduation, students must have earned enough academic credits, undergo exams for their culture and political classes, participate in scripture debates and write a thesis defense. After all exams have been passed and the defense committee unanimously approves the thesis, can a student obtain the title of Thorampa.

### **Palden Dhonyod Talks about Development of Tibetan Buddhism**

Palden Dhonyod ((Bangden Dhunyu), Vice President of the Tibet Branch of the Buddhist Association of China and President of the Buddhist Association of Shigatse, gave an interview to *China Tibet Online* after the closing ceremony of the 14<sup>th</sup> Tibetan Buddhism Thorampa advanced title ceremony held in Beijing. In the interview, Palden Dhonyod said religion in China must adapt to the Chinese society on the question of the levels of titles and principles. The title was conferred to eight monks from the Sakya sect and 12 monks from the Gelug sect. Since there were only 20 participants this year it means monks of no other sects were awarded the title. . So, far for 14 years, 168 monks have earned the advanced thorampa title.

(Comments: The new academic title system in Tibetan Buddhism is composed of three levels: a beginners, intermediate, and advanced level. Of these, the beginners' level title is called *Chenrampa* in Tibetan, which is equivalent to a bachelor's degree. The intermediate title, *Chingrampa*, is equivalent to a master's degree. Finally, the advanced degree, *Thorampa*, is equivalent to a Ph.D. The full name of the advanced title is *Thoram-ramjenpa*: *Tho* means "highest" and *Ramjenpa* means "master of Buddhist scriptures". . So, far for 14 years, 168 monks have earned the advanced thorampa title.)

### **Tibetan Buddhist academic title work conference held in Beijing**

May 23 2018

The official Tibetan media reported (May 23) that the first plenary meeting of the first

session of the fourth Tibetan Buddhist Academic Rank Steering Committee was held recently at the High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China in Beijing. Jamyang, Director of the Committee, presided and delivered a speech.

In his speech, Jamyang said he hoped that all members of the new steering committee would pass down and carry forward the fine traditions of the committee, play an active role in establishing a new academic title system in Tibetan Buddhism, and make more contributions to the healthy development of Tibetan Buddhism.

Liu Wei, Secretary-General of the Buddhist Association of China issued a letter of appointment to the new members. Drukang Thupten Khedup, Deputy Director of the Committee, reviewed the work done over the last five years by the committee and made suggestions for the work in the next five years.

Nangla Tashi, Deputy Dean of the High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China, detailed the outstanding achievements of textbook compilation for academic titles in recent years, analyzed the difficulties and deficiencies that arose, and put forward work plans for public teaching materials, professional teaching materials, and role of the committee.

### **Fifth National Tibetology Conference Held in Beijing**

May 25, 2018

The fifth National conference on Tibetology was held in Beijing from May 19-22, 2018. At the opening ceremony, An Qiyi, Party Chief of the China Tibetology Research Center claimed that the number of researchers of Tibetan studies exceeded 5,000 in China today. He called on the researchers to help strengthen Chinese rule in Tibet which international human rights and exile Tibetan groups have described as repressive and colonial and a mortal threat to the region's historical identity.

According to him, Tibetology researchers should always focus on maintaining lasting and long-term social stability in all respects in Tibet and Tibetan ethnic areas, on the

unbalanced and insufficient development in Tibet and Tibetan ethnic areas, on the protection and development of excellent ethnic culture and the implementation and improvement of central authorities' policies on supporting Tibet and Tibetan ethnic areas. Serta/Sithar of the CCP CC's United Front Work Department also attended the meeting. His message to the community of Tibetology researchers was to thoroughly carry out the Party's orders on Tibetan-related works, firmly comprehend the correct political direction of Tibetology research, strengthen the ranks of Tibetology scholars and strive to open a new era of Tibetan studies.

During the conference a ceremony was also held to confer the Qomolangma (Ch: Jomolangma) Award, which is the highest national award in the field of Tibetan studies in China. The award is given every four years. The purpose of this award is "to support Tibetan studies and promote ethnic culture". The awards have six categories including one each for Tibetan and Chinese and four other honour awards. This year a new category was instituted namely, the Outstanding Youth Achievement Award. The conference also launched a new China Tibetology website.

### **TAR Party Secretary meets Ukrainian Delegation**

May 16, 2018

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, and Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Director of the Standing Committee of TAR People's Congress Lobsang Gyaltsen met a Ukrainian delegation in Lhasa. Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee Jiang Jie and Penpa Tashi also joined the meeting. Wu Yingjie spoke highly of the friendly and cooperative relations between China and Ukraine and appreciated the Ukrainian government's firm adherence to the 'one-China' policy. Wu Yingjie emphasized, "China is a unified multi-ethnic country. Tibet has been an inseparable part of China since ancient times. In the past five years, the central government has invested nearly 1 trillion yuan (\$157 billion) to support several major projects in Tibet and promoted a series of preferential policies to support the region's development, Wu said.

Major investment projects valued at nearly one trillion Yuan in Tibet's economic and social development have continuously enriched and developed the Party's strategy for the management of Tibet and put forward the important strategic concept of "managing the country, and managing the borders first.

The first Vice Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Cultural and Spiritual Affairs Committee and head of the delegation, Yelansky Viktor, congratulated Tibet on its remarkable achievements in economic and social development. He said that the friendship between Ukraine and China goes back to ancient times and the exchanges and cooperation in various fields have achieved fruitful results. The Ukrainian government has always adhered to the one-China policy and hopes that through this visit, it will further deepen its understanding of Tibet, increase its friendship with China and strengthen exchanges and cooperation.

### **Ukrainian National Media Delegation Visits Tibet University**

May 23, 2018

A 40-member delegation of the Ukrainian National media headed by Jeruleski Viktor, also First Vice-President of the Ukrainian Parliament's Culture and Spiritual Affairs Committee (Junior Minister level) visited the University of Tibet, accompanied by leaders of the Tibet Autonomous Region's Outreach Office. Yang Dan, member of the Party Committee and Vice President of Tibet University, accompanied the delegation on behalf of Tibet University.

After listening to the introduction of Tibet University, the delegation interacted with Vice President Yang Dan on the language of the professional courses of the University, tuition fees, and the number of international students enrolled. The delegation later visited the Tibet University's Ancient Books Collection Room, Art and Thangka Exhibition. The head of the Ukrainian Delegation Jeruleski Viktor said that while visiting Tibet University he had deeply felt the 'goodness', hospitality and enthusiasm of the Tibetan people. He praised the scholars of Tibet University for their efforts in preserving the

inherited Tibetan traditional culture and arts and for the gratifying achievements they had made. He expressed the hope that Ukrainian universities and Tibetan universities will establish cultural and artistic exchanges.

### **TAR Public Security Bureau convenes special meeting**

May 18, 2018

The TAR Public Security Bureau convened a special meeting on May 16, to examine and discuss the implementation of Policing operations, standardization of law enforcement, and information network of all public security organs across TAR. The meeting prepared a comprehensive report of overall progress and workforce planning of the Public Security Bureau. The Deputy Director of TAR Party Committee, and Deputy Director of TAR Public Security Bureau, Lobsang Tendar (Ethnicity: Tibetan) attended the meeting and spoke. Ke Lei, TAR Party Committee and Deputy Director of the Public Security Department chaired the meeting.

### **Tibetan Public Security Grassroots Performance Team visits Shigatse**

May 24, 2018

The Grassroots' Performance Team under the TAR Public Security Bureau visited various counties of Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) and performed folk and opera dances, reportedly to 'boost morale, and revitalize the confidence' of police officers and soldiers of Shigatse. The Director of TAR Public Security Bureau and Deputy Party Secretary of TAR Political and Law Committee Liu Jiang accompanied the performing troupe on May 21.

On May 21, afternoon the Grassroots' Performance Team arrived in Rinbu County of Shigatse where it performed along with the County's Folk Art Troupe in the presence of border troops, soldiers, police officers and members of the Public Security Department. The Team also performed in other counties of Shigatse like Shetongmey (Ch: Xiatongmoin), Nyalam, Kangmar and Drokmo (Ch: Yadong)

## **Tibetan NPC Delegates Completed Six days visits to the United States**

May 20, 2018

After the Canadian tour, the Tibetan NPC Delegates travelled the US for 6 days and visited Washington and San Francisco. They met some Senators and lawmakers of the State Department and Congress including Sen. Dan Sullivan, Con. Darin LaHood, Rick Larsen, Jim McGovern and the other US State Department officials. The US State Department said the United States adheres to its 'one-China' policy and considers Tibet as part of China despite bi-partisan support for Tibet in the Congress.

The head of the Tibetan delegation, Pema Wangdue (Baima Wangdui) said he earnestly hoped that the U.S. side 'fully recognizes the extreme sensitivity of the Tibet issue' and the 'anti-China nature of the Dalai clique', earnestly respects the core interests and major concerns of China, allows no visits by 'the heads of the Dalai clique', refrains from any contact with it, offers no support to its anti-China separatist activities, and handles the Tibet issue in a discreet and proper way, so as not to disturb China-U.S. relations. He reiterated that the "Tibet issue is a matter concerning China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the core interest of China and it is an internal affair which brooks no intervention from any foreign country." He also said, "more than 3 million Tibetans living in Tibet are the most qualified to speak about what happens there".

He added that apart from these few differences, China gives great importance to U.S.-China Relations, and the Tibet Autonomous Region is ready to implement the 'important consensus' reached between Trump and Xi Jinping and strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the United States.

## **TAR Held Civil-Military Integration Development Committee Meeting**

11 May 2018

The second Plenary Meeting of the Military and Civil Integration Development Committee of the TAR Party Committee was held in Lhasa on May 10. Wu Yingjie,

TAR Party Secretary, First Secretary of the Tibet Military Region, and Director of the Military and Civil Integration Development Committee of the Party Committee attended the meeting and delivered speeches.

Deputy Party Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Chairman of TAR People's Government, Deputy Director of the Civil-Military Integration Development Committee of the District Party Committee Qi Zhalha and the District Party Standing Committee, Commander of the Tibet Military Region, and Deputy Director of the Civil-Military Integration Development Committee of the TAR Party Committee Lieutenant General Xu Yong also attended the meeting. The Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the TAR, Deputy Chairman of the Party Committee and Deputy Director of the Military and Civil Integration Development Committee of the District Party Committee Zhuangyan reported on the 2017 civil-military integration development work of TAR, key points of the 2018 task force of the Civil-Military Integration Development Committee of the District Party Committee, and the military and civilian integration in the "13th Five-Year Plan" of the Tibet Autonomous Region. The Office of the Military and Civilian Integration Development Committee of the TAR Party Committee reported on the drafting of "Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Administrative Measures for the Implementation of National Defence Requirements for the Construction Projects Related to Economic Construction and National Defense (Trial)" in the TAR. He Wenhao (Member of the Standing Committee of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee), Li Wenping (Director of the Political Department of Tibet Military Region), leaders of the TAR and the Tibet Military Area Command and the Armed Police Force such as Major General Fang Jianguo (Commander of Shigatse Military Division) Ngawang Dorjee (Deputy Chief of Staff of the PLA Tibet Military Region and Director of the Office of Recruitment Leading Group of the Autonomous Region), and Liu Guorong (Commander of the TAR Armed Police Force), and others attended the meeting.

In the meeting Wu Yingjie pointed out that "since the first plenary session of the Military and Civil Integration Development Committee, we have been guided by the

socialist ideology of Chinese characteristics in the new era of Xi Jinping and have conscientiously implemented the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Party, the 19th Central Committee, and the Central Committee.”

He added that they are implementing the spirit of the third Plenary Session and the Sixth Central Forum for Working in Tibet, the General Secretary’s idea of strengthening the army and the strategic concept of the integration of military and civilian development, governing the country, and managing the country’s borders, and strengthening national unity. The important instructions for the construction of a ‘beautiful Tibet’ and the spirit of relying on the people in Yumai Township of Lhuntse County are closely related to accelerating the development of the border areas, ensuring the border areas consolidate border security, and implementing in depth the civil-military integration development strategy.

He emphasized that the General Secretary's military-civilian integration development strategy is an important part of Xi Jinping’s socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics in the New Era. It provides a scientific guide and an action program for advancing the deep development of military-civilian integration and realizing China’s Dream and the military dream. Wu Yingjie emphasized that implementing the military-civilian integration development strategy is a major decision made by the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core starting from the overall situation of national development and security.

In particular, he added that “with Yumai as our breakthrough point, we must unswervingly push forward the construction of well-off villages on the border and constantly improve production and living conditions of the frontier people, give full play to military and civilian advantages, strengthen the construction of patriotism bases and red positions, strengthen patriotic education and national unity education, strengthen the "five identities" of the people of all nationalities, further build up the awareness of the Chinese nation, and strive to create a national unity demonstration area.”

Wu Yingjie demanded that the Party should comprehensively strengthen the leadership of the Party in the integration of military and civilian development, attach great importance to military-civilian integration, put the development of civil-military integration into an important position, include important agendas, listen to timely reports, coordinate research on the integration of civil-military development, and coordinate and solve problems. It is necessary to strengthen supervision and inspection, increase accountability, and ensure that the various tasks of the integration of military and civilians are fully implemented, he added.

### **A letter of Notice to Families during Saka Dawa**

May 18, 2018

Saga Dawa, or Meritorious Month, is an important month in the Tibetan calendar for Buddhist activities. During the month, Tibetans both inside and outside Tibet commit themselves to personal sacrifices and altruistic activities, such as refraining from eating meat; making offerings or donations to monasteries and nunneries; praying and reciting mantras; and making prostrations around holy sites such as temples and monasteries in Tibet. However, this year school children in TAR were prevented from joining Buddhist activities following notice to families by schools of the Municipal Education Department, Municipal People's Government and Tibet Autonomous Region's Education Bureau.

Main Contents of the Notification were:

1. In order to promote children's ideological education, children are prohibited from participating in religious activities or visiting monasteries.
- 2) Since families are responsible for children, they are also banned from going to monasteries and engaging in religious activities.
- 3) Higher officials must clandestinely supervise and penalise persons who contravene these regulations.
- 4) If authorities come to learn of anyone taking their children to monasteries or secretly engaging in any religious activities, they shall be handed over to the Education Bureau; and
- 5) Family members should be responsible for their children's safety and management and

are requested to support the management of the school.

### **Tibet to have universal broadband service**

May 17, 2018

The PRC Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced (May 17) that ninety-eight percent of the administrative villages in TAR will have optical fibre communication and the target is expected to be accomplished by the end of this year. Since 2016, pilot programs have been carried out to provide over 5,000 villages in the vast region with universal access to broadband services and faster optical fibre connection. All the administrative villages in Tibet will be connected with broadband under the project, which is estimated to cost 3 billion yuan (US\$ 471 million). "The newly-established network has greatly enriched entertainment for local farmers and herdsmen, informed them of the latest knowledge and news, and enabled them to stay in touch with family members via video calls," said the ministry. The universal telecom service project is part of China's poverty alleviation efforts in Tibet. Tibet is investing over 200 billion yuan between 2016 and 2020 to eradicate poverty, with 90 percent of the investment going into infrastructure and poverty-relief projects in the poorest areas. The telecom project has linked 1,452 administrative villages in deep-poverty areas into the optical fibre network in 2017, with another 955 ready for broadband connection this year. "China's efforts in promoting universal telecom services are significant in narrowing its digital gap," said Wen Ku, Director of the Telecom Development Department at the ministry. The country aims to speed up broadband coverage and bring down Internet rates, and achieve high-speed broadband access in both urban and rural areas, according to this year's government work report.

## **NAGCHU NEWS (Ch:Nagqu)**

### **New Nagqu government leaders meet media reporters**

May 4, 2018

On May 3, after the elections at the second plenary session of the First People's Congress of Nagqu, the newly elected mayor of Nagqu City, Liu Quanquan, the Deputy Mayor of the city, Gu Zhaowen, Deputy Pema Norbu and Deputy Mayors Zan Nan, Li Yaxiang, Bao Dong, Zhang Wensheng, Mu Xingbin, Sonam Gyatso, Jia Duo, Li Meng, and Sonam Tsering met local media reporters that evening. Liu Quanquan thanked the People's Congress deputies and cadres and people of all ethnic groups in northern Tibet for their love, trust and trust. He promised that the new officials will “not forget to keep in mind the mission, and to work with diligence and honesty. They will never betray the trust of the Party Central Committee, the State Council, the regional party committees, the government, and the municipal party committee, and will never fail to live up to the expectations of the people of all ethnic groups in Nagqu.”

## **LHOKA NEWS (Ch: Shannan)**

### **Lhokha built Weather Information Service Stations in 77 townships**

16 May 2018

Since 2017, Lhokha (Ch: Shannan) has started the township meteorological information service coverage project and 77 stations have already been built in townships and villages in the region. Township meteorological information service station chiefs, part-time meteorological coordinators, and 378 technicians and personnel have strengthened the standardized management of weather station personnel, equipment, systems, files, and responsibilities.

In order to promote the meteorological disaster prevention and disaster reduction in villages, monasteries and schools, the city organises two training sessions for meteorological information personnel every year to carry out meteorological disaster emergency drills, strengthen the information receiving channels and promote the application of national emergency information warning system. Construction of public weather service networks in counties and villages has been accelerated and public weather service platforms in six counties, such as Tsona County, have been established.

The meteorological department of Lhokha City will release weather information to the public through television, mobile phone messages, WeChat public account, and electronic display screens, so that the general public can understand weather conditions and production and living suggestions as well.

**TAR District Water Resources Department Deputy Director Choedak in Lhuntse**

2 May 2018

The Deputy Director of the TAR Water Resources Department, Choedak Inspected Lhuntse County and guided the work of water resources protection, management, and construction of water conservancy facilities. Wang Qing, Director of the Municipal (Lhoka) Water Conservancy Bureau, Deputy Magistrate Fu Chengcon and the person in charge of the county water conservancy bureau accompanied him. Choedak and his team inspected the conditions of using traditional water resources for the production of the Tashi Gang mining area, the mining field, and the tailings pond in the Huanan Mining Lhokha Branch. He demanded that the Huanan Mining Lhokha Branch, while strengthening enterprise water management, should achieve water conservation through a process of reforms, improve water reuse, and avoid direct discharge of industrial wastewater and contaminating surface water, groundwater, and tap water.

Choedak and his entourage came to the project for viewing materials and asking about the progress of the Supho Irrigation District Project in Lhuntse County. Choedak said that the “water conservancy facilities work is in the best interests of the modern age, and that the construction of a well-sloped irrigation area is a matter for the people of the Lhuntse County without compromise.” Supho Irrigation District is located in the Ridang Town, Lhuntse County. It has 3 water intakes, 2 ponds, 5 trunk canals and 10 branch canals. After completion, it is expected to effectively solve the problem of irrigation of 7753 mu (1277.2 acre) land.

## **NYINGTRI NEWS (Ch: NYINGCHI)**

### **Story of Nyingchi Broadcasted on Nepali TV**

15 May 2018

China is pushing its propaganda about Tibet beyond its geographical boundaries including to Nepal. On May 15, China News reported that in the first quarter of 2018, a series of propaganda programmes about Nyingtri were broadcast on Nepal's state television.

From the beginning of this year, reports on the development of several counties and townships in Nyingchi City and the story of the ordinary people of Nyingchi have been translated into English and Nepali and telecast on Nepal's national TV station. The documentary about Tibet shows the "face of Tibet in the new era". Programmes such as "Lulang Realizes the Simultaneous Development of Forest Scenic Area Construction and Ecological Protection" to demonstrate the enthusiasm of sustainable development of tourist economy in Lulang Town and scientific development of the tourism economy were telecast. To portray the development, a couple who lived in Nyingchi for many years reported on the convenience of the Tongmai Bridge. To show how happy Tibetans are under Chinese rule the programme showed "a group of tourists went to the Nyingchi Yigong Tea Garden with the camera and learned that the teahouse has brought happiness to the local people".

## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **Tibet Military Region conducts psychological Counseling for officers and soldiers of Border Defence Group**

18 May 2018

A team of mental health services provided by a border defense group in the Tibet Military Region went to the front line to provide mental health advice and counselling

services for border guards and officers, and was praised by the majority of officers and soldiers.

During counselling, the psychological service team first conducted a comprehensive psychological evaluation of each officer, and then created a detailed psychological file, and differentiated the different psychological characteristics in order to provide personalized psychological counseling.

In order to integrate the fact that frontier troops are in multi-line long frontier positions, the mental health service team not only goes for medical tours to the frontline positions but also conducts one-on-one psychological counseling services in various ways such as telephone calls and discussions.

Since launch of the service, the mental health service team has helped 18 officers and soldiers to ease their "problem" and improve their ability to adapt to high-intensity military training and a complex frontier environment.

### **Tibet Military Region Launched a "Military + Logistical" Actual Combat Competition**

17 May 2018

A brigade of the Tibet Military Area Command conducted a competitive exercise at a training ground of over 3,700 meters above sea level ensemble an actual combat background. The contest included military and logistical services in 5 major categories and 33 sub-categories.

Chen Jianjun, Deputy Brigade Commander of a brigade of the Tibet Military Region said “this contest has comprehensively tested the training of the military since the beginning of the year, and set off an upsurge in the training of all majors. It will help us to diversify at higher altitudes.”

In the light weapons contest, the officers and men were to complete blindfolded the dismantling and assembly of pistols and rifles and then use their own assembled weapons. There was also a hand grenades contest.

In addition to the military competitions, the contest had logistics support subjects. Tibet is mostly an alpine gorge terrain with narrow bends and narrow roads, and there were driving competition projects and field rescue projects. Competitors, regardless of their units, officers, assistants and staff members competed on the same stage, including for traditional manual mapping, map operations, computer mapping, aerial image interpretation, etc. The contest included 13 professional subjects including command, reconnaissance, calculation, communication, and anecdotes. It was characterized by strict training style, strict supervision, full surveillance of the camera, and clear and practical guidance.

## **NEWS FROM OTHER PARTS OF TIBET**

### **Skill Learnt in Prison are Illegal to Use in Normal Life in Tibet**

May 12, 2018

In a statement by a man from Amdo Ngaba, Changchun district who was released after eight years in prison, he said that an individual is not allowed to use the skills learnt in prison in normal life after completion of the prison term. During his eight years in prison, he was made to work mainly in a carpet weaving factory and road construction. When he returned home after serving his term, he realized that not a single person in his area could weave a carpet. With his parents' support he started a small business weaving carpets and gathered other youth in the village and trained them. However, the authorities ordered him to stop saying he cannot start any business with the skills that he learnt in prison.

The local people also chose him as their village head as they found him capable and he is fluent in Chinese. But the local party leader said he would resign if the villagers insisted

on him becoming their leader. He said, "A man with a criminal record is not eligible to serve the country, and if he becomes a leader, the blame would be on other local village leaders who were present there". Fearing future harm to his village, the individual withdrew his candidature.

### **Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Region was Instructed for Compulsory Education**

May 18 2018

The Chengdu Education Inspection Committee gave strict instructions to the Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Region instructing that all eligible children go to school and that it's the responsibility of the authorities to make sure 'all kids of school going age are in school'. Programmes have been initiated at the county, district and Xian levels to inspect and ascertain whether families have children of school going age or they have children who have passed their school going age and have the means to send them again.

Families of more than 1392 children have signed undertakings with the Chengdu Education Inspection Committee and of the 1392 children at least 97.2% have since enrolled their children in school.

### **Nomads Resettlement Without Compensation**

May 17, 2018

Tibetan Watch reported that a smuggled video clip of a Tibetan man from a nomadic family in Nyimo County, appealed for justice because their land had been seized without compensation and they were forced to relocate with the excuse that their land would be converted into either a lawn or field.

According to Tibet Watch 60 nomadic families are still waiting for compensation after the land was taken from them in mid-2017. Approximately 5000 sq feet confiscated, and over the past year the land has been neglected and left in a condition unsuitable for grazing. While the exact motive for confiscation remains unknown, there were fears

amongst locals that the area could be used for mining.

Villagers were threatened by town officials against appealing to higher officials when they visit the local area. Locals were either told to remain silent or leave and otherwise they would be arrested or jailed. When the villagers asked for compensation for the land they were told no compensation would be given as the land belonged to the Chinese Communist Party.

### **Wang Yang Visits to Tibet Autonomous Prefecture Kanlho**

May 23, 2018

Wang Yang, PBSC member and CPPCC Chairman visited Jone county in Kanlho (Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture for three days. He reminded local party officials that they should carefully implement the CCP's Tibet policy. During his three-day tour, he visited Gansu Normal University for Nationalities and met Tibetan students on May 22, 2018. He also visited Manma village in Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture the same day. A symposium was convened in Labrang monastery in Xiahe County. Labrang Monastery is under strict restrictions since the 2008 uprising and because of the several self-immolations in the region.

Wang Yang's main message was that any work regarding Tibetan areas should focus on maintaining national solidarity and strengthening ethnic unity. He called for greater efforts to promote religious harmony, fight separatist elements and activities and improve people's lives and eliminate extreme poverty to ensure the economic and social development and enduring peace and stability in Tibetan areas.

He urged monks and the people to uphold the principle that religions in China must be Chinese in orientation, stressing that the CCP's leadership over religious work should be strengthened.

**Lianhe Academy of Social Science held 2018 Party Work Conference**

May 24, 2018

The District Social Science Academy, (Lianhe) held its 2018 party work conference on May 24. It was attended by Chen Fan, Party Secretary of the hospital, Soulin, the Dean and the Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee, Discipline Inspection Committee, Party's Propaganda Committee, members of the Party committee of the Academy of Social Sciences as well as their officials, staff, and researchers attended the meeting.

Chen Fan referred to the urgency of building the Party's work style and clean government. The establishment of the Party's work style, clean government, and anti-corruption work by the Academy of Social Sciences (Academy of Social Sciences) must complement the great banner of Xi Jinping's socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics in a new era and fully implement the Party's 19th Congress and the 2nd Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee.

It is the idea of General Secretary's in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session of the 19<sup>th</sup> Central Commission for Discipline Inspection to strengthen the important ideology of the ethnic unity and to build a beautiful Tibet. He said it is also important for people to know the idea of Yumai Township of Lhunze County.

To have a correct a political and ideological orientation, , he said, one must focus on the following five aspects: (i) safeguard the core position of General Secretary Xi Jinping, and maintain the authority of the Party Central Committee and centralized leadership; (ii) strengthening ideals and beliefs and deeply studying Xi Jinping's socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics in a new era; (iii) we must persist in rectifying the "Four Winds" and focus on the implementation of the eight central provisions and implementing regulations; (iv) strengthen the discipline construction and strengthen the awareness of discipline; and (v) ensure that the responsibility system for building the Party's style and clean government is guaranteed and that the Party's responsibilities for strict and comprehensive administration are fully implemented.

The momentum has been firmly promoted by the mission of building the Party's style of work and clean governance in the Academy of Social Sciences (CAS). The members of the team must perform "one job and two duties". While managing themselves well, they should educate and manage their relatives and their neighbours.

In the end, the staff signed the "Responsibility Document for the Party's Work Style and Clean Government Construction of the Committee of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences of the Tibet Autonomous Region in 2018".

### **China jails activist for five years for urging protection of Tibetan language**

May 23, 2018

China on May 22 morning sentenced Tibetan language rights activist Tashi Wangchuk to a five-year jail term for allegedly “inciting separatism” following a four-hour trial on January 4 in Yushu Prefecture of Qinghai Province. 33-year Tashi Wangchuk had only complained against local authorities for violating China’s own law and government policy, which supposedly protect the language and culture of ethnic minorities. He was sentenced despite a huge number of international calls, including parliamentary resolutions, calling for his release.

## **ACTIVITIES OF TIBETANS INSIDE AND ABROAD**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Rangzen Conference held in Dharamshala**

May 24, 2018

Supporters of Tibet’s independence, or Rangzen, which does not support the ‘Middle Way’ held their fifth international conference at Dharamshala on May 23-25. Participating in the three-day conference were more than 180 Tibetan activists, students and community leaders from India, Nepal, USA, and Europe. The venue was the Dharamshala Municipal Corporation Town Hall. The Rangzen conference was to review the Tibetan freedom movement and discuss issues ranging from the ongoing crisis in

Tibet to working out creative and practical steps toward realizing the independence goal. The chief guests were Ajay Singh Mankotia and Vijay Kranti, a veteran Indian journalist with decades of interest in the Tibetan movement, along with independence activists Jamyang Norbu, Lhasang Tsering, and Tenzin Tsundue. There was no official participation by the Tibetan Youth Congress, but a few members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, including Lhagyari Namgyal Dolkar, Geshe Monlam Tharchin, Tenpa Yarphel, Serta Tsultrim and Juchen Konchok participated. The Dalai Lama at the end of the Conference granted an audience to the participants.

(Comment: The first Rangzen conference was held in Dharamshala on Jul 27, 2012. This was followed by others in New Delhi on May 23-24, 2015, New York on July 1-3, 2016, and Paris on August 21-23, 2017.

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