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TIBET INSIGHT-APRIL 2023

TAR NEWS

Two Counties of Strategic Importance in Lhoka Converted to Cities

China Tibet News: April 04, 2023

On April 3rd, the TAR People's Government announced that Mainling County and Tsona County of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) would be converted/ upgraded to cities. Reportedly, after the approval of the State Council, Mainling was converted and will henceforth be called Mainling City. It will be under the direct administration of the TAR People's Government. Similarly, Tsona County in Lhoka will be called Tsona City, and Monba Ethnic Township will be its administration area from the TAR People's Government.

Ngari Signs Strategic Cooperation with Agricultural Bank of China's Ngari Branch

Ngari News: April 06, 2023

The Ngari (Ch: Ali) Party Committee recently signed a Strategic Cooperation with the Agricultural Bank of China's Ngari branch. In a meeting, the Agricultural Bank of China summarised its work in rural revitalisation projects and financial support for the border garrisons of Ngari in 2022. The Agricultural Bank of China's Ngari branch also presented reports of current opportunities. It claimed to be the "main bank" to financially support border garrisons. The Agricultural Bank agreed to provide financial support for constructing ten projects on rural revitalisation and border-related work in 2023.

At the meeting, the Agricultural Bank of China's Ngari Branch signed a strategic cooperation agreement on financial support for rural revitalisation with the Ngari Regional Agricultural and Rural Bureau and the Ngari Regional Rural Revitalization Bureau.

Construction Begins For All 128 Grid Projects in Tibet

Seetao: April 2023

According to reports, China's 128 Grid Projects in Tibet have begun construction. All projects have been started, with more than 2,600 on-the-job construction personnel. Construction workers working on a medium and low-voltage power distribution project of 10 kV and below in Gertsa (Ch: Gaize) County, Ngari Prefecture, Tibet, are covered. It is reported that this is one of the 128 power grid construction projects to start constructing the Tibet power grid in 2023.

In 2023, the 128 power grid construction projects, with a planned investment of about 8 billion yuan, involving 56 counties in 7 cities (regions), will benefit about 500,000 electricity customers. These projects are reportedly meant to stimulate the development of upstream and downstream industries such as building materials, cement manufacturing, and power equipment manufacturing along with playing a vital role in rural revitalisation. According to Ning, Deputy Director of the power distribution department of the equipment department under State Grid Tibet Electric Power Co., Ltd., in 2023, a total of 8 projects are involved in Lhasa's urban distribution network transformation with an investment of about 406 million yuan. And 50 new lines were reconstructed, comprising about 76.448 kilometres of 10 kV cable lines, 67 distribution transformers, 199 ring network cabinets, and 108.68 low-voltage conductors.

Tashigang Border Police Patrols in the first Border village in Ngari

China Tibet Network: April 08, 2023



On April 6, the Tashigang/Demchok Border Police Station of Ngari Border Management Detachment, Ngari, organised a patrolling exercise for a group of police and border guards to go to the first border village, i.e. Demchok village's Guge Duty Patrol Point. Guo Yuanjing at the Tibet Frontier Inspection Station emphasised the importance of patrolling; said that through patrolling, the immigration management police could keep abreast of the situation on the front line of the border to ensure the safety and stability of the borders.



Continue to work on Long-term Stability in Tibet, writes TAR Party Secretary in People's Daily.

People's Daily: April 06, 2023

Wang Junzheng, the Party Secretary of TAR, published an article in People's Daily on April 6th about unity, stability, development, building socialism with

Chinese characteristics, Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism, border security and opposing separatism. Some highlights from his article are as follows:

1. The 20th Party Congress was critical when the Party and people of all ethnic groups embarked on a new journey of building a socialist country and marching towards the second centenary goal. The congress was a meeting to hold the banner high and gather strength. Tibet, he said, must persevere in using Xi Jinping Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to condense (our) hearts and souls, implement the spirit of the 20th National Congress, thoroughly implement the Party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era, and continue to compose a new era of long-term stability and high-quality development in Tibet.
2. Xi Jinping Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the latest achievement of modernising Marxism in China. It is a powerful ideological weapon to understand and transform the world.
3. To build a socialist modern country in an all-round way, we must adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, deeply understand the decisive significance of the "two establishments", strengthen the "four consciousnesses", strengthen the "four self-confidences", and consciously implement in the whole process of building a socialist modern Tibet in an all-round way.
4. The attitude of unity and struggle is a significant symbol of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people. The Party has created a remarkable history through unity and struggle. To build a modern socialist country in an all-around way, we must deeply understand the significance of adhering to unity and struggle. Ideological consensus is essential for the Chinese nation's rejuvenation and long-term stability in Tibet.
5. As a "Special Frontier Region", developments in Tibet started late; hence, there are unbalanced economic and social developments in Tibet. Since the 18th Party Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has

attached great importance to the work in Tibet and cared for the Tibetan people. He has given essential instructions many times, visited Tibet for inspection and guidance, formed the party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era, and guided us to strive to write a new chapter of Tibet's long-term stability and high-quality development; he wrote.

6. The Tibet Autonomous Region has thoroughly implemented General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on Tibet work and the party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era. To implement the four major issues of stability, development, ecology, and border strengthening, it is proposed to create a model area for national unity and progress and a demonstration area for the national action of consolidating borders and rejuvenating the border and enriching the people.
7. Establishing the TAR as a national unity and progress model area should be considered one of the priorities. One must take into account the importance of overall national security, take initiatives to fight against “separatism” and social stability, foster a collective sense of the Chinese nation, actively promote the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism, carry out intensive education campaigns on ethnic unity, promote and propagate ethnic assimilation and integration.
8. Along with consolidating and rejuvenating borders and prospering border residents as a strategic task, it is essential to strengthening troops and security on the border. He stated that developing characteristic and advantageous industries according to local conditions, striving to improve infrastructural developments, increasing population in the borders, supporting their economy, and building border protection capabilities are essential.

Chamdo's Pashoe County holds Ethnic and Religious Work Meeting

UFWD Chamdo: April 15, 2023

On April 10, the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of Pashoe in Chamdo (Ch: Changdu) convened a meeting to deploy ethnic and religious work in the region. The meeting was attended by Dorji, Minister of the UFWD and Standing Member of Chamdo Municipal Party Committee, as well as Deputy Mayor Qian Wanru, among all the concerned Officials of the UFWD and Regional Ethnic and Religious Bureau.

The meeting stressed the importance of 2023 as the first year to study and implement the spirit of the 20th Party Congress and that the UFWD cadres in charge of the Party and Government units at all levels “must conscientiously fulfil their responsibilities, put the UFWD work as an important agenda, take the lead in learning, propagating and implementing the Party’s theories on UFWD, principles and policies.”

Some major work deployments for Pashoe UFWD for the year 2023 are as follows:

1. To intensify the campaign forging and fostering the Communal sense of the Chinese nation, relying on the advantages and tourism resources of the China National Highway (G318), which runs through Markham, Zogang and Pashoe counties of Chamdo. To create visual projects on national unity and publicise red culture on and along the “72-turns to the Heaven Road” and Gyalmo Ngulchu Bridge.
2. To persist and mandate the strict management of religious affairs as per law, rigorously implement the “Three Consciousness” campaign in monastic institutions, deepen the hierarchical and classified control of monasteries and nunneries, and firmly promote the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

3. To strengthen ideological education across the social strata, including non-party members and intellectuals, and disseminate mainstream ideology.

4.

TAR Party Secretary Meets Visiting Medical Expert Groups

China Tibet News: April 10, 2023

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng and TAR Officials Zhuang Yan, Dawa Tsering and Luo Mei welcomed a visiting 'Medical Expert Group' in Lhasa, and a meeting was held afterwards.

The Medical Group was reportedly in Lhasa to listen to “opinions and suggestions on developing medical and health care services.” Twelve experts, including Wang Guowei, Chief Physician of Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine; Yan Pengxiang, Chief Physician of Beijing Tiantan Hospital; Liu Yinhong, Chief Physician of Beijing Hospital; and Liu Bo, Chief Physician of Beijing Tongren Hospital, reportedly put forward suggestions and countermeasures on strengthening targeted assistance for common plateau diseases, strengthening health awareness publicity and education of grassroots people, speeding up of ensuring first aid facilities in grassroots hospitals, and maintaining chronic disease health care.

TAR Party Wang Junzheng, who also spoke at the meeting, stated that Tibet is a significant part of the national security and ecology; and that cadres of all ethnic groups are fighting on the front line to maintain social stability, guard border territories, and fighting against “separatism.” He hoped the expert medical team would effectively play the role of a bridge, use high-quality medical resources, share their medical expertise with medical staff in Tibet, and provide health services to all ethnic groups in Tibet. At the same time, he hoped the medical experts would vigorously promote Tibet and call on more medical institutions to support and assist Tibetan cadres and workers so that the broad masses of Tibetans can enjoy fair, accessible,

systematic and continuous medical services such as prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

During their stay in Tibet, the medical expert team also went to Nyingtri Lhasa and other places to carry out free clinics and expert lectures.

China Builds “World’s” Largest Wind Power in Nagchu, Tibet

Global Times: April 09, 2023

China claimed to have started constructing the world’s “largest wind power project” in Tibet’s Nagchu prefecture. According to a report in the Global Times, the project is also the largest approved wind power project in Tibet, with a capacity of 100 megawatts, citing a statement released on April 09 on the WeChat account of China Energy Investment Corporation (China Energy), the developer of the project.

In the same report, after the operation, the project is expected to provide about 200 million kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually and save approximately 60,000 tons of standard coal while reducing about 160,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions yearly. The project is planned to start power generation within 2023, said China Energy Investment Corporation. Before this wind power project, back in December 2021, the first batch of wind turbine generators of an ultra-high altitude wind farm reportedly started generating power in Tibet, according to PowerChina Chengdu Engineering Corp, the Builder of the Wind farm. The 22-megawatt wind power project stood at an altitude of more than 4,850 meters in Trigu township. In December 2022, a photovoltaic (PV) power generation project with a capacity of 120,000 kilowatts started operation in Nagchu, Tibet and ranked first in China in solar energy resources.

“Special Training” For County Heads of the UFWD in Ngari

Ngari UFWD: April 12, 2023

On April 10, the inaugural session of a “Special Training Programme” for the County Directors of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) and the Heads of the County Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau, Monastic Management Committees in Ngari, was held. Kelsang Dawa, the Head of the UFWD of the Ngari Party Committee and the Deputy Secretary of the Ngari People’s Political Consultative Conference (PPCC) attended the inaugural session and spoke. At the same time, Jamyang Tsering, the Executive Vice Minister of the Ngari UFWD, presided over the session. The meeting emphasised the need to have a clear-cut political stand, understand the significance, defend and achieve the “Two Establishments”, to deeply absorb and implement the mission and critical tasks of the United Front Work in Ngari, resolutely oppose “separatism”, maintain social stability and promote effective social governance.

Trainees of Grassroots UFWD Inspects Buddhist College in Lhasa

China Tibet News: April 19, 2023

On April 12, the grassroots trainees of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of Lhasa, said to be its “backbone”, inspected the Advanced Buddhist College of Tibet and met the leaders of the college, the heads of relevant departments, representatives of scripture teachers, students and discussed on strengthening training for grassroots party cadres of the UFWD including training for representatives of Monastic institutions.

At the college, the trainees of Lhasa UFWD were shown “special exhibitions” on the sixth Panchen Lama and Jokhang Temple, the three-level academic title system in Tibetan Buddhism, and the history of the college. They were also given a tour of the college library, scripture hall, and classrooms and watched a propaganda video of the Advanced Buddhist College of Tibet. These exhibitions and tours were reportedly aimed at teaching the trainees about

patriotism and enhancing their sense of responsibility and mission to forge a collective sense and consciousness of the Chinese nation.

Liu Peng, a Member of the Party Group and Vice President of the College said in his speech that the advanced Tibetan Buddhism education in the college is a concrete practice to forge a collective sense and consciousness of the Chinese nation; and promote and propagate the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

Gui Fan, Dean of the Chinese Language Training College, who was also part of the trainee group, said that the Department has rich resources to carry out national common language education campaigns and can carry out teaching cooperation with Buddhist colleges.

Gong Huajun, Monitor of the training class and Deputy Director of Lhasa's "Three Consciousness" Education Office, said that through mass publicity and education campaign of "national awareness, citizen awareness, and the rule of law awareness", the monks and nuns in Lhasa will have an impact on their ideology, religious and political stands.

Twenty-Five More Houses were Built in Demchok Village of Gar, Ngari

Ngari News: April 20, 2023

According to a report from Ngari (Ch: Ali), twenty-five more houses have been built as a part of the Xiakong Villages Project (border defence) in Demchok village in Tashigang Township of Gar County, in Ngari, which is roughly 600m away from the Indian-administered village of Demchok, Ladakh. The report claims the new houses with blue roofs, white walls, and villa-style built to create an environment of prosperity and “sweeter than honey” lives for the border residents.

Reportedly, the construction of border defence villages or well-off border villages (Ch: Xiaokang) started in Ngari in 2017 with a total investment of 19 million yuan. On September 29, 2019, 79 people from 25 households moved into new houses in Demchok village. These new houses have infrastructures like a village activity centre, sports complex, and farmhouse bookstore. Demchok village in Tashigang was awarded 'National Civilized Village and Town' and 'Exemplary Border Village' in Ngari.

The report claimed that changes in Demchok village are just a microcosm of constructing border defence villages in Ngari.

The construction of border villages in Ngari sped up since the 18th Party Congress and Xi Jinping's exposition and emphasis on Tibet work and the Party's strategy of governing Tibet in the new era. Since then, Ngari planned to build 37 border villages in 15 border towns across four counties of Gar, Purang, Ruthok (Ch: Ritu), and Tsada (Ch: Zanda) of Ngari involving 5,756 border residences with 21,205 people with an investment of 2.489 billion yuan. All 37 well-off border defence villages have been completed, and people have moved in.

Over the years, Ngari has completed 2,826 new houses covering 364,000 square meters, renovated 1,502 homes over 336,000 square meters, completed the construction of 119 kilometres of roads in border villages, installed 4,697 lights in the town, and established 978 square meters of postal outlets. All the border villages have access to modern facilities, including 4G internet services.

Gold Medals for Frontier Defense Guards

Tibetol: April 21, 2023

In April 202, the first of a kind, the CCP National Immigration Management Bureau announced awarding gold, silver and bronze medals for Frontier Defense Guards. 21,00 frontier Defense guards were given these medals. Out

of these, two people were given gold medals, 87 silver medals, and 2,011 won bronze medals who respectively have worked as Frontier Defense guards for 30,20 and 10 years.

The winners were applauded for their service in snow-covered cold high, altitude plateaus, deserts and remote areas and worked to maintain national security and border stability.

Tibet Daily's Report on TAR's Ethnic Assimilation and Integration Initiatives in Nagchu

Tibet Daily: April 17, 2023

According to a report in Tibet Daily, the TAR continues to promote and propagate ethnic assimilation and integration measures through different means.

Citing the example of a Chinese Sichuan national who had married a Tibetan and now lives in Lhasa, had garnered praise from their neighbourhood and that inter-ethnic marriages were not as seldom and differently looked at as they used to be anymore, the Tibet Daily report also said in recent years, the TAR Party Committee and TAR People's Government have worked to unite party cadres and people. Some references the Tibet Daily provides to substantiate their report on "good progress of ethnic work in Tibet" are as follows;

1. The display of eight chapters and 48 articles in the school corridors of Lhari County Middle School in Nagchu, in addition to the collection of stories about ethnic exchanges and integration, Stories about the CCP's 18th Army's entry into Tibet
2. The Tibet Daily also reported that the TAR authorities have comprehensively excavated, sorted out, and publicised "historical facts

of Tibet's exchanges and integration” with various ethnic groups. Currently, two Projects on 'History of Exchanges and Assimilation of the Chinese Nation-Tibet Volume' and an 'Education Reader for the Communal Consciousness' of the Chinese Nation are reportedly under work. After their completion, ten schools and colleges, including Lhasa Haicheng Primary School, are reportedly selected to promote and propagate forging a collective sense and consciousness of the Chinese nation, in other words, Chinese nationalism in different primary and secondary schools.

3. At the same time, according to the same report, the TAR is also working on 'Visual Image Projects' about China which include visual image projects on '*Exchange Plan for Youth of All Ethnic Groups*', '*Inter-Ethnic Development Plan*' and '*Tourism to Promote Assimilation and Integration of all ethnic Groups.*'”
4. In recent years, five Collective Units and more than ten individuals from Nagchu were awarded by the CCP's State Council for their work on ethnic unity and assimilation. Similarly, the TAR People's Government commended 107 Collective Units and 159 individuals from different strata of Nagchu for their concerted work on ethnic exchanges and unity.
5. As part of the 'Establishment of the TAR as a Model Area for Ethnic Unity and Progress,' a Plan of the TAR for 2021-2025, the Tibet Daily reported that the TAR has successively completed its introductory plan and at present, the TAR Party Committee and the TAR People's Government are comprehensively implementing measures to promote high-standard ethnic work starting with the campaign of instilling Chinese nationalism or forging a collective sense of the Chinese nation as one of the main strategic tasks.

6. According to the Tibet Daily report, 251 Collective Units and individuals were named as the first batch of model cities (prefectures), model counties (districts), and model units (individuals) of national unity and progress in the TAR. At the same time, 68 units in the TAR were named as demonstration units for National Unity and Progress and eight units were named as the National Unity and Progress Education Base; 140 collective units and 189 individuals were awarded the National Model Unit and Model Individual Titles; 1,944 collectives Units and 2,857 individuals were awarded the titles of Model Collective and Model Individual for National Unity and Progress in the TAR.

Tsona County Party Committee Intensifies Propaganda Campaigns

UFWD Tsona County, Shannan: April 21, 2023

Tsono County of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) has rigorously carried out the 'Three Consciousness', 'Four Consciousness', 'Four Confidences', and 'Two Maintenances' propaganda campaigns ever since these were introduced. The County Party Committee has recently intensified these campaigns in religious institutions, monasteries and nunneries. The 'Three Consciousness' campaign, which is 'National Awareness', 'Citizen Awareness' and 'Rule of Law' Awareness'- the need to be aware of one as Chinese 'National', Chinese 'Citizen' and 'Rule of Law' of China is included as a critical agenda in the County Party Committee and County People's Government Work Plan. The Campaign is mainly conducted in monasteries, nunneries, and cultural and religious institutions. In this regard, some measures are set up in place, which are;

1. ***One Topic, One key takeaway and One Counselling Session Per Month:*** This requires monks and nuns to study and list one topic and one takeaway per month, followed by a counselling session on the 'Three Consciousness' campaign. At the end of each month, the monks and nuns are also required to sit for feedback and rectification session under the supervision of the County Party Committee.

2. ***Easy Content Manual:*** In addition to Xi Jinping’s Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new era, the spirit of the 20th Party Congress, Xi Jinping’s Instructions on Tibet work, religious work, “Ten-Special Topic” of study issued by the TAR People’s Government were reportedly compiled as easy study manuals for the monks and nuns.

3. ***Mechanisms to ensure long-term Impact:*** To carry out the campaign more effectively and ensure long-term impact, the County Party Committee made work division among the members of the United Front Work Department and Monastic Management Committees, established 13 leading groups to carry out “in-depth education” campaign on the “Three Consciousness.”

The key projects in Cuona County in 2023

Tsona News: April 23, 2023

On April 21, the Development and Reform Commission of Tsona County, Lhoka (Ch: Shannan), convened the resumption ceremony of key construction projects of Tsona for 2023. Concerned Party Officials of the Tsona County Party Committee and Tsona People’s Government attended the ceremony.

In 2023, Tsona County of Lhoka plans to implement 132 projects with a total investment of 7.21 billion yuan. Among them, 57 projects have been renewed, with a total investment of 1.896 billion yuan. Up to now, 11 projects have been completed, and 43 projects have been resumed, with a total investment of 1.632 billion yuan; 75 new projects have been added, with a total investment of 5.324 billion yuan. As of April 21, 16 projects have started, with an investment of 658 million yuan.

Thirty projects, with a total investment of 1.216 billion yuan, involve the construction of border roads, farmland water conservancy projects and rural revitalisation.

TAR Party Secretary holds a meeting with the Chairman of China Railway Corporation

Tibet Daily: April 27, 2027

TAR Party Secretary Wang Junzheng met with the Chairman of the China Railway Co., Ltd.] in Lhasa on April 27. Wang Junzheng welcomed Chen Yun and his Team on behalf of the TAR Party Committee and the TAR People's government and expressed his gratitude to China Railway for its long-term concern and support to Tibet.

Wang Junzheng pointed out that China Railway, as an essential state-owned backbone enterprise, conscientiously implements the decision-making and deployments of the Party Central Committee and demonstrates the political and social responsibility of central enterprises for Tibet's economic and social development.

He hoped that China Railway would give full play to its advantages, increase investments, and promote the two sides to deepen cooperation at a higher level and in a broader range of fields, to achieve mutual benefit and win-win development.

Chen Yun said that China Railway would, based on the needs of Tibet, will give full play to the strengths of central enterprises, enrich the content of cooperation, innovate cooperation methods, actively participate in the construction of transportation infrastructures, and contribute to the construction of a socialist modernisation of a new Tibet in an all-round way.

TAR Leaders Yan Jinhai, Chen Yongqi, Ren Wei, Dawa Tsering, Lang Fukuan and Tsering Phuntsok and Sun Cui, the leader of China Railway, also attended the meeting.

(Comment: A second team of 37 staff from China **Railway** Survey and Design Group and the Chinese government were in Nepal end of April to conduct surveys and other detailed study work for the new railway between Kathmandu and Kyirong in southern Tibet after the first team of technicians from China arrived in Nepal on December 27, 2022.

A project office has now been set up in Kathmandu, and staff are also at work in other locations, including Rasuwa and Nuwakot.

A detailed feasibility report is expected to take 42 months to complete. The initial survey will take 12 months, with more extensive surveying and mapping work taking 18 months. A further 12 months will be needed to finalise and submit the engineering study report.

The cost of building the new railway is expected to be very high, given the rugged terrain and the requirement of many bridges and tunnels, which represent around 98% of project work.)

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR

New Position for County Chief who oversaw the destruction of Tibetan Buddhist sites

A Chinese government official of Tibetan ethnicity who approved the destruction of a giant Buddha statue in a Tibetan-majority area has been assigned to another position in the same prefecture.

Wang Dongsheng, the Former Chief of Drago County, now holds an apolitical appointment as Director of the Science and Technology Bureau in the Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province. He was promoted in August 2022.

After he took office as Drago County Chief in October 2021, Wang directed the demolition of the 30-meter (99-foot) Buddha Statue there following official complaints that it had been built too high.

“Just within a month of taking office, he initiated the demolition of Tibetan religious sites in Drago,” said a Tibetan source inside the region who

requested anonymity for safety reasons. “Under his leadership, the Drago Buddhist school was destroyed.”

Since 2008, Drago has been a hotbed of resistance against the Chinese government, prompting interventions by authorities, including significant crackdowns in 2009 and 2012.

Earlier this year, Chinese authorities tightened restrictions on Tibetan residents, imposing measures to prevent contact with people outside the area.

Wang’s term as chief of Drago County ushered in a period of heightened assault on Tibetan Buddhism at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party, with the brutal dismantling of significant cultural and religious sites.

Party leaders who suppress Tibetans and successfully carry out harsh campaigns against the Buddhist minority group are often promoted.

Lui Pang, An Executive member of the Drago Communist Party, has been appointed as the new county chief.

Among Drago County’s dozen administrative officials are eight of Chinese origin who hold higher positions, while the remaining four are Tibetans who work as office employees.

Construction of Three Photovoltaic Projects in Ngaba Prefecture

Seetao: April 2023

China has started three centralised photovoltaic projects in Ngawa (Ch: Aba) Prefecture in Sichuan Province. It is reported that the three major photovoltaic projects under centralised construction/supervision this time have a total installed capacity of 2.02 million kilowatts and a total investment of 9.72 billion yuan. The first development phase has an installed capacity of 870000 kilowatts and an investment of 4.45 billion yuan. These three major photovoltaic projects are the Charlie Photovoltaic+N Project in Ngawa County,

the Water Light Complementary Project at the Maoergai Power Station in Heishui County, and the Gasidou Photovoltaic+N Project in Jinchuan County. Among them, the total installed capacity of the Charlisi Photovoltaic+N project in Ngawa County is 1.1 million kilowatts, with a total investment of 4.4 billion yuan. The first phase will implement 250000 kilowatts, with an investment of 1 billion yuan; The total installed capacity of the Gasidou Photovoltaic+N Project in Jinchuan County is 500000 kilowatts, with a total investment of 3.11 billion yuan. The first phase will implement 200000 kilowatts, with an investment of 1.24 billion yuan; The full installed capacity of the Maoergai Hydropower Station Water Light Complementary Project in Heishui County is 420000 kilowatts, with a total investment of 2.21 billion yuan.

According to Ngawa Prefecture Development and Reform Commission, all three photovoltaic projects have an altitude of over 3000 meters and belong to high-altitude photovoltaic projects on the plateau. After the project is completed, it is estimated that the average annual online electricity consumption during the operation period will be 3.7 billion kilowatt hours, which can save 1.167 million tons of standard coal annually.

The three major photovoltaic projects are expected to be connected to the grid for partial installation within the year and achieve total project production within 12 months.

Three Additional 500 KV Transmission lines Between Sichuan and TAR

Seetao: April 2023

Three additional 500 kV transmission line projects have started from Batang to Dzachu (Ch: Lancang) river in Chamdo under TAR. An additional 500 kV transmission channel has been added between Sichuan and TAR. It is reported that the 500 kV line project from Batang to Dzachu River starts from the Batang substation in Sichuan and ends at the Dzachu River substation in Chamdo. The State Grid of China is also constructing key projects such as Sichuan Chongqing ultra-high voltage and Panxi power grid optimisation in

Sichuan. Among them, the Sichuan Chongqing UHV project connects Sichuan and Chongqing's power supply and load centres, reportedly making it the first AC UHV project with a total investment of 28.8 billion yuan. It is expected to be implemented before the peak electricity consumption in the summer of 2025. The Panxi Power Grid Optimization Project is a key project of the State Grid of China, currently in the stage of tower erection and line installation. The project's first phase will be implemented in September 2023, which can effectively alleviate the peak power supply pressure in Chengdu and other places. Luo Xiaoyi, the spokesperson for State Grid Sichuan Electric Power Company, stated that during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the investment scale of State Grid in Sichuan is expected to reach 180 billion yuan, which will further promote the coordinated development of various levels of power grids in Sichuan, optimise the regional power grid structure, support larger scale clean energy development, and gradually build a large power grid pattern with a broader coverage range and more robust power supply capacity, with ultra-high voltage AC ring network as the backbone.

China-Appointed Panchen Lama Meets Party Secretary of Shandong Province

China Tibet News: April 17, 2023

On April 13, Gyaltzen Norbu, the China-appointed Panchen Lama, met Lin Wu, the Party Secretary of the Shandong Provincial Party Committee in Shandong.

Lin Wu welcomed the Panchen Lama and briefly introduced Shandong's economic and social development. He said Shandong is a province with a large population, economy, and culture. Lin Wu said that Shandong Province is implementing the spirit of the 20th Party Congress, stabilising the economy, and promoting development. He informed Gyaltzen Norbu that the economy had comprehensively recovered and accelerated growth. He added that in recent years, Shandong Province Party Committee had been fully implementing the party's strategy for governing Tibet in the new era, thereby

intensifying their counterpart assistance in the religious work. Shandong Province is reportedly responsible for religious-affairs related assistance in TAR. Lin Wu informed that the Province has thoroughly studied General Secretary Xi Jinping's essential expositions on religious work. He hoped that Gyaltzen Norbu, a “great living Buddha of Tibetan Buddhism”, would guide religious believers to maintain national unity, ethnic unity, and religious harmony.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Dalai Lama reported to have agreed to visit Sikkim

Tibetan Review: April 21, 2023

The Dalai Lama has accepted an invitation to visit India’s Tibet-border state of Sikkim later this year, according to Indian media reports on April 20. The invitation was extended by the state’s Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang-Golay, who called on the Tibetan spiritual leader in New Delhi.

The Dalai Lama, who was in the city to attend the second day of the Apr 20-21 Global Buddhist Summit, has agreed to visit the state in October. The summit is being co-hosted by India’s Ministry of Culture and the New Delhi-based International Buddhist Confederation.

“He (Dalai Lama) gladly accepted our invitation,” Indiatodayne.on April 21 quoted Golay as saying.

“On behalf of the people of Sikkim, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to him and remain indebted for his kind concerns and benevolent gestures,” he has said.

TYC conducts a month-long march to flag human rights violations in Tibet

Phayul: April 30, 2023

The Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) has launched a month-long “Tibet Matters March” from Gangtok (Sikkim) to Tezpur (Assam) on 29 April to raise awareness of the ongoing human rights violations in Tibet under Chinese rule. The march was flagged off from Gangtok, Sikkim, on April 29 by State Forest Minister Karma Loday Bhutia of Sikkim and will conclude on May 23 at Tezpur in Assam after crossing West Bengal. 87 volunteers from 17 Tibetan Youth Congress Regional Chapters of India and Nepal participated in the march that will cover a distance of 30 to 35 kilometres daily.

Speaking to Phayul, Gonpo Dhundup, President of TYC, stated, “The march is initiated to achieve three demands. First, we urge the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji and world leaders to raise the issue of the Sino-Tibet conflict with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the G20 summit in September 2023. Second, we demand that the Chinese government addresses the deteriorating human rights situation under its repressive rule in Tibet and the immediate shutdown of the colonial boarding schools that attack the Tibetan culture and identity. Third, we seek the international community's support in resolving the Sino-Tibet conflict.”

The TYC activist emphasised that Tibet matters in resolving growing tensions between China and several Southeast Asian countries, as almost 2 billion people depend on freshwater resources from the Tibetan plateau. China's continued exploitation of the Tibetan landscape, ecosystem, and natural resources will have long-lasting negative consequences for downstream countries.
