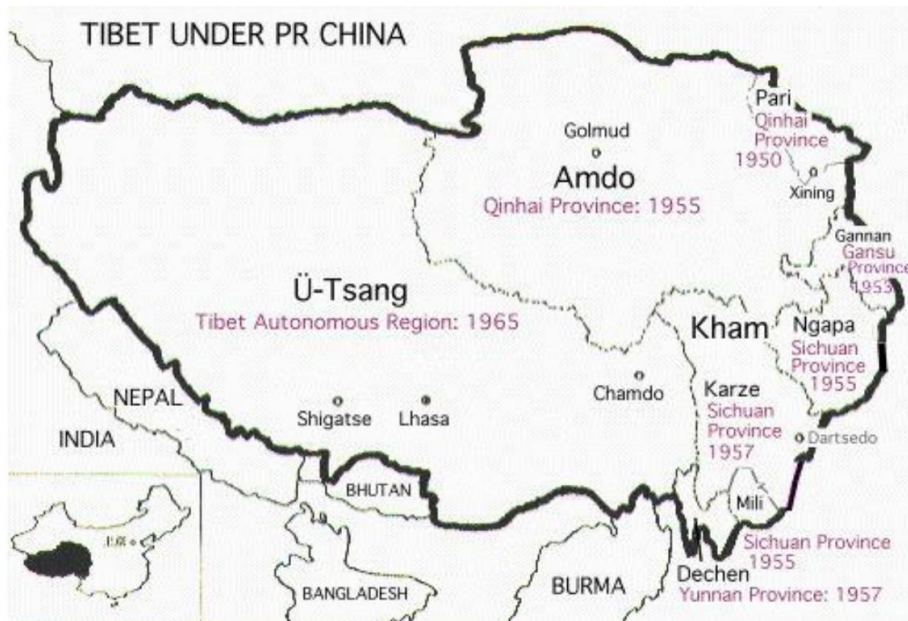
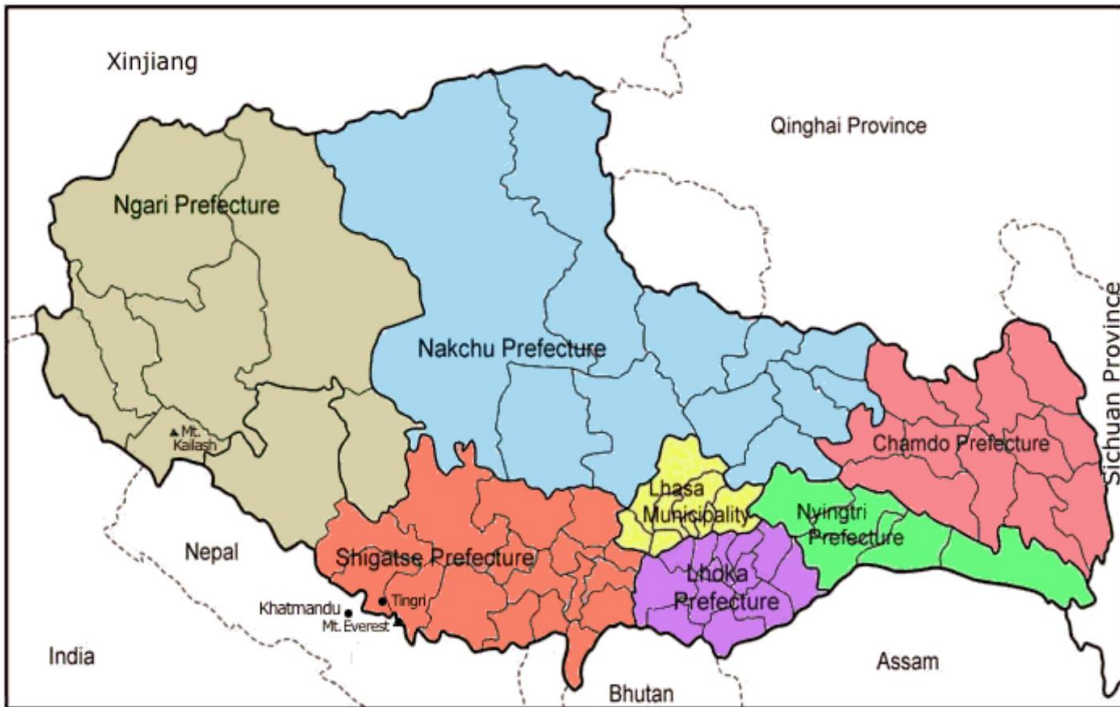




TIBET INSIGHT, JULY 1-15 2018



TAR NEWS

877,000 Social Security cards issued in Tibet

July 12, 2018

The TAR Human Resources and Social Security Department reportedly issued 877,000 social security cards from June 2017 to April 2018. The card with an installed chip is a multipurpose feature created to manage social security by recording a person's movements and for payment purposes, medical treatment and as electronic vouchers. The card identifies the holder's name, citizenship number, personal photo, social insurance contributions, personal status etc. The card has been launched in mid-June to areas beyond TAR like Chengdu and Golmud where large Tibetan populations reside.

Mudslide blocks Sichuan-Tibet highway

July 12, 2018

A section of the Sichuan-Tibet highway was blocked on June 11, following a mudslide triggered by continuous rain. More than 20,000 cubic meters of debris fell from a mountain onto the highway, a pivotal route linking the Tibet Autonomous Region and neighboring Sichuan Province, covering a 200-meter-long section of the road and causing another 60-meter-long section to collapse in Tibet's Bomi County (Chamdo). Over 130 rescue workers and villagers were engaged in clearing the road, which the county government said would be opened to traffic in two days.

(Comment: The Sichuan-Tibet highway faces high risk of floods and landslides during the rainy season in Tibet, which lasts from June to August.)

TAR Public Security Bureau Meeting

July 06, 2018

Liu Jiang, Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR Political

and Legal Committee and Director of TAR Party Public Security convened the third meeting of the TAR Public Security Bureau on July 6. The meeting discussed adhering to Xi Jinping's socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era as the guiding principle and emphasised the study and understanding of the core theoretical essentials. The Director of TAR Public Security told fellow officials to “uphold the party's absolute leadership and faithfully defend the core position of the General Secretary, Xi Jinping,” to comprehensively strengthen the working capacity of Public Security, to proactively protect the party against any challenges and to plan ahead to maintain stability and harmony in the region.

KMT Delegation from Taiwan visits Tibet

June 25, 2018

Tibet's local official TV station in its news publicized that TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie had met Hung Hsiu-chu, former chairperson of the Taiwan-based Kuomintang, in Lhasa on June 15. At the meeting, Wu Yingjie welcomed Hung Hsiu-chu and briefed him on the “economic and social development” in Tibet. Hung Hsiu-chu said she hopes to increase exchange and cooperation between Taiwan and Tibet and together making contributions to achieve the ‘Chinese dream of national rejuvenation’.

Wu Yingjie said that Tibet is ‘currently at one of the best periods in history’ as its economy is currently developing rapidly, society continues to be stable, people's livelihoods have greatly improved, ecological protection is going well, all ethnic groups are unified and harmonious, infrastructure continues to improve, people's freedom of religious belief is fully guaranteed, and cultural heritage is preserved and passed down.

He said that he hopes more Taiwan compatriots will come to Tibet for tourism, to invest in industries, to strengthen exchanges and to develop pragmatic cooperation to achieve mutually beneficial results. Hung Hsiu-chu expressed ‘sincere admiration’ for Tibet's achievements economic and social development. She said that Tibet is the roof of the world and a ‘wonderland on the earth’. Under the ‘strong leadership and special care of the Communist Party of China and with the support and selfless assistance of people

throughout the country, Tibet has achieved great development and people of all ethnic groups live happy lives in peace and contentment’.

China-Nepal amateur tennis exchange

July 13, 2018

The Tibet Tennis Association invited a team from Nepal for a tournament (July 12-13) in Lhasa. The tournament is part of high-level friendly exchanges between “China’s Tibet” and Nepal in an effort to steadily promote mutual cooperation in various field including economy, trade, transportation, culture, tourism, sports and youth. A Club team from Nepal's National Lawn Tennis Association will compete with three other teams from the TAR, Yunnan and Sichuan.

Ethnic photographers display work in Lhasa

July 02, 2018

The opening ceremony of a photo exhibition of artists from ethnic minorities was held on July 2 at the Art Center in Lhasa. . A total of 120 works from the five autonomous regions of Ningxia, Guangxi, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and Tibet were on display. The photographs showed the changes in these five autonomous regions in urban and rural construction, progress of social civilization, folk customs etc.

Agreement on Tibet-Nepal Railway project

July 14, 2018

An agreement to build a cross-border railway connecting the Tibet Autonomous Region with Kathmandu was among the more than 10 cooperative documents signed on July 12.

The signing was witnessed by PRC Premier Li Keqiang and visiting Nepali Prime Minister Prasad Sharma Oli at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Oli is on a six-day visit to China.

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou said at a briefing after the signing ceremony that the railway will connect the Gyirong trading port in the city of Xigaze in TAR with Kathmandu. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said "Over the past two years, China-Nepal relations have made new progress. Nepal is undertaking political transformation, and we respect your choice of social system and development path and support Nepal in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and rightful interests. We highly appreciate Nepal's adherence to the one-China policy." He added that China would like to work with Nepal on building a cross-Himalayan connectivity network via projects in trading ports, railways, highways, aviation and telecommunications. The two countries should also deepen cooperation in trade, production capacity, investment and agricultural goods, to develop their own advantages. He said Chinese companies are supported to make investments in the South Asian neighbor, who is also expected to facilitate their businesses.

Post-office opens in Ngari

July 05, 2018

A post-office themed on holy mountains and lakes in Ngari opened recently. The post-office is the first one of its kind with large scale and comprehensive functions.

Located at the foot of Gang Rinpoche, the Ngari branch of China Post has an investment of over 800,000 yuan and aims to provide special services for tourists to Purang.

Martyr's Cemetery to be built in Lhasa

July 13, 2018

Lhasa's Civil Affairs Bureau disclosed that construction of a Martyr's Cemetery and a Martyr's Memorial Hall is under progress. The Lhasa Civil Affairs Bureau has set up a working group and appointed Pema Youdon, head of the Civil Affairs Bureau of Lhasa as the 'leader' of the working group. Cadres and Workers of the Lhasa Civil Affairs carried out environmental and sanitation cleaning work in the cemetery construction area. The

Lhasa Municipal Forestry Bureau arranged thirty professionals to trim and shape trees in the cemetery while the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Bureau of Lhasa invited professionals to carry out forest pest removal work and spray pesticides on all trees in the cemetery. The cemetery and Martyrs Memorial Hall are scheduled to be completed by September 30.

Seven Teachers from Tibet Selected For “Ma Yun Rural Teacher Award

11 July 2018

China’s Ma Yun Public Welfare Foundation has selected seven teachers from TAR for the Ma Yun Rural Teacher Award - 2018. The Ma Yun Rural Teacher Program was launched by the Ma Yun Public Welfare Foundation on September 6, 2015, with the objective of finding 100 outstanding rural teachers each year and giving each awardee a total of 100,000 yuan for three years of cash assistance and professional development opportunities.

The seven teachers selected from TAR are:

1. Lobsang Tharchin of Gomai School in Shadong Township, Gonjoo County of Chamdo City.
2. TenzinDorjee, Linzhi City, Metok County, Gyarasa township Primary School
3. Qin Wenxia, 2nd Middle School of Nanmulin Town, Nanmulin County, Shigatse City
4. Kunchok Nyendrak, Banpa Township Primary School, Lhodrak County, Lhokha City
5. Phuntsok Tashi, 1st Primary School of Ahshi Township, Lhorong County, Chamdo City
6. Lobsang Tsering, Nima County Complete Primary School, Nagqu City

7. Kalsang Dramdule, Nagari County Reformed County Complete Primary School,
Nagari Prefecture

NGARI (Ch: ALI) NEWS

Minister of Organization and his team inspect Burang County

July 02, 2018

On June 26, He Xingmao, the Organization Minister of Ngari Prefectural Party Committee led a team to inspect Burang county of Ngari to oversee party building activities in the county. Yang Hui, secretary of Burang County, accompanied the Minister and his team.

During the inspection at Kejhe village, the village Head Dorjee, a Tibetan, presented the report on the work in the village and on the progress on construction of a new village level-activity site. The Organization Minister inquired in detail about the capital investment, floor space and setting of the event venue being built and reviewed the overall layout for the construction. Towards the end of the inspection, the Minister told the local village leaders to improve ideological understanding of the Party, work honestly and act as role models for the masses.

United Front Work Department of Burang on Xi Jinping's thoughts on governance

July 10, 2018

Burang County's United Front Work Department recently organized a 'learning' session for local cadres on General Secretary Xi Jinping's thoughts on governance. The first chapter of the second volume of 'Xi Jinping's Governance' were studied with a gathering of fourteen local cadres.

Party Secretary Lhakpa explained the content of the first chapter of the second volume, which focuses on striving to create a broader prospect of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the New Era. Lhakpa stressed that the studying the volumes of Xi

Jinping's governance system is a major political task for all the members of the party would be of benefit for the present as well as the future. The volumes in the book are essential as it discusses measures to safeguard central authority and unify leadership. He said all cadres and workers should, therefore, study the book in depth with a sense of responsibility and purpose.

SHIGATSE (Ch:XIGAZE) NEWS

Shanghai Delegation Visits Shigatse

July 12, 2018

Dong Yunhu, President of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), led a delegation of the Shanghai Municipality to Shigatse from July 9 - 12 to discuss 'Tibet aid' development work and visit the 8th batch of Shanghai aid cadres' group of medical education, Tibet support experts and teachers.

Zhang Yanqing, Vice-Chairman of TAR and Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee and Gao Yang, Deputy Secretary of TAR Political Consultative Conference, accompanied the delegation and attended a symposium.

Shigatse Mayor and Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee Liu Hushan reported on the work of Shigatse. Deputy Secretary of the Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Executive Deputy Mayor, and leader of the 8th batch of Shanghai aid cadres, Ni Junnan reported on the progress of aid works in Tibet.

Dong Yunhu said "since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee and the Tibet Autonomous Regional Party Committee, Shigatse City has undergone historic changes and historical achievements in the same way as other parts of Tibet. At present, political stability, economic development, improvement of people's livelihood, national unity, social harmony, and stability of the frontier are in the best period in history." He added, "We

must always regard safeguarding the motherland's reunification and strengthening national unity as the focus of Tibet's work. We will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields between Shanghai and Tibet, vigorously promote exchanges between ethnic groups, and strive to achieve common unity and progress and common prosperity so as to pave ways for long-term stability in Tibet.

The Party Secretary of Shigatse Municipal Party Committee, Zhang Yanqing, on behalf of the Municipal Party Committee, the Municipal People's Congress, the Municipal Government, the CPPCC and the 800,000 cadres and masses of the whole city, thanked Shanghai Municipal Party Committee, the Municipal People's Congress, the Municipal Government, and the CPPCC. He said the 24 million people of Shanghai have long cared for and supported the work of Shigatse.

During the inspection, the Shanghai delegation visited households in Rukang Village, Resur Township, Gyangtse County. They also went to the Gyangtse County Valley Agricultural Science and Technology Demonstration Park, the Jiangyan County Youth Poverty Alleviation Action Exhibition Hall, the Shigatse City People's Hospital, the Shanghai Experimental School, and the Shiqin Township Tibetan Farm in Lhatse County.

NYINGTRI (Ch: NYINGCHI) NEWS

64th Standing Committee Meeting of Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee

July 08, 2018

On July 6, Ma Shengchang, Secretary of the Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee, presided over the 64th Standing Committee Meeting of Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee and listened to the implementation of the resolutions of the Standing Committee since the 61th session, the work report of the Party Branch in the first half of the year, and deployed/delegated the work arrangement for the second half of the year.

Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Mayor Wangdue; Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Executive Deputy Mayor Xu Dianhui; Deputy

Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee Xie Ying; Standing Committee Member of the Municipal Party Committee, Organization Minister Liu Yejiang; Member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee, Director of the Supervisory Committee, Topchen; member of Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, Deputy Mayor Zhang Gengyuan; and Member of Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Minister of Propaganda Zhang Haibo attended the meeting. During the meeting, Ma Shengchang pointed out that the United Front Departments of the local Party Branches must win the people's hearts and minds for the construction of the "five Nyingtri" strategy, conduct educational activities that will create "patriotic monks and nuns", "role model monasteries" etc. Secretary Ma Shengchang stipulated the responsibilities of the political and legal departments of Nyingtri to create a stable and harmonious social environment, while adding that in-depth investigation needs to be carried out to eliminate "evils and chaos", and develop mechanisms to gather intelligence information. Measures against illegal activities such as corruption, illegal construction, and the need to crack down on illegal entry and exit from/into Nyingtri were discussed.

The meeting passed the following resolutions: "Request for the Examination and Approval of Nyingchi Municipal Services Center Construction Projects and Other Related Matters"; "Request for Resolving Salary of the City National Art Troupe"; "Request for the Examination and Approval of the Implementation Plan for the Reform of Rural Collective Property Rights System in Nyingtri City"; "Request for the Examination and Approval of the Action Plan for the Establishment of the Nyingtri into a National Unity and Progress Model City"; "Request for the Examination and Approval of the Funding Plan for the Investment of Education at the Level of Finance in 2018"; and "On the Examination and Approval of the Comprehensive Relocation of the Whole Area of Chamdo Sanyan Area".

LHOKA NEWS (Ch: Shannan)

Automatic Weather Station Set Up in Yumai Township

July 04, 2018

On July 1, the newly built Yumai Township Unmanned Automatic Weather Observatory was officially became fully operational on July1. Yumai Town is located on the ‘front line’ of the border, is surrounded by mountains and is geographically remote, with an average elevation of 3,650 meters above the sea level. There are presently nine households with 32 persons in the township -- an administrative town with the least population in Tibet. Due to its location in the southern foothills of the Himalayas, Yumai Township is warm and humid. And because of the influence of the Indian Ocean monsoon climate has abundant rain. Official reports claimed that Meteorological activities have a great impact on the production and life of local people.

The unmanned automatic weather station in Yumai Township is equipped with six-element observation equipment such as temperature, humidity, air pressure, precipitation, wind direction and wind speed. Real-time monitoring data is collected and transmitted every 5 minutes and automatically displayed on the grounds of the Lhokha Meteorological Bureau. Weather forecast service personnel on the observation and monitoring platform sort out the data and synthesize other observation data to publish the weather forecast for Yumai Township.

Mao Shicheng, Secretary of Lhokha Meteorological Bureau, said that in the next step, the meteorological department will also construct a traffic automatic weather station on the main traffic routes and meteorological disaster-prone areas in Yumai Township to establish a weather data intelligent service system around Yumai Township. Meteorological services will be provided for border patrols, animal husbandry production, tourism development, etc. Plans for the “last mile” of meteorological information released by Yulmai Township include straight-through border meteorological services, and expansion of channels for disseminating weather warning information.

(Comment: Yumai township has since the 19th Party Congress in October 2017 became a focal point for the border defence-cum-poverty alleviation programme begun by the CCP under Xi Jinping. The area has now access to electricity, network and broadband, and

local meteorological forecast services.)

Wu Yingjie Visits Dranang County, Lhokha City

July 05, 2018

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie went to Dranang County in Lhokha on July 5, to inspect ecological protection, poverty alleviation, and economic and social development projects. In Dranang he visited the 10,000-mu (1647.37 Acre) ecological restoration plant seed-breeding base of y the Elion Group and the Tibetan Handicraft Cooperative Society, which produces Tibetan hats and Tibetan boots.

During the inspection he pointed out that “Tibet is an important national security barrier and its ecological strategic position is extremely important and that all departments at all levels in the district must conscientiously implement the spirit of the important speeches made by General Secretary Xi Jinping at the National Ecological and Environmental Protection Conference.

Hunan Provincial Party and Government Delegations Visits Lhokha

July 06, 2018

From July 3 - 6, Du Jia, Secretary of the Hunan Provincial Party Committee and the Director of the Standing Committee of the Hunan Provincial People's Congress, led a government delegation from Hunan Province to Lhokha and Lhasa to inspect implementation of the General Secretary’s strategic thinking on stabilising the border, the central government's decision on works in Tibet, and to hold discussions with the leaders of the TAR on ‘aid Tibet’ works.

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Qi Zhala aka Chedak la, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Chairman of TAR People’s Government; Ding Yexian, Party Secretary of the TAR Political Consultative Conference and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee; Zhuang Yan, Executive Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee and other TAR Leaders Liu Jiang, Doto, Xu Chengcang, Shi Moujun, Gao Yang accompanied the

inspecting delegation and attended the symposium. Hunan provincial leaders Chen Xiangqun, Hu Henghua, Xie Jianhui, Xiang Lili and Zhang Dafang were among the delegation.

The Hunan Province delegation visited the Lhokha Tibetan Medicine Hospital and the Lhokha Third High School to inspect Hunan's "group-type" medical and educational talents assistance projects. They also visited Dranang County's 'Dargyai' New Township to understand the overall relocation of the village, collective economic development of the village and poverty alleviation initiatives etc.

Du Jia also met Dolkar and Yangzom, the two sisters of Yulmai Township in Lhuntse County. He applauded the family for "silently guarding the territory of the motherland for decades." He added that Lhokha under the TAR Party Committee will continue to 'protect' the border, and will accelerate construction of border defence villages in Yumai.

On July 4, the Hunan Provincial Aid Tibet Work Symposium was held. Du Jia affirmed the achievements of Hunan's counterpart aid Tibet works. He stressed the need to focus on strengthening efforts in broadening employment channels, improving quality of education, medical standards, and speeding up construction of Border Well-Off Villages, so as to demonstrate the superiority of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics in the New Era.

The delegation led by Du Jia also visited cadres of the 8th batch of the 'Tibet aid' team from Hunan Province. A symposium on counterpart support works in Lhasa was held on July 6.

NEWS OUTSIDE OF TAR

Vice President Wang Chunhuan Visits the South Asian Institute

July 04, 2018

Wang Chunhuan, Vice President of the South Asia Institute, Tibetan Academy of Social Science (TASS), visited the South Asia Institute on June 24 for inspecting the previous

work and arranging the current and long-term work plan of the Institute.

After listening to the detailed work report and status of their research team of 2017 and first half of 2018 presented by the Deputy Director Penpa Lhamo, Wang affirmed the future success of the institute. His speech focused on five main points: firstly, to produce quality research work on time, everyone one should conduct their research investigation earnestly; second, to grasp the correct research orientation, all the researchers should adhere to Xi's idea of the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics and his diplomatic work; third, according to the development need of China and the Tibetan Autonomous Region, this research institution should take the lead and establish similar research departments in the whole of South Asia for ensuring the same research orientation; fourth initiate more cultural exchange programmes to strengthen cultural ties with South Asian countries; and fifth, to conduct more regular 'learning' activities to study the 'spirit' of the speeches of leaders of the Central and the Autonomous regions on issues like diplomacy, peripheral diplomacy, 'Belt and Road' and to improve the policy level of the researchers and enhance their scientific research capabilities.

Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences celebrates 97th Anniversary of CCP

July 06, 2018

All District Academies of Social Sciences together commemorated the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on July 4, 2018. The theme of this year's commemoration was on 'two excellent and one first'. The conference awarded 22 party members, party workers and grassroots party organisations as 'outstanding members'. Chen Fan, the secretary of the Party Committee and Vice President of the hospital gave a special Party class for the party members who 'administered the party strictly and earnestly observed the party's political discipline and political rules'.

At the party class counselling, Chen Fan, asked all cadres and workers to observe political discipline, political rules and be loyal to the core and study diligently and show courage and dedication to the party. He said that 'in everybody's rights, leadership,

management, power discourse, one should always reflect their absolute loyalty to the Party Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping at the core in every possible way like the daily routine, every article, every suggestion and practical actions'. And for all the researchers, it is necessary to improve political standing, establish 'four consciousness' and strengthen 'four self-confidence (confidence in the political system, guiding principles, chosen path and the latest confidence added by Xi Jinping is confidence in Chinese culture.)'. He asserted that Xi Jinping's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era is the latest theoretical achievement of Marxism in China and Marxism in the 21st Century.

He also said that in Tibet, the root has already been planted and blossomed and it is now necessary to strengthen theoretical study, in-depth study of Xi's thought and spirit of the 19th Party Congress, study the important speech of Xi at various symposiums on philosophy and social science and, on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He asked everyone to learn Xi Jinping's message contained in the congratulatory letters and reply to the two sisters and Niu Ben from Yumai town of Lhuntse county about 'strengthening national unity and building beautiful Tibet'.

He concluded by saying that "to do a good job in philosophy or social sciences, there must be a red heart for the party to fight for people".

Ngawa Go Mang Monastery Won Guinness Award

July 7, 2018

The Chinese government awarded Nga Go Mang Monastery in Qinghai province the national "Shangai Guinness Award". The award is given for the high standard of the Maitreya statue and monastery's temple.

The District Vice Deputy Governor of Ngawa, Kunsang Dolma appreciated that such a precious monument had been built in the Ngawa region. She said when the Ngawa region is striving for development and achieving the goal of the new prosperous society; such projects will assist the policy of opening up for tourists.

The Maitreya statue is 37 metres in height and 20.67 metres in width. The Yinga Choezin Temple is not only large, but has a tall prayer hall in the centre that stands out from the rest of the monastery. The principal relics in the shrine are the ‘tooth’ of the Buddha Dharmodgata and some hairs of Jamyang Shelpa II, Konchock Jigmey Wangpo, the founder of the monastery (1790). In the last few years, China has been working to have Tibetan monasteries, towns and epics brought under the classification of the tangible and intangible heritage of China.

Young Tibetan Monks Evicted from Dzachukha Monasteries, Sichuan

July 10, 2018

Radio Free Asia reported (July 10) that the government is forcing monks below 15 years to leave monasteries in Tibet. The authorities ordered these monks to be put into government run-schools instead. So far, the policy has been initiated only in the Dzachukha area of Tibetan populated region of Sichuan. The number varies from monastery to monastery as in the case of the Sershul monastery where around 200 novice monks were removed, and in Jowo Gandhen Shedrub Palgyeling monastery where so far 20 young monks have been expelled.

Apart from emotional distress to these young monks, their family and respective monasteries have come under enormous pressure. If the monastery doesn't comply with the order, they are threatened with closure and severe punishment for the religious instructor and parents. RFA said according to local sources many of these monks were part of the monastery curriculum for few years and doing well in their monastic studies. Those allowed to remain in the monasteries are compelled to take part in classes promoting loyalty to China and the communist party.

(Comment: Chinese Communist Party authorities have for long considered the Tibetan Buddhist monks as “troublemakers” and sought to restrict the size and influence of Tibetan monasteries and strictly limit the number of monks and nuns.)

Secret Celebration of Dalai Lama’s 83rd Birthday in Tibet

July 10, 2018

The public celebration of the Dalai Lama's birthday is banned in Tibet, but reports suggest that Tibetans in different parts of Tibet celebrated his 83rd birthday. According to RFA, special restrictions imposed ahead of this year's birthday included warnings to managers of social media chat groups instructing them to look out for any attempts to organize celebrations. In Tsolho (Hainan) county of Qinghai, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, one of the largest social media platform for the Tibetans on WeChat was filled with birthday greetings and good wishes on the morning of July 6. Sources were quoted as saying "Many WeChat users shared a customized birthday card showing a picture of His Holiness the Dalai Lama when he was very young and carrying the message 'Greetings to the great being'". Other areas in Qinghai and Gansu, like Kanlho (Gannan), made religious offerings like raising prayer flags, burning incense and consuming only vegetarian food. Some Tibetans living in towns and cities drove to the grasslands for group picnics to celebrate His Holiness' birthday.

Beri Jigme Wangyal, a writer in exile, said that 'several days before July 6, he had seen a flurry of birthday greetings on WeChat by Tibetans inside Tibet in the form of poetry and messages honouring the Dalai Lama.

Public Protest against Mining Activities in Yulshul

July 11, 2018

Sector 3), the Chinese government has initiated a mining project somewhere in the town's uphill. For nearly two months local villagers in Kham Yushul, Rongpo town (Dechen Dewa, Sector 3), have protested against mining activities. On July 7, more than 200 villagers gathered and attempted to block ongoing mining activities and were severely beaten and dispersed. Around 60-70 villagers appealed to the Yulshul town magistrate the same day.

UVA Remote Sensing Detects High Permafrost Risks on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

July 12, 2018

Scientists from the Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources (NIEER) under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) signaled an early warning risk in major engineering projects in Qinghai-Tibet plateau due to high-level permafrost changes in the region. The scientists used the latest technologies like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and, thermal infrared remote sensing to determine the changes. Scientists and researchers also used a miniature UAV with a thermal infrared sensor and 3D LiDAR (light detection ranging) to collect thermal images.

According to the sources, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is the source of most extensive stretches of permafrost that has been supporting many large engineering projects in the region like the Golmud-Lhasa railway, Qinghai-Lhasa highway, and the Qinghai-Tibet grid interconnection project. Due to excessive exploitation of the region's environment and sudden modernisation projects, permafrost on the plateau has degraded significantly. The scientists mentioned that 'Its rapid thawing can lead to instability, causing land slippages and other geological hazards. The established engineering structures and projects in the permafrost region could be deformed or unstable in the future'.

Luo Lihui, from NIEER, said the observations are relatively more accurate as the UAV is a newer remote-sensing platform compared with piloted aircraft, satellites and in situ observations. In addition to 'acute accuracy' it also has the advantage of low cost and operational flexibility.

They expect the current research and collected images of thermal change and deformation characteristics of permafrost could help assess the potential engineering risks and provide new insights for future designs, construction and, maintenance of engineering structures on the surrounding permafrost slopes.

As part of emergency risk management, the team managed to develop a Permafrost Indices Computing Model, in which 16 temperatures and depth-related indices are integrated to estimate the possible trends on the plateau. The Emergency and Risk Management Company of the Qinghai Metrological Department has started reacting to

the early warning and working towards the model of early warning and risk management.

ACTIVITIES OF TIBETANS INSIDE AND ABROAD

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he is working to ensure reciprocal access for US citizens to visit Tibet the way Chinese citizens are free to come and go in the US. Pompeo was replying to questions by the House Committee on Foreign Relations on May 23, 2018.

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