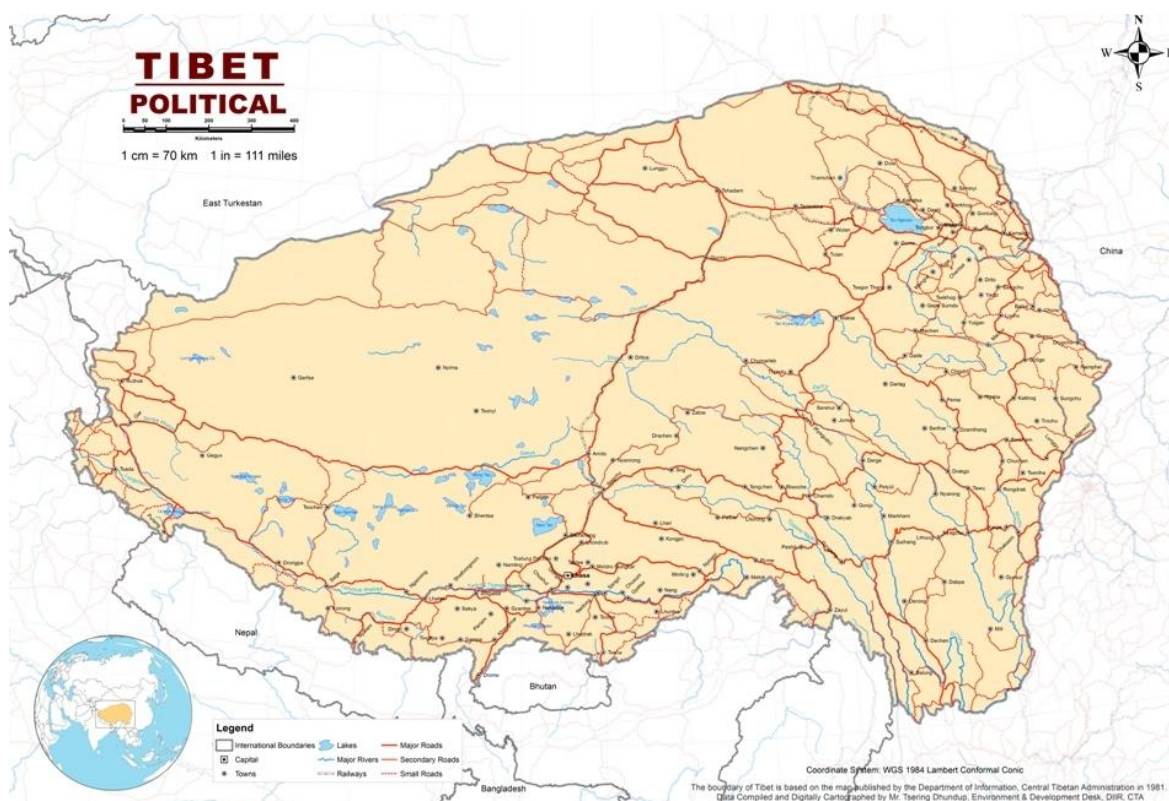


TIBET INSIGHT NEWS

November 1-15, 2014



POLITICAL NEWS

China designates Tibet's Shigatse and Chamdo as cities

November 5, 2014

China's State Council has approved a proposal (TAR) to change the administrative status of Shigatse and Chamdo from that of prefecture to cities. The decision entails administrative restructuring and allows for preferential policies from Beijing.

Wu Yingjie, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee, said the preferential policies will vigorously promote reform, development and stability and contribute to the well-being of the people in both Shigatse and Chamdo.

The TAR Party Committee has called on both, the Shigatse and Chamdo local party committees, to ensure a smooth transition. They were asked to first "streamline their bureaucracies"; second, "transform the economic mode of the two cities, increase the need for social management, promote the rule of law, and better allocate resources"; third, they should "better plan funding programs and take advantage of the central government's preferential policies well in advance"; and, finally, they "should manage their archives well and transfer them smoothly to the governments of both cities".

The decision means that the TAR now comprises four prefectures, namely, Nagchu (Chinese: Naqu), Ngari (Ali), Lhokha (Shannan) and Nyingtri (Ningchi), and three cities, namely Lhasa (Lasa), Shigatse (Xigaze), and Chamdo (Changdu).

TAR People's Congress Standing Committee held its 13th Meeting

November 15, 2014

The 13th meeting of the 10th TAR People's Congress Standing Committee was held on November 14 and was presided by its Chairman and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee Pema Choling.

The meeting was attended by its Vice-Chairmen Karma (Ethnicity: Tibetan), Ma Ju-Lung (Ethnicity: Muslim), Wu Jinhu (Ethnicity: Han Chinese), Dorjee (Ethnicity: Tibetan), Zhao Zhengxiu (Ethnicity: Han Chinese), Shingza Tenzin Choedak (Ethnicity: Tibetan), Woesser (Ethnicity: Tibetan), Lue Dakae (Ethnicity: Han Chinese), Secretary General Xiang Zheng (Ethnicity: Han Chinese), He Wenhao (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government and Zhang (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Procuratorate of TAR People's Higher Court.

The meeting approved the decision to designate Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze) from a Prefecture to a city and discussed the first inaugural meeting of the representatives of TAR People's Congress Standing Committee in the Preparatory Group. The meeting also discussed the appointment and removal of officials.

In his speech at the meeting, TAR People's Congress Chairman Pema Choling said that the 18th CCP CC's Fourth Plenary Session's overall strategic plan is to promote rule of law and to build socialism with Chinese Characteristics and to build a socialist country ruled by law. He emphasised that the fundamental plan is to uphold the leadership of CCP.

The Chairman also stressed the need to thoroughly implement the spirit of the fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CCP and reiterate to officials to closely follow the line, policies and actions of the CCP CC General Secretary and follow him ideologically and politically.

Students protest imposition of Chinese language in Tibetan schools

November 5, 2014

Students from several Tibetan nomad schools in Dzoegey, Ngaba region of eastern Tibet, raised slogans and strongly opposed a Chinese education official's call for changing the medium of instruction in the Tibetan nomad schools from Tibetan to Chinese. The protest took place on October 29, during a workshop organised by the regional Chinese education board to increase Chinese authorities' educational intervention in the Tibetan school system. The Tibetan students were joined in the protest by the local Tibetan public.

Tough crackdown on graft in Tibet Autonomous Region

November 5, 2014

After receiving a feedback from inspectors of the CCP CC's watchdog disciplinary body on November 3, 2014, the TAR authorities pledged to punish officials who follow the Dalai Lama and support activities aimed at 'splitting' the country. Ye Dongsong, Head of an inspection team of the CCP CC's Central Discipline Inspection Commission (CDIC) said "Some officials have failed to take a firm political stand and some grass-root officials in the region were found to have serious corruption issues." He stressed that "the Tibet Autonomous Region enjoys no exception in the anti-graft campaign."

Ye Dongsong, told the Regional Government to focus on neutralizing separatists and maintaining social stability, crack down on corruption and strictly monitor projects in the region.

In response to the CDIC inspection team's report, TAR Party Secretary Chen Quanguo, declared that the anti-separatism campaign would be strengthened and those officials who are more concerned with their personal welfare, or those who still want to follow the 'Dalai Lama group' or support separatism will be severely punished. He said "As for cadres who harbour fantasies about the 14th Dalai Lama, follow the Dalai Group, participate in supporting separatist infiltration sabotage activities, (they will be) strictly and severely punished according to the law and party disciplinary measures,"

Xiong Kunxin, Professor at the Minzu University of China, said "Some officials in Tibet still sympathize with the Dalai Lama. They continue to support the Dalai Lama out of their religious beliefs."

(Comment: Party members are banned from practicing religion or having religious beliefs in China.)

“Expose and Criticise the Dalai clique” themed educational activities held in schools in Chamdo

November 6, 2014

The CCP authorities of Chamdo (Ch: Changdu) Prefecture held “Expose and Criticise the Dalai Clique”- themed educational activities in schools of all levels to maintain “national unity and harmony.”

According to reports, the educational activities include teachers explaining the history of Tibet and making the students believe that the March 14, 2008 (CCP named it 3.14) mass protests by the Tibetans in Tibet and the diasporas were “violent, premeditated and

masterminded by the exile forces.” The theme claims that the protests created disturbances during the 2008 Olympic Games held in Beijing.

Students were also made to actively participate in a keynote speech contest entitled “I know old Tibet” to further propagate and strengthen the sense of patriotism among the students.

China's Tibet relaxes one-child policy

November 6, 2014

TAR announced November 6 that it has relaxed its family planning policy to allow couples to have a second child if either parent is an only child. Tibet is the 30th provincial-level region to relax the one-child policy since the country's reform plan approved by the Communist Party of China (CPC) during the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CCP Central Committee in November 2013. Phurbu Dolma, Director with the TAR's Health and Family Planning Commission, told a press conference that the policy will be applied starting November 6.

(Comment: China's family planning policy already allows people from ethnic minority groups, such as Tibetans, to have a second baby. The relaxation of the birth policy mainly affects the Han population in the region. Figures show that the population in Tibet rose from 2.72 million at the end of 2003 to 3.12 million by the end of 2013.)

RELIGION RELATED NEWS

Patriotic and law-abiding award ceremony in Ngari

November 7, 2014

The Zadang County of Ngari (Ch: Ali) Prefecture held the second ‘Harmonious Model-cum Patriotic and law-abiding Award ceremony’. The award ceremony applauded 10 model or harmonious monasteries, 32 monks and nuns, 3 cadres working in the monasteries and a policeman who looks after the parking places of these monasteries in the county.

Zadang County People's Congress requested all the monks, nuns, Temple Committee Members and others present at the award ceremony to continue to focus on continuous innovations in the management of the monasteries, to work hard on extensive publicity and propaganda activities, to give education on patriotism, to enhance the patriotic enthusiasm of the monks and nuns and to deepen and polish the work-style of cadres in the monasteries and nunneries.

Nagchu County held the Second “model of Harmony” 2014 award ceremony

November 10, 2014

Nagchu (Ch: Nagqu) Prefecture like Ngari Prefecture held its second “Model of Harmony” or in other words the patriotic and law-abiding Monks and nuns award ceremony.

The award ceremony was organized by the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of Nagchu Prefecture and chaired by its Deputy Minister Tsering Namgyen. The award ceremony was attended by more than 100 people including officials of the United Front Work Department, the Nagchu Prefecture Party Committee and Representatives of the main monasteries and nunneries.

The award ceremony commended the “harmonious monasteries and nunneries, patriotic and law-abiding monks and nuns, outstanding work of the Temple Management Committee members” and awarded honorary certificates and traditional Tibetan white scarves.

The ceremony recognized 10 exemplary model-cum harmonious monasteries and nunneries, 451 monks and nuns, 13 cadres designated in the monasteries and nunneries and 6 Temple Management Committees.

One of the Deputy Secretaries of the Nagchu Prefecture Party Committee (who has not been identified) in his keynote speech post the presentation of the honorary certificates and scarves congratulated the winners and made the following points:

- i) Recognition of the individuals and the collective teams for their outstanding work is a good way to maintain law and order;
- ii) Relationship between the CCP and the monks and nuns should be harmonious and united. The two should work together to further improve and strengthen the management of monasteries and nunneries, to instil patriotism among the people and to support the work of Temple Management Committees.
- iii) The monks and nuns, officials of the Temple Management Committees present at the award ceremony should resolutely support the leadership of the CCP and follow socialism with Chinese Characteristics and help in the firm adaption of Tibetan Buddhism to socialist society.

(Comment: Award ceremonies held in different parts of Tibet are one of the many propaganda initiatives of the CCP to maintain stability. A similar award ceremony was held in Zadang County of Ngari (Ch: Ali) Prefecture this month.)

INFRASTRUCTURE/DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Yuan (RMB) 1, 338, 650, 000 invested in Hydropower projects along three rivers in Chamdo

November 7, 2014

Yuan (RMB) 1,338,650,000 has been invested as of October this year to build hydropower related projects along the three important rivers of Tibet. The rivers are the: Zachu (Ch: Lancang, Eng: Mekong), Gyalmo Nyuchu (Ch: Nujiang, Eng: Salween), and Drichu (Yangtze) River.

An investment of 87.62 million, 770.4 million and 126.5 million Yuan were made earlier on the Drichu, Zachu and Nyuchu rivers respectively.

Experimental project of Chamdo Bangda Airport's expansion carried out

November 13, 2014

Chamdo Bamda(Tib: Bangda) Airport is beginning construction of its second runway and preparing for the expansion work.

With an altitude of 4300 meters, Chamdo Bamda Airport is the highest airport in Tibet. With a runway of 5 kilometers, it's the longest runway among China's civil aviation airports.

The experimental project of Bamda Airport's second runway plans to excavate 560,000 cubic meters of soil and rocks. Three kinds of technical inspection and economic analysis have reportedly been done. The project is expected to be completed on November 15 this year.

The Lhasa Gonggar Airport and Nyingchi Mainling Airport will also be expanded.

Two Hydropower projects in Ngari Prefecture to be completed by Next year

November 12, 2014

According to a report, Burang (Ch: Pulan) County of Ngari (Ch: Ali) Prefecture started constructing two hydropower projects in 2013 with a total investment of 130 million Yuan and completed about 90%. These Power projects are to be completed and put in trial by October next year.

MISCELLANIOUS

Appointment and Removal list of Tenth TAR People's Congress from its 13th Meeting

The 13th meeting of the Tenth TAR People's Congress publicised the following list of appointments and removals of officials:

Removals:

1. Lee Yun (Ethnicity: Han Chinese), Procuratorate of TAR
2. Passang (Ethnicity: Tibetan) Attorney of Procuratorate Branch Inspectors Committee of Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze)
3. Ga Pingde (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Procuratorial Committee member of Shigatse People's Prosecutors.
4. Zengqing Fu (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Shigatse
5. Penpa Tsering (Ethnicity: Tibetan) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Shigatse
6. Cheng Guoshun (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Deputy Attorney General of Chamdo (Ch: Changdu) People's Procuratorate Branch
7. Palden (Ethnicity: Tibetan) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Chamdo
8. Zhang Caihong (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Chamdo
9. Lin Ping (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Deputy Attorney General of Nagchu (Ch: Nagqu) People's Procuratorate Branch
10. Zhao Zongwen (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
11. Duo Hao (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
12. Tenzin Dorjee (Ethnicity: Tibetan) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
13. Yang Lijun (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
14. Passang Dolker (Ethnicity: Tibetan) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
15. Li Guihua (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
16. Tsering Dhondhen (Ethnicity: Tibetan) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
17. Zhao Zhong Yu (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Prosecutor of Nagchu
18. Wang Shulin (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector Of Nagchu
19. Su Zhude (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Prosecutor of People's Procuratorate Nagqu;
20. Sonam (Ethnicity: Tibetan) of People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu;

21. Tenpa Lhamo (Ethnicity: Tibetan) Prosecutor of People's Procuratorate Branch of Nagchu;
22. Lin Mu (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Nagchu
23. Gyatso (Ethnicity: Tibetan) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Ngari (Ch: Ali)
24. Wu Jian (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Ngari
25. Luo Zhujia (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector of Ngari
26. Li Jiehui (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Judicial Committee Member of Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) People's Intermediate Court
27. Song Shufang (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Third President of Intermediate People's Civil Court Trial of Chamdo
28. Wu Liping (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Judge of Intermediate People's Court of Chamdo
29. Aa Wang (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Vice-President of the Judicial Committee of Ngari
30. Tsering Yangchen (Ethnicity: Tibetan) member of Judicial Committee of Ngari People's Intermediate Court
31. Sangyal Dolma (Ethnicity: Tibetan) Judicial Committee member of Ngari Intermediate People's Court
32. Phuntsok Dorjee (Ethnicity: Tibetan) Judicial Committee member of Ngari Intermediate People's Court
33. Tsering Norbu (Ethnicity: Tibetan) from Procuratorial Committee of Nyingchi (Ch: Linzhi) as People's Procuratorate Branch Inspector
34. Peng (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) as People's Procuratorate Prosecutor of Nyingchi Prefecture

APPOINTMENT:

1. Luo Shuanghong (Ethnicity: Han Chinese) Prosecutor for People's Procuratorate Branch Committee of Ngari
