

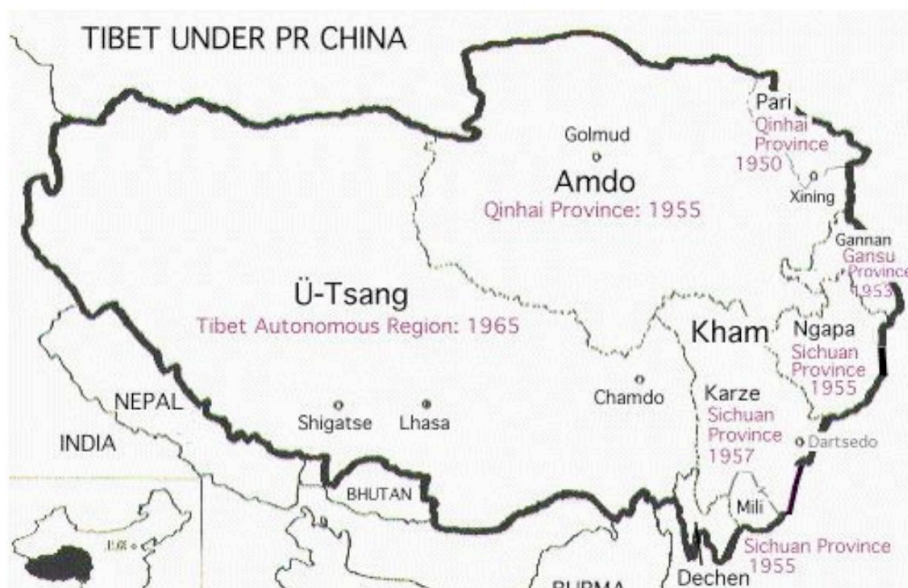


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Tibet Insight



Summary

- Appointments made by Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) People's Congress Standing Committee adopted by the 35th Session of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress on July 28, 2017
- After Dalai Lama cancels visit, China says Botswana ties will progress
- Ali Regional Party Committee celebrates 90th anniversary of founding of PLA
- Nineteen dead and 263 injured in earthquake at Jiuzhaigou (Tibetan: Namphel or Namphing) County in Aba (Ngawa) Prefecture, Sichuan Province
- Tibetan Residences at Sichuan's Yachen Gar Buddhist Center demolished.
- TAR Leaders visit Garrison troops on 90th anniversary of founding of People's Liberation Army.

TAR NEWS

TAR Party Committee held meeting to study Xi Jinping's speech delivered on July 26, 2017.

August 01, 2017

On August 1, 2017, the TAR Regional Party Committee met to study the importance of implementing the speech given by General Secretary Xi Jinping on July 26. TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie presided and stressed that leading cadres at the provincial and ministerial levels TAR should seriously study the speech and uphold the spirit of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The speech emphasized the importance of educating and broadening the minds of Party members and cadres.

It called upon Propaganda Departments at all levels to play a major role in TAR to spread the true intention of General Secretary Xi Jinping, which is to instill the sense of solidarity and unity within the mainstream public opinion. The meeting reiterated the need for the successful practice of the Party's rules in Tibet. Finally, it called upon Party members to safeguard overall social harmony and long-term stability in Tibet by promoting Buddhism which creates harmony in society.

TAR Exports and Imports total 3.4 billion Yuan in first half of the year

August 01, 2017

According to an official report published on July 30, the total value of TAR's imports and exports in the first half of this year reached 3.4 billion yuan, an increase of 79.55% over the same period last year. The total export value was 1.298 billion yuan, an increase of 3.38% and total import value was 2.125 billion yuan which is an increase of 2.3 times. The trade deficit was 807 million yuan.

France, Nepal and Belgium became the TAR's three major trading partners this year. Of them, imports and exports from France totalled 1.187 billion yuan, or 34.88% of the total value representing an increase of 2.79 times; the total volume of imports and exports to Nepal was 1.063 billion yuan, or down 15 percentage points; and imports and exports from Belgium totaled 3.31 billion yuan, an increase of 6.08 time

Tibetan banking industry developed in the first six months.

July 30 2017

China Tibet News on June 31 said that in the first half of 2017 banking and financial institutions in Tibet had effectively implemented the credit policy of "making good use of savings and revitalizing the stock". They have optimised credit structure, improved financial services and adhered to the bottom-line of

taking risks. The banking industry maintained a healthy development trend. It reported that the operating efficiency of the banking sector had continued to improve, with the scale of assets and liabilities, deposits and loans registering steady growth. The rural enterprises, especially micro-enterprises in the poverty stricken areas, increased the effort to significantly support localities. As of June 2017, the balance of small and medium enterprises loans reached 96.018 billion yuan, an increase of 11.376 billion yuan over the beginning of the year and agriculture loans amounted to 94.424 billion yuan, an increase of 10.29%.

Lhasa Municipality And County News

Zhang Yanqing conducts environmental inspection in Gyangze County

August 02, 2017

On July 29, Vice Chairman of TAR Party Committee and the Party Secretary of Shigatse, Zhang Yanqing sent a group of inspectors to conduct in-depth research in Gyangze County.

The same day, Zhang Yanqing inspected the Fanghui Mining Company and carried out field inspections of dumping sites, gushing water sedimentation, flood diversion ditch and embankment, and learned more about the Gyangze county party committee, county government and supervisory department and enterprises.

Zhang Yanqing stressed that it is important for all levels of city departments and party members to understand the extent of harm caused to the ecological system due to illegal mining. He emphasized that the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party under Xi Jinping had always given importance to environmental protection work. He said achieving the goal of environmental protection has become a major institutional management task.

Earlier, on July 11, the TAR Party Committee organised a meeting for the central environmental protection inspectors. TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie attended the meeting and delivered an important speech on the importance of environmental protection work.

Zhang Yanqing acknowledged that the county party committee and county government should implement environmental protection with a strict sense of responsibility. He stressed the importance of discipline inspection and supervision in implementation of the environmental protection plan laid down by the municipal government.

Representatives of the Shigatse City Commission for Discipline Inspection, Municipal Organization Department, Municipal Supervision Office, Municipal Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Bureau, Environmental Protection Bureau, Land Bureau, Forestry Bureau and department heads of the safety supervision bureau participated.

Autonomous Region Leadership Survey in Shigatse City

August 07, 2017

On August 7, the Vice Chairman of the CPPCC, Chairman of the Federation of Industry and Commerce, and President of the Chamber of Commerce, Ngapi Jinyuan went to Shigatse to conduct research on the development of the non-public economy.

Ngapi Jinyuan visited the Shigatse City Poverty Alleviation Development Co. Ltd, Gangsi Construction Co. Ltd. and the Jinta Group for on-site inspections to understand production operations. He said that in recent years, the Shigatse Municipal Government has attached great importance to the development of the non-public economy and its active participation in poverty alleviation work has

achieved remarkable results.

He called on the Shigatse City Federation of Industry and Commerce and private enterprises to study and implement Party Secretary Wu Yingjie's speech on the development of the non-public economy. Wu Yingjie had focused on the implementation of the "eight projects" which include intensive development, transformation and upgrading, quality improvement, the whole business "four projects", and striving to promote the healthy and orderly development of Shigatse's non-public economy.

Ngapi Jinyuan stressed that the enterprises should enhance awareness of scientific and technological innovation to upgrade innovation in enterprises. He asked cadres of the Shigatse City Federation of Industry and Commerce to strengthen their learning capability and enhance their skills. He urged that the non-public economy should be prioritised in TAR to promote greater employment opportunities for college students. The official in charge of the Shigatse City Federation of Industry and Commerce accompanied him.

Zhang Yanqing addresses Municipal Standing Committee

August 02, 2017

On July 31, Regional Vice Chairman, Zhang Yanqing and TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie chaired the Municipal Standing Committee meeting in Shigatse. Zhang Yanqing mandated all cadres at the provisional level to learn from General Secretary Xi Jinping. In the first half of 2017, Party Secretary Wu Yingjie had instructed that a 'harmonious model of temple and patriotic law enforcement' be carried out to award advanced monks and nuns who followed the instructions. Zhang Yanqing stressed that those who talk about politics, speak loyally, earnestly implement policies and attain outstanding achievements for the Party's victory will be awarded gifts.

Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Mayor Liu Hushan, Deputy Secretary of Municipal Party Committee and Executive Vice Mayor Feng Jikang, Municipal Party Committee Standing Committee Zaxi Zen, togetherwith Xu Xiangguo, Wang Xiangmin, Zhujiang, Ma Lingtian, Yao Changyu, and Bassan attended the meeting.,

The party organizations at all levels of the city were asked to learn and understand the spirit of the 'important' speech of General Secretary Xi Jinping as the current primary political task. They further stressed that Xi's speech also represent the spirit of propaganda and guide the city's party members and cadres to practice thinking and acting in a unified way. They gave importance to profoundly understand and grasp the historical changes and historical achievements of the 18th National Congress of the Party and also understand the social development.

China Eastern Airlines direct flights to Xigaze route opened

August 02, 2017

On July 30, a China Eastern Airlines Airbus A319 aircraft landed smoothly at the Shigatse airport, marking the official opening of China Eastern Airlines - Shanghai - Shigatse route.

Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Shigatse Mayor Liu Hushan Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party committee and Executive Vice Mayor Ni Junan with party and government cadres and representatives of the masses offered white scarves to the arriving cadres of the Shanghai Municipal Government and Eastern Airlines. Deputy party Chief Ni Junnan said: "Today is a worthy day for Xigaze City, its 800,000 cadres and masses. He thanked China Eastern Airlines on the behalf the Shanghai Eighth 'Aid- Tibet' cadres for opening the Shanghai - Xi'an - Shigatse route. He said the new route would greatly shorten the distance between Shanghai and Tibet and strengthen cooperation

and exchange between Shigatse and the eastern coastal areas and build Shigatse as an important world tourist destination. It will also play the role of opening a bridgehead in opening South Asia”.

In August 2016, China Eastern Airlines and the Shigatse Municipal Government signed a strategic cooperation agreement to actively promote the development of Shigatse Civil Aviation. To ensure flight safety, China Eastern Airlines has carried out a number of modifications to the cabin air supply system, cockpit booster system and engine power system on aircraft flying that route. The aircraft use RNP AR precision satellite navigation technology. The Shanghai - Xi'an – Shigatse route has flights every Thursday and Sunday. In recent years, central authorities have been vigorously supporting local construction in Tibet.

City leaders pay condolences to Garrison troops and military cadres

August 02, 2017

July 29, 2017, was marked as the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party committee and Executive Vice Mayor Feng Jikang, came to the Air Force to visit the five retired cadres and offered white scarves as the festival blessings and greetings. On behalf of the municipal government, the city's 800,000 cadres and the masses, Executive Vice Mayor Feng Jikang thanked the PLA for helping the city's social and economic development.

He pointed out that for a long time the officers and men of the People's Liberation Army always had strong political awareness and a sense of urgency. They worked hard to maintain political reliability, military superiority and strict discipline while strengthening army construction. Thus they gained love and admiration from the people as well, he said.

Feng Jikang hoped that the officers and men of the armed forces shall proceed

from the overall situation of safeguarding national security and social stability. He hoped that the people will support the troops as their sacred duty and further implement the policy of supporting the army and the resettlement.

On 90th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army, City leaders to visit Garrison troops to offer condolences

July 31, 2017

On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army, Mayor Liu Hushan, Deputy Secretary and Executive Vice Mayor Xiang visited the garrison troops to felicitate them. On July 28, Liu Hushan went “deep into the frontier line” to visit the broad masses of PLA officers and soldiers stationed on the front line of the border. Liu Hushan was cordially greeted by the PLA officers and offered white scarves. He pointed out that the PLA officers and men are filled with courage, are shouldering important responsibilities and following the commands and regulations of the Party Central Committee, Central Military Commission and Xi Jinping. He urged them to carry on the ‘Old Tibetan Sprit’ of being strong to overcome difficulties and effectively fulfill the sacred mission of safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Liu Hushan said the municipal government would, as always, be concerned about supporting the construction of troops in Shigatse and providing better logistical support to solve the practical difficulties of the officers and men.

On July 29, the Deputy Mayor of the Shigatse Municipal People's Government Wang Xiangmin and his entourage visited the military sub-district, Shigatse City Public Security Border Detachment and other establishments. They paid tribute and offered festival greetings to the officers. He hoped that the officers and men of the garrison in Shigatse would keep in mind the teachings of the Party Central Committee, the Central Military Commission and the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). He also hoped that the troops in Shigatse continue to carry forward the fine traditions, and actively

participate in local construction for the rapid development of Shigatse, long-term stability and the new efforts.

Shigatse City held a symposium on aid Tibet program

August 9, 2017

On August 7, Shigatse city held a meeting on 'Aid Tibet work forum' in Lhasa. The discussion was held between four provinces, two enterprises and the municipal government. Jilin Provincial Standing Committee, United Front Secretary Li Jinghao, Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee Standing Committee and Vice Governor Jia Yumei, Vice Governor of Shandong Province Yu Guofang and Director of the Shanghai Municipal Government in Tibet Xiong Ying attended the symposium and delivered speeches.

Nyingchi City held meeting to promote second open border village

1 August 2017

Nyingchi City held a second open border village construction promotion. The main purpose is to implement development of national and autonomous regions in the border areas and speed up decision-making arrangements, implement the autonomous region border well-off village construction, and mobilise the spirit of the teleconference. Party Secretary Ma Shengchang attended the meeting and spoke at the forum. Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee, Executive Vice Mayor Xu Dianhui, Municipal Committee, Deputy Mayor Dawa, Vice Mayor Mei Jiakui attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the Municipal Development and Reform Commission gave a briefing on the progress of construction of a well-off village in the city. The municipal finance bureau, the housing urban and rural construction bureau and the main leaders of Milling County, Langxian County, Chayu County and Medog County reported on the construction of open border village.

Nyingchi Party Secretary Ma Shengchang stressed that the construction of a well-off village in the border is a major and glorious political task. It is a systematic project involving a wide range of construction periods and a large workload. We must keep a clear mind at all times, raise our thinking and earnestly enhance our sense of responsibility and mission in the construction of a well-off village. We will further clarify our responsibilities and make a concerted effort to promote the new achievements of the party's victory.

The excellent rate of ambient air in Tibet in the first half of 2017

August 04, 2017

On August 3, morning, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie visited the Environmental Protection Department in Ali (Tib: Ngari), which is the national environmental air automatic monitoring network station in Tibet. Wu Yingjie inspected the work of ecological and environmental protection. According to the national environmental air automatic monitoring network station, there is excellent ambient air in the whole area of Tibet, which is 95.8% in the first half of 2017. The percentage points of ambient air quality are higher than that of the same period of last year. The excellent rate of ambient air in Lhasa was 97.8%, (top) and the ambient air quality in Ali ranked second among the 74 key cities in the country (China).

Subsequently, Wu Yingjie presided over a special meeting to listen to a report of the region's ecological and environmental protection work team. Wu Yingjie stressed that Tibet is an important national ecological security barrier and the ecological strategic status of Tibet is extremely important to the stability of the country. Since the 18th CCP National Congress, the CCP Central Committee has repeatedly issued important instructions on the protection and construction of ecological environment in Tibet. It has pointed out that advancing the construction of ecological civilization and environmental protection for Tibet is the greatest contribution to the survival of China and her development.

Ali Regional Party Committee helps military symposium to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of PLA

August 02, 2017

On July 30, the Ali Regional Party Committee held a military symposium to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army. The meeting was attended by Peng Qiao, Deputy Secretary of the District committee and Administrative Commissioner; Zhang Huiming, Deputy Secretary of the Regional Party Committee; Zhang Junyong, Military Division Political Commissar and some members of the prefectural Party committee. Zhang Huiming presided.

Peng Qiao, Deputy Secretary of the District Committee and Administrative Commissioner gave a speech on behalf of the prefectural Party committee, the National People's Congress, the Executive Committee, the CPPCC and the people of the whole region to congratulate the 'victorious works' of the PLA and also conveyed condolences to those who lost their lives fighting for the country.

Peng Qiao pointed out that this year, with the strong support of the resident forces, all levels of party committees, governments and cadres of all ethnic groups have to conscientiously implement a series of policies of the central committee to improve the quality and efficiency of development. He stressed that the Ali Prefectural Party committee and administrative department will, as always, support army building, extensively carry out military and civilian activities, conscientiously implement the preferential resettlement policy, and properly accept the placement of military demobilized cadres, retired soldiers and military retired cadres and officers and men. He assured they would take practical action to strengthen national defense and military modernization and make new and greater contributions.

Promoting measures to sustain the rapid development of tourism in Ali

August 07, 2017

In an editorial published on August 7, the Ali region has introduced five measures to promote domestic and international tourism in the region. In 2016, Ali received 500,000 domestic and foreign tourists earning tourism revenue of 675 million yuan, an increase of 37.4%. In the first half of 2017, the number of domestic and foreign tourists reached 16.42 million generating tourism income of 209 million yuan, an increase of 3.29%. The five measures to promote tourism include: establishing the concept of global tourism, improving tourist service, market operation, building tourist projects, and tourism related law enforcement. A total investment of 1.14 billion yuan has also been made in 12 tourist projects in 2017 in the Ali area to improve tourism infrastructure and services.

Ali area held a meeting on industry development and information construction

August 10, 2017

On June 6, the Ali Regional Work Forum held a meeting on Industry Development and Information Construction. Wang Haizhou, Vice Chairman of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, attended the meeting.

The meeting pointed out that in recent years, the Ali prefectural and administrative departments attach great importance to industrial development and information.

The meeting discussed that Ali needs to adhere to ecological protection of the red line; do a good job in stabilizing the work for the economic and social development to lay a good foundation; pay more attention to industrial development; follow the law for industrial development; strengthen organization and leadership; seize the opportunity to plan and improve services; develop preferential policies to optimize allocation of resources; create a number of key

enterprises and key industries; form industrial chains and industrial clusters; and build smooth information channels to information technology to promote social governance and development.

Demolition of Tibetan Residences Underway at Sichuan's Yachen Gar Buddhist Center

August 15, 2017

Authorities in western China's Sichuan province have begun demolishing 2,000 residences of Tibetan clergy at the Yachen Gar Buddhist Center and are set to expel an equal number of monks and nuns from the complex by the end of the year. "Demolition began on August 8 and the work is said to be ongoing at Yachen Gar, while the same number of monks and nuns [2,000] are also to be expelled from the Buddhist center this year alone Yachen Gar, located in Kardze (in Chinese, Ganzi) prefecture's Palyul (Baiyu) county and founded in 1985, until recently housed an estimated 10,000 monks, nuns, and lay practitioners devoted to scriptural study and meditation. Following the beginning of demolitions last week, a senior lama at Yachen Gar issued an appeal to the monks and nuns at the complex to "exercise patience and tolerance." He said "About 2,000 houses will be demolished this year and around same number of monks and nuns will be asked to leave the complex—this is an order from the powerful authorities and cannot be resisted, just as falling boulders from a mountain cannot be stopped. Most important is to remain humble and adhere to proper conduct, and things may get better. Also, it is important for all monks and nuns to take care of their health. The monks and nuns should exercise patience and tolerance under the stress of the demolitions and expulsion orders—this is crucial." Restrictions on Yachen Gar and the better-known Larung Gar complex in Sichuan's Serthar (Seda) county are part of "an unfolding political strategy" aimed at controlling the influence and growth of these important centers for Tibetan Buddhist study and practice, the Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) said in a March 13 report. At the end of June, a senior abbot at Larung Gar said that

Chinese authorities had destroyed 4,725 monastic dwellings over the course of a year at the complex, with a total of more than 7,000 demolished since efforts to reduce the number of monks and nuns living at the sprawling center began in 2001. The abbot said that more than 4,828 monks and nuns had also been expelled since 2016, with many forced back to their hometowns and deprived of opportunities to pursue religious studies.

(Comment: Many thousands of Tibetans and Han Chinese once studied at Larung Gar Academy, which was founded in 1980 by the late religious teacher Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok and is one of the world's largest and most important centers for the study of Tibetan Buddhism.)

Yalong Reservoir Dam Completion

August 09, 2017

Reports stated on August 9, that a new reservoir dam on the Yalong has been successfully completed. The reporter learned from the Municipal Water Conservancy Bureau that the 383.7 meters wide and 73.5 meters high reservoir dam was successfully completed one year earlier than the scheduled plan.

The project started in July 2014. The investment on the project was 4,70,254,700 yuan and all the investment was by the central government. The Yalong reservoir project is TAR's key water conservancy construction project, which is also very important for the Yalong Irrigation Project. After completion, the project will solve water scarcity problems for about 909 acres of land downstream through irrigation. The Yalong Irrigation Project each year supplies 3 million cubic metres of water to the towns. The reservoir has a flood prevention function.

Longzi County held a meeting on grassroots party building

August 09, 2017

On August 8, Longzi county held a meeting to review party building work in the

first half of 2017 and arrange for the deployment of grassroots party building in the second half of the year. Tsering Gyatso, Secretary of the county party committee attended and gave a speech. Li Yuzhi, Deputy Secretary of the county also attended the meeting, which was presided over by Liu Shengyu, the county magistrate.

The meeting stressed that the head of the party branch of the county government and the head of the party committee have worked hard on party building work in the first half of 2017. The meeting was held via teleconference with a total of 40 party cadres and officials including members of the party committee.

Shannan holds economic work deployment meeting for second half of 2017

August 10, 2017

On August 9, the Qu Song county held a meeting to review the economic operation and economic work deployment in the first half of the year in Shannan (Tib: Lhoka). The meeting first stressed the importance of studying and practicing the vision of TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, and then presented a briefing on the economic performance in the first half of 2017 and gave a departmental analysis on the current economic work situation based on which the economic developments and construction plan would be planned for the second half of the year.

The meeting pointed out that under the strong leadership of the Municipal Government, Qu Song County's economic operation has been smooth in the first half of year. Qu Song County's GDP reached 216 million yuan, an increase of 15.5%. The total added value of all production industries production was valued at 1108 million yuan.

The meeting stressed that the affirmative results should be the base to improve the economic and social development of Qu Song in the second half of 2017.

The meeting called on county cadres and workers to embrace the work of economic and social development under the strong leadership of the Municipal Government with full enthusiasm and, therefore, accomplish outstanding achievements for the county.

Foreign Interactions

EU Delegation's Lhasa Tour

July 04, 2017

The European Union's Ambassador to China, Hans Dietmar Schweisgut and a group of Ambassadors and delegates from the United Kingdom, Portugal, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Croatia and 15 other EU member states toured Lhasa and Nyingtri (Ch:Nyingchi) after their visit to Tibet from, June 26 – 30, 2017. Jiang Jie, Executive Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Congress and Tenpa Tashi, Chairman of TAR's Propaganda Department accompanied the delegation to Nyingtri. The delegation visited the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple, Sera Je Monastery, Tibet University, Dobu Hydropower Station, Lulang International Tourism, Milin Farm, Tashigang Family Hotel and other places covering the economy, culture, and ecology tourism aspects of TAR. The Delegation reportedly made positive comments on the harmonious and stable political and economic development of Tibet, 'people's happiness,' 'protection of cultural heritage,' and 'freedom of religion.'

Ambassador Hans Dietmar Schweisgut stated that "Tibet has a long history and cultural and religious heritage, and the listing of the Potala Palace as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage is conducive to Tibet, to China and to the entire world."

The Spanish Ambassador to China, Manuel Valencia said he had been living in China for four years and had been yearning to visit the real Tibet. He said Potala is beautiful.

The Slovenian Ambassador to China, who is interested in Tibetan Buddhist Culture, visited Jokhang Temple and was impressed to see Tibetans coming for circumambulation and prayers. He observed that Tibetans have “religious freedom” and Tibet is closest to paradise.

The British Ambassador to China Ms Barbara Janet Woodward, visited schools, colleges and Universities in Tibet and showed great interest in exchanges between educational institutions of Tibet and Britain. The delegations were shown “Princess Wencheng Drama” which represents Chinese and Tibetan history and culture through the stories of Princess Wencheng of the Tang Dynasty and King Songtsen Gambo of Tibet 1,300 years ago. The Princess was given as a gift to the King by China. The drama is touted as one of the “must see, outdoor live-action performances” for tourists visiting Tibet.

TAR Leaders meets delegation from Botswana

July 11, 2017

On the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a delegation consisting of 13 people from think tanks, media and celebrities of Botswana visited Lhasa and Nyingchtri (Ch: Nyingchi) from July 7 – 9, 2017. Jiang Jie, Executive Vice Chairman of the TAR People’s Congress hosted the delegation. After briefing them on the economic development and overall situation of Tibet, the delegations of the two countries promised to strengthen traditional friendship and bilateral relations. They discussed potential areas and expansion of cooperation.

Botswana’s delegation was led by former Vice President of the University of Botswana and Frank Youngman, Professor of Adult Education at the University of Botswana. The delegation expressed its sincere gratitude to China for extending the invitation and said the delegation had a better understanding of Tibet after the visit. It invited representatives of the TAR People’s Government to visit Botswana and understand their culture.

(Comment: The Dalai Lama was due to make a public address at the three-day “Mind and Life Dialogue” conference in Gaborone on August 19 and meet Botswana President Ian Khama. After China warned Botswana against the Dalai Lama’s visit, Botswana said the visit was “purely private” but added that the Dalai Lama would be granted the status of a foreign dignitary. On August 12, The Dalai Lama cancelled his trip to Botswana citing “exhaustion.”)

Activities of the Dalai Lama

India and China too powerful to defeat each other, must become ‘bhai-bhai’

The Dalai Lama has suggested that India use its soft power, including its Buddhist heritage and tourism, to defuse tensions with China. The 14th Dalai Lama, who was in Mumbai to inaugurate a course on ‘secular ethics’ at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), said that India should arrange for Chinese Buddhists to visit holy places such as Dharmasala in Himachal Pradesh and Gaya in Bihar. “There are 400 million Buddhists living in China. If India invites them here they will come closer to the country,” he said.

The Dalai Lama said that despite border skirmishes, the two countries have to coexist peacefully. “India and China can only create troubles for each other every now and then, but they cannot defeat each other, as both have powerful militaries. You should think about ‘Hindi-Chini bhai bhai’ once again,” he said.

Activities of Tibetans Inside China and Abroad

Exile Tibetan leader addresses Australian parliament’s rights body

August 11, 2017

Sikyong Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) at

Dharamshala, India, on August 9, briefed the Human Rights Sub Committee of the Australian Parliament during a visit to the country. He began his nine-day visit on August 4 in Sydney, followed by the capital Canberra and concluding in Melbourne.

The sub-committee is chaired by Hon Kevin Andrews and has Dr. Anne Aly as Vice Chair, with Senators Dean Smith and Claire Moore, as well Ms. Sharon Claydon, Michael Danby, Ms. Lisa Singh, and Trent Zimmerman, as members. The Sikyong was also reported to have met the chair and co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary group for Tibet and leader of the Australian Green Senator Richard Di Natale on August 9.

Nineteen dead, 263 injured by earthquake in Tibetan county in Sichuan Province

August 10, 2017

Nineteen people were killed, 263 injured and some 60,000 people, mostly tourists, evacuated following a 7.0-magnitude earthquake which struck Jiuzhaigou (Tibetan: Namphel or Namphing) County in Aba (Ngawa) Prefecture in Sichuan on August 8.

The dead include eight tourists and two locals. China's official Xinhua news agency said on August 10, that those evacuated included 126 non-Chinese foreigners.

Xinhua said strong tremors could be felt in the provincial capital Chengdu, located 285 kilometres (177 miles) away. Many places in Qinghai and Gansu also felt the tremor, which was also felt as far away as Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province.

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AND REMOVALS

Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress Standing Committee appointment and removal list

(Adopted by the 35th Session of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress on July 28, 2017)

July 31, 2017

REMOVED:

- 1) **Penpa Lobsang** - Member of the Working Committee of the Ali Regional Working Committee of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region;
- 2) **Peng Hua** - member of the Working Committee of the Ali Regional Party Committee and Standing Committee; and
- 3) **Li Jiefeng** - member of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region

APPOINTED:

Wang Wei - as member of the Working Committee of the Ali Regional People's Congress and Standing Committee of TAR;

Li Ping - as member of the Working Committee of the Ali Regional People's Congress AND Standing Committee of TAR; and

Luo Wang - as member of TAR People's Congress Standing Committee member and Ali Party Committee

DECISION TO REMOVE:

Xu Chengcang - Director of the Education Department of the Tibet Autonomous Region

DECISION TO APPOINT:

Zhang Yanqing: appointed a Vice Chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region People's Government;

Du Jiangong: appointed as Director of the Education Department of TAR

Removed:

Sonam kyi - President of the Supreme People 's Court of the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People' s Republic of China.

Chime Tenzin - Judicial Committee member of the Tibet Autonomous Region Nagqu District Intermediate People's Court;

Phurpu Dolma- member of the Judicial Committee of the Intermediate People 's Court of the Nagqu Area of the Tibet Autonomous Region;

Sonam Dekyi - member of the Judicial Committee of the Intermediate People's Court of the Nagqu District of Tibet Autonomous Region and Vice - President of Criminal Trials;

Baitian Yu - Vice President of the Intermediate People's Court of Nagqu, Tibet Autonomous Region;

Yuhong Peng - Vice President, Civil Trial, Intermediate People's Court, Nagqu District, Tibet Autonomous Region;

Niqiong- Vice President, Civil Trial, Intermediate People's Court, Nagqu District, Tibet Autonomous Region; and

Tsering Dorjee- Vice President of the Intermediate People's Court of the Nagqu Area of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

APPOINTED:

Feng Zhiqi - appointed Vice President of the Intermediate People's Court of Nagqu, Tibet Autonomous Region;

Sonam Dawa - as adjutant of the Intermediate People 's Court of the Nagqu District of the Tibet Autonomous Region and member of the Judicial Committee;

Migma Lhazom – as Vice President of the Intermediate People 's Court of

Nagqu, Tibet Autonomous Region;

Wang Dongmei - as Vice President of the Intermediate People 's Court of Nagqu, Tibet Autonomous Region;

Baitian Yu – as Vice President of the Tibet Autonomous Region Nagqu District Intermediate People 's Court civil trial;

Yu Hongpeng – as Vice President of Criminal Trials of the Intermediate People 's Court of the Nagqu District of the Tibet Autonomous Region;

Tawang – as Vice President of the Tibet Autonomous Region Nagqu District Intermediate People's Court of Criminal Trials;;

Xiao Gezhen – as Second Vice President of the Tibet Autonomous Region Nagqu District Intermediate People's Court of Criminal Trial; **Niqiong - as** Vice-President of the Trial Supervisory Intermediate People's Court of Nagqu, Tibet Autonomous Region; and

Wang Zi - as judge of the Intermediate People's Court of Nagqu, Tibet Autonomous Region.