

Weekly Tibet News Digest

Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi

23 November 2015

"People want to lead a peaceful lives. The terrorists are short-sighted, and this is one of the causes of rampant suicide bombings. We cannot solve this problem only through prayers. I am a Buddhist and I believe in praying. But humans have created this problem, and now we are asking God to solve it. It is illogical. God would say, solve it yourself because you created it in the first place."

[His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Remark on Paris Attack, November 2015](#)



The US Congressional delegation led by House Democrat and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, in front the iconic Potala Palace, Lhasa, November 2015.

TIBET'S ENVIRONMENT

["Cold Tibet quickly becoming warm"](#)

The Hindu, 21 November 2015

The rate of warming at the Tibetan plateau — the third largest concentration of ice after the south and north poles — is two times greater than the global average, observed a top Buddhist monk who is also an environmentalist. The river systems that flow from the Tibetan plateau go to countries like India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.

[Scientists Drill Ice Cores in Tibetan Plateau for Climate Study](#)

by Manny Salvacion, Yibada, 18 November 2015

A team of scientists from five countries recently went to the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau to drill 6 metric tons of ice cores, believed to be the oldest ice on Earth's so-called Third Pole, as part of a project to study climate change, the China Daily reported.

[Tibet Faces Grim Scenario with Glaciers on Retreat](#)

by K.J.M. Varma, The Wire, 18 November 2015

The glacier on the Tibetan plateau has been backing off since the 20th century due to rising temperature and doing so at a faster speed since the 1990s, a scientific evaluation report on environmental change of the Tibetan plateau published by the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research under the Chinese Academy of Sciences said.

[Tibet plateau as clean as North Pole: report](#)

China Daily, 18 November 2015

Several data revealed by a global research endeavor showed that the Tibetan plateau remains one of the world's cleanest regions despite pollutants discharged by surrounding regions.

[China's bottled water industry eyes up the Tibetan plateau](#)

The Guardian, 16 November 2015

The snow-capped peaks of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau are perceived as a pure source of water that can command a premium price from consumers concerned about water pollution in China. This has spurred a huge influx of companies hoping to cash in on the region's water resources.

Related: [Bottled water a disaster for the environment and the world's poor by Brahma Chellaney](#)

Tourist Garbage Chokes Tibet's Wetland

VOA, 29 October 2015

With geographical beauty, clean air, and what many Chinese consider an exotic culture, Tibet attracts millions of Chinese tourists each year. However, with that interest, comes a heavy ecological cost.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO TIBET

China Placed Lhasa under Severe Lockdown During US Congressional Visit

CTA, 20 November 2015

Lhasa was placed under a severe lockdown in late October and early November, according to a confidential letter sent from inside Tibet.

U.S. Congress members tell of their visit to Tibet

by Julie Makinen, LA Times, 17 November 2015

Pelosi described the visit as highly controlled, estimating that more than 30 Chinese security officers accompanied the delegation of seven. Though she could not be sure just how Potemkin what they saw was, she noted, for example, that what China "wanted us to see was housing. And we did. Did we see families? I'm not sure."

US Rep. Jim McGovern pushes for human rights, other issues during China trip

by Shannon Young, Mass Live, 17 November 2015

U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Worcester said in a statement. "I have long raised concerns about China's human rights record in Tibet. As the first Congressional delegation to enter Tibet since the 2008 unrest, this was an important opportunity to raise the voices of the Tibetan people."

China changing public tack on Tibet with trip by Nancy Pelosi: analysts

SCMP, 14 November 2015

Beijing is changing its public tack on Tibetan affairs by giving a high-profile reception in the region to a US congressional delegation led by US House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, a long-standing critic of China's policies on human rights and ethnic minorities, analysts said.

U.S.'s Pelosi voiced support for Dalai Lama during China visit

The Star, 14 November 2015

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, enjoys strong support in the United States. Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi told Chinese officials during a visit this week to the Himalayan region, while expressing concern about human rights there.

Chinese paper claims Pelosi 'praised' progress in Tibet on rare visit. That seems unlikely

by Emily Rauhala, The Washington Post, 13 November 2015

Chinese officials on Thursday took the chance to offer their own rather odds-defying account of what happened. An article published in Tibet Daily said Pelosi "highly praised" developments in Tibet, including "the efforts made by the Chinese government to protect religious freedom, ethnic culture and the environment."

PRESS RELEASE

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic members hold press conference following historic visit to Tibet and China

ICT, 17 November 2015

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Members of the Congressional Delegation who traveled to Tibet and China held a press conference on November 17, 2015 following their historic visit last week.

Similar: [Pelosi, McGovern Press Conference with Congressional Delegation Following Historic Visit to China and Tibet](#)

INSIDE TIBET

County-level Tibet official expelled from party for corruption

Tibetan Review, 18 November 2015

China said Nov 17 that a county-level official in the Tibet Autonomous Region had been expelled from the party for corruption. The case of Bai Deyu, former director of the Education Bureau of Riwoche County in Chamdo City, had been transferred to judicial organs for decision according to law for his alleged violation of discipline and law, reported China's online Tibet news service eng.tibet.cn.

China's anti-corruption campaign in Tibet targets religiosity, 'separatism'

Tibetan Review, 11 November 2015

President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign has a rather odd Tibet-specific Chinese characteristic: it has metamorphosed to especially target officials who are seen as secretly believing in religion and revering or respecting the Dalai Lama, Tibet's top spiritual figure living in exile in India.

Chinese Authorities Expel Nuns From Jada Convent in Tibet

RFA, 10 November 2015

Local Chinese authorities have expelled 106 Tibetan Buddhist nuns from a convent and demolished several of their residential quarters in the latest crackdown on religious orders in Tibet.

Document Exposes Intensification of State-sanctioned Religious Repression in Troubled Tibetan County

TCHRD, 09 November 2015

Chinese authorities have intensified anti-religious campaigns by systematically converting Tibetan monastic institutions into Chinese government offices and the monastic population into Chinese Communist Party members in Diru (Ch: Biru) County in Nagchu (Ch: Naqu) Prefecture, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), in Kham province.

COLUMNS

Pitching Tibet, In a New Key

by Gabriel Lafitte, Rukor, 21 November 2015

The glacier advertising this presentation is, as we all know, fast disappearing, as the Tibetan plateau warms much faster than any inhabited area of the planet. The climate crisis may be upon us, but seldom is it depicted as a human rights crisis as well. Is there a human rights dimension?'

Beijing better sit down with the Dalai Lama: Column

by Allen R. Carlson, USA Today, 12 November 2015

A bolder move, one consistent with Xi's decision to finally meet with his Taiwanese counterpart, would be to now reach out to the Tibetan leader. If Xi is truly intent on demonstrating to the world that his China is different, a new type of great power, then he should be able to sit down with an individual who describes himself as nothing more than a simple Tibetan monk.

Tibet's plea: fix the roof of the world before it's too late

by Lobsang Sangay, The Guardian, 11 November 2015

The roof of the world. That is what Tibet has long been known as. The phrase conjures up images of summits, with their mountain peaks, glaciers, permafrost and the nomads who live on the land. But a roof is also symbolic of a home, and is the structure that protects those who live there. And, as we all know, if the roof is structurally compromised, then so is the home.

INTERVIEW

Dalai Lama on Paris attacks: 'Work for peace, and don't expect help from God and governments'

by Murali Krishnan, DW, 16 November 2015

Following the deadly Paris attacks, the Tibetan spiritual leader tells DW that people should not expect God to resolve man-made problems, and that a systematic approach is needed to foster humanistic values.

IN EXILE

Global Citizen Action Urged to Stop Environmental Degradation on the Third Pole

CTA, 17 November 2015

In the run up to the global climate conference COP21 in Paris, European Parliamentarians held a conference on environment and climate change on the Tibetan Plateau.

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