

INSIDE TIBET:

Is development killing Tibetan way of life ?: On a rare Chinese government controlled trip to Tibet, Damian Grammaticas, a BBC journalist writes about Tibetans' fears that their unique way of life is being eroded. He says that while their schedule and movement was almost entirely controlled by official minders, in snatched conversations with Tibetans, it was clear the sheer number of Han Chinese flowing in to Tibet was a cause of resentment and he says, "It is clear China's drive for development is transforming Tibet, improving incomes and changing lives. But it seems that is not always being welcomed. ... the impression left by our visit was that Beijing is struggling to win the consent of ordinary Tibetans. And in a generation's time their homeland may have changed irrevocably." He details a visit to a mineral water factory, but it turns out the factory is owned by a company registered in Hong Kong, so profits flow outside Tibet; the Potala palace, once home to the Dalai Lama, an ancient structure be able to sustain 600,000 visitors each year; a visit to a model project of neat rows of grey stone houses called "comfort houses"; a visit to the Tibet Shanghai Experimental School where half the teachers are Chinese and only Tibetan language is taught in Tibetan.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-10638506>

Production begins at China's largest mining project in Tibet Autonomous Region: On July 19, China's state owned media reported that the first phase of the "Gyama polymetallic mine" in Lhasa began production. Located in the Meldro Gungkar County of Lhasa municipality, the Gyama mining project is one of the eight priority construction projects in Tibet and it is owned by Tibet Huatailong Mining Development Co, a subsidiary of China National Gold Group Corp (CNGG), China's second largest gold producer. Last year, local Tibetan residents from Gyama township had reportedly petitioned the local government to put an immediate halt to the mining project and in June 2009, protests by local Tibetans against a water diversion project at the site had lead to skirmishes between residents and miners that were followed by police crackdown, leaving at least three Tibetans seriously wounded. The Chinese miners had to leave the site. Mining in Tibet is a contentious issue as Tibetans hold nature as sacred. Tibet activists say that with more and more mining companies operating in Tibet, there is great danger to the region's fragile eco-system.
<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=27780&article=China's+largest+mining+project+in+TAR+starts+operation>

THE DALAI LAMA:

The Dalai Lama optimistic about Tibet's future: In an hour long interview with Bernama, Malaysian national news agency, the Dalai Lama spoke with optimism about the Middle Way approach. He said, "I believe middle path will come true. Last 60 years, the same one party system has changed, the obvious big change today is Chinese communist has changed to Capitalist communist." He asserted that Tibet under his leadership is not seeking independence from China but genuine autonomy, "Tibet is not an issue of the Dalai Lama institution. It's about the well-being of six million Tibetan people and their rights. So long as these rights do not materialize, then this movement will remain, whether I am alive or not. Important is Buddhism and Tibetan culture, not the institution of the Dalai Lama."
<http://www1.voanews.com/tibetan-english/news/Dalai-Lama-Optimistic-on-Tibet-Autonomy-98751704.html>

EUROPE:

UK to ask China to have substantive dialogue with Tibetans: British Prime Minister David Cameron assured Tibetans that his government would continue to impress upon China the importance of substantive dialogue with leaders of the community for a lasting solution to their problems. A release from the Tibetan Government in Exile said that Prime Minister told the Tibetan Parliament in exile, "We will continue to impress upon the Chinese the importance of substantive dialogue with the Tibetan representatives in good faith as this is the only ways to bring about a lasting and peaceful solution to the problems in Tibet Our interest is in long term stability, which can only be achieved through respect for human rights and greater autonomy for the Tibetans."
<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/uk-ask-china-have-substantive-dialogue-tibetans>