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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Soldiers picking vegetables to prepare gifts:** On 1.2.22, CCTV Military uploaded a video on Weibo which shows soldiers from Wenquan County (Northwest Xinjiang), picking vegetables, packing first aid kits, and preparing gifts to present them to the villages living in a far-off dwelling in the county on the occasion of the Chinese New Year. The video shows the soldiers sweeping their houses, decorating it and checking on the health of the family members. The video ultimately shows PLA in a benevolent and good light, reflecting on the close relations between PLA and the local people.
- **Latest spring festival film releases became “most expensive” in history by exceeding box office collection of 1.4 billion:** According to the data of Lighthouse, Cat's Eye and other Chinese platforms, the total box office collection of 2022 Spring Festival new films has exceeded 1.4 billion yuan. As of now "Changjin Lake Watergate Bridge" is in first place with a box office collection of more than 600 million yuan and "Four Seas" ranks second with 210 million yuan. Pre-sales brought in most revenue. As of February 1, the four films "Watergate Bridge of Changjin Lake", "Four Seas", "This Killer Is Not Calm" and "Miracle Stupid Child" all exceeded 100 million in pre-sale, also making this Spring Festival season with the most pre-sold films in Chinese film history, exceeding 100 million yuan.
- **Weibo post shares experience of the commander during Galwan clashes:** On 1.2.22, CCTV military's Weibo account uploaded a video that shows PLA troops describing how regimental commander Qi Fabao (who sustained head injuries during Galwan and is not back on duty) helped them cross an icy river by carrying them one by one on his back because they were not wearing waterproof pants. Wang Lijun, a political commissar of a regiment of Xinjiang Military District also praised him on the video and noted that this act of his moved many soldiers to tears. At the end of the video, a soldier emphasized that Qi Fabao's acts inspired him to join the party.

II. News in China

- 37 new covid positive cases were reported from the personnel involved in Olympic Games on January 30. China is maintaining a zero-tolerance policy attitude towards the spread of Covid-29 infection. Almost all international flights are canceled and Olympic athletes and others are allowed to enter the city on charter planes. Strict COVID rules are being imposed by the authorities in order to curb the spread of the infection. Athletes along with media persons and others associated with the Olympic Games are allowed to operate in a “closed-loop” bubble, thus avoiding contact with the public.

- China News Service in Heilongjiang reported that from January 17 to January 31 i.e 15 days before the Chinese Spring Festival, China Railway Harbin Group Co.Ltd has carried nearly 1.154 million passengers. This was an annual increase of 904,000 passengers. It reports that the railway department took care of the protocol of epidemic prevention including a "healthy and safe" travel environment. Contactless services like passenger tickets, online meal ordering, infection, and temperature measuring tools were made available to encourage safe travel.
- According to the Municipal Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters, 9 new positive cases of coronavirus have been reported in the city of Tianjin. This includes 2 cases from Binhai New Area, 3 cases in Hebei district, 2 cases in Hedong District and 2 cases in Hongqiao district. These 9 people have been shifted to city appointed hospitals for further treatment of COVID.
- On February 1, in its qualifier round of 12 in the Qatar World Cup, the Chinese men's football team lost to the Vietnamese team by 1:3. Netizens in China were vocally upset by the defeat of the national football team. Li Xiaopeng, the new coach of the football team, apologized for the team's low score in the match. However, on the same day, in the quarter-finals of the Women's Asia Cup, the Chinese women's football team defeated Vietnam by 3:1; this news failed to get the deserved attention.
- The Central Secretary-General of the communist party of China and President Xi Jinping received wishes for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics 2022 over phone calls and letters from several world leaders and heads of international organizations. The leaders also congratulated the Chinese people on the eve of the Spring Festival and New Year. Several country presidents including Nguyen Chunfu, President of Vietnam, Abdullah, the Supreme Head of State of Malaysia, Bhandari, President of Nepal, Zapparov, Kyrgyzstan's President, etc and heads of international organizations including Azouli, the Director-General of UNESCO, President Bach of IOC have stated that Beijing Winter Olympics will make a positive contribution to the international Olympic movement and will promote unity, peace, and prosperity among humankind.

III. India Watch

- It has been almost 2 years since the Galwan clash and more than a month since Qi Fabao resumed his duty in early December last year, but stories related to the martyred soldiers and their family members keep appearing on the social media to keep their "fighting spirit alive". Stories related to soldiers involved in Galwan do occupy a considerable space in the Weibo timeline of CCTV Military.