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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

- **Enhancement of information and communication security services:** WeChat official account "Industry WeChat" reported on November 1 that the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology recently issued a notice to deploy and carry out information and communication service perception enhancement actions. It will focus on the information and communication service links that affect user perception, and promote the realization of the "five optimizations" of service measures (that is, optimization of tariff package setting display methods, dual gigabit service publicity methods, privacy policies, and permission call display methods, and APP open screen pop-up information display.)
- **Netizens on US Troops in Taiwan:** Taiwan media disclosed the story that after the Spring Festival next year, a group of active US troops will go to Taiwan to take over-rotation training tasks, forming a "resident coordinated training establishment in Taiwan." Some Taiwanese netizens said that this would be like a "garrison," and then angrily criticized the DPP authorities for continuously adding fuel to the fire and challenging the "red line." This shows the pro-China faction in Taiwan.
- **Pension insurance exemption:** Netizens over social media and the "Leadership Message Board" of People's Daily suggested that "people who lost their independence should be included in the pension insurance exemption" through the basic old-age insurance paid. At present, the basic survival guarantee for those who lost their 'independence' to care for themselves is at the age of 60. The Langfang Municipal Bureau of Human Resources and Social Security replied that the pension insurance for urban and rural residents implements a unified policy across the province, and the current policy does not have special regulations on the participation of persons who have lost their independence.
- **Police insulted for mishandling of COVID-19 situation:** A netizen dissatisfied with the control of the epidemic situation in the community distributed a photo insulting the police on a WeChat group of more than 330 people. Because the netizen's behavior has constituted quarreling and provocation, the police imposed administrative detention on the person for 9 days in accordance with the law.

II. News in China

- New rule imposed after an electric bicycle caught fire in Hangzhou West Lake Scenic Area. All-electric bicycles in Zhejiang need to scan vehicle code and batteries to verify product code. Vehicles without code will not be registered.

- The national security organs have insisted on taking the overall national security concept as a guide, coordinating traditional and non-traditional security, and successively cracking a number of cases in non-traditional fields, eliminating many actual and potential harms. At the moment of the 7th anniversary of the promulgation and implementation of the anti-espionage law, the national security agency announced three cases of jeopardizing the security of important data, aiming to further increase society's attention to non-traditional security and jointly maintain national security.
- Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao attended the National Day Reception hosted by the Turkish Embassy in China and exchanged views with the Turkish Ambassador to China on bilateral relations. China-Turkey strategic cooperative relations have produced considerable development; China is willing to work with Turkey to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, and to promote the continuous new results of China-Turkey strategic cooperative relations.
- A batch of 45-ton Afghan pine nuts was sent to Shanghai by cargo plane. This is the first time Afghanistan has exported goods to China after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. Afghan pine nuts (called Brazilian pine nuts in China) have a unique taste and are the main economic crop exported from Afghanistan to China along with being an important source of finance for Afghan farmers and local governments in Afghanistan. Annually, Afghan pine nuts mature in September and reach the Chinese market in October. The Afghan Provisional Government held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Kabul Airport for the same (See images 1, 2 and 3). Taliban Deputy Prime Minister Hanafi and many other senior officials and Chinese Ambassador to Kabul Wang Yu also attended the ceremony.

III. India Watch

- China's relationship with the Taliban is steadily developing even as it officially waits on acknowledging the Taliban; the recent ceremony and reviving of trade through exports of pinenuts will be a support for Taliban Regime and Afghan Economy. China is on the path to building a strategic relationship with the Taliban that could be seen as a threat to Indian interests; the need for India to develop its Afghan policy cannot be stressed enough.
- China has censored effectively any criticism of mishandling of the current COVID-19 situation and any information going out. The recent instance of a netizen insulting police and his arrest illustrates the situation and highlights the grim reality of the fact that most such posts are censored.

Image 1-2: Taliban Deputy Prime Minister at Ribbon-cutting ceremony



Image 3: Pine nuts exported from Afghanistan board a cargo plane.

