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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Incident of a 55-year-old woman dying after falling from the 12th floor in Hohhot sparked a heated debate on Chinese social media:** This week's most-read Weibo post is about a police notice of an incident in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, in which a 55-year-old female resident died after falling from the 12th floor of her building. The police notice, which was republished by China Newsweek Magazine, received over 1.6 million "likes," nearly 80,000 comments, and 68,000 shares. In the official Sina Weibo top trending posts overview, it was the number one Weibo post of the week. The incident occurred on November 4 in the Xincheng District of Hohhot's Beiyuan Road's Xingguang A9 community. Shortly after, emergency personnel pronounced the woman dead. The police have asked netizens to refrain from sharing any videos related to the incident that have circulated online. Mrs. Wang lived in the Unit 2 building of the community with her 29-year-old daughter. She allegedly had an anxiety disorder and had been taking prescription drugs to treat it since 2019. Due to two positive COVID cases on October 26, the community had become a "high-risk area," and an "isolation barrier" was placed around the Unit 2 building to prevent residents from leaving the compound. One reason for the uproar on Chinese social media is that the residential building where Wang and her daughter lived was completely shut down; the gates were locked from the outside, and residents were unable to open them from the inside. This resulted in a terrible situation in which Wang's daughter, despite banging on the gates, was unable to rush out to get help at a critical moment.

NEWS IN CHINA

- On a visit to Taiwan by a [British minister](#), China's Foreign Ministry urged Britain to follow the one-China principle and end all forms of official contact with the island on Monday. During a press conference, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian stated that China has repeatedly reiterated its principled position on the Taiwan issue. There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory, Zhao said, adding that China firmly opposes any form of official interaction between Taiwan and countries with diplomatic ties to China. Zhao stated that the "one-China principle" is the political foundation for the development of diplomatic ties between China and Britain.
 - To avoid recently imposed US sanctions on semiconductor exports to China, some [Chinese fabless chipmakers](#) are having to modify their advanced chip designs to reduce processing speeds. Chinese chip designers have spent millions of dollars and years developing advanced silicon that was intended to be manufactured by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) because China lacks the ability to manufacture its own cutting-edge chips. However, new trade restrictions imposed by the United States Commerce Department on October 7 require American chipmakers or equipment manufacturers to apply for a license before exporting advanced chips or chipmaking equipment to China, which has hampered these plans.
 - The Chinese Communist Party has reduced the number of [foreign films](#) approved for screening and distribution by its censors, indicating that Chinese President Xi Jinping is keen to isolate the country culturally from the rest of the world, according to commentators on Monday. Chinese Moviegoers saw only 38 foreign films in the first ten months of this year, a significant decrease from 73 for the entire year of 2021 and 136 in 2019. Sun Yeli, Vice Minister of Propaganda, said at a news conference in August that the decline in foreign film imports was due to a variety of factors but hinted at "higher standards" being applied to American films. Sun stated, "Our principles, position, and attitude toward exchanges between the Chinese and foreign film industries are consistent, clear, and remain unchanged." Over the last decade, American films accounted for 41% of imported films, with 33 grossing more than one billion yuan (US \$138 million) and five grossing more than two billion, he said. "We noticed that American films have been losing market share in China. I believe there are several reasons for this," he stated.
 - China and Australia have far more [common interests](#) than differences, according to Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who spoke by phone with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong on Tuesday. Both sides have stated that they will continue to work to improve and strengthen relations between China and Australia. The normalization and "Improving China-Australia relations serves both sides' fundamental interests and meets the common expectations of people in both countries and the international community," Wang told his Australian counterpart, Penny Wong. Wang stated
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that the two sides should continue to adhere to the comprehensive strategic partnership's consensus, uphold the spirit of mutual respect, seek common ground while shelving differences, and work toward the goal of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

- the stalled Free Trade Agreement and communicating with Indian Prime Minister Modi about the deal's "early conclusion," both countries have set an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030, which is currently around \$34 billion.

INDIA WATCH

- Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, campaigned on taking a tough stance against China, and it appears that Sunak has taken steps to challenge China's global rule set. Since the decision to send Trade Minister Greg Hands to Taipei, where he met Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and co-hosted the 25th UK-Taiwan trade talks, the United Kingdom and Taiwan have wished to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), but India is not currently a member of this agreement and neither wishes to be. The United Kingdom, India, and Taiwan should try to form a trade alliance to increase trade between themselves and other like-minded countries. Even though UK-Taiwan trade is around \$9.2 billion, whereas India-Taiwan trade is around \$9 billion, the Indian government should step up and try to leverage this momentum by initiating talks to increase trade with Taiwan because India can attract Taiwanese companies such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) and United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), and India is currently in deficit when trading with Taipei, so India should try to fill Taiwanese markets. While UK Prime Minister Sunak is attempting to relaunch
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