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CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- As interest in the virtual world grows, Zuckerberg's Meta will push metaverse activities into Hong Kong cafes and schools: To give 'first-hand' metaverse experiences in the city, Meta will collaborate with local partners such as cafe chains, schools, and art institutions. Visitors will be able to utilize the Meta Quest 2 VR headset at pop-up metaverse exhibitions in Central Market and Times Square.
- Taiwanese media reported China is building countermeasures against Taiwan: According to Taiwanese media sources, the PLA is building air defense positions on the hilltops of Zhangzhou and Fuzhou Yixu Airport in order to intercept Taiwan's Xiongsheng missiles and Wan Chien missiles that have capabilities to penetrate deep into the mainland. The media outlet reviewed satellite images and found that new large air defense bases had suddenly appeared, and the layout of the positions was unprecedented, deploying the Hongqi 6(HQ-6) system, which is said to be able to counter cruise missiles. The paper also believes that the troops there have been upgraded from only one battalion to two battalions.

II. News in China

- The "Outline of Military Non-War Military Actions (Trial)" was just signed by Xi Jinping, chairman of the Central Military Commission, and will take effect on June 15, 2022. The "Outline" follows Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, fully implements Xi Jinping's thoughts on military strength, adheres to the overall national security concept, and focuses on effectively preventing and defusing risks and challenges, responding to and handling emergencies, protecting people's lives and property, and maintaining national sovereignty, security, and development interests.
- Xi Jinping, the leader of the Chinese Communist Party, recently congratulated <u>Hong Kong's Ta Kung Pao</u> on its 120th anniversary, praising the newspaper's commitment to "sustaining social stability in Hong Kong "and "fostering the return of people's hearts". Simultaneously, primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong began to assess their literature collections in response to the implementation of the "Hong Kong version of the National Security Law." The officials confiscated more than 200 books from the shelf, including Wang Dan's mother's novels.
- Recently, the situation in the <u>Taiwan Strait</u> has been up and down. At a press conference on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin stated that China has sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction over the Taiwan Strait, and that the term "international waters" does not exist in international maritime law. He also cautioned "relevant countries" against "manipulation of Taiwan-related problems."

- According to the <u>Ministry of Emergency</u> Management's official website, from June 14 to 23, the cumulative rainfall in most of Jiangnan, southern China, and the eastern part of the southwest region was 70-150 mm, with the local area exceeding 400 mm, according to the meteorological department's forecast. The National Defense Agency continues to maintain a three-tiered flood-control response. During General Secretary Xi Jinping's inspection in Sichuan, Huang Ming, deputy commander-inchief of the National Defense General and Minister of Emergency Management Department, emphasized the importance of faithfully carrying out the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on flood control and disaster relief work. To reduce casualties and property losses, carefully deploy various flood control and disaster relief strategies.
- Yang Jiechi, a member of the CPC Central Committee's Political Bureau and director of the CPC Central Committee's Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission, met with National Security Assistant to US President Sullivan for more than four hours in Luxembourg on June 13, local time. According to information released after the meeting, the two sides engaged in candid, in-depth, and constructive communication and exchanges, and agreed to prioritize the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, strengthen contact and dialogue, reduce misunderstandings and misjudgments, and properly manage and control differences.
- On Monday, <u>Chinese State Councilor</u> and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a video conference with New Zealand Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta. Wang stated that China has always seen New Zealand as a strategic and cooperative partner, and that China is willing to work with New Zealand to implement the key agreement struck between the two nations' presidents. To accelerate a green recovery, the two sides should implement the protocol for improving the China-New Zealand free trade agreement (FTA) and give full play to the ministerial discussion on climate change.

III. India Watch

• The statement made by Wang Wenbin appears to have fueled the present heated situation in the Taiwan Strait. Chinese military planes have been harassing Taiwan's prevention and control identification zone more frequently than in prior years since the beginning of this year. 30 Chinese military jets broke into Taiwan's prevention and control identification zone on May 30, the day the US senator group visited Taiwan. The two sides sparred vehemently at the US-China defense ministers' meeting in Singapore last week, and the outside world saw them as speaking their own language. China has been making speeches, particularly lately from the standpoint of international law, to increase the legality with which it may force Taiwan to unify, but most countries do not accept this legitimacy.