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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Hong Kong actor apologizes on Chinese social media for praising British queen:** On Thursday, a renowned [Hong Kong opera performer](#) apologized and reaffirmed his patriotism after his support for Britain's late Queen Elizabeth II prompted an outcry among Chinese nationalists. Thousands of Hong Kong people gathered this week outside the British consulate to sign a condolence book for the late queen, who died after ruling for 70 years. Law Kar-ying, a heavyweight in the Cantonese opera scene, was among the mourners, posting a selfie from the queue on Instagram with the message: "Hong Kong was a blessed land during her reign." Although Instagram is prohibited in mainland China, Law's photo went viral on other social media platforms, eliciting outrage and criticism from nationalists. Law apologized in a video posted on Weibo on Thursday for "making remarks of mourning without thinking them through."

## NEWS IN CHINA

- Chinese [President Xi Jinping](#) landed in Uzbekistan on Wednesday evening for a state visit and to attend the 22nd meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of State. He was met enthusiastically at the airport by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov, Governor of the Samarkand area Erkinjon Turdimov, and other high-level officials. He stated that he will meet with Mirziyoyev for an extensive exchange of ideas on increasing bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international problems of mutual interest and that they will jointly design a roadmap for the growth of China-Uzbekistan relations.

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- On Wednesday, a Chinese mainland spokesperson reacted sharply to recent remarks about cross-Strait relations by a Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) official in Taiwan. According to Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, the remarks aimed to cover up the truth that the cross-Strait tensions were created by the DPP authorities' actions to seek "Taiwan independence" by requesting US backing and transfer the responsibility to the mainland. Zhu stated that "one country, two systems" is the most inclusive answer to the differences in social systems and ideologies between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, adding that it is a democratic approach that demonstrates goodwill, seeks peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question, and provides mutual benefit.
  - A flotilla of cutters modified from Type 056 corvettes recently participated in China Coast Guard (CCG) training, indicating that this type of ship has formally joined the CCG. According to analysts, this will considerably improve the Chinese coast guard's capabilities in protecting the country's sovereignty, security, and marine interests. According to a press release published on the CCG's WeChat account on Wednesday, the fourth bureau directly under the CCG recently organised a series of maritime law enforcement exercises involving training for challenging tasks such as manoeuvring in formation, boarding and control, dealing with harsh weather conditions, and coordinated movement. According to media accounts, the former military battleships were transformed into coast guard cutters through retrofitting work that included removing air defence and anti-ship missiles and installing LED screens and directional audio devices. Despite removing vital armaments such as missiles, Type 056 remains a powerful vessel among cutters as a type of former military cruiser with a 76-millimetre main cannon, according to the expert. Meanwhile, according to the expert, the PLA Navy is projected to get additional new warships with more significant displacement and combat capacities, such as Type 054A frigates and Type 052D destroyers.
  - China's permanent delegation to the United Nations in Vienna advised the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) not to pluck chestnuts out of the fire by endorsing the US, UK, and Australia's nuclear proliferation activities. The remarks came after IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi gave the agency's Board of Governors a report on Monday on nuclear-powered submarine cooperation under AUKUS. The Chinese commission asked the three AUKUS countries to promptly cease relevant proliferation operations and encouraged Grossi to conduct unbiased and objective reports on AUKUS without endorsing the three countries' proliferation actions.
  - On Thursday, China's currency burst over the psychologically crucial milestone of 7 yuan per US dollar, despite a bleak forecast for the world's second-largest economy due to its stringent zero-Covid policy and a property crisis. The yuan traded in the offshore market fell 0.5% to 7.009 per US dollar. The yuan was trading at 6.9950 per US dollar on the onshore exchange market. China's economic growth is under strain, owing mainly to the country's harsh anti-coronavirus policies, which have also hampered mobility and spending. The country is also dealing with a downturn in
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the real estate market. According to Wang Chunying, deputy director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), despite the rapid depreciation of other currencies versus the US dollar, the performance of the yuan exchange rate has been generally constant.

- On Thursday, the remains of 88 Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) martyrs who died in the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-1953) were placed in caskets before being repatriated from the Republic of Korea (ROK) on Friday. The ceremony was placed at Incheon, which is located west of Seoul. On Wednesday, a Y-20 military cargo plane set off from a northern Chinese airport on a mission to return the soldiers' remains to Chinese soil. Following the completion of a handover agreement between the two countries, this will be the seventh repatriation of the remains of CPV martyrs. According to official estimates, the remains of 825 soldiers were repatriated to China from the Republic of Korea between 2014 and 2021.

## INDIA WATCH

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to arrive in Samarkand late Thursday evening to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. The West closely monitors the visit as the SCO has been seen as an anti-West block given the presence of Russia, Iran and China. Given that Uzbekistan will host India, it has the golden opportunity to expand its relations with the country. There are several infrastructure projects which India will be promoting in the country to improve its relations in the long run. Investing in key infrastructure projects will help Uzbekistan connect with the country's remotest regions while improving trade with India.

Through connectivity projects, India can quickly expand its market to Central Asia and counter China in the region. According to the Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, there are discussions between the countries to use Chabahar Port to help Uzbekistan transport goods to India. If this works out, India can look into other ports in the region that it can develop to improve our ties with Central Asia and the countries in the area. Besides improving trade and political ties, boosting cultural ties should also be India's priority. Improving cultural relations with the country will help strengthen our regional soft power. India can use the 'land of diversity and culture' to its advantage by promoting it and helping Uzbekistan to promote their culture in the country, which help to overcome the cultural barrier of the citizens of both countries.

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