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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

- **Video of Dutch athlete praising food trends goes viral over culture promotion:** Video of Jutta Leerdam, a Dutch athlete, went viral over social media as she ate a Chinese delicacy called Malatang. She received heartfelt messages from netizens for her appreciation of Chinese cuisine and promoting it across the globe.
- **Fame of skiing grows in China marking the start of new winter fever:** A social media monitoring firm reported that since the wake of the Chinese Winter Olympics, the chatters about skiing had spiked 700 percent compared to last year and the hashtag #Beijingolympics featured 40% of the online discussions in February. Many of the skiing venues such as the Xishan Mountain skiing venue had been packed with children and their parents after Eileen Gu won her first gold in the games, marking the beginning of a 'new winter fever' among Chinese citizens.

II. News in China

- Non-mainstream HK media discussed that Chen Xiaojiang has been appointed as the deputy minister in charge of daily work of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee, replacing Zhang Yijiong, who has retired. Non-mainstream HK media also believes that in the future, he may succeed You Quan as the Director of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee. He has seen a series of promotions under Xi from serving as the head of the water conservancy committee of the yellow river till 2015 to the deputy secretary of CCDI and the deputy minister of Ministry of Supervision in 2018 before it was merged into the national supervisory commission. Becoming a deputy minister in the United Front Work Department marks further growth of his political career and closeness with Xi Jinping.
- Xinhua had publicized that an article by Xi on "rule of law" will be published in Qiushi magazine on the 16th. The article has come out and is titled "Adhere to the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, and promote the construction of the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics better". This article is Xi Jinping's speech at the 35th collective study of the 19th Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China on December 6, 2021. The **first part** of the article emphasizes that the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics that CCP wants to build must be a rule of law system rooted in Chinese culture, based on China's national conditions, and solve China's problems and that "it cannot be misled by the wrong trend of thinking in the West". The **second part** emphasizes strengthening legislation in important fields such as national security, scientific and technological innovation, public health, biosecurity, ecological civilization, and risk prevention, while accelerating the pace of legislation in the fields of the digital economy, internet finance, artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing all to

strive to improve national governance. It also notes that "It is necessary to focus on the people's urgent expectations and strengthen legislation in the field of people's livelihood." The second part also lists some domestic problems such as telecom and network fraud, drug crimes, cult-style star chasing, fan circle culture chaos, yin-yang contracts, and other prominent problems in the entertainment industry. It noted that disorderly expansion of capital has become more prominent as the brutal growth of some platform economies and digital economies and the lack of supervision has brought many problems. Hence, it is necessary to "accelerate the revision of the Anti-Monopoly Law and the Anti-Unfair Competition Law and accelerate the improvement of relevant legal systems". The **third part** notes that at present, some prominent contradictions and problems in the field of the rule of law are due to the fact that the reform has not been fully implemented. It focuses on improving the judicial and legal systems. It emphasizes that it is necessary to deepen the education and rectification of the political and legal cadres (cadres from legal enforcement authorities including the police force), continue to crack down on corrupt practices in the field of law enforcement and justice in accordance with the law, and promote the eradication of evil. The **fourth part** notes that since the 18th party congress, China has coordinated the promotion of the domestic and foreign-related rule of law and its ability to use the rule of law to safeguard the interests of the country and the people has significantly improved. It also emphasizes further improving the laws and regulations of anti-sanctions, anti-interference, and anti-"long-arm jurisdiction", and promoting the construction of a legal system applicable outside China's jurisdiction.

- On 12.2.22, there was an explosion in a bus in Shenyang, Liaoning province which led to more than 2 deaths and 40 people being injured. The official state media maintains that the reason behind the explosion is currently under investigation. A purported internal note dated 13.2.22 (image 1) being shared on social media shows that the officials have characterized the incident as a criminal case. A Chinese Twitter account has shared a video of the incident which shows that the explosion occurred in the front of the bus and in an instant, white smoke erupted from the front window, and there was no fire after the explosion. Therefore, it can be concluded that it is not the battery explosion, nor an explosion due to gas or fuel. Another note characterizes the incident as a terrorist attack (image 2). There is no clarity as to who did it yet.

III. India Watch

- Xi's article comes at a time when the Politburo Standing Committee of the Chinese Communist Party members have not been seen in any public event for last 8 days. Published in the theoretical journal of the party, the article maintains and promotes

Xi at the ideological helm of the party. At the same time, Political and legal affairs cadres have held conferences in multiple places in the last 2 days including Shenzhen, Xinjiang, Tianjin, Liaoning, Shaanxi, etc expressing that it will fully implement Xi Jinping's important instructions on political and legal work. All of this together reflect a continued stream of high-profile support to Xi which will continue in the build-up to the 20th party congress which will be held from mid-October to early November.

- People in Liaoning province have for long expressed discontent over social media against a chemical factory in the region. Since 2014 people participated in peaceful Liaoning protests also known as the Dalian PX protest or 8-14 protests. These peaceful protests were named 'stroll' to avoid censorship by CCP. People in China also took on various social media channels to express their discontent. The current explosion is being investigated and any further radicalization in the area can further have a domino effect in Northeast provinces as these are on verge of an outburst. Dalian city has one of the largest ports and a chemical factory in this province had also beaten some journalists from CCTV for filming a shot on the risk of some natural disaster. This shows the power of companies in this region as these provinces rely mostly upon some industries for the revenue and employment of people.

Image 1 & 2: A purported internal note dated 13.2.22; note characterizes the incident as a terrorist attack

在全市安全防范工作会议上的讲话
市安委会副主任、市应急管理局局长
王晓刚
(2022年2月13日)

同志们：
昨晚，沈阳市公安局发布警情通报，2月12日17时55分，一辆232路公交车行驶至皇姑区黄河南大街与宁山路路口附近时发生爆炸。接报后，省、市领导及公安、应急、急救等部门人员第一时间赶到现场进行处置。爆炸造成1人死亡，2人重伤，40人轻伤。事故具体原因正在调查中。这起爆炸案件目前定性为刑事案件，~~虽然不是生产安全事故，但发生在冬奥会时段，社会影响非常大。~~市委、市政府领导反复强调，沈阳不能再出事了，高伟常务副市长昨晚组织我们研究安全生产工作，要求各地区、各行业部门要举一反三、警钟常鸣，风险管控措施要再细致、隐患排查整治力度要再加大、应急预防预备要再细致，安全生产领域不能出现有影响事故。按照市领导指示要求，市安委会办公室昨天连夜召开专题会议，研究了当前安全管控重点和具体防范措施。今天上午，把各单位召集过来，召开这次紧急会议，也是受高伟常务副市长委托，对当前特别是冬奥会期间安全生产、城市运行、应急保障、防灾减灾、消防等工作等进行再强调、再部署，确保全市安全生产、应急保障领域大事不出、小事也不出、持续稳定。刚才，胡鑫同志代表市消安委对春季火灾防控特别是遏制“小火亡人”事故作出了安排部署，任务和措施都很明确，请各地区和各部门迅速组织力量抓好落实。下面，我再强调十个方面内容。

一、思想认识再提升。经过大家的共同努力，我们取得了春节长假应急安保战役的胜利，这也是我们安全生产冬季百日会战以来打赢的第四场攻坚战，新伟书记、志成市长先后作出批示，都给予了充分肯定和鼓励。但当前不是我们能歇口气的时候，冬奥会空气质量保障、春节后半程安全防控、企业复工复产以及天气风干物燥叠加带来的风险因素持续增多，全国“两会”、冬残奥会、国务院安委会督查等敏感时段也比较密集，无论是安全防范的政治要求，还是保障标准都是前所未有的。各地区、各部门决不能有丝毫的松懈和马虎，~~要高度重视~~。

通告：根据上级最新要求，现就沈阳“2.12”事件通告如下：
2月12日17.55分，232路公交车在行驶至黄河大街宁山路附近发生爆炸，当场造成一人死亡，42人受伤。此次事件为人为暴恐事件，系阜新一上访户在车上引爆爆炸装置所为。路局、车站要求加大安检工作力度，严格地道卡控，严格方便门管理，严格商网寄存开包检查登记……。从观在起，各级反恐部门、上级主管部门将对车站进行全方位反恐检查，请大家提高政治认识，增强反恐意识，认真落实反恐各项要求，确保公司各项工作安全有序运行。