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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Akshara Reddy | Research Intern



[writetous.orca@gmail.com](mailto:writetous.orca@gmail.com)

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

### • **The granfluencers are never too old to exercise:**

Singaporeans Ng Bee Kia, 77, Ngai Hin Kwok, 73, and Victor Chan, 70, are 'granfluencers' on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok are living proof. They started Team Strong Silvers to inspire other old people to get healthy. Sheila Agnew McCoy, 65, is a breast cancer survivor and personal trainer. Dr Chan Kin Ming, a geriatrician in Singapore, believes granfluencers can make a positive difference. Not too old to start improving your health through exercise. The men of Team Strong Silvers say that their workouts involve a lot of "trial and error" and say that they just want their followers to "be healthy and safe".

## NEWS IN CHINA

- [Xiao Jianhua](#) was found guilty of illegally collecting public deposits, using entrusted assets in breach of trust, illegal use of funds and bribery. A Canadian-Chinese tycoon disappeared from a luxury hotel in Hong Kong in 2017. Clean-up of Xiao's financial empire was part of Beijing's efforts to control financial risks. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says Xiao Jianhua does not have the right to consular protection of other countries. Beijing does not recognise dual nationality for Xiao, who went missing from a hotel in Hong Kong last year. He has Canadian citizenship and diplomatic passport from Antigua and Barbuda. Xiao's Tomorrow Group financial empire was dismantled by Beijing following his downfall five years ago. The company had illegally collected deposits of 311.6 billion yuan by selling trust, insurance and wealth management products.

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- In the last ten years, Panjin City in Liaoning has initiated a number of wetland restoration projects. In 2021, Shenyang, the provincial capital of Liaoning, will have 315 days with satisfactory air quality. The average PM2.5 concentration in the city has decreased by 47.2 percent since 2016. The initiatives restored about 5,333 hectares of wetlands to make the area a haven for animals, particularly waterfowls. Over 160 species of migratory birds with first- or second-class state protection now go to the restored wetlands. Liaoning's eco-conservation efforts have resulted in pristine skies, pure waters, lush mountains, and green wealth for the people.
  - On August 18, 2022, China issued its first annual national drought notice after weeks of high heat in Sichuan in the southwest and Shanghai in the Yangtze Delta. Government authorities blame global climate change for the notice, which falls two notches shy of the most severe warning on China's scale. Forecasters expect the high temperatures to last for at least another week.
  - China has launched a package of public-interest cultural initiatives, such as bringing cinemas to rural communities and setting up rural libraries. In 2021, public libraries across the country recorded 103 million readers, and museums nationwide held 36,000 exhibitions, receiving nearly 800 million visits.
  - The one-China principle clearly defines the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region seriously violated this principle. Pelosi herself admitted it was an "official visit" in a public statement, which is a blatant violation of the Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States. The U.S. is deliberately changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, writes China Daily's Yu Bingtao. So far, the total value of American arms sales to Taiwan has exceeded \$70 billion, he says. The incumbent administration alone has signed arms deals worth \$1.1 billion with Taiwan.
  - The U.S. Congress passed the Chips and Science Act, which includes provisions that limit related firms' regular economic, trading, and investment activity in China. China's Ministry of Commerce claims that it will affect international trade as well as the global semiconductor supply chain. China vehemently opposes the legislation and will keep track of how it is being implemented.
  - Emmanuel Bonne, the diplomatic advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke on the phone. Wang added that in the current circumstances, China-France ties have made steady and new progress. The two parties should actively encourage tight collaboration in industries like agriculture, civil nuclear energy, and aerospace. China and France should intensify their high-level communication and exchanges and broaden their practical collaboration in areas like trade and commerce, science and technology, inter-ethnic relations, and culture. Bonne: France disapproves of bloc hostility and the Cold War attitude. Together, China and France must tackle issues like food security and climate
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change.

- On Friday, China welcomed participants to the World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan read aloud a letter of congratulations from Chinese President Xi Jinping to the meeting. Sun adds China is prepared to collaborate with the international community to create a multi-tiered and comprehensive platform for cooperation.
- Despite the "one-child policy" being relaxed, China's birth rate has been declining since 2017. China's population reached 1.412 billion after growing at the slowest rate ever recorded. As the number of persons aged 60 and above climbed by 18.7% to 264 million, the demographic problem is expected to intensify. In response to the country's dropping birth rates, Chinese officials have issued a guideline providing a slew of measures for prenatal and postnatal support in order to ensure balanced long-term population development.

## INDIA WATCH

- The prospect of Pelosi visiting Taipei, which would be the highest-profile trip by an elected US official in 25 year and 3rd in line to the US Presidency, has sparked an uptick in belligerent threats from Beijing, which puts the area on edge. Beijing is attempting to establish a sort of new normal in an effort to exert pressure on Taiwan in the face of an increase in foreign responses to events in the Taiwan Strait. The Chinese military is conducting exercises close to Taiwan in retaliation, as it recognizes Taiwan as an inalienable part

- of their country and ready to take over Taiwan if necessary. China claims that Pelosi's visit breached its sovereignty and is carrying out these drills as a result. The Chinese military is conducting targeted military operations around Taiwan in six danger zones. These operations include joint blockades, live ammunition drills, precise missile attacks, and air space control demonstrations. Keep in mind that the Taiwan Strait is an important trade route. China has entirely shut down access to Taiwan. Additionally, the constant cyberattacks against the Taiwanese government continue in addition to the drills. These findings pose a threat to the Indo-Pacific region's stability as Chinese military actions are taking place everywhere, ships and flights are being rerouted, and warnings have been sent. It's uncertain how far this escalation will go. Beijing claims its actions are necessary and legitimate, and that they are being taken to protect national sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to confront separatist elements in Taiwan and external intervention, says Foreign Minister Hua Chunying. Furthermore, she adds China's practice is in accordance with international law and practice.
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