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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

- **China censors a line from its national anthem:** China has censored the first line of its national anthem on Weibo. The hashtag 'Rise! Those who refuse to be slaves' cannot be searched on Weibo. The censorship may be due to extreme lockdowns in China and people's extreme frustration with them.

II. News in China

- Families of elderly patients who died of COVID-19 are being warned against talking to the foreign media. Twenty-seven elderly patients in Donghai Hospital in Shanghai have died of COVID-19, with more deaths suspected. The families of these patients are being contacted by the internet police, who also threatened them with legal consequences. The hospital is understaffed, with 80% of the workforce dispatched for epidemic prevention work. There are worries that some elderly patients with the virus sent to temporary or designated hospitals have died due to neglect or starvation. Families also fear that the hospital might edit the death certificates to change the cause of death.
- China and Ghana have pledged to enhance their cooperation. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi talked with Ghanaian Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey on April 19th. The Ghanaian side firmly confirmed its support of the One-China policy. China also congratulated Ghana on its appointment as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Topics discussed include- opposition to hegemony and power politics, safeguarding the interests of the two nations and other developing countries. Ghana also called China its 'true and reliable friend' and looks forward to cooperating for the 'Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.
- China confirmed that it signed an 'intergovernmental framework agreement on security cooperation with the Solomon Islands. The pact aims at promoting social stability and long-term peace in the region. China has further warned that attempts to disrupt this cooperation are bound to fail. Also, the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, called the backlash regarding his country's security negotiations with China 'very insulting'.
- The Chinese Navy has demonstrated a new hypersonic missile 'YJ-21 anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM)' on a Type-055 cruiser. This addition makes the Chinese Navy cruisers one of the most heavily armed surface combatants. The missiles have a powerful hitting power. China also has ASBM, which is air-launched and carried by modified H-6 bombers. Cruisers with ASBM can extend China's reach further into the Pacific. Particularly after the news that China is planning a naval base in the Solomon Islands.
- China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying announced that Xi Jinping

would deliver a keynote speech at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022. The conference will be held in Hainan. The theme for 2022 is 'The World in COVID-19 and Beyond: Working together for global development and shared future.'

- China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region held a video conference with the Chinese embassy in Oman to share information related to Xinjiang with the Omani guests. Nurem Simayhan, the regional government deputy chairman, talked about the zero terrorism recorded in Xinjiang for five consecutive years. He also talked about how the happiness and security of people are enhanced. Cotton farmer Reheman Yunus talked about the government's help carrying out farming activities. Abduhabir Tursongmamat, imam of a mosque, talked about the 900-year-old mosque and the government's efforts in renovating it. Meanwhile, the Chinese ambassador to Oman, Li Lingbing, said that certain Western 'anti-China' forces were trying to label Xinjiang as a place of 'forced labor,' 'genocide' and 'religious oppression.
- Chinese social media platforms have announced that they will display the IP Address of user locations to curb the spread of misinformation. In March, Sina Weibo introduced this feature in the wake of fake information spread during the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. Douyin, Jinri Toutiao, Zhihu, Kuaishou, and Xiaohongshu introduced this new feature. Netizens have mixed reactions to this new feature, with some expressing their worries about their privacy.

India Watch

- China has built new mobile towers close to Indian territory. The Chushul Councilor Konchok Stanzin said we should be concerned about China building new towers because villages on the Indian side do not even have basic 4G facilities. The towers can be used for questionable activities like the observation of Indian territory or communication. The Indian government should undertake infrastructure projects along the border, as the border villages remain severely underdeveloped than the Chinese ones. The strengthening of the border villages will serve as a great advantage to India, and those regions should not be neglected.