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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **China's Consul General admits to pulling the hair of a Hong Kong protestor:** China's Consul General in the northern British city of Manchester accepted the charge that he assaulted a Hong Kong pro-democracy protestor inside the grounds of the diplomatic mission as a peaceful protest led to attacks. Zheng Xiyan said that the protestor threatened his colleague's life and abused his country and his leader. There was footage aired of a man being kicked by consular staff as well. The British government has described the attack on Chan as "unacceptable," and summoned China's Charge d'Affaires in London to explain what had happened. The Chinese ambassador is currently out of the U.K. It would be expected to waive diplomatic immunity if police find enough evidence to bring criminal charges against any of its consular staff including Zheng.

NEWS IN CHINA

- US Navy official, Admiral Michael Gilday, on Wednesday said that the US Navy should start preparing for the Chinese invasion of Taiwan. It needs to plan for 'a 2022 window or potentially a 2023 window' when Beijing might force unification, says Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of US naval operations. This was an understanding of Xi Jinping's major political conference in Beijing this week. Xi's warning at the 20th Party Congress about Taiwan separatism. His concern was that China delivers every promise they have made earlier. This also comes out with the long-awaited USA national security strategy released by US President Joe Biden. Gilday stressed that the US needs to take up a "fight tonight" posture

for the US navy by speeding up alliances such as AUKUS. He stated the asymmetric advantage the US has over China and Russia of the number of relationships.

- The tallest Matsu statue in the world was inaugurated in Taiwan's Penghu. People in Penghu devoutly believe in Matsu, and the goddess has special significance on the islands. Penghu County Government said that the 48m-tall Matsu statue in the cultural park is the tallest Matsu bronze statue in the world, which commands a panoramic view of Penghu's inner sea, and that the statue will boost local tourism.
- China is manning drones with the advanced J-20 stealth fighter jets. New footage from Chinese state media outlet CCTV has confirmed that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force is likely to pair its J-20 fifth-generation fighters with flying wing stealth drones, which have long been speculated to provide a key force multiplier for fighter units in the future. The twin-seat variant is widely reported to have been developed primarily for the purposes of accommodating a drone controller in the second seat, rather than a trainee or weapons systems officer which is usually the case for such configurations. The use of drone wingmen is expected to be a key feature of future sixth-generation fighters, although advanced fifth-generation designs most notably the J-20 and American F-35 are also expected to benefit from them in the future. The J-20 is expected to be paired with other drone classes better suited to air-to-air operations in the future - most notably the Dark Sword unmanned fighter which was

unveiled in 2018.

- China called for lifting unilateral coercive measures at the UN, on behalf of 25 countries. "We reaffirm our opposition to unilateral coercive measures and call on imposing states to immediately and completely cease the such practice," a Chinese envoy on Wednesday made a joint statement at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, on behalf of 25 countries. China demanded a truly effective and functional multilateral system based on international solidarity, unity, and cooperation, now when the world is facing interlocking global challenges with developing countries disproportionately affected. The developing countries and their population continue to fall victim to unilateral coercive measures despite the grave hardships and challenges. regrettably, despite the global call to urgently lift unilateral coercive measures, the imposition of these illegal measures continues to cause devastating, sometimes even life-threatening consequences, to targeted countries and their peoples.
 - China will step up judicial protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) in a bid to support the country's drive to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, a senior judge said on October 19. Rules will be announced to protect IPR in sectors such as big data, artificial intelligence, and genetic technologies, and judicial actions will be enhanced against monopolies and unfair competition. He Rong, vice president of the Supreme People's Court (SPC), told a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing 20th National Congress of the Communist
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Party of China. There is a wide scope for lawsuits concerning IPR cases involving patents, trademarks, copyrights, business secrets, integrated circuit designs, new plant species, geographic indications, monopolies, and unfair competition.

INDIA WATCH

- The Chinese invasion of Taiwan presents a challenge, for the US navy, the world, and especially India. India has expanded economic cooperation with Taiwan more than any of its neighbours, in great part because of its sharp rivalry with China. Trade with India accounts for nearly 80 percent of Taiwan's trade with South Asia. In recent decades, New Delhi and Taipei have inked a bilateral investment agreement and pursued science and technology cooperation. India has also never opposed Beijing's "One China" principle—its view that it has sovereignty over the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan. Indeed, now, it has stopped reiterating the 'One China policy, asking for reciprocity.

