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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **China penalizes 27 individuals for 'tragically awful' math textbook pictures:** 27 people have received punishment from Chinese authorities as a result of the publication of a math textbook whose "tragically awful" graphics caused it to go viral. The books were "not beautiful," and some of the illustrations were "very ugly" and did not "fully portray the sunny image of China's youngsters," according to a working committee from the ministry of education's months-long study. The math textbooks were apparently utilized in elementary schools all around the nation when they were released by the People's Education Press over ten years ago. However, they gained notoriety in May after a teacher posted images of the illustrations within. These included photographs of boys clutching ladies' skirts and at least one youngster with what appeared to be a leg tattoo.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Xi expresses sorrow over the COVID-19 illness to the Japanese PM. On Monday, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida received a message of sympathy from Chinese President Xi Jinping over the latter's COVID-19 infection. After learning of Kishida's coronavirus sickness, Xi wrote in his letter that he would want to send the prime minister his deepest sympathies and best wishes for a quick recovery. Xi said he would want to collaborate with Kishida to advance the development of China-Japan relations that are fit for the needs of the current era, noting that this year is the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

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- Close ties to China of the Philippine official are in doubt. A renowned academic from the Philippines withdrew from consideration to be the president's deputy national security adviser due to claims that he had improperly accessed confidential information regarding the South China Sea dispute. Employees of the national intelligence agency wrote a letter to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. without signing it, pointing up Dr. Rommel Banlaoi's purported close ties to China and the unanswered charge that he was "a seller of information."
 - China's space tracking vessel departs for fresh observational missions, according to China Science Daily, China's space tracking ship Yuanwang-3 departed from its home port in Jiangsu Province in east China on Monday morning for a new round of monitoring missions. Since the vessel's return from its previous mission, technicians have been completing the overhaul and testing of shipborne tracking and monitoring systems as well as conducting operation drills.
 - According to China's National Health Commission, COVID-19 is a factor in the nation's declining marriage and birth rates, which have accelerated recently as a result of high costs associated with child care and education. The commission said on Monday that numerous women are still delaying their plans to get married or have children, adding that quick economic and social changes have brought about "deep shifts." Young people moving to metropolitan areas, spending more time in school, and having demanding jobs have all contributed, it claimed. Demographers

have also claimed that China's unyielding "zero-COVID" policy, which swiftly eradicated any outbreaks while enforcing stringent controls on people's lifestyles, may have had a deep, long-lasting negative impact on people's willingness to have children.

- On Sunday, a high-speed electric passenger train and an inspection train made specifically for Indonesia's Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway departed from the port of Qingdao in Shandong Province, east of China. For the significant Belt and Road Initiative project, CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. designed and produced the trains. According to the business, the first trains will arrive in Jakarta by the end of August, and the remaining trains will be delivered in stages starting at the beginning of 2023. The trains, which rely on the Fuxing bullet train's cutting-edge technology, have a top operating speed of 350 km/h, were created in accordance with Chinese standards, and have been customized to the Indonesian operational environment, line conditions, and cultural norms.

INDIA WATCH

- China and Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the normalization of their bilateral relations in 2022. As neighbours, China and Japan are the subject of a number of worries. Both China and Japan have said that they will be focusing on establishing healthy ties, indicating a "fresh start," and their relations have been progressively becoming better. In addition, China and Japan have strong economic ties as well as frequent cultural and people-to-people contacts, making it one
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of Japan's most significant bilateral connections. The importance of Japan-China relations is rising, not just for the two nations themselves but also for regional stability and global prosperity.
