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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

 Chinese scam gangs in Cambodia are driving young Asians into crime out of desperation, and the pandemic has only made matters worse: Debt-ridden children and teenagers from all over Asia are being <u>trafficked</u> by criminal gangs to work in call centres that con their fellow citizens. The majority of victims are from Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, but the con-call-centre gangs are also defrauding Indonesians, Malaysians, and even Kenyans. It all starts with job advertising on social media or prod on Facebook from a friend, offering incentives for working abroad in internet sales to young people in debt from Hong Kong to Taiwan, Thailand, and Malaysia.

NEWS IN CHINA

- This time, as opposed to the earlier focus on enlisting peasants, the PLA's recruitment efforts are primarily directed at college students majoring in science and engineering. This is due, according to Yokogawa, a Sino-US current affairs commentator, to the fact that the <u>PLA</u> has changed its system but that its thinking and the rate of technological change have not kept up. "The Russian-Ukrainian war and the tensions in the Taiwan Strait have made the Chinese military realise that China has a big problem in the operation of modern weapons..So (PLA) would like to make some changes in this regard to better suit the requirements."
- The mountains are lush and the waves of rice are rushing in Longjiang's golden autumn. People were grinning brightly as they passed by the green mountains and lakes. The goal of the government and the people of Longjiang is to create a

joyful community. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the province party committee and the provincial administration have emphasised improving people's livelihoods through effective and high-quality economic growth as the goal of their respective struggles. Both urban and rural populations' incomes have increased, and their living conditions have greatly improved.

- China has been looking for measures to strengthen its governance to deal with concerns relating to <u>cyberspace</u>. After ten years of work, China's comprehensive cyberspace governance system has improved in process orientation and coordination, with the start of national campaigns to address pressing problems including unchecked fan clubs, internet accounts, and online violence. China recently conducted a program to clean up the internet, removing roughly 1.4 billion accounts and more than 20 billion bad pieces of material, including misinformation and cyber fraud.
- Two <u>U.S. Navy warships are sailing through</u> international waters in the Taiwan Strait, three U.S. officials told Reuters, the first such operation since heightened tension with China over U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. In recent years U.S. warships, and on occasion those from allied nations such as Britain and Canada, have routinely sailed through the strait, drawing Beijing's anger.
- The <u>Harbin City Headquarters</u> determined that starting at 22:00 on August 28, 2022, Building 4 of Hejun Community, Swan Bay,

Daoli District, Harbin City, Harbin City Songbei District Building F, Metro Xintiandi Phase II, Dongjiagoutun, Minqiang Village, Chenggaozi Town, Xiangfang District, has been adjusted to comply with the relevant requirements of the joint prevention and control mechanism of the State Council.

- Sen. Marsha Blackburn's visit to Taiwan on Saturday, August 27, was denounced by China's Taiwan Affairs Office Spokesperson Ma Xiaoguang as a grave breach of the "one China" tenet and the three joint communique between the United States and China. According to UDN, Ma claimed to have forewarned the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) that any efforts to court "foreign anti-China forces" and push for independence are doomed to fail. Beijing vehemently opposes the visit, according to a press release from China's foreign ministry, which also emphasized that Beijing "will continue to take strong measures to staunchly defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."
- Official figures from China show that the outbreak is still present in several locations. The 11-million-person metropolis of Shijiazhuang in Hebei stated on Sunday that some areas will be working from home and that the city's transport lines will be suspended. On August 27, at 4:00 a.m., 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities in China reported a total of 307 freshly confirmed new crown cases, including 259 local cases; 1137 new asymptomatic infections were also recorded, according to data from the National Health Commission of China website. 1,035 local asymptomatic infections are present.

• The central government has successfully stabilized China's labour market over the past ten years and has been able to survive the devastating effects of the COVID-19 outbreak as well as the difficulties brought on by the country's economic slump since 2020. According to data from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the number of people who are employed in cities has increased over the previous ten years, rising from 373 million in 2012 to 468 million in 2021, with an average yearly growth of almost 13 million people.

INDIA WATCH

• Asian nations that depend on China for wealth and the United States for security face a challenging task in managing tensions between the two sides as great power rivalry heats up following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. The best example of this is probably South Korea. More than the US and Japan put together, China supplies about 30% of South Korea's material parts imports and consumes nearly a quarter of its exports. At the same time. South Korea hosts some 30,000 US soldiers and depends on the US security blanket to offset the danger from North Korea. Now, Seoul must make difficult decisions that may impact its relations with China and the US. These decisions include whether to use the THAAD anti-missile system (manufactured in the US) and whether to join US Vice President Joe Biden's Chip 4 alliance. As China and the US compete, more Asian nations will find themselves in similar situations. Policymakers in Seoul and other Asian capitals dislike being forced into making binary decisions, despite mounting

pressure from both domestic and international sources. They are attempting to find a middle ground that maintains some neutrality and permits continuous collaboration with both sides. Significant constituencies in Asian countries still hold onto that hope. Instead of depending solely on its economic might, China might benefit from promoting this search for a third way by enhancing face-to-face interactions and fostering interpersonal ties with its neighbours.