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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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***PREPARED BY***

Tanishk Saxena, (EOH, Research) & Team ORCA  
[writetous.orca@gmail.com](mailto:writetous.orca@gmail.com)

## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **With the beginning of the torch relay, the Chinese team wins the first battle:** On 2nd February, at Olympic Forest Park, the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 torch relay was officially launched. The first three torchbearers were the country's first fast-sliding world champion, Yoon-Hyun; the captain of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) astronaut team, Xian Hai-Ping; and Shiba of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The torch relay started on the 2nd of February and will end on the 4th of February in the Beijing, Yongqing, and Zhang Jiaguchi areas, with approximately 1,200 torchers in the process.
- **Public outcry against Chinese soccer coach:** Netizens have expressed their discontent and criticized China's male team soccer coach as the Chinese team could not qualify for the upcoming FIFA world cup. The Chinese team was defeated by Vietnam's team at My Dinh National Stadium in Hanoi. Netizens are outraged against the way players are trained and recruited. Chinese team coach Li Xiaopeng has apologized to fans and also to the players for the Chinese team's "humiliating" defeat. He stated that game strategy and super-nervous players due to being over-motivated as it was the first game since Chinese New Year had exerted extra pressure on the team. Vietnamese netizens also took social media to roast Chinese netizens on the loss stating "It's unsure whether we can beat anyone else, but this win over our 'golden friend' (China) is hilarious".
- **Misrepresentation of the images by top Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman:** Zhao Lijian, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, shared a tweet attacking U.S. policy in Afghanistan along with pictures of some children scavenging for metal shells in war rubble. These pictures are claimed to be Ali Haj Suleiman's prize-winning photos from Syria. The tweet was also shared by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Hua Chunying and was later deleted. Suleiman has claimed on Twitter that he was not contacted and did not receive any apology after the tweet was deleted.
- **40th CMG Spring Festival Gala trends on Weibo:** The event celebrated the Chinese new year and was broadcasted on CCTV while also being live-streamed on Weibo, YouTube and the CCTV website.

## II. News in China

- Chinese Navy is likely planning to scrap KIL0 Class Submarines. A picture of one of the two original Pr.877EKM type boats were released wherein it was parked next to a decommissioned Type 053H Jianghu class frigate. It is anticipated that they are likely for resale. These submarines are Russian-built, and are less prone/cost-effective to modernization.

- US senator Jim Risch showed solidarity with the sovereignty of India and the issue in ethnic and religious minorities of Xinjiang as he called out China for choosing People's Liberation Army (PLA) regiment commander Qi Fabao - one of the commanding officers involved in clashes against India in Galwan - as Olympic torchbearer.
- On the occasion of Chinese New Year, CCTV-7 Military Channel broadcasted a documentary titled "20 warriors of Qiudi". Qiudi comes from Qiudijiangela outpost(秋迪检格拉) near the Pangong lake. The documentary notes that this outpost is guarded by 20 soldiers. Zhang Honggang, a soldier of Xinjiang military district in an interview in the documentary states that the 20 men serving in the outpost all wrote an "application for battle assignment" and hence were selected from different departments to serve here. The soldiers state the environment here is very harsh but they are here to serve the motherland. The documentary states that the outpost holds a flag-raising ceremony every day. It then states a soldier named Chen Daiquan is the only one among the 20 soldiers to have never had any other rotational duty apart from here. (see image 1 and 2)
- ORCA's daily newsletter reported acts of domestic violence on 22.01.22-23.01.22 and 24.01.22 by a senior official of a state-owned enterprise in China. As per recent updates, the accused has filed a defamation case against the victim, most likely due to lack of evidence. The current state of the judiciary under CCP is likely to suppress the act of domestic violence with punishment to the victim for voicing out the same. It is claimed that after Peng Shuai's allegations, another CCP senior official will be able to voice down the claims due to their positions.
- Discipline Inspection and the National Supervisory Commission published an article on the confession of the former vice mayor of Harbin City in Heilongjiang province, Wang Yanmin. He is accused of "being arrogant in power, lazy at work and moving away from party principles". He confessed he was willing to seek promotion but was charged for forging, transferring, and hiding evidence, resisting organizational censorship, engaging in superstition activities, instigating others to bring books and media with "serious political problems" into the country to hide and read them privately.

### III. India Watch

- Documentaries such as "20 warriors of Qiudi" being broadcasted on the Chinese New Year show that among the different border defense frontiers, the one with India holds an important place in their national defense narrative and also draws the most patriotism amongst the watchers. CCP's attempts to keep the Galwan spirit alive has seen consistent growth.

- CMG Spring Festival Gala is claimed to be the largest televised event in China and reached a viewership of about 1.2 Billion in 2021. This shows not only provides a platform for the very best of China's mainstream entertainment but also helps in propagating CCP propaganda as it provides an opportunity for the Party to communicate official ideology. The event is a mix of traditional culture, (digital) commerce and politics.
- It is reported that in Heilongjiang Wang Yanmin did not solve problems involving the vital interests of the masses in time and interfered in the contracting of engineering projects and administrative law enforcement activities. CCP has systematically neglected this province despite Han Chinese in domination. The current crackdown by the disciplinary committee seems to be a tactic to shift the onus from CCP central leadership to administration.

**Image 1 : Screenshots from "20 Warriors of Qiudi"**

