

4 NOVEMBER 2022

DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Following the tragic death of a 3-year-old boy, Lanzhou's failing emergency response system becomes a major topic of discussion:** Local anti-epidemic staff stopped the father from leaving the 'high-risk area' with his unconscious son at a local COVID checkpoint, causing significant delays in medical help for the young boy, who was later pronounced dead at the hospital. "Ordos" is a prefecture-level city in Inner Mongolia with a population of approximately 2.1 million people. Following that, the administration issued a statement saying, "No matter what, we will always insist on putting lives first, saving people first." Many people cheered when they heard the news. "Finally, I hear a voice with some humanity," some Weibo users wrote, while others praised local officials for reminding people of their right to defend and save themselves.

NEWS IN CHINA

- According to President Xi Jinping, China will seek to expand the interaction between domestic and international markets and resources, work to create new opportunities for the world, and contribute its fair share to the establishment of a global economy that is open. In a video address at the opening ceremony of the fifth China International Import Expo, Chinese President Xi stated that China will work with all nations and parties to share the opportunities in its massive market. "We will intensify our efforts to build a strong domestic market, improve trade in goods, develop new trade in services mechanisms, and import more high-quality goods," he said. He stated that efforts will be made to establish pilot



zones for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation and national demonstration zones for innovative development of trade in services in order to encourage trade innovation and advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. "We will implement the plan to improve pilot free trade zones, accelerate the development of the Hainan Free Trade Port, and capitalize on their role as pilot platforms for comprehensive reform and opening-up," Xi said. He also stated that the country will work with all other nations and parties to share the benefits of increased international cooperation. We will engage fully and deeply in WTO reform negotiations, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and enhance international macro-economic policy coordination, with a view to jointly fostering new drivers for global growth,"

- The British government is considering a slew of measures to limit foreign governments' infiltration and influence operations, including an investigation into recent attacks inside the Chinese consulate on a Hong Kong protester and the possible closure of Beijing-funded Confucius Institutes in universities. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged during his Conservative Party leadership campaign that "Confucius Institutes pose a threat to civil liberties in many universities in the United Kingdom, and he will be looking to close them," according to Home Office minister for security Tom Tugendhat. Tugendhat said a forthcoming national security bill would strengthen the government's legal powers to deal with agents of foreign governments operating on British soil, amid a global investigation

into Chinese police-run "overseas service centers," some of which have been ordered shut down by foreign governments for operating outside of diplomatic channels.

- China has urged Europe to maintain strategic autonomy and avoid the influence of "third parties" issuing the call during German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's first state visit to China. In their first face-to-face meeting since the outbreak of Covid-19, Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulated the 50th anniversary of China-Germany diplomatic relations this year and told Scholz that "bloc confrontations" and "attempts to see everything through the prism of ideology" should not influence Germany. Xi expressed hope that Germany would have a "positive policy" toward China and urged the European Union to maintain "strategic autonomy" in order to achieve mutual benefits. "China always regards Europe as a comprehensive strategic partner, supports the European Union's strategic autonomy, wishes to see a stable and prosperous Europe, and insists that China-Europe relations are not targeted at, subjugated to, or controlled by any third party," Xi said, implying the US. "It is simple to destroy political mutual trust, but it is difficult to rebuild, and both sides must protect it." Scholz expressed his desire to "further develop" economic cooperation while hinting at areas of disagreement. "It's great that we can have an exchange here about any topic, including those on which we have opposing viewpoints - that's what an exchange is for," Scholz said.
 - The "overseas police stations" are places without a single Chinese police officer
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where overseas Chinese citizens volunteer to provide driving license renewal and physical examination services to local Chinese. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, when asked about the Dutch government's request to close the "Chinese police stations" in the Netherlands. "The necessary services are performed in locations provided by enthusiastic overseas Chinese groups." The volunteers are all local overseas Chinese; none are Chinese police officers. "We ask that the parties involved refrain from making unjustified exaggerations," according to a spokesman of the Chinese foreign ministry.

the controversy sparked by her remarks about Kashmir. In terms of trade, Germany is currently India's sixth largest trading partner, but India is Germany's 23rd largest trading partner, with total imports of \$12.1 billion and exports of \$8.8 billion as of 2021. But at the moment, it appears that there are disagreements within the German government and that they lack a shared vision or perspective.

INDIA WATCH

- Xi invited various leaders to Beijing, but from Europe, only German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited China, despite opposition within his government, as many saw China as a competitor. Scholz' visit also comes at a time when Chinese investment in Hamburg Port has sparked concern in Washington, and Mr. Butikofer, a German parliamentarian, is visiting Taiwan with other European lawmakers. Despite the disputes, China was Germany's largest trading partner in 2021, its largest single source of imports, and its No. 2 export destination after the United States, according to Mr. Scholz. While Scholz's government has been seen to take a stereotypical approach to Kashmir, calling for UN intervention, the German envoy in New Delhi attempted to downplay his foreign minister's remarks, as it appears that the Indian government is upset by the minister's remarks. According to the latest reports, the German foreign minister plans to visit India in December to put an end to
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