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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Taiwan military drills, retaliation, and nationalist waves on Weibo as China "strikes back":** On Tuesday, August 2nd, as Nancy Pelosi's plane touched down in Taipei, many Chinese internet users vented their disgust and indignation at how she had "gotten away too easily" with visiting Taiwan despite repeated warnings from Beijing. A visit by the U.S. House Speaker to Taiwan, which Beijing views as a province of China, came at a time when relations between the US and China were already tense. As a result, things had not worked out as many had planned. However, things changed on Chinese social media on Thursday when China started its previously stated live-fire military exercises near Taiwan. The occasionally cinematic recordings of extensive military drills, including the firing of ballistic missiles into the ocean, were uploaded by state media outlets, official accounts, military bloggers, and everyday internet users.

NEWS IN CHINA

- The [Chinese People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater](#) continued to conduct realistic joint training on August 8 in the sea and airspace surrounding Taiwan Island, focusing on planning cooperative anti-submarine and maritime assault operations, according to the Eastern Theater's official WeChat account. The interservice combat drills, according to the command, took place in the air and on the seas near Taiwan and showcased the forces' capacity for land, air, and sea strikes.

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- According to [Taiwan Central News Agency](#), on the 9th and 11th, the Taiwan Army will deploy 78 155 howitzers and 6 120 mortars to perform heavy artillery firing drills near Fenggang, Pingtung, to assess the army's combat effectiveness. The Fourth Battle Area will practise heavy artillery fire drills in Fenggang, Pingtung, the Taiwanese military announced Wednesday. At that moment, the 43rd Artillery Headquarters, the 333rd Brigade, the Hualien Defense Headquarters, the Eastern Regional Command, the Coast Guard, and other units will fire 78 155 howitzers and 6 120 mortars.
 - The [Ministry of Science and Technology](#) and five other departments recently issued a notice on carrying out special actions to lessen the burden on young scientific researchers, according to news on the Ministry of Science and Technology's website on August 8. It stated that in order to implement the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions, implement the spirit of the Central Talent Work Conference, and implement the three-year plan and task deployment. Technical strategies must be implemented properly to address outstanding issues such as the limited chances for growth, the constrained growth channels, the frequent review and assessment, and the onerous transactional burden encountered by young scientists.
 - Many feel that relaxing the limits for suspending [international flights](#) due to COVID-19 will encourage incoming travel. This decision was made by China's aviation regulator. The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) announced on Sunday

that starting on Monday, any flight with five identified COVID-19 instances will be grounded for two weeks if the confirmed cases represent 8% of the passengers, and for one week if they represent 4%.

- The "[Guidance and Coordination Group for Epidemic Response](#)" held its first press conference on August 8, and Li Jiachao, the chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, announced the launch of the "3+4" plan on August 12. Under this plan, the mandatory quarantine requirement for travelers arriving in foreign countries will be changed to a three-day hotel quarantine plus four days of home medical monitoring. Under the "3+4" system, the "Reassuring Travel" mobile phone application will be used in conjunction with the "red and yellow code." When travelling to Hong Kong, the "Reassuring Travel" mobile app will display a yellow code, whereas the confirmed individual will display a red code.
- The [largest wood arch](#) bridge in China, the 900-year-old Wan'an bridge, which was built in Pingnan county, Fujian Province, East China, during the Song Dynasty (960-1127), was destroyed by fire on Saturday night. There were no reported injuries from the fire. The fire's origin is still being looked into. The Pingnan County Public Security Bureau's Criminal Investigation Department has taken over the investigation into the matter.

INDIA WATCH

- Beijing's response has been more restrained than its first threats implied, despite the considerable sabre-rattling by
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the Chinese media and interlocutors before US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's travel to Taiwan. The degree to which the Chinese military drills have altered the situation on the ground is up for discussion. The US and China have, however, managed to avoid this particular high-intensity, high-stakes military clash. And that ought to give everyone a lot to think about. Beijing has spared no effort to inform Washington of the potential repercussions of Pelosi's visit, including a fourth Taiwan Strait crisis involving military drills and probable missile firings over the island since word of her potential travel surfaced in April. Another unmistakable indication that China did not want it to harm bilateral relations is the fact that President Xi Jinping spoke on the phone with US President Joe Biden four days before Pelosi's trip, knowing that she would probably travel. Naturally severe, but not surprising, has been Beijing's response. Missile flyovers, military drills, suspension of military-to-military communications, and suspension of other forms of communication have either been warned about in advance or have previously been employed frequently by Beijing. It will be interesting to see how quickly the incident will be forgotten and when China will host the next set of high-level discussions with the US. They would provide a much clearer picture of the harm caused by Pelosi's visit on
