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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Tianwen-1 SEP observations:** The Mars Energetic Particle Analyzer (MEPA) of the [Tianwen-1 spacecraft](#) reported on a solar energetic particle (SEP) event. The report has been unveiled in The Astrophysical Journal Letters. At the time when the SEP event erupted the Earth and Tianwen-1 were approximately on the same magnetic field line. Tianwen-1 and near-Earth spacecraft could observe solar energetic particles from a distance of tens of millions of Kms, providing a rare opportunity for studying the effects of energetic particle propagation.
- **Cuban fuel tank explosion:** Chinese Foreign Minister has expressed deep condolence to the victims of the explosion of a [fuel tank in Cuba](#). The Cuban Red Cross Society will be getting emergency humanitarian assistance from the Red Cross Society of China.
- **BRI and Bangladesh:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi upon his meeting with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina stated that China seeks to [enhance the dovetailing](#) of the Belt and Road Initiative with Bangladesh's vision 2041. He further mentioned sharing advanced technologies, and development experiences and fostering deep cooperation in clean energy, digital economy, infrastructure, and green development. Sheikh Hasina stated that Bangladesh seeks to deepen cooperation for mutual benefits and would learn from Chinese successful experiences in poverty reduction. Further, she also pledged commitment to the one-China policy stating that Bangladesh disapproves of provocations by certain

nations and hopes to jointly maintain a peaceful and developing environment.

NEWS IN CHINA

- As per a statement by Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson of China's Ministry of National Defense, the provocation by the USA has strained the situation in the Taiwan Strait and therefore should take all responsibility and face consequences. He further added that the US is instead making excuses and trying to shift the blame. In response to Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, China announced eight countermeasures which included cancellation of China-US theater commanders' talks, military maritime security consultative mechanism, defense policy coordination talks, and suspending cooperation on issues of illegal immigration repatriation, climate change, and drug control. US military officials called the officials in China regarding the cancellation but were refused. Wu Qian responded that China had reiterated its position on the militaries of the two nations, the Taiwan question, and other related issues, and had also lodged solemn representations to the US but it was the US whose actions purposely created tensions at the Taiwan Straits. Wu further stated that the red line of China should not be challenged and all communication should be made sincerely. He also mentioned that the USA while creating tensions is covering its deeds by claiming that it is controlling disputes.
- China has officially launched a second large-scale, national-producing cruise ship. The first large cruise ship (H1508) officially

started its construction phase on 18 October 2019. With digestive and autonomous scientific and technological innovations, Outer High Bridge has built ships with the combined command of the China Ship Group and the strong support of the project partners Carnival and Fencantini. To match the breakability requirement of the SOLAS 2020 module, the H1509 vessel was extended by 17.4 metres from the H1508 vessel. The module will have a total hull of 341 metres and 37.2 metres wide and a gross tonnage of about 142,000 metres, designed to eat 8.17 metres of water. It will have a maximum speed of 22.7 nautical miles/hour and will also include passenger cabins of 2144 which is 19 more than the first-made vessel. The ship has a 16-story upper building which also includes recreational areas, with large performing centres, restaurants, bars, and cafés, providing for any requirements of passengers. The design construction cycle for the domestic cruiser H1509 has been compressed for a period of a full six-month in comparison to the first-made cruise ship and the detailed design of the H1509 ship is nearly 40 percent complete.

- US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is being called a blessing in disguise. According to Wang Kung-yi, head of the Taiwan International Strategic Study Society, Nancy Pelosi's visit was welcomed by the majority of Taiwan and it was only some pro-unification groups who opposed the visit. Wang further stated that the visit has garnered international attention for Taiwan and such developments would increase the popularity of President Tsai
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Ing-wen and the Democratic Progressive Party. Arthur Wang Zhin-sheng, secretary general of the Asia-Pacific Elite Interchange Association highlighted the parallels between the current situation and the 1995-96 Taiwan Strait crisis when the PLA launched a series of rockets in response to President Lee Teng-hui's visit to the USA which resulted in Lee winning the first direct presidential election the following year. According to Stephen Tan of the Cross-Strait Policy Association, the greater the pressure is from Beijing on Taiwan, the more backlash China will face from the Taiwanese public.

- Due to the policy support from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Chinese foreign trade showcased growth in double digits in the first seven months of 2022. As per official data, between January to July, foreign trade increased by 10.4 percent year on year to 23.6 trillion yuan i.e., approximately USD 3.5 trillion. According to the General Administration of Customs (GAC), imports increased 5.3 percent from a year ago to 10.23 trillion yuan and exports rose 14.7 percent year on year to 13.37 trillion yuan. During this period, China's trade with ASEAN expanded by 13.2 percent, with the EU it expanded by 8.9 percent, and with the USA it expanded by 11.8 percent from the previous year. Further, its trade with BRI countries increased 19.8 percent, and its trade with other RCEP members increased 7.5 percent. The private sector also showcased their imports and exports growing by 15.3 percent year on year accounting for 50 percent of the country's overall trade volume. In July, China's trade with its partners in the RCEP reached 1.17

trillion yuan which increased overall Chinese foreign trade by 5.6 percentage points. In the first half of the year, Mainland China's Foreign direct investment (FDI) expanded 17.4 percent year on year to 723.31 billion yuan. Technology industries recorded an increase in FDI of 33.6 percent in the first half of 2022. Foreign investment in tech manufacturing increased 31.1 percent, and the services sector increased 34.4 percent.

INDIA WATCH

- US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has garnered global attention on the issue of Taiwan's sovereignty. In response to the visit, China has cancelled a number of military talks with its US counterparts and has started military drills in the region. These developments have taken US-China relations backwards. With the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and its implications on food and energy security, a possible conflict in the region will make things worse. The G20 Foreign Minister's Meeting held in Bali showcased that apart from the G7 nations, the remaining countries did not rally behind the West in cornering Russia. As a result, the G7 found itself somewhat isolated in the issue. In this case, the provocation from the USA is likely to see similar results. In an event where China's military exercises escalate into a full-scale war, the region will be facing consequences similar to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Following the 55th ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting, Quad countries' US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian and Japanese Foreign Ministers Penny Wong, and Yoshimasa Hayashi released a statement for China to cease the
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military drills. However, India did not make any such joint or individual statement. The Quad altogether has only been effective in non-sensitive issues of regional cooperation while facing uncertainties in international issues. In this light, it can be understood that the individual stances of Quad members differ when it comes to China. Therefore, while some analysts have called the issue a blessing in disguise for Taiwan, it can be said that the USA will be facing difficulties in garnering support for itself in the Taiwan issue.
