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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Tibetan ethnicity soldier gets 2nd class merit:** A military observer account on Weibo posted that a Tibetan ethnicity soldier Danzeng Wangjiu(旦增旺久) who hails from Tashigang town in Gar County, Ngari Prefecture was bestowed with 2nd Class merit(Image 1). Another image which shows him carrying and transporting provisions and supplies for the officers and men stationed in the front line of the ridges last year was posted. (Image 2)
- **Note accusing Tencent of arbitrarily banning WeChat account shared:** He Weifang, a well-known law professor at Peking University, issued a handwritten note(Image 3) that accused Tencent of arbitrarily banning his WeChat account. His note is being shared on Chinese social media. According to him, it was his 6th Wechat account that was banned. He said that because he was repeatedly banned, and since in China his relatives can only contact him via WeChat plus it is also essential for travel, shopping, health inspection(COVID related) and more, he made his 6th Wechat account. He did not discuss any topic of current affairs or politics but still got banned. He accused Tencent of wrongful actions and called on more victims like him to ask for justice and jointly curb such acts of undermining the rule of law.
- **Zhu Yi criticized on Chinese social media:** As reported in our newsletter dated 07.02.22, Chinese figure skater Zhu Yi who gave up her US citizenship to participate in Beijing Winter Olympics to represent China continues to face criticism on Chinese social media, after falling several times during her team event skates. Hashtag #ZhuYiFellDown also reportedly trended on Weibo and netizens commented on why she was chosen over other Chinese-born skaters especially as her mandarin is also not good. Some netizens replied to these comments by stating the reason behind her selection being is his father is a prominent scientist.

II. News in China

- Koo Sze Yiu, 75, a Veteran Hong Kong activist was arrested by national security police (Hong Kong law enforcement authorities) for planning protests against CCP as he announced he would protest outside the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s Central Liaison Office in the city. He has been jailed several times since 1997 for involvement in such activities. He is currently jailed for raising and sending off a coffin to celebrate the Winter Olympics on charges of incitement to subvert state power. He is currently held at Cheung Sha Wan police station for questioning along with four fellow activists and currently suffering from stage four cancer.
- Chinese star Peng Shuai announces retirement from tennis citing knee injury. In an interview, she once again denied that she had made any allegation of sexual assault and stated she does not have security concerns.

- COVID-19 lockdown has been imposed in Baise, a city of some four million close to the border with Vietnam. Lockdown was imposed after 43 confirmed cases were reported in order to contain the spread of the Omnicom variant. Administrators are tracking close contacts of any cases and monitoring returnees from high-risk areas.
- State security police in Shanghai exerted pressure on Xue Yinxian, a Chinese sports team doctor. Authorities want him to halt the publication of a book about doping during the 1980s and 1990s Olympics. Xue Yinxian is currently at a political asylum in Germany but Shanghai authorities are exerting pressure on his family in China to convince him to halt publication.
- US announced US\$100 million arms sales plan to Taiwan. The deal will include "Patriot Missile Engineering Service" (IESP) and "Field Surveillance Project" (FSP) project. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian has expressed China's discontent over it and alleged it to be a violation of the One China Policy. Some Chinese netizens marked it as a violation of sovereignty and wastage of taxpayers' money.
- According to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China has launched an aggregate of 1.43 million 5G base stations in 2021. China handles 60 percent of the global total as its investment in 5G reached 184.9 billion yuan (about 29 billion U.S. dollars).
- The Chinese embassy in the US celebrated the Chinese New Year with US families on a virtual event co-hosted by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Museum has expressed attempts to organize many more cultural exchange programs in the future. The Museum is also home to one of the largest and most inclusive collections of American art in the world.
- Meng Xiang, former chief of the enforcement bureau of the Supreme People's Court, was arrested on suspicion of taking bribes. The case against him looks particularly strong as the Party group of China's supreme court previously pointed out that Meng Xiang is a typical "two-faced person" who is disloyal and dishonest to the party. All the news reports in Chinese media related to him term him as "Two-faced Meng Xiang".
- Cai E'sheng, member of the Party Committee and former vice-chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission who has been retired for 8 years and is 71 years old now, was investigated on July 30, 2021. Cai E'sheng has worked in the financial system for 34 years and was the boss of Lai Xiaomin, the former party secretary and chairman of Huarong Company, who was executed. In December 2005, when Lai Xiaomin became the director of the General Office of the CBRC, Cai E'sheng served as the vice chairman of the CBRC and a member of the party committee. The two worked together for more than three years. In January 2022, he was expelled from

the party and his office. His report states that he betrayed his original mission, lost his ideals and beliefs, was disloyal and dishonest to the party, and engaged in superstitious activities; violating the spirit of the eight-point regulation of the center, illegally accepted gifts; not reporting personal matters as required; engaging in power and money transactions, take advantage of his position to make profits for others in carrying out trials of cases, contracting engineering projects, etc.

- On 9.2.22, Chinese state media published articles on 'flexible employment' stating that "flexible employment has become a new choice for young people today". It further touts it as an "important employment form" in China's labor market and provides job seekers with more choices to choose from. Chinese official documents define flexible employment as being in "self-employed businesses, part-time jobs, and emerging employment models". China's National Bureau of Statistics stated that by the end of 2021, 200 million people were engaged in flexible employment. Taiwanese media predicts that by 2022, the number of people working flexible employment and gig economy in China may exceed 300 million. It also believes this is the looming "grey rhino*" of the mainland economy, but official Chinese figures on unemployment(which looms around 5% currently) are trying to hide unemployment by labeling it as flexible employment. Taiwanese media supports its claim of 'grey rhino' (A grey rhino is a "highly probable, high impact yet neglected threat) by citing data by Chinese authorities which show the number of college graduates in 2020 was 8.74 million, an increase of 400,000 year-on-year; in 2021 it was 9.09 million, an increase of 350,000 year-on-year; in 2022 it is expected to be 10.76 million, an increase of 1.67 million year-on-year. Non-mainstream HK media takes a more nuanced stance and notes that the emergence of digital platforms has given rise to new flexible employment groups, such as live streaming anchors and online writers, etc. They can not only let young people release give full play to their personalities but also earn money from them. But at the same time, it notes that a larger part of the flexible employment group is actually temporary workers such as construction workers, migrant workers, urban small traders, delivery men, etc. These people face unstable income, weak social security, uncertain prospects, and a series of other problems. The flexible employment policy should not be criticized because it does solve the employment problem for many people. But the scale of flexible employment (200 million) is not an achievement to boast. In fact, young people's flexible employment is a helpless choice in a difficult state of employment. In Chinese social media, the majority of the netizens ridicule the concept of flexible employment as a made-up word. China Economic Daily's post on Weibo turned off the visibility of the comments thereby.

- On 9.2.22, National Development and Reform Commission of the Communist Party of China held a special meeting on stabilizing coal prices which also included some institutions and companies like Shanxi Provincial Energy Bureau, Inner Mongolia Energy Bureau, Shanxi Provincial Development and Reform Commission, National Energy Group, China Coal Group, Hegang Group, etc.
- New Mystery Submarine Class Spotted In China. It is nick-named Olympic submarine as it got revealed during Beijing Winter Olympics. China built a major new submarine type without the defense community knowing about it beforehand. In past, China has similarly developed a Sailless submarine and an earlier midget submarine. And now another new class has been spotted. The submarine is expected to be commissioned soon. The information was revealed from a video on Twitter that is now deleted. (See image 4).

III. India Watch

- He Weifang in his note on WeChat also wrote "As a private enterprise, who gave WeChat such powerful law enforcement power? How can you make an indisputable judgment on citizens' speech and easily sentence customers' accounts to a death penalty without providing any means of appeal and hearing? Isn't it a violation of the norms? Can you make a unilateral judgment? Because I filed a complaint, you called, telling me that any citizen's speech is subject to the law, but saying that "the Internet is not a place outside the law" also includes that you must abide by the law and must not arbitrarily deprive customers of their legitimate rights.". No person shall be condemned unheard is a rule of Natural Justice and forms the backbone of legal systems but privately-owned platforms such as WeChat do not adhere to these norms.
- 3 "tigers" have been hit in a row. On 9.2.22, Gan Rongkun was indicted and Meng Xiang and Cai E'Sheng have been arrested.

Image 3: Note accusing Tencent of arbitrarily banning WeChat account

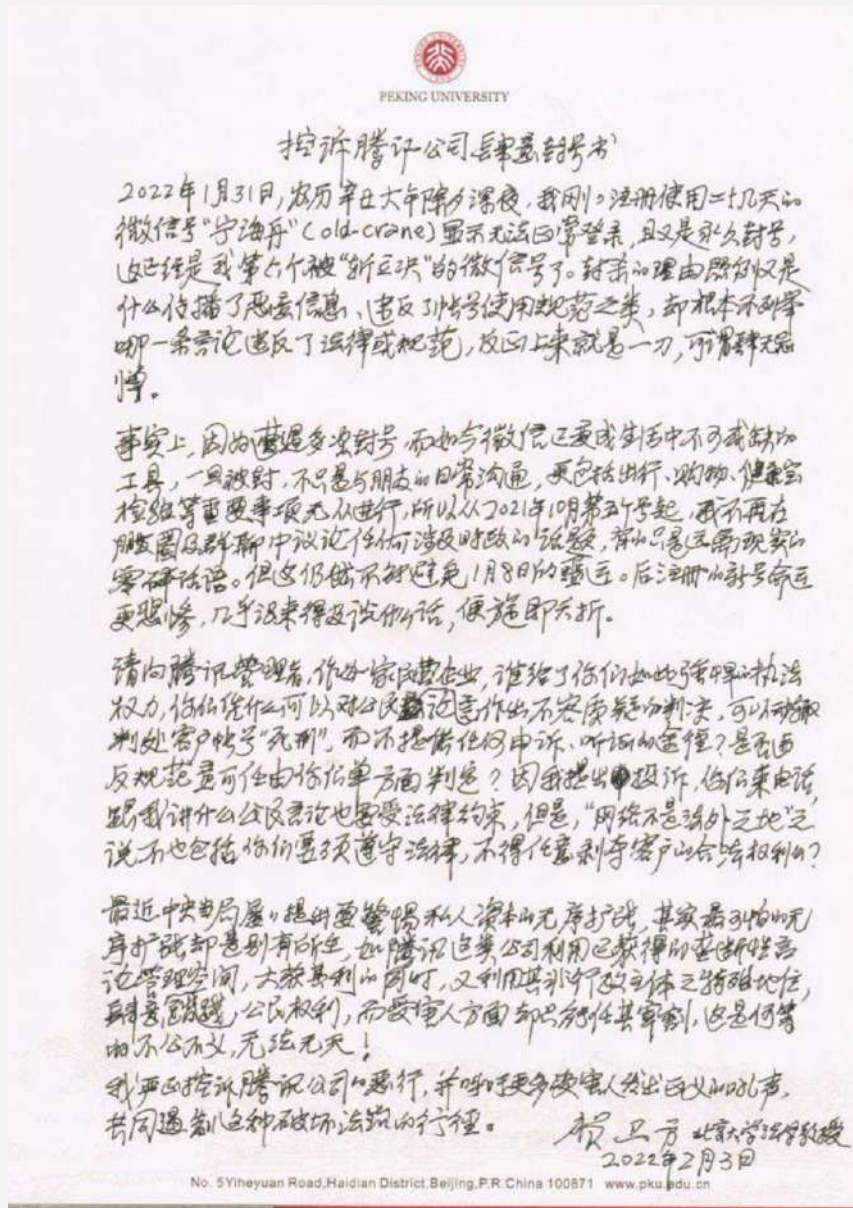


Image 4: Still from video shared on Twitter of Olympic Sumbmarine(now removed).

