

9 MARCH 2023

DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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NEWS IN CHINA

- Huanhe APP, a digital collection platform owned by Tencent, said on March 9 that as part of business adjustment plans, it will go down at midnight on June 30th, 2023. Users who own collections won't be able to query, download, display, or share digital collections they've bought in the APP when Magic Core goes offline, and they won't be able to get a refund either. The Magic Core business has been suspended, and this announcement marks the "finishing" of that process. It also means that after June 30 the collections held by Magic Core users will no longer be valuable. Magic Core advises customers to cancel their orders before that time.
- On March 9, King Felipe VI of Spain and President Xi Jinping of China exchanged congratulations in honour of the 50th anniversary of the two nations' establishment of diplomatic ties. According to Xi Jinping, since the two countries' diplomatic ties were established 50 years ago, they have upheld the values of respect, equality, and mutual benefit, deepened their friendship, encouraged collaboration, founded and built an extensive strategic partnership, and provided real benefits to their respective peoples. According to Felipe VI, since the two countries diplomatic ties were established 50 years ago, their relations have grown gradually and smoothly, their cooperation in a number of areas has advanced, and their friendship has become stronger.
- On March 9, Mao Ning, the spokeswoman for the foreign ministry, oversaw a routine press conference. A reporter inquired about the passage of the so-called 2023 Novel Coronavirus Origins Act by the full U.S. Senate. For a while, according to Mao Ning, the US insisted on politicizing,

militarizing, and instrumentalizing the traceability issue, engaging in congressional and intelligence traceability, and hyping up falsehoods like the "laboratory leak theory" to falsely accuse China. This poisoned the ambience of international scientific traceability as per the spokesperson. She added that China's stance on the location of the new coronavirus's origin remains constant and that the Chinese government vehemently opposed all forms of political manipulation and consistently promoted as well as took part in worldwide scientific research.

- Erstwhile opposition legislator LeeCheuk-yan's wife was apprehended by Hong Kong's national security officers recently. Around lunchtime on Thursday, cops picked up 65-year-old former union organiser Elizabeth Tang Yin-ngor and drove her away in a seven-seater car outside Stanley Prison. As per reports, Tang's suspected involvement with foreign forces was what led to the arrest. She was allegedly pulled up after visiting her spouse who was being held in a maximum security facility. After departing for Britain in 2021, Tang had only recently returned to the city as per the source.
- According to José Luis Centella, President of the Communist Party of Spain (PCE), China has consistently worked to build a democracy that is widely supported by the populace, involving them in national governance and ensuring the stability of government agencies at multiple levels and the policies they enact. To understand China's "two sessions," the yearly meetings of the country's top legislative body and political advisory body, according to

- Centella, one must comprehend the full process of people's democracy and socialism with Chinese features. According to Centella, the "two sessions" are crucial in boosting Chinese unity and political cohesion.
- Ma Xiaoguang, the spokesperson for the State Council's Taiwan Relations Office, conducted a routine press conference on March 9. When questioned about cross-strait direct flights, he responded that they should resume since they facilitate cross-strait personnel interactions and encourage exchanges. It is expected that the Taiwan side will heed popular opinion and push for the "miniature three links" and the full normalisation of cross-strait direct air and sea flights as soon as possible in order to enhance the welfare of countrymen on both sides of the strait.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Father removes son from his will, receives support online:** According to Mr. Wang of Zhejiang's will, his wife's younger sister will be the guardian after he passes away, and she will also receive his estate for inheritance. This choice was made as a result of Wang's tense relationship with his son, who is suspected of starting fights with him in an effort to steal real estate money. Last year, after being brought to the hospital, Mr Wang's wife was given an Alzheimer's diagnosis. Mr. Wang was impressed by the exceptional care she received from her sister. He, therefore, made the will in such a way that, in the event of his passing, both his wife and his sister-in-law would receive the property. Internet users defended Mr. Wang's choice
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and criticised his son for neglecting his mother.

relationships of greater trust and collaboration.

INDIA WATCH

- Spain took part in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) summits and is a founder partner of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The joint statement issued during Xi Jinping's visit to Madrid in 2018 acknowledged the BRI's potential and called for collaboration with the EU's strategy for connectivity in Asia. The Spanish eagerness for Chinese investments however has died down, despite the fact that Spain and China have a high level of financial and technological interdependence. Instead, Beijing has discovered other countries in the European Union, such as Hungary, Greece, and Italy, which are more enthusiastic and politically more moldable. India may benefit from this situation by improving collaboration in the major priority fields of trade and investment, military and intelligence, combating climate change, developing renewable energy sources, and research and technology. Spain's intention in joining India's national defence manufacturing programme through the "Made in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" projects has already been warmly received. According to the MEA, the two parties decided to investigate working together on economic projects and development partnerships in the region of South America and the Caribbean. Both governments should maintain their dedication to a more comprehensive and creative approach centered on the political, commercial, and cultural components that provide the possibility of producing comparative advantages in order to continue fostering

- foreign investment from countries that share a land border with India would require prior government approval. The ban has also strained diplomatic ties between India and China, which were already “not normal” because of the border dispute. The Chinese government has expressed concern over the ban and has called on India to create a fair and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies. However, India has defended the ban as a necessary step to protect its national security interests. But India is not the first country to do so; previously, the US, UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and now Germany, which has just started in the direction of banning Chinese telecom equipment, have already banned Chinese telecom manufacturers, stating concern regarding national security. The reason behind these bans however, is more than just national security concerns. In the case of India, though most of these sanctions came after border skirmishes other determining factors include, firstly, local market protection, as during COVID-19 much of the local businesses in India itself were on the verge of collapse, the Indian government feared the Chinese tech giants might flood the Indian market and kick out local businesses. Secondly self-reliance: during COVID-19, when the global supply chain was disrupted, the Indian government realised the need for self-reliance, especially in electronic telecom equipment, which is crucial for a rapidly digitalizing country like India. Unlike Western partners of India, this ban on Chinese equipment was much more than a game of geopolitics and for this very reason, in the coming years, it is going to

increase further.
