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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **“Pop-up” notifications irritate Chinese netizens:** A Changzhou woman lost 90,000 yuan (\$12,500) last week after clicking a pop-up ad in the popular game 'Sheep a Sheep.' The pop-up turned out to be a fake advertisement depicting a large cash giveaway, but in order to receive the money, she had to transfer money herself, and she was duped. However, much more terrifying than these scam ad pop-ups are the Health Code pop-ups, which notify people that they are a contagion risk and may have come into contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19. Due to the recent COVID cases in Beijing, pop-up windows have become a hot topic on Chinese social media. Many Beijing residents received the dreaded "pop-up 3" message from the Beijing Health Code app Jiankangbao. Beijing residents who received the pop-up message while in the city were asked to report to their community/hotel/school so that "the relevant departments" can conduct a "risk assessment." The pop-up window remains until they are no longer considered a contagion risk. However, many Beijing residents are upset about being "pop-upped" because they appear to have received the warning for no apparent reason or because the pop-up does not appear to disappear at all. "It's been three days with two tests, and the pop-up window remains," one user writes.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- A survey found that nearly a third of Hong Kong's elderly residents felt lonely during the city's fifth coronavirus wave, with some also reporting a decline in their mental well-being.

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as the pandemic enters its third year. The study, conducted by researchers at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and published on Monday, urged family and friends of elderly residents, as well as the larger community, to provide "active care" to assist seniors in dealing with emotional distress. The fifth wave had a greater impact on older adults, probably because news about them being infected and the rising death rate at the time put a lot of pressure on older adults. Between April and June, researchers collaborated with 29 social welfare charities to interview 4,921 residents aged 60 and up as part of the study. Some 34% of those surveyed were aged 80 and up, with women accounting for more than 70% of those surveyed. According to the survey, 29% of those polled reported feeling lonely during the fifth wave, which began in December of last year. Researchers also learned that 30% of interviewees lived alone and that 65% had never contracted COVID-19.

- According to the head of a major US policy think tank, if China invades Taiwan and destroys its semiconductor plants, the world will soon "fall off an economic cliff." Jason Matheny, President and CEO of RAND Corporation, published an op-ed in The Atlantic laying out the potential economic consequences of China invading Taiwan, as well as the steps the US can take to prevent Beijing from attacking. According to Matheny, Taiwan accounts for 92% of all advanced microchips, so any attack on the country would severely disrupt the global chip supply. He predicted that if China invaded Taiwan, this semiconductor manufacturing capacity would suffer one of two

outcomes, both of which would result in a "global catastrophe." In the first scenario, China would manage to keep Taiwan's semiconductor plants mostly intact, but would severely limit U.S. and allied access to advanced chips based on its whims, much to the detriment of "American technological, economic, and military advantages." However, if China destroys Taiwan's chip factories, the world will face an economic crisis "unseen since the Great Depression".

- In the midst of China's increasingly complex risks and challenges, the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will be tasked with presenting the Party's road map for the next five years and beyond, a critical period in realizing national rejuvenation. The 19th CPC Central Committee's seventh plenary session which began in Beijing, will prepare for the opening of the 20th CPC National Congress. The Congress will be attended by a total of 2,296 delegates. It will elect a new CPC Central Committee, the Party's top leadership, and a new CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, in addition to setting national policy goals. The Party Congress will also consider amendments to the Party Constitution. According to observers, the CPC could use its 20th National Congress to reiterate the people-centered governance philosophy and the need to firmly adhere to socialism with Chinese characteristics. It may also highlight the importance of coordinating development and security in light of China's new circumstances of development, reform, and opening-up, as well as mounting external risks and
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challenges.

- Washington's latest restrictions on selling chips and chipmaking equipment to China are an act of technological hegemony that will disrupt the highly globalized semiconductor supply chain and harm multinational corporations worldwide, according to officials and experts. These measures are part of the US government's well-calculated and systematic push to contain China's technological rise at the expense of global semiconductor companies' interests, including US chip enterprises that have benefited significantly from the vast Chinese market. On Friday, the Commerce Department issued a new set of export controls, including a measure to bar China from purchasing certain semiconductor chips made anywhere in the world using US equipment and adding more Chinese companies to an export control list.
- The new Omicron variant BF.7 has spread to more Chinese provinces, in less than a week after it was discovered in Northwest China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Officials from Yantai, a city in Shandong Province, confirmed that locally transmitted COVID-19 cases were caused by variant BF.7, which is highly homologous to variants found in another province. On the same day, Shaoguan, in Guangdong Province, discovered cases of the BF.7 variant. The World Health Organization has warned against the rapidly spreading BF.7 variant, which is expected to become the new dominant variant.

## INDIA WATCH

- As the risk of war between China and Taiwan as well as rapid militarization near the Taiwan Strait increases, the world is becoming concerned about its semiconductor supplies. India is an emerging market, and it is currently willing to become a manufacturing hub, and has attracted companies that rely heavily on semiconductors. As a result, it has become critical for India to secure its semiconductor supplies. As US has approved \$52 billion in subsidies and \$200 billion for scientific research, especially in artificial intelligence and other novel technologies, India has not been left behind, having sanctioned a \$10 billion package in 2021 with the goal of establishing 20 semiconductor design, component manufacturing, and display fabrication units by 2026. In addition, a Semiconductor Policy had been established. However, as many countries try to attract semiconductor companies and build their own chips, India must accelerate its pace. As a result, India must invest heavily in R&D as well as support startups, and semiconductor independence can help India dominate not only the electronics market, but any market in which semiconductors are used because India has an attractive manufacturing environment, and if raw materials such as chips are produced domestically, it will give India a competitive edge over the rest.
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