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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **What's wrong with looking at beautiful women and men on internet:** This week, the popular WeChat account Brother News published an article written by 'Sister News' about two recent controversial hot topics on Chinese social media involving attractive, busty young women. According to the author, two people have been "unjustly" smeared for their love of beautiful women: one is a science blogger, and the other is a coconut water brand. Both issues have sparked debate on Chinese social media about feminine aesthetics in today's online culture. There are two sides to this debate: those who criticise female objectification and argue that it is all about the 'male gaze' in media culture, which means that women are intentionally portrayed in a certain way to attract the attention of men. Many others, however, believe that people should mind their own business and not criticise others for something as simple as admiring a beautiful shape.

NEWS IN CHINA

- On Thursday morning, photos and videos appeared on Chinese social media of white banners with red slogans hanging from Sitong Bridge in Beijing's Haidian District, protesting primarily against China's zero COVID policy, Xi's rule, and the lack of reforms, as the 20th National Congress is set to begin on Oct. 16. "Don't want a Cultural Revolution, want reforms," for example, was one of the slogans. "I don't want PCR tests, I just want to eat," and "I don't want lies, I just want dignity." Another banner called for a strike by students and workers to "remove the dictatorial traitor Xi Jinping from

office." Security guards cordoned off the site, and authorities immediately removed posters.

- A senior government adviser has said that China has no timetable for exiting its zero-Covid strategy, dampening hopes for relief after the next important annual political conferences in March. Liang Wannian, the head of an expert panel on the Covid-19 response, acknowledged government and public expectations of a return to life before the pandemic in an interview with state broadcaster CCTV on Wednesday. However, when asked if controls would be gradually relaxed following the annual sessions of the National People's Congress and People's Political Consultative Conference next year, Liang was blunt. "It is not scientifically possible to delineate ."
- After a report cited Tesla CEO Elon Musk as recommending Taiwan be run along the lines of Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" model – and one day after China expressed approval of his plan – Beijing granted tax exemptions to two Tesla models. In an interview, Musk suggested that Taiwan be absorbed into China as a "reasonably palatable" special administrative zone. The tech magnate then speculated that, while it "won't please everyone," Beijing's rule over Taiwan could be "more lenient than Hong Kong." Although Musk's unsolicited advice was roundly rejected by Taiwan's political establishment.
- The "lenient" punishment of a senior official for wrongdoings committed before Xi Jinping took power sends a message to China's political elites about political

loyalty. The Central Committee confirmed the punishment of four officials for their wrongdoings at a conclave in Beijing that concluded on Wednesday. The case of Li Jia, former head of the Shanxi provincial political advisory body, stood out, however. The allegations against Li date back before 2012, the year Xi took over the party's leadership, though the exact timing and details are unknown. Prior to 2012, Li held senior positions on the party's standing committee in Inner Mongolia, first as the region's personnel chief in 2008, then as its security chief in 2011.

- China has dismissed warnings from Britain's cyber spy chief that Beijing's use of critical technologies is endangering global security, with a Chinese media outlet claiming GCHQ director Jeremy Fleming "spoke rubbish." GCHQ or the Government Communications Headquarters is the British government's cyber intelligence agency .Fleming said during an annual security lecture at the RUSI defence and security think tank on Tuesday that China's leadership is using financial and scientific muscle to dominate strategically important technologies ranging from digital currencies to satellite technology. Yet, he warned, the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) fear of its own citizens and the international rules-based system, combined with the country's great strength, "is driving China into actions that could pose a huge threat to us all." "And we're seeing that fear manifest itself through manipulation of the technological ecosystems that underpin our daily lives, from monitoring its own citizens and restricting free speech to influencing financial systems and new domains,"
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Fleming said.

INDIA WATCH

- The British cyber spy chief's claim that China's use of critical technologies jeopardised security cannot be denied. Since China controls all of its tech companies and they cannot go against the CPC's wishes. There have been many cases in India where cyber experts have pointed out flaws in Chinese tech security and claimed that data is being sent and stored in China without the user's permission. From Chinese phones to Chinese hardware to Chinese apps, all data and critical information about users' patterns were collected, which was one of the reasons a popular app called TikTok and hundreds of other apps were banned in India in the name of national security. As a result, many countries, including India, have asked their companies to exclude Chinese hardware 5G technology, as its has been claimed by several security analytics that datas collected are used for spying. The Chinese are also accused of stealing technology and using it to undercut companies and dominate the market. Purchasing Chinese technology is equivalent to "mortgaging the future" in today's world.
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