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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Yuan Longping remembered on social media as The Sixth Chinese Farmers Harvest Festival draws closer:** The Sixth Chinese Farmers Harvest Festival takes place this month. Social media is buzzing with videos of the harvest and Yuan Longping, who is known as the "father of hybrid rice". [Yuan Longping](#) was previously employed as an ambassador to promote the Chinese Farmers' Harvest Festival. People fondly remember Yuan Longping as the harvest festival draws near. He was a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a recipient of the "Medal of the Republic."

NEWS IN CHINA

- According to a statement [released](#) by the Ministry of National Defense, China's State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe met with Pakistan's Army Chief of Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday morning to discuss various topics of mutual interest. They also exchanged opinions on the state of the world and the region. The face-to-face meeting took place in the Shaanxi Province of northwest China's Xi'an. The two sides agreed to intensify their military and other forms of cooperation as they reaffirmed their close friendship. The unwavering friendship between China and Pakistan will endure no matter how the globe evolves, and the two nations will always be the most dependable real friends and good brothers, according to Wei.
- A health authority official stated at a press briefing on Tuesday that China will become a [moderately ageing society](#) in three years with 20% of the population being 60 years and older, and a severely ageing society by 2035 with 400 million people being 60 years and older, accounting for 30% of the population. The official also described the country's plans to

address the situation. Citing these figures, the Director of the Department of Aging and Health of the National Health Commission stated that China's ageing problem affects a sizable population and is expanding quickly. Compared to metropolitan areas, rural areas have a higher elderly population and a more serious ageing problem.

- Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, said at the [17th China-Russia strategic security consultation](#) on Monday that Russia has always regarded the development of relations with China as a diplomatic priority and firmly supports China's efforts on the Taiwan question to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Patrushev and Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, co-hosted the security consultation, which took place on Sunday to Monday in the Fujian Province of South China.
- On the subject of "China's Decade," the Central Propaganda Department staged a number of press conferences. According to [Huang Liuquan](#), deputy director of the State Council's Office for Hong Kong and Macao Affairs, since the National Security Law was put into effect in Hong Kong, the rule of law has been restored, and there is no conflict between global integration and border crossings with the mainland. Maintaining national security is a standard practice around the world, according to Huang Liuquan. It is difficult to think of another country that would permit words and actions to prevail in this one that undermines the governmental authority

and divide the nation. National security is maintained in various ways by every nation in the world. According to him, the Hong Kong National Security Law is identical to national security laws in other nations of the world, both in terms of legislative intent and content. He, therefore, agrees with those who assert that Hong Kong will become more and more oriented toward the mainland as a result of the National Security Law's implementation. Such claims are politically motivated and alarming.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday that Taiwan's representative to the UK Kelly Hsieh (Xie Wuqiao) [signed](#) Queen Elizabeth II's book of condolences. Due to a lack of official ties between Taipei and London, Taiwan was not invited to the queen's funeral. The British government, however, had "specially invited" Hsieh to sign the book at Lancaster House, managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The ministry did not specify when he signed the book. The invitation was made "based on the importance attached to Taiwan-Britain relations and the precious friendship between the two peoples," the ministry said.
 - China has the capability of blockading Taiwan, and could blockade to avoid direct conflict, Vice Admiral Karl Thomas, commander of the Seventh Fleet, reported. "They have a very large navy, and they very much can bully Taiwan and put ships around it," Thomas said, referring to the Chinese Navy's size and rapid growth. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, the admiral said he was unclear whether China would invade or blockade Taiwan, but it was his responsibility to be prepared. In spite of this, Thomas said Beijing should
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resolve differences peacefully over Taiwan, adding that the international community could intervene if China imposed a blockade.

INDIA WATCH

- Closeness between Russia and China has developed as the West has sought to isolate Russia. Following the Ukraine conflict, the West made attempts to hurt the Russian economy by placing sanctions and by cutting off SWIFT payments, forcing all Western firms to leave. In order to counter this measure, Russian companies began accepting Yuan as payment, a sign of their willingness to work closely with China and allow Chinese companies to occupy that market. This is a sign of concern for India, as Russia has been close to India historically. The Western sanctions are making it more difficult for India to maintain ties with the West and balance its relations with Russia. India buys a majority of its weapons and military equipment from Russia. Economic engagement could strengthen the relationship between the two countries, giving India economic benefits, while increasing Indian presence in global geopolitics.
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