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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese social media sales guru suddenly returns after mystery absence:** More than 100 days had passed since Li Jiaqi, one of China's most renowned and successful social media influencers and salespeople, was abruptly shut off during a live stream on June 3. Just a day before the anniversary of the 1989 crackdown on student protesters in Tiananmen Square, his top-rated social media channel went dark with no explanation. Many Chinese netizens assumed the sudden shutdown was caused by a tank-shaped ice cream Li advertised on his channel. On Tuesday night, Li resurfaced out of nowhere, selling a variety of harmless products to a receptive internet audience. Again, no explanation was provided for his sudden departure or reappearance.

NEWS IN CHINA

- China has launched a nationwide [marriage and fertility survey](#) to "objectively and comprehensively" understand the difficulties faced by people of marriage and child-bearing age and seek solutions. The Survey comes after the country has been addressing the population crisis with a decrease in marriage and fertility rates in recent years. The poll, conducted by the China Population and Development Research Center (CPDRC) and the China Family Planning Association, comprises 20,000 men and women aged 20 to 44 in 100 counties, cities, and districts across the country, except the five western provinces. China introduced support policies in a guideline collectively released on August 16 by 17 government agencies to establish a welcoming atmosphere for marriage and fertility, as well as encourage population growth, including measures to develop equitable nursery services across the country, as a lack of enough workforce for

child care is believed to be the main factor preventing childbirth.

- A well-timed additional booster dose is required for a safe, long-term escape from the pandemic, according to the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), confirming the need for a fourth shot against COVID-19. It also urged the remaining 10% of the country's population who had not been wholly vaccinated to do so as soon as feasible. The China CDC Weekly just released an article titled "Perspectives: Vaccinate with Confidence and Finish Strong." Some of the China CDC's top experts and officials are among the authors, including Yin Zundong, Lance Rodewald, and Feng Zijian. The China CDC article stated unequivocally that well-timed second booster doses are unquestionably essential to achieve sustained, optimal protection for a safe, long-term departure from the pandemic. It noted that the design of its second booster dose plan would be based on developing evidence of the vaccines' durability of protection. It further noted that pregnant women could participate in the immunization campaign because there is no evidence to support pregnancy contraindication. More than two-thirds of countries suggest vaccinating pregnant women, including inactivated vaccines made in China.
- The first cargo train arrived in the border town of Hairatan in Afghanistan's northern Balkh province on Thursday, completing the land route connecting landlocked Afghanistan to China. After receiving the freight in Hairatan, Qudratullah Abu Hamza, governor of Balkh province, stated, "It is a milestone and a positive step towards boosting trade and economic relations between Afghanistan and the

neighbouring countries." Welcoming the inauguration of the land corridor as an essential step toward improving regional economic links, Hamza stated that Afghanistan is determined to build trade relationships with all nations in the region. The freight train, carrying 12 containers, began its journey in China's Kashgar city 12 days ago and travelled through Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan before reaching Afghanistan on Thursday morning.

- When Hua Ning, the new Chinese Ambassador to Luxembourg, presented his credentials on Wednesday, Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg expressed his commitment to expanding friendly collaboration with China. During their conversation, the Grand Duke recounted his memorable experience at the inauguration ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics earlier this year in China's capital Beijing. He stated that relations between China and Luxembourg have greatly improved since the formation of diplomatic relationships five decades ago and that the two nations will work together to create new areas of cooperation and strengthen bilateral relations. According to Ambassador Hua, bilateral relations between China and Luxembourg have withstood the test of time and international pressures.
 - According to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China's mobile Internet of things (IoT) has made significant advances in network and industrial capability and application development. According to the ministry, a network infrastructure pattern with coordinated growth of numerous networks, universal coverage of urban and rural areas, and thorough coverage of crucial scenarios has emerged.
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By August, the number of mobile IoT connections in China had surpassed that of cellphone users for the first time.

According to ministry data, the total number of narrowband IoT, 4G base stations, and 5G base stations reached 755,000, 5.9 million, and 2.1 million respectively during the same period. It also stated that domestic firms' technological and product research and development capabilities have increased, as has the ecological system.

- According to the [China Atomic Energy Authority](#) (CAEA), nuclear technology in China has been widely implemented in many spheres of the national economy in recent years, bringing tangible advantages to people's livelihoods. On Wednesday, more than 90 professionals and scholars convened at the CAEA quarterly event to debate nuclear technology to benefit people's livelihoods, covering the current and future possibilities of nuclear technology applications in China. Nuclear technology is used in various industries, including agriculture, healthcare, environmental protection, and security, according to Dong Baotong, deputy director of the CAEA. Space exploration has also made use of nuclear technology. Using X-ray diffraction and other nuclear technology analysis tools, a study team from the Beijing Research Institute of Uranium Geology, a subsidiary of the China National Nuclear Corporation, has found a new lunar mineral. According to Dong, improving the level of nuclear technology application has become an intrinsic prerequisite for establishing a robust nuclear sector in China and an essential step toward promoting high-quality national economic development.

INDIA WATCH

- China's indirect acknowledgement of the Taliban is a primary concern for India. China's strategy to isolate India on various international fronts seems to work, given that the Taliban welcomes Chinese investments in the country. India has not acknowledged the Taliban government, and it needs to begin its moves to exert its influence in the region. India could exert its position in Afghanistan and West Asia by expanding its ties with the Taliban through infrastructural projects, investments, expanding economic ties, and providing more aid to the country. By expanding its role in the region, India would be able to counter China's growing influence and footprint in the region. India has the opportunity to bank on its non-alignment and humanitarian values and help the people while keeping cordial relations with the Taliban. By playing a bigger role in the region, it would take pressure of the US's "hands-off" approach, and the US is likely to encourage India's new role due to their relations.
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