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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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NEWS IN CHINA

- China presented its national report on [nuclear safety](#) during the Joint Eighth and Ninth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) in Vienna, Austria. Dong Baotong, vice minister of Ecology and Environment and director of the National Nuclear Safety Administration, presented the report describing the legislative, regulatory and administrative measures that China has taken to fulfill its obligations as a contracting party to the CNS. The report highlighted China's innovative measures on nuclear safety supervision for new-type reactors and shared experience on safeguarding nuclear safety. Dong urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to uphold a scientific, fair and transparent position on the issue of the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water from Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea. China has a good nuclear safety record, and the IAEA has reviewed its regulations four times. The CNS aims to commit contracting parties to maintain a high level of safety by establishing fundamental safety principles.
- On Thursday, a [Chinese representative](#) urged the United Nations Security Council to address the negative effects of sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (DPRK). Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), stated that as a responsible permanent member of the Security Council, China supports the implementation of the council's DPRK-related resolutions as well as the work of the Security Council 1718 Committee on DPRK sanctions, so long as they do not negatively affect peoples' livelihoods on a humanitarian level. A resolution to prolong the 1718 Committee's panel of experts' mandate until April 30, 2024, was approved by the Security Council on Thursday. Geng said that deteriorating humanitarian situation in DPRK is "alarming" and "merits the Council, the Committee, and the panel's attention and the

relevant actions.” Geng expressed China’s dissatisfaction when its suggestions to enhance the functioning of the expert panel and its working procedures were not incorporated into the resolution.

- Guangxi LiuGong Machinery Co., Ltd. has achieved a string of breakthroughs in overseas markets this year, riding the wave of China's economic recovery and booming China-RCEP cooperation. In January, the company's export volume of construction machinery increased by over 50 per cent year on year, and since February, the overseas shipment of large excavators has soared by 500 per cent. Loaders produced by the company were delivered to Thailand, marking the first batch of construction machinery exported by the company under the RCEP agreement. Guangxi Yuchai Machinery Group Co., Ltd., one of China's largest engine manufacturers, saw remarkable performance in the international market this year, with export orders for bus engines increasing 180 per cent year on year. SAIC-GM-Wuling, a major automobile manufacturer, exported 11,839 NEVs abroad, providing thousands of jobs and driving the improvement of the local industrial chain. PMI data for China's manufacturing sector came in at 52.6 in February, up from 50.1 in January.
- In his statement for the general debate, China's Minister of Water Resources Li Guoying made four important recommendations: to guarantee everyone's fundamental right to access clean drinking water; to have a thorough understanding of how limited and unique freshwater resources are; to respect rivers' fundament-

-al rights in nature and develop river ethics; to give UN agencies their due consideration in the context of the threat of global climate change and its heightened effects, and gather intelligence and fortitude to address problems relating to water resources, water disasters, water environment, and water ecological challenges. International business professionals commended China's four water projects and acknowledged the country's accomplishments in water conservation.

- Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Li Shulei met with a Spanish delegation led by Jose Luis Centella, president of the Communist Party of Spain in Beijing. Li emphasized the importance of enhancing exchanges with Spain's left-wing political parties and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. Centella expressed his desire to actively promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese netizens criticize the US in its actions against TikTok:** Chinese media, scholars and netizens criticized US politicians and expressed sympathy for TikTok's CEO Chew Shou Zi, who was grilled by American lawmakers on the popular app's Chinese ties during a congressional hearing in Washington on Thursday. Mao Ning, spokeswoman for China's Foreign Ministry, said the Chinese government has never asked businesses or individuals to violate local laws to collect or provide data and intelligence in foreign
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- countries. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce has opposed any demand by the Biden administration for the TikTok's Chinese owners to sell the app or face a ban in America. This would put TikTok in a similar situation it faced two years ago, when then-US President Donald Trump ordered the app's Beijing-based owner ByteDance to divest the American operations of the short video app. The concerns over TikTok stem from the speed at which the app has grown and penetrated societies, according to Abishur Prakash, co-founder and geopolitical futurist at the Centre for Innovating the Future. TikTok's goodwill efforts have not been enough to assuage US concerns, and many netizens denounced the hearing as a political performance. Numerous users of Chinese social media criticised the TikTok hearing. According to Li Xiang, the creator of Shijieguan News, the US congressmen did not pay attention and "had only politics and persecution in mind" when they questioned the TikTok CEO. Some of the questions, in his opinion, were "emotional," "paranoid," and "worthless." Weibo user Chouxiaoya stated that the hearing "won't make any substantial difference" in the bipartisan mistrust about TikTok and referred to it as a "political performance". Weibo user Miko San concluded that this was simply "some American loser politicians trying to bully a Chinese company."

INDIA WATCH

- India has been a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since the agency's inception. India has emphasized the

importance of the IAEA's role in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, supported its safeguards-related responsibilities and has ratified several international conventions related to nuclear safety and security. Despite India's proven track record of nuclear safety, China has continuously prevented India from joining the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which regulates global nuclear commerce. China has been adamant that only countries that have signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) should be permitted to join the NSG and has opposed India's application for membership since May 2016. As a result, the 2008 Civil Nuclear Deal between India and the US paved the way for India's consideration into the NSG. Despite the signing of the agreement however, nuclear cooperation has advanced poorly. Not only will joining the NSG give India better access to low-cost, clean nuclear energy, it will also help India propose trading plutonium for its thorium programme.

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