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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese celebrities amplify official policy on Taiwan to millions of fans:** When it comes to pressing its official narrative on Taiwan, the Chinese government has a new ally: [celebrities](#). Tensions over the island's status, which Beijing claims as part of its "One China" principle, have been heightened by a string of recent incidents, including a high-profile visit to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and remarks by President Joe Biden indicating the US would be willing to defend Taiwan "militarily." Soon after Nancy Pelosi's visit, CCTV posted a message saying "there is only one China." Within hours, Chinese superstars began retweeting this message to their vast networks of followers. Among those who did so were Xie Na, a 41-year-old prominent TV host and actress with 128 million Weibo followers, and Jackson Yee, a 22-year-old singer, dancer, and actor who was named No. 1 in Forbes' 2021 Chinese Celebrity List. Taiwan superstars like Chen Qiaoen and Wu Qilong also retweeted same remark, although a day later.

NEWS IN CHINA

- The [fourth pipeline](#) of a major power transmission project that distributes natural gas from China's western regions to the country's east began construction on Wednesday. The pipeline stretches 3,340 kilometres from Wuqia County in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to Zhongwei City in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The pipeline, when completed, will increase the massive power transmission project's yearly capacity to 100 billion cubic metres, according to Zhang Wei, board chairman of the building business China Oil & Gas Piping Network Corporation. Zhang noted that the

corporation is encouraging the construction of oil and gas pipeline network infrastructure to secure the country's energy security.

- The Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) has announced the arrest of Shen Deyong, a retired top political advisor, on suspicion of bribery. The National Commission of Supervision has concluded its investigation into Shen's case and referred it to prosecutorial authorities for prosecution, according to a statement issued by the SPP on Wednesday. Shen previously served on the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee and as the Chair of the CPPCC National Committee's Committee on Social and Legal Affairs.
 - Yield of high-quality rice in North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region reached 700 kilos per mu (666 square metres) at Yuan Longping Workstation in Hinggan League, fulfilling the late academician's goal of high yield and high-quality rice cultivation in the chilly location. On Monday, a team of seven experts from institutes including China National Rice Research Institute and the Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences measured the yields of two experimental rice paddies cultivated with high quality rice species at the workstation. In 2018, Yuan Longping Workstation was established in Hinggan League. Yuan, recognised as China's "Father of Hybrid Rice," who died on May 22, 2021, outlined a three-year aim of raising rice production by 100 kilos per mu and cultivated rice seeds with particular characteristics for the Inner Mongolia grassland. Wang Shigang, the workstation's director, stated on Monday that the workstation will continue to cultivate excellent species, increase production, and improve rice quality, while attempting to raise the added value of the rice industry through scientific and technological contributions, and to build a rice provenance production base and leading technology export base in northern China.
 - According to a Tuesday announcement, Beijing police have probed and punished illegal and criminal acts in which commuters were sought via social media sites for the purpose of offering carpooling into Beijing for people from COVID-19 risk areas, and nine suspects have been arrested. According to Beijing police, they received reports that some carpool ads were put on social media platforms offering services for people from COVID-19 danger regions in Tianjin and Hebei, North China, so that they might enter Beijing. The cops initiated an inquiry right away.
 - On Wednesday, a Chinese official urged the international community to take a "objective stance" against the Taliban in Afghanistan, claiming that societal order is being restored. Wang Wenbin, spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, admitted in a regular news briefing that Afghanistan is currently in a critical moment of transition from chaos to order, with terrorist threats still to be eliminated. Wang also urged the global community to stay involved with the Afghan interim government and increase humanitarian and development assistance to the country, while emphasising the
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importance of preserving the basic rights of all Afghans, particularly ethnic group members, women, and children.

policy of strategic autonomy is helping India to make decisions that are best in its national interest.

- China's stance on the Ukraine issue is constant and unchanging, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a news conference on Wednesday in answer to a question regarding four Ukrainian regions voting to join Russia. Wang reaffirmed that China has always maintained that all countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected, that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be followed, that all parties' legitimate security concerns should be taken seriously, and that all efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully be supported. Wang stated that China has always been on the side of peace and will continue to work constructively with the international community on the Ukraine problem.

INDIA WATCH

- China's stance over Ukraine is particularly interesting, given the fact that it supported Russia initially (and still is). It has been observing the war from the beginning like rest of the world and has begun to make a diplomatic stance over it. India has not taken an official stance over the issue and has called for cessations of hostility. Ukraine feels that India's policy of strategic autonomy is not being helpful. However, India has helped the country over the course of war such as by providing medical aid to Ukraine and has called for hostilities to end from both sides. India cannot primarily take a stance in the Russo-Ukraine war given the fact that India has deep bilateral ties with Russia and its
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