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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **A Weibo post by the German Embassy in China focuses on what happened in both countries in 1989:** The [Embassy of Germany](#) in China posted the hashtag “50 years of China-German Diplomatic relations”. The text says “1989: In East Germany, the German Democratic Republic under socialist rule, more and more people protested for democracy and civil rights. This led to the peace draft of November 1989 and the Fall of the Berlin Wall at the border between the two German states.” The rest of the text is fully blacked out. The move could be perceived as a statement against Chinese censorship by making self-censorship explicit for everyone to see. It is unlikely that the post was censored by the Weibo platform: images that are censored by Weibo usually come up as blank spaces, and if a post is censored, it never comes up with blacked-out sentences but instead is removed altogether. The timing of this post is especially noteworthy because German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is scheduled to visit China next week as the first Western European leader to go to Beijing since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Nguyen Phu Trong, a top leader of Vietnam will travel to China to pay an [official visit](#) to President Xi Jinping from October 30 to November 2. Xi and Trong have not met face-to-face since the APEC Summit in Da Nang, Vietnam in 2017. The two countries have had territorial disagreements in the South China Sea but are generally considered allies. The two leaders will discuss strengthening ties and underscore their will to cooperate on various issues. “Despite territorial

disagreement in the [South China] Sea, the Communist Party of Vietnam attaches significance to its comradeship with the Communist Party of China and hopes that the two sides can maintain their good relationship in the future,” said Khang. China extended the invitation to ensure that the Asian neighbors continued their dialogue and avoid unnecessary misunderstandings. Experts said that Vietnam needs China more than China needs Vietnam. China can avoid dispensable issues with Vietnam as Taiwan is currently a bigger issue for China.

- The Chinese PLAN (People’s Liberation Army Navy) has enhanced the capabilities of Type 075 amphibious assault ships. Now they can form task forces by joining up with aircraft carriers, amphibious landing ships, and other warships. The Type 075 with Type 071 amphibious landing ship can take up amphibious transport missions. It can also act as a command ship and the hub of a flotilla consisting of other non-amphibious warships, as they will form a maritime-air joint operational capability. Just like an aircraft carrier, an amphibious assault ship will not be working alone in combat and will be accompanied by other vessels in a flotilla, a Beijing-based military expert told the Global Times on Sunday, requesting anonymity. Two types 075 amphibious assault ships, the Hainan and the Guangxi, recently formed an amphibious transport group and received a full training acceptance test featuring joint multidimensional amphibious landing and maritime replenishment drills in an undisclosed area in the South China Sea.
- Earthquake of 5.1 magnitude rocked

northeast Taiwan. The Level 3 shock waves were experienced in Yilan, Taoyuan, and Hualien. The epi-center of the temblor was 30.4 km east-southeast of Yilan County Hall, with a focal depth of 63.9 km. Taiwan uses an intensity scale of one to seven, which gauges the degree to which a quake is felt at a specific location. The earthquake’s intensity registered as a 3 in Yilan County, Taoyuan City, and Hualien County. An intensity level of 2 was recorded in New Taipei City, Hsinchu County, Taichung City, Nantou County, and Changhua County.

- The Z-20, a Chinese fourth-generation helicopter, has surpassed the US’ Black Hawk, as it has adopted many advanced technologies the Black Hawk doesn’t have, including a fly-by-wire flight control system, which is a typical characteristic to make a helicopter ranking among the fourth-generation. Many technological innovations were applied to the Z-20, and the active vibration control, fly-by-wire, low-noise rotor design, and high-performance rotor aerodynamic design are considered advanced in the world. As a type of utility helicopter, the Z-20 is expected to spawn many variants and enter service in different military arms and branches in large numbers just like the Black Hawk. The Z-20 made its debut at the National Day military parade on October 1, 2019, in Beijing, helicopters of this type have already entered service with the PLA Army, Navy, Air Force and the Chinese People’s Armed Police Force.
 - China bypassed cargo chokepoints to speed up African trade. New rail-sea hybrid transport options stretching from western
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China as far as Europe are speeding up goods movement to Africa. New routes imply the belt and road plan is working, and are also in line with China's aim of boosting exports from the less-developed western region. China uses hybrid logistics links or multimodal rail-sea lines to bypass cargo chokepoints in an effort to speed up trade with Africa, where it is the largest trading partner.

vote bloc to favor China and India in the global forum like the UN among others.

INDIA WATCH

- The engagement of both China and India in Africa seems to be economic as well as geopolitical in nature. In the case of economy, both want to secure their 'resource need' by fostering close trade deals and investments in Africa. In the case of geopolitics, both want to establish themselves as global actor similar to western countries. Notwithstanding this, the import and export sectors between Africa and China-India suggest that a symbiotic relationship has been established between Africa and China-India. Essentially, the former exports raw materials which helps to boost the industrial and manufacturing goods in the latter. It is true that the main concern of both China and India is the quest for energy security. Therefore, they have initiated oil for infrastructure projects in several parts of Africa. Indian oil companies are on the same scale as Chinese oil companies operating in African states. The distinctive element of Chinese and Indian offerings in Africa is that they are not conditional in terms of political requirements. However, their help and offerings have the propensity to directly or indirectly influence the African countries which perhaps have solidified the African