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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Discussion on Weibo about Chinese woman leaving baby in Ukraine:** A Chinese woman was recently featured by mainland media, claiming that the kid she conceived in Ukraine was stuck there owing to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. She made a public plea to the Chinese authorities for assistance in bringing the baby back to China.
- **Man posts on social media about his father dying due to mismanagement of hospital:** The current COVID outbreak in Shanghai is a major concern. A two-stage city-wide closure for nucleic acid screening will begin on Monday. A netizen has shared that he took his father to the Pudong Hospital Affiliated with Fudan University for dialysis but he tested positive for COVID in the afternoon of the same day and failed to conduct dialysis.

II. News in China

- China will push the Belt and Road's green development, bolstering international collaboration on the topic, according to the country's top economic planner. According to a guideline released by the National Development and Reform Commission and three relevant agencies, China plans to improve cooperation in numerous fields with nations along the Belt and Road by 2025 and build a green development pattern for the project by 2030. According to the guideline, China will enhance clean energy cooperation by encouraging solar and wind power firms to "go global" and promoting technology collaboration in sectors such as renewable energy, advanced nuclear power, smart grids, and hydrogen energy.
- From March 30 to 31, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will host the third meeting of foreign ministers from Afghanistan's neighbors in Tunxi, Anhui Province. The conference will be attended by foreign ministers and representatives from Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, according to Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Wang Wenbin. Wang will then host a foreign ministers' meeting titled "Afghanistan's Neighbors + Afghanistan." Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Afghan Interim Government's Acting Foreign Minister, will be invited to the debate. The Indonesian and Qatari foreign ministers will also be invited as guests, according to the spokeswoman.
- The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is attempting to remove rumours, conjecture, and opinions regarding the China Eastern crash from the country's tightly controlled internet. Even state-approved journalists have experienced difficulty obtaining access to the crash site. Since the authorities announced on March 22 that all 132 people aboard flight MU5735, the Boeing 737 China Eastern en route from Kunming to Guangzhou that crashed in a mountainous part of Guangxi, had died, any information about the cause of the crash had been tightly restricted. Now

China's powerful Cyberspace Administration has announced it has removed more than 279,000 postings connected to the accident that contained "illegal information," including 167,000 rumours and 1,295 hashtags. It also claimed to have deactivated 2,713 social media profiles. Among the "rumours" that were removed from social media were accusations that China Eastern had previously suffered tens of billions of dollars in losses and had cut maintenance expenditures in an effort to better its financial status.

- On the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the formation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, the Central Military Commission (CMC) will present the August 1 Medal to exceptional troops with the consent of Xi Jinping, chairman of the CMC (PLA). The CMC chairman bestows the August 1 Medal, which is the Chinese military's highest decoration. It is given to military professionals who have made remarkable contributions to preserving national sovereignty, security, and development interests, as well as furthering national defence and armed forces modernisation. "Model characters" who emerge on the country's "grand" journey of developing its armed forces under Xi's leadership would be given priority consideration, the military officials said.
- On Tuesday, an aircraft carrying another batch of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine supplied by China landed in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, as part of the country's booster shot immunisation campaign. Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen's official Facebook page, the state-run National Television of Cambodia (TVK), and the country's online news source Fresh News all livestreamed the arrival of the latest batch. The arrival at the Phnom Penh International Airport was welcomed by Ministry of Health Secretary of State Yok Sambath and Wu Guoquan, economic and commercial counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Cambodia.
- Chinese astronomers have identified a record number of tiny compact galaxies outside the Milky Way, where star creation is occurring at a high rate, using China's massive optical observatory. A team of researchers led by the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences identified 1,417 new compact galaxies using the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST), about twice as many as previously known. The Astrophysical Journal just published the study. "To date, this is the greatest sample of new compact galaxies identified at one time," said lead researcher Luo Ali on Tuesday, noting that the previous global observation record was only 800 members.
- A senior Philippine official said on Tuesday that the Philippines has filed a new diplomatic protest against China after a Chinese coast guard ship came dangerously near to a Filipino vessel at the disputed Scarborough Shoal in early March. Meanwhile, China's foreign ministry argued that its ship was within its rights when it reportedly engaged in "close distance manoeuvring" in South China Sea.

III. India Watch

- China hopes to build further consensus among Afghanistan's neighbouring countries on the Afghan issue by hosting this third foreign ministers meeting, which will discuss the "neighbours' plan" to jointly promote the stability of the situation in Afghanistan, support the Afghan people, and communicate the voices of Afghanistan's neighbours to the international community. India's continued absence from the meeting, even as it remains a key and impacted power, further highlights Chinese attempts to discredit the Indian influence.
- Chinese Coast Guard ships have made such maneuvers against Philippine boats four times since May 2021, according to Philippine officials. Manila has been strengthening its capabilities in the region in recent years, claiming nine islands in the South China Sea, the largest of which is the 92-acre Pag-asa Island. Scarborough Shoal, also known as Bajo de Masinloc, is 120 nautical miles west of Luzon Island, well within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone. For years, the shoal has been a popular fishing spot for Filipinos, but it has been under virtual Chinese control since 2012, with a continual coast guard presence. This is just another example of China's attempt to continue with its expansionist policy.