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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Taiwanese Novelist Happy to be Banned:** In response to her works being banned in Chinese classrooms, [Taiwanese novelist Lung Yingtai](#) said she was honored to be a target of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) ever-expanding campaign of censorship. Her remarks followed notification to family members at school systems in the eastern port city of Qingdao that a number of books were no longer deemed suitable for young readers and that guardians should "archive" such books. Yi Zhongtian and Guo Jingxiong's work, according to a former lecturer at Guizhou University who only went by the last name Li, might be seen as a subtly critical critique of the current government.
- **Locals make city police follow laws for epidemic prevention:** In Nanning, a sizable number of locals got involved and demanded that the city police follow the laws for the [prevention of epidemics](#). They emphasized that after they had reached the society, they should not have been allowed to depart alone and instead should have been kept in isolation with the other residents. Since the chengguan were unable to isolate within the group, if they were to depart, the community as a whole should be able to break their isolation as well. The lockout had to be eased since the locals weren't willing to allow the chengguan go as required by epidemic standards. The neighborhood gave the city officers a hearty "send-off" with applause and laughs as they left the gates.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Ahead of the 20th Party Congress, Chinese authorities impose penalties on petitioners and dissidents. It is advised against publishing on social media or talking to foreign media by anyone who criticize the regime. Despite frequent detention and harassment from "interceptors" sent from their hometowns to stop them, a petitioner from Beijing named Ma claimed that police had already begun rounding up petitioners, regular citizens who seek to file complaints against local government wrongdoing through China's "letters and visits" system. Upon returning home, regional police and government authorities may place petitioners under home detention or even detain them at the regional police station, according to a Liaoning petitioner with the last name Zhang. Dissidents and rights campaigners have also been contacted and summoned by state security officers, who have warned them to remain silent and refrain from giving interviews to foreign media.
 - Chinese Red Cross provides 300,000 USD in cash aid to Pakistani flood victims. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong presented the money to the PRCS on behalf of the RCSC in order to help individuals impacted by the recent floods in Pakistan. Speaking at the event, Nong remarked that Pakistan and China are inseparable brothers who share both happiness and hardship. He went on to say that the Chinese government has chosen to send Pakistan a reprieve package worth 100 million yuan (14.5 million dollars), which will include 25,000 tents and other essential supplies. The Chinese envoy stated that the Chinese government will also assist Pakistan in its efforts to rebuild after a disaster and encourage cooperative relations in crisis mitigation and response. PRCS Chairman Abrar ur Haq expressed his thankfulness to the Chinese leadership and people at the time.
 - In August, China's manufacturing PMI increased. The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector came in at 49.4 in August, up from 49 in July, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed Wednesday. The majority of manufacturing sectors reported an improving business climate, according to NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe, as PMIs increased in 12 out of the 21 assessed industries. "The Chinese economy has continued to strengthen despite the effects of COVID-19 and heatwaves." Some significant sectors continued to grow. The indicator for manufacturing of consumer products increased from 51.4 in July to 52.3 this month, while the indices for manufacturing of equipment and high-tech goods were 50.9 and 50.6, respectively. Readings below 50 suggest contraction, while those above 50 reflect expansion.
 - China will continue to enhance the business climate and reduce institutional transaction costs. As per the decision taken at the Government Council's Executive Meeting, which was presided over by Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday, China will take additional steps to promote an environment that is favorable for business and reduce transaction costs imposed by the government, to continuously ease
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market participants' burdens and unleash their vitality. The meeting emphasized implementing reform measures to improve economic health and further lower state processing fees for market entities, noting that reform is a crucial tool in the policy toolbox. Unjustified business-related charges will be fully rectified. The use of government authority will be carefully constrained. We will hold those responsible for irregularities such as arbitrary fees and exorbitant taxes and penalties.

- In H1, more than 2,000 kilometers of new railway were operational throughout China. In the first half of the year (H1), 2,043.5 km of new railway lines were opened throughout China, according to a statement released on Wednesday by China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. (China Railway). Based on the firm's [H1 financial statement](#), the nation's rail cargo volume increased during the time period by 5.5 percent year over year to around 1.95 billion tonnes. According to China Railway, the number of passenger journeys handled by the country's railway in H1 decreased by 42.8% to 787 million. In H1, there were 7,514 freight train movements between China and Europe, a 2 percent increase year over year. In an increase of 3%, the trains hauled 724,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit containers.

INDIA WATCH

- According to reports, India is in high-level discussions and considering offering humanitarian aid to Islamabad in the wake of disastrous floods that have killed more than 1,000 people and impacted more than 30 million Pakistanis. Despite the fact that one of its ministers supported

Islamabad's notion of buying food supplies from New Delhi, Pakistan has not publicly requested assistance from India. Which hill must India perish on, is the next question. India has always taken pride in offering relief help, whether it be in the form of cash or in-kind donations, given the perception in the South East Asian region. Is India willing to drive a further wedge between Pakistan and its neighbour or would it be content to offer support without restarting commerce with Pakistan?