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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

- **PLA Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft entered the airspace of southeastern Taiwan:** On May 7, the website of Taiwan's defense department reported that a total of 5 PLA military aircraft entered the so-called "Southwest Airspace" that day, including 1 sortie of Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft, one KJ-500, two H-6 aircrafts, and one Y-8 aircraft. The trajectory map of the PLA military aircraft released by the Taiwan Army shows that the Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft flew eastward to Taiwan's "southeast airspace" and returned.
- **Chinese Netizens Recall NATO Bombing of Belgrade Embassy:** Netizens in China recalled the NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade on the anniversary of the event. At 5:45 a.m. Beijing time on May 8, 1999, NATO led by the United States bombarded the Chinese embassy in the Yugoslavia, killing three Chinese journalists. They were Xinhua News Agency reporters Shao Yunhuan, Guangming Daily reporter Xu Xinghu and his wife Zhu Ying. One post noted, the people are gone, but the spirit lives on forever, some people have some things that they can't forget and don't dare to forget. The posts recalled the incident stating, 'Salute to the three martyrs! May the deceased rest in peace!'.

II. News in China

- University professors across China have argued that the excessive Covid-19 prevention measures contradict the rule of law. In an open letter published online, more than 20 Chinese university professors led by Tong Zhiwei, voiced their concerns about the heavy-handed pandemic prevention efforts of officials in the city, urging them to recognise the public's rights. The Weibo account of Tong Zhiwei was suspended after the letter was published online. The letter is the latest outburst of public frustration at the harsh lockdown and treatment of individuals in Shanghai who tested positive or were found violating the public health measures.
- John Lee Ka-chiu has won the sixth-term election for the position of Chief Executive in Hong Kong after securing 1,416 support votes out of 1500 total votes. He is expected to take the oath of office on July 1st and occupy the post of Chief Executive for a period of five years. Lee was the former Secretary for Security in Hong Kong and served as chief secretary from June 2021 to April 2022. Hong Kong's election system now functions on the basis of 'patriots governing Hong Kong'. At a routine press conference of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spokesperson Zhao Lijian hit out at critics of the election process.
- A report by the Ministry of Natural Resources has pointed out that China has recorded the highest coastal sea level rise in ten years for 2021. Coastal sea levels rose by 3.4 mm per year from 1980 to 2020 and in 2020 sea levels along China's coast were 73mm higher than that of normal years, the highest since 1980. Marine

disasters in China like storm surges and sea wave disasters in 2021 caused economic damages worth \$ 459 million USD, accounting for 36% of the average economic loss over the last 10 years. Though temperatures of coastal waters dropped slightly in 2021, they were the highest on records and 0.84 degrees Celsius above the 1993-2021 average.

- The Chinese Navy's Liaoning Aircraft carrier group is conducting combat training exercises in the Sea of Philippines to the east of Taiwan to prevent potential interference in the event of a military operation to reunify Taiwan with the mainland. Meanwhile, the PLA also dispatched nearly 31 PLA aircraft sorties including various types of aircraft and warships to the west of Taiwan to surround the island.
- On May 8, at the 328th press conference on the COVID prevention and control work in Beijing, the deputy director of the Municipal Center for Disease Control and a member of the national COVID expert group Pang Xinghuo stated that from 0:00 to 15:00 on May 8, 22 new cases of local infection were registered. Since the press conference on May 7 that 39 new cases of local coronavirus infections (827 to 865 infected) have been added, including 16 in Fangshan District and 11 in Chaoyang District. There are 6 cases in Haidian District, 3 cases in Fengtai District, 1 case each in Mentougou District, Tongzhou District, and Changping District; 6 cases of common type, 12 cases of mild type, and 21 cases of asymptomatic infection. All of them are management and control personnel and have been transferred to designated isolation treatment hospitals. The relevant risk points and personnel are put under control.

India Watch

- For three consecutive days, the PLA aircraft carrier launched an "offensive and defensive" combat exercises near Taiwan. The Japanese Ministry of Defense said on the 6th that the formation of the PLA Navy aircraft carrier Liaoning, which went to the Western Pacific for training, conducted take-off and landing training for carrier-based fighter jets for three consecutive days. This news reminded the Taiwan side of the recent frequent activities of the PLA military aircraft near the island of Taiwan, and finally came to a terrifying conclusion that the PLA aircraft carrier is practicing offensive and defensive battles against the backdrop of Taiwan.