

13.06.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **On Chinese social media, a discussion on women's safety is sparked by gender-based violence:** After a girl was viciously beaten by a gang of men in Tangshan, Hebei province, debates over the protection of women in China erupted on Chinese social media. These attacks have been dubbed an "epidemic of gender-based violence" by many. Netizens were also outraged by the reporting of an incident that was referred to as a "clash" rather than an "attack."
- **After a tank-shaped cake comes on live, a Chinese influencer vanishes:** Austin Li, one of the most famous Chinese influencer was live streaming on June 4 when a tank like item, which was later identified as a cake, came on his broadcast. However, the show abruptly halted shortly after the tank came on screen, and Li Jiaqi went black on social media in the days that followed. Fans and media speculated that the online star may have run afoul of the Chinese regime, which has a history of being touchy when it comes to certain tank-related historical moments.

II. News in China

- China's defence minister accused the United States of "smearing" Beijing and claiming that Washington is attempting to "hijack" countries in the Indo-Pacific. Wei Fenghe, speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, said it is on to Washington to improve the fragile US-China relationship. "China seeks peace and stability, and is not an aggressor in the Indo-Pacific," he said, calling on the U.S. to "strengthen solidarity and oppose confrontation and division."
- As more Chinese competitors set up shop in the Southeast Asian country, Apple suppliers are competing for 160,000 Vietnamese labour. Chairman and CEO of Foxconn, Young Liu. Foxconn, Apple's leading iPhone manufacturer, claimed that its Chinese competitors were stealing its workers in Vietnam. There are 31 firms in Vietnam that manufacture and assemble Apple goods, employing 160,000 people. A talent war is brewing for the 160,000 Vietnamese workers who build Apple goods, with one of the country's top iPhone assemblers railing over how its Chinese competitors operate.
- Even as Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina prepares to open the historic China-built Padma bridge later this month, which promises to change the country's economy, Dhaka is treading carefully on Chinese economic support. According to an official source in Dhaka, the Hasina administration has rejected China's aggressive proposal for a high-speed Dhaka-Chittagong railway route. Bangladesh has been sensitive of India's security concerns, according to Indian authorities, despite allowing Chinese corporations to build projects in the nation.

- During the Shangri La discussion, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stole the strategic spotlight with his comment about Japan bolstering its military capabilities in the next five years, including a counter-strike option. As long as pacifist Japan wakes up to the threat posed by Communist China in East Asia, the term "counterstrike" has sent shockwaves across China. Nobuo Kishi, Kishida's defence minister, also chastised Japan's nuclear neighbours for holding and developing nuclear weapons as well as breaking laws. The declarations came in response to the danger posed by joint military drills between China and Russia employing nuclear bombers in the East China Sea on May 24, the same day as the QUAD meeting in Tokyo.
- According to the Beijing agency in charge of Hong Kong affairs, Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged Hongkongers to better integrate with the nation's growth in order to ensure the city's long-term stability and prosperity. The State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office commented on a congratulations letter Xi delivered to the pro-Beijing Ta Kung Pao on its 120th anniversary in a statement released on Sunday. Xi urged the publication to continue writing "splendid chapters of the Chinese nation's great revival, the Chinese dream, and the steady growth of 'one country, two systems'."

III. India Watch

- While China's strategic interests in India's neighbourhood have prompted Beijing to enhance its participation in the area over the last two decades, this has not been a completely unilateral choice. There has also been a desire from the nations to back Beijing's incursions throughout the years, which has operated as a "pull force." The perceived Indian predominance is one of the main reasons for China's growing influence in the area. With China's ascent, the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, and more Chinese participation in the region, nations began to see Beijing as an extra-regional power to counterbalance New Delhi. As a result, Beijing benefited the most from India's ties with its neighbours, where India's greater resources were likewise unable to secure New Delhi's regional interests.