

22.07.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY
Aakanshi Bansal (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **ByteDance, the owner of TikTok, spent a record \$2.14 million on lobbying in the US despite criticism of the app's privacy and security procedures:** ByteDance, a Beijing-based company, spent more on lobbying during the second quarter than it did during the first three months of this year. Legislators and officials have been looking more closely at TikTok because of the data privacy it offers US users.

II. News in China

- In response to a question today, Zhu Fenglian, a spokeswoman for the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, claimed that the DPP government has been manipulating politics for the selfish interests of one party for six years, plunging Taiwan into a perilous abyss. The "poisonous thorn" that the DPP authorities distributed instead of an "olive branch" for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations produced friction and instability.
- According to the Biden administration, China may attempt to create a no-fly zone over Taiwan in order to thwart Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Nancy Pelosi's visit. The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) warplanes would accompany Pelosi's flight over Taiwan, according to Chinese state-run media, creating a precedent for regular Chinese military flights over Taiwan.
- Due to recent catastrophic heat waves that have increased global mortality rates, Chinese experts have advocated for increased funding and adaptive measures to reduce the health concerns brought on by climate change. A discussion was held in Beijing on Wednesday, and Huang Cunrui, a professor at Tsinghua University's Vanke School of Public Health, stated that adaptation and mitigation are required to safeguard people's health from threats associated with the climate. However, he noted that among climate finance programs, existing support for health sector adaptation to climate change is incredibly little.
- The symposium on the 2022 Longjiang temporary cadres chosen by the Central Organization Department was presided over by Xu Qin, Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Party Committee and Director of the Standing Committee of the Provincial People's Congress, on the afternoon of the 20th. He emphasized that it is essential to follow the principles of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, diligently carry out the CPC Central Committee's decisions and arrangements, cherish opportunities, bravely take on missions, and gain new experiences in new roles and demonstrate new behaviours in accordance with the demands of the Organization Department of the Central Committee.
- The Taiwan High Court turned down a former Air Force officer's appeal for a retrial after he was given a four-year prison sentence for aiding China in its effort to recruit

spies, according to reports on Friday (July 22). According to CNA, there was no room for appeals of the most recent court ruling. The court argued that the former Lieutenant Colonel Tu Yung-shin had not presented any fresh proof or information compelling enough to reverse the earlier guilty finding.

- A gene that can dramatically increase the efficiency of photosynthesis and nitrogen utilization, as well as grain yield, has been discovered by Chinese researchers in crops including wheat and rice. The discovery, in the opinion of scientists, may offer a viable remedy for boosting agricultural production and resource efficiency, as well as help ensure the security of the human food supply. A team of scientists from the Institute of Crop Sciences within the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) made the finding, which was published online in the scholarly journal Science on Friday (Beijing Time).

III. India Watch

- After Tonga's volcanic eruption at the beginning of the year, fears of a "year without a summer" quickly subsided as early and intense heatwaves swept the globe. Since mid-June, Mainland China has experienced heat waves, with several cities experiencing temperatures above 40 degrees. More often than not, decision-makers must take into account how extreme heat and humidity may affect the elderly, children, and others who work outdoors. High storm surges from severe weather, like Typhoon Mangkhut, are predicted to occur more frequently in Hong Kong as these storms get stronger. Therefore, it is crucial for officials to increase their knowledge of and capacity for projecting the potential effects of these occurrences in order to increase the city's resilience in the face of a changing global environment.