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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Director of Beijing Municipal Health Commission fired:** Yu Luming was fired from the position of Director due to suspected serious violations of discipline and law. The 39th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 15th Municipal People's Congress undertook this decision. Yu is currently undergoing review and supervision.
- **The super popular 'Duck Duck Music Box':** As a part of its Children's Day promotional campaign, KFC China released a Pokemon themed package. There were four types of packages available, with varying prices. Each package came with a random toy. However, a 'Duck Duck Music box' gained immense popularity among citizens. Since KFC gave out the toys randomly, all the packages were sold out in stores, with customers trying to win the music box. Scalpers also took advantage and started selling music boxes at a high price. The music box attracted not only children but a large number of young adults. Cute and trendy 'IP products' often go viral in China. 'Chaowan', a type of 'collectible toy' created by artists or designers, is extremely popular.

## II. News in China

- President Xi Jinping met with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet. Xi talked about the history, culture of China, principles of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and human rights. He also pointed out that 'no one can claim perfection' regarding human rights protection. This was the first visit to China by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 17 years. Both sides discussed cooperation for joint efforts for the global human rights cause.
- The National Public Security System Heroes, Models and Merit Collective Commendation Conference was held on May 25th. President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang attended. The conference commended the national people's police and the national public security system.
- State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will embark on a 10-day visit to eight South Pacific island countries and Timor Leste. He will also have a 'virtual visit' with the Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands and Niue. Wang will chair the Second China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' meeting in Fiji. These visits to the countries aim to bolster the China-Pacific Island Countries community. All ten island countries have already signed Belt and Road cooperation documents and are willing to join China's Global Development Initiative.
- An audio recording was allegedly leaked from a secret meeting of the PLA, which revealed plans for a war with Taiwan. The audio was recorded in a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee of Guangdong. Some members of the PLA allegedly leaked it. The audio mentions China's military plans

for the South China Sea, Taiwan Strait, East China and First Island Chain. Instructions were also given to government levels in the Guangdong Military Region to change the priority from economic development to wartime footing.

- China and Russia organized routine joint air strategic courses over the seas of Japan, the East China Sea and the Western Pacific Ocean. China used an H-6K bomber, while Russia used a Tu-95MS bomber. The Russian Ministry of Defense released the video of the joint operation.
- China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing has announced the data for social logistics operations for the first quarter of 2022. There was growth in logistics demand for basic industries like agricultural products and energy mining. From January to April, the total national logistics amounted to 106.2 trillion yuan, with a year-on-year increase of 3.6%. Due to frequent COVID-19 outbreaks, total industrial logistics fell by 2.9% year on year.
- A new oil well with a daily output of 1000 tons of oil and gas was discovered in the Tarim Basin of northwestern Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The well is situated in the Fuman Oilfield, the main block for crude oil production in the Tarim Oilfield.
- The China-Myanmar New Corridor International Railway officially opened. The train loaded with machinery, equipment, electronics, auto, and motorcycle parts departed from Chongqing. The train will reach Myanmar after 15 days, covering 2000 kilometers. There are plans to connect this corridor to the China-Europe Railway Express, Chongqing-Manchurian Railway Express and the Yangtze River Golden Waterway.
- Students living in Shanghai are leaving for their hometowns, with universities encouraging and organizing the return as Shanghai is finally beginning to lift the lockdown. Many cities have announced free centralized quarantines for returning students. However, some towns require students to pay steep quarantine fees. Many students have opted to stay back due to vague return policies or finish their coursework.
- Zhihu, China's largest question and answer platform, has laid off multiple employees by using 'violent tactics'. Around 20% of the company's workforce across all business lines was affected. China's tech industry continues to be negatively affected by various factors. Tencent, which also finances Zhihu, reported its slowest revenue growth last week.

## India Watch

- Members of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.A met on Tuesday in Tokyo. Quad announced a new maritime initiative expected to monitor Chinese maritime activities in the Indo-Pacific. Statements by

the members mentioned that 'militarization of disputed features, dangerous use of coast guard vessels etc.' in the region will be opposed. QUAD also announced an Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative to support monitoring of Indo-Pacific waters, respond to humanitarian and natural disasters and combat illegal fishing. China has accused the QUAD of forming cliques and developing a cold war mentality.