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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

- **Alibaba to expand:** Alibaba will expand its international e-commerce operations and involve more local exporters in a collaborative push with Hangzhou, its home city. Their campaign reflects increased optimism following June, when China's exports outperformed forecasts, increasing 17.9% year over year to US\$331.3 billion.

II. News in China

- Joe Biden, the president of the United States, and Xi Jinping, the president of China, spoke over the phone for more than two hours on Thursday at around 8:30 p.m. Beijing time. One hour after the call, the Xinhua News Agency released a news release about it, and CCTV and People's Daily Online instantly forwarded it to their audiences. However, major Chinese portals like Sina did not feature a Xinhua News Agency story on the call between Xi Jinping and Biden on Friday. Only an article summarizing the "details of the call" was available; additional searches were required to get pertinent reports.
- According to the Ministry of National Defense, two People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) Xian JH-7 fighter bombers breached the southwest corner of Taiwan's ADIZ (MND). One Shaanxi Y-8 reconnaissance aircraft entered the southwest and southeast quadrants of the area at the same time.
- According to Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a representative for the Ministry of National Defense, the People's Liberation Army will resolutely crush any attempts at "Taiwan independence" or outside involvement. Wu made the statement in response to a question about recent allegations made by Taiwanese authorities that the PLA repeatedly breached the "median line" in the Taiwan Straits and "sabotaged regional peace and stability" at a news conference in Beijing on Thursday.
- The Communist Party of China's general secretary, Xi Jinping, presided over a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee on Thursday, July 28. He discussed the state of the economy and emphasized the need to stabilize the handover of buildings and people's means of subsistence. Economic concerns centered on the housing problem appear to be threatening China's overall status as the 20th National Congress approaches.
- Biden administration officials expressed fear that China will take military action that would have an impact on Taiwan within the next 18 months, including perhaps blocking the Taiwan Strait, in a report published by The New York Times on Monday (July 25).
- On July 27, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, President of the State, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission Xi Jinping visited the "Leading the Strong Army to Revival——" New Era National Defense and Military Construction -

Achievements Exhibition" at the Chinese People's Revolutionary Military Museum in honor of the 95th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. He emphasized that the CPC Central Committee and the Central Military Commission have made it a priority to realize the Chinese dream and the dream of strengthening the military since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, inspiring the entire army to further promote political building, reform, technology, talents, and law-based governance.

- When ASEAN foreign ministers gather in Cambodia the following week, efforts to promote sustainable development as part of Southeast Asia's recovery from the pandemic are likely to be high on the agenda. There will be additional sessions with the ASEAN Plus Three foreign ministers' meeting, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and other associated activities in Phnom Penh in addition to the ASEAN foreign ministers' conference.

III. India Watch

- Alibaba's Hong Kong listing opens the door to all Chinese investors. President Xi Jinping bemoaned this oddity, correctly arguing that everyone ought to be allowed to profit from the growth brought on by the country's tech leaders. The biggest online retailer in the world, Alibaba, intends to change that by expanding its New York presence and adding a principal listing in Hong Kong. The company that owns this newspaper, Alibaba, has a secondary listing in the city since 2019 and anticipates having its application for an enhanced presence approved by year's end. The action is in accordance with the rules of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, which permit dual primary listings for Chinese companies operating in the hi-tech or online industries. That presents an opportunity to cultivate "a bigger and more diversified investment base," as Alibaba noted yesterday. The value potential is enormous, with its shares five times more actively traded in New York than in Hong Kong. The ability of Mainlanders to trade in the company's shares will enhance Hong Kong's reputation as a financial hub. Other Chinese IT companies will undoubtedly copy Alibaba's innovative move, elevating the stature of Hong Kong's stock exchange. But it is also high time Chinese investors got a piece of the tech industry's success, which is fueling the growth and development of the country.