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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

· Chinese parents tell daughter, 34, marrying from pressure a bad idea; get praised on social media: In China, where the traditional norm is to force youngsters into marriage as soon as possible, a Chinese couple who went against the trend by not pressuring their 34-year-old daughter to get married has been praised. According to Sina News, the anonymous daughter from Shanghai, eastern China, was astonished when her parents told her they wished she could live the life she desired rather than being forced into an arranged or loveless marriage. Her parent's attitude has been admired on mainland social media, with several users stating that the parents are setting an excellent example for the people by not pressuring her into getting married. One social media user commented, "The parents are very open-minded, and the family atmosphere is really harmonious. I think the daughter will have a good parenting style."

NEWS IN CHINA

• PetroChina, one of the first Chinese corporations to join in Iraq's post-war rehabilitation, has developed a super-giant oil well and a bustling town in what was once a wasteland in the southern Iraqi province of Maysan. PetroChina's Halfaya oil field has already evolved into a mega complex covering 288 square kilometres, or three times the size of Paris. It is home to around 300 oil wells, three crude oil central processing facilities, two power plants, a water treatment plant, a civil airport, an office and living base camp, and a natural gas processing plant now under development. Iraqi employees have increased in number as the Halfaya project has grown. Aws Haitham, a local worker in charge of the company's



- training department, told Xinhua that the company presently employs over 1,600 lragis.
- Guiyang City's Epidemic Prevention and Control Site Disposal Provincial and Municipal Joint Headquarters issued an announcement stating that on Oct. 5, two medium-risk areas in Huaxi District. Guiyang City, will be adjusted to low-risk regions, indicating that all medium and high-risk areas in Guiyang have been cleared. Normalised prevention and control measures have been implemented. Based on the present situation of new crown pneumonia epidemic prevention and control, the catering in Xiuwen County, Xifeng County, and Kaiyang County of Guiyang City will be gradually restored in an orderly manner beginning on Oct. 5, following the study and decision of the Guiyang City Epidemic Prevention and Control Site Disposal Provincial and Municipal Joint Headquarters. A 50% current limit is in place for operating unit dine-in services.
- As of 5 p.m. on Tuesday (Oct. 4), the Ministry of National Defense (MND) was tracking nine Chinese military aircrafts and four navy vessels in the vicinity of Taiwan. According to the MND, one Shaanxi Y-8 anti-submarine warfare plane and one Shaanxi Y-9 electronic warfare plane were being tracked in the southwest corner of Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ). The Taiwan Strait middle line was not crossed by any PLA aircraft. Taiwan responded by sending combat patrol aircraft, navy ships, and land-based missile systems to monitor PLA planes and vessels and giving radio warnings.

- According to official data, China's software industry reported a 9.8 per cent year-on-year gain in business revenue in the first eight months. According to figures from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, revenue in this sector was 6.44 trillion yuan (approximately 907.07 billion US dollars) from January to August. During the period, companies in the industry earned 695.2 billion yuan in total profits, a 3.6 per cent increase year on year. During the period, China's software services exports totalled 34.4 billion US dollars, a 4.8 per cent increase yearly.
- The Thai Navy has renewed its efforts to negotiate with Chinese manufacturers about replacing the engine of a submarine it plans to purchase from China, with contract cancellation a conceivable option. According to analysts, if the contract is scrapped, it would be a big blow to the Chinese defence exports. Thailand's military failed to decide on the submarine contract during the tenure of former Navy Commander Somprasong Nilsamai, who was replaced in September by Adm. Choengchai Chomchoengpaet in an annual military reshuffle. The new commander has stated that he will seek another round of talks to see if a Chinesemade submarine engine can be utilised instead of the German engine that China is prohibited from purchasing from the Motor and Turbine Union (MTU). On Monday, Adm. Choengchai told reporters in Bangkok that he might send naval officials and specialists to China "to examine the engine" given by the China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Co. (CSOC) to see if it is suitable for use in the submarine.

INDIA WATCH

• Thailand and China have had strong relations since they were established in 1975. Not only do they have solid political ties, but they have deep military ties as well. Thailand has been buying military equipment from China and allowing China to influence the country, which is a problem for India while countering China in the region. To avoid this, India and Thailand have recently stepped up their defence cooperation in various fields, such as cybersecurity and exchanging personnel and expertise. Currently, India has the opportunity to improve its ties even further by offering Thailand diesel engines by building them or collaborating to build them. India's defence capabilities have been bolstered in the past few years, and it has begun exporting defence weapons to other countries. While India is progressing in the air-defence sector, helping Thailand will be a launchpad for the navy and other naval defence companies. India would be significantly benefitted from helping Thailand as it will improve India's influence and standing in the ASEAN region.