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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Condolences:** Xi sends <u>Egypt</u> a message of sympathy. Xi sent his personal condolences, as well as those of the Chinese government and the people, to the lost families, the injured, and those who were hurt in the fire. He also wished the injured a speedy recovery.
- Milling's statements: A UK minister urges China to look for a peaceful solution to the tensions in the Taiwan Strait. Tuesday, August 16, U.K. Minister for Asia as well as the Middle East Amanda Milling urged China to resolve the tensions in the Taiwan Strait peacefully. In a statement at the British High Commission in Wellington, Milling, who is now visiting New Zealand, stated, "We do not support any unilateral moves to change the status quo and we call on China to resolve cross-Strait problems by peaceful means." Milling promised that her nation would engage with other partners, such as the Pacific Islands Forum, and engage with New Zealand to preserve regional security and stability.

NEWS IN CHINA

• In Jinzhou City, Liaoning Province, Xi Jinping conducts checks and investigations. General Secretary Xi Jinping reviewed the background of the Northeast Liberation War and the historic win process of the Liao-Shenzhen Battle, listened to the flood control work in Liaoning Province, and made important instructions on performing well in flood control. He also examined the Liaoning-Shenzhen Battle Memorial Hall and the East Lake Forest Park in Jinzhou City, Liaoning Province. Zhang Xiaosong and Zhu Jichai are the text reporters; Ju



- Peng, Yao Dawei, Shen Hong, and Yan Yan are the photographers.
- Premier of China calls on economic giants to strengthen recovery. Tuesday, Chinese Premier Li Kegiang urged the nation's economic titans to make an effort to fulfil their obligations in terms of consolidating the economic recovery. Li made the comments in Shenzhen while serving as the moderator of a symposium on the state of the economy. Li is also a fellow of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. Leading representatives from Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong, Henan, and Sichuan, six key economic provinces, spoke either live or by video link. Li emphasized the need to support market entities, maintain pricing and employment stability, and ensure people's livelihoods. mentioning that the Chinese economy is undergoing a crucial stabilizing phase. Li urged the strengthening of big-ticket consumption, especially vehicle consumption, while fulfilling stiff house prices and the demand for housing improvement, saying that actions should be taken to encourage spending in these provinces, each of which has a sizable population.
- As per Chinese media by promoting the Inflation Reduction Act to stop China's rise in new energy, the US enters an
 "isolationist mentality." The Inflation
 Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), which US
 President Joe Biden is about to sign, is another "massive" law. However, analysts warned that the soon-to-be law, which exemplifies Washington's frustrated yet isolationist mentality, has a more obvious

- intention of limiting China's influence in the new-energy sector and may ironically end up only escalating its out-of-control inflation, further upsetting the global industrial chain, and impeding the Industry watchers noted that the bill, which came after the recently passed CHIPS Act, highlights how Washington felt it had been "intimidated" by China's rising technological prowess and its own inability to maintain its supremacy in new-energy vehicle (NEV) technology despite a raging tech war with China. A considerable portion of the primary battery components, including metals like lithium, nickel, and cobalt, must come from the US or other nations with whom it has free trade agreements in order for NEV manufacturers to be eligible for the tax credit.
- China will make it easier for African farmers and food importers, according to a spokesperson. A spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that China will encourage and help more distinctive, high-quality agricultural and food products from Africa enter the Chinese market. This would benefit both the Chinese and African populations directly. In answer to a question about the steps China will take to promote the importing of agricultural and food goods from African nations, spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the statement at a routine news briefing. Wang added that China is the second-largest market for African agricultural exports and that the Chinese government places significance on boosting agricultural relations with Africa and actively encourages the import of agricultural products from Africa. First,

applications for the importation of agricultural products from African nations into China should be prioritized. Second, on the basis of controlled risks, the risk assessments will be carried out in a combined manner for some agricultural products from the same nation with similar processing methods, or the same agricultural products from various countries, thereby accelerating the entrance process. Third, China will help African businesses that have been given the go-ahead to import agricultural goods register by using flexible techniques like video surveillance or document analysis to hasten the evaluation and registration procedure.

• Tuesday saw the arrival of a Chinese navy ship at a seaport in southern Sri Lanka that was built by Beijing after its port call had initially been postponed due to India's ostensible security concerns. Chinese and Sri Lankan government representatives welcomed the Yuan Wang 5 when it arrived at the Hambantota port. India, which is wary of China's expanding power in the Indian Ocean, may get alarmed by the development. The Yuan Wang 5 has been referred to be a "science research ship" by Sri Lanka, but there are concerns in India that the ship could be used to spy on the area. This is because the term "dualuse spy ship" has appeared in numerous media stories. The Yuan Wang 5 is a potent tracking craft with an estimated 750 km of aerial range. The carefully followed events involving the ship highlight the conflicting interests of regional heavyweights China and India in the small island nation. Due to Sri Lanka's strategic position in the Indian Ocean and close proximity to one of the

busiest shipping lanes, both nations have been vying for influence for more than ten years.

INDIA WATCH

• There have been fresh advances in the necklaces made of pearls in China and diamonds in India. The small island nation of Sri Lanka has discovered that a noose is tightening around its neck, in addition to broader problems like public insurrection and domestic upheaval. A steady and sustainable growth and recovery in the post-pandemic age depend on strong links with the economic juggernaut of South East Asia, and the debt trap is one of the more serious issues at hand. It requires India's backing to support it in front of the IMF. Sri Lanka must continue to answer to both allies and avoid appearing as though it wants to eat its cake and have it too. With the G20 summit standoff at Ladakh and now another nerve to press on, there may be escalations either in trade or strains between India and China. India will likely take retaliatory action in West Asia to establish control and equilibrium in this circumstance.