

writetous.orca@gmail.com

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

 Iran Denounces the US and other Western Countries", trends on Weibo: On September 16th, while visiting the city with her family, the 22-year-old Amini was detained by morality police in Tehran for reportedly not donning her hijab in accordance with the required dress code for women. Amini was reportedly violently beaten by police, according to eyewitness testimonies, before collapsing and being transferred to the hospital, where she passed away three days later. Protests also took place outside of Iran in other parts of the world. On Monday, during a rally outside the Iranian embassy in London, demonstrators and police officers got into a physical altercation. On September 22, Chinese news outlet The Observer posted about Amini's passing and the accompanying demonstrations on the social media platform Weibo, although the hashtag chosen to draw attention to the post was unrelated to Amini. Instead, it focused on the Iranian Foreign Ministry's response, which said that the US and other Western nations had taken advantage of the turmoil to meddle in Iran's internal affairs.

NEWS IN CHINA

• On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of <u>diplomatic relations</u> between China and Japan, Kong Xuanyou, the Chinese ambassador to Japan, noted that although the last 50 years only make up a small portion of the 2,000-year history of the interaction between the two nations, it is unquestionably a time when bilateral relations have grown the fastest, providing the most benefits to both peoples and having the biggest influence on the world. He emphasized, during an exclusive interview with the Global



Times (GT), that the meaning of China-Japan relations has never been limited to bilateralism but has also been strongly influenced by regional and global situations. He spoke about the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, the ups, and downs that he personally witnessed.

- <u>J-15 fighter jets</u> stationed on the Liaoning aircraft carrier were seen flying over what appeared to be an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer in a recent report by China Central Television (CCTV) honoring the 10th anniversary of the Liaoning's commissioning. The report sparked discussions on social media on Monday. Experts observed that when confronted with provocations by foreign forces, Chinese troops have the right to locate, track, monitor, and, if necessary, drive them away. They also noted that the operations of the Chinese airplanes were safe, competent, and compliant with international standards. Two J-15 fighter planes flew over a battleship at a secret location on an unreported date in a direction parallel to the latter's course, according to a CCTV report that was first released on Friday. According to observers, the US Navy operates destroyers of the Arleigh Burke-class, while nations like Japan and South Korea also have warships based on the Arleigh Burke class.
- A senior official from China's <u>Xinjiang</u>
 region said on Monday at the 51st session
 of the UN Human Rights Council that some
 Western nations have hidden agendas and
 ignore the enormous human rights
 accomplishment in the Xinjiang region of
 China in order to politicize and use human

- rights issues to destabilize the region and split China. According to Shawkat Imin, chairman of the standing committee of the Xinjiang region's People's Congress, China's Xinjiang region strictly abides by the principles of the Chinese Constitution on respecting and guaranteeing human rights, and believes that having a happy life is the most important human right, works to protect and improve people's standard of living, and advances the cause of human rights to achieve historic achievements.
- Mike Pompeo, a former secretary of state for the United States, spoke to a group of businesspeople from Taiwan in Kaohsiung on September 27 that he supports a trade agreement between the two nations, with the U.S. removing itself from supply chains in China and rerouting them to Taiwan. According to him, it should carefully cut its links to China and instead strengthen those with Taiwan. Trade cannot be genuinely free if a nation disregards the rule of law, intellectual property rights, trade agreements, and labor rights, Pompeo told the audience.
- Semiconductor manufacturer MediaTek Inc. announced on Tuesday (Sept. 27) that all of its offices worldwide will transition to renewable energy by 2030, and that it will achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The Hsinchu-based company stated in a news release that its chipset innovation and research and development for fabless semiconductor companies were already at the forefront of low-carbon emissions. MediaTek stated that its net-zero campaign has focused on green design, responsible supply management, energy conservation, and carbon reduction. As

part of the campaign, more than 50 offices in Asia, America, and Europe would switch to 100% renewable energy by 2030, including rooftop solar panels, green energy procurement, and more efficient energy conservation inside offices and factories. According to MediaTek Vice Chairman Rick Tsai, the next deadline would be 2050, with net-zero emissions likely to be achieved by then. In addition, the company claimed that its chipsets consumed 23% less power in 2021 than the previous year. According to MediaTek, the amount of electricity saved by the project was enough to power 170,000 Taiwanese households for an entire year.

• Countries with the largest <u>nuclear arsenals</u> should fulfill their special and priority responsibilities and significantly reduce their nuclear arsenals to create conditions for the eventual realization of comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament, said Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, on Monday. On Monday, the United Nations General Assembly held a high-level meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. As described by the UN, it provides an opportunity to educate the public and their leaders about the true benefits of eliminating such weapons, as well as the social and economic costs of continuing to use them. During the meeting, Geng stated that the complete prohibition and comprehensive destruction of nuclear weapons, as well as the eventual establishment of a nuclearweapon-free world, serve the common interests of humanity and are the shared aspiration of all countries. Certain

countries have been obsessed with "major power strategic competition" for some time, constantly strengthening military alliances, inciting conflict between parties, advancing forward deployment of strategic forces, and insisting on nuclear submarine cooperation. These actions increase the risk of a nuclear arms race and nuclear proliferation, stymie international nuclear disarmament efforts, and contradict the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and creating a nuclear-free world. "They should be fired right away," Geng said.

 According to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with leaders of ten European countries as well as the **EU's High Representative** for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, demonstrating the importance China places on the development of China-Europe relations. During his attendance at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from September 13 to Monday, Wang met with ten European leaders, dignitaries, and foreign ministers from Serbia, France, Malta, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Norway, Poland, Hungary, and Germany, as well as the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and had extensive, indepth, and frank discussions on enhancing mutual understanding, promoting practical cooperation, and addressing common challenges. These meetings and communications clearly demonstrated China's commitment to the development of China-Europe relations, he said. Wang stated that China and Europe, as two important forces in the multipolar world, should stick to the fundamental

positioning of mutual strategic partnership and maintain the momentum of mutual dialogue and communication. According to a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, dialogue and cooperation are the dominant aspects of China-EU relations, and mutual benefit and win-win cooperation are the hallmarks of China-EU cooperation. According to statistics, China-EU trade volume increased by 8.8 percent year on year from January to August 2022, and EU investment in China increased by 123.7 percent year on year. Wang Wenbin noted that the two sides achieved and reached a consensus on a number of issues, including macroeconomic policy coordination, supply chain cooperation in industrial chains, WTO reform, expanded market opening, implementation of the China-EU geographical indications agreement, animal and plant inspection and quarantine, two-way financial sector opening, and regulatory cooperation. He stated that China is willing to collaborate with the EU to be the two major forces for world peace, the two major markets for common development, and the two major civilizations for human progress.

INDIA WATCH

As China attempts to secure a trade agreement (<u>Comprehensive Agreement on Investment</u>) with the EU proposed in 2013, the agreement has yet to be signed and has been put on hold. In this situation, India should take the initiative and try to secure a trade agreement that will give it a first mover advantage, as well as try to capture the EU market and assist India in obtaining a GI tag for Indian basmati rice. Since the negotiations began in June 2022, it is a good opportunity for India because

the UK has withdrawn from the EU, leaving a gap in the EU's market as well as trade issues with China and Russia. India can accommodate their demand. Currently, India is the EU's 10th largest trading partner, accounting for 2.1% of total EU trade in goods in 2021, trailing China (16.2%), the United States (14.7%), and the United Kingdom (10%). In the last decade, trade in goods between the EU and India has increased by about 30%. The EU-India trade in services reached around \$30 billion. In contrast, the EU is India's third largest trading partner, accounting for €88 billion in goods trade in 2021, or 10.8% of total Indian trade, trailing only the United States (11.6%) and China (11.4%). The EU is the second-largest destination for Indian exports (14.9% of total), trailing only the United States (18.1%), with China ranking fourth (5.8%). As a result, India has a lot of room to improve and export more to the EU's massive market, and greater interdependence will lead to greater diplomatic leverage between countries.