【7.12】

**7.12每日一篇 | 外刊精读**

Durians：A **whiff** of **diplomacy**  
   
China is going crazy for durians. The government sees an opportunity  
   
【1】Eric Chan has long sold durians, a **pungent** fruit, to South-East Asians. Now he is eyeing a bigger prize. The Musang King **variety** that he cultivates in Malaysia is **beloved** by Chinese consumers. But at the moment his country only has **permission** to export **frozen** durians to China, where many want them fresh. In total, Chinese foodies **gobbled** up $6.7bn-worth of imported fresh durians last year, up from $4bn in 2022 and $1.6bn in 2019, the year durians **overtook** **cherries** as China’s largest fresh-fruit import by value.  
   
【2】Apart from a love of the fruit, two shifts help to explain China’s increasing **appetite** for durians. The first is the growth of the country’s middle class. More and more Chinese are able to afford durians, which are not cheap. An average one from Thailand, the **supplier** of much of China’s stock, can sell for around 150 yuan ($20). The Musang King **variety** can **fetch** up to 500 yuan each. (A **durian** is often big enough to be shared by two people.)  
   
【3】The high price puts some buyers off. For others, though, it adds to the appeal. Durians have become a status **symbol**, like a “fine wine”, says Mr Chan. Fans of the Musang King **variety** call it the “Hermès of durians”. The fruit is sometimes given as a gift at birthdays or weddings.  
   
【4】The second change is that in recent years China has opened up its market. Until 2022 it only let in fresh durians from Thailand (though it bought **frozen** ones from other countries). Since then fresh-**durian** sellers from Vietnam and the Philippines have **gained** access, having agreed to China’s **phytosanitary** requirements (which **prevent** the spread of **pests** and **diseases**). Malaysia is hoping to be next.Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading:Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished  
   
【5】China’s moves are in part a response to the increasing demand of its **citizens**. But some **observers** also see them as **strategic**. “**durian** **diplomacy**” is one of several ways China tries to **foster** **goodwill** in South-East Asia. It has **funded** big infrastructure projects in the **region** under its Belt and Road Initiative, including some that bring durians to its **doorstep**. And it is a **signatory**, along with most South-East Asian countries, to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a free-trade deal that came into force in 2022.  
   
【6】Meanwhile, Chinese farmers are looking to cash in on the action. The first **durian** trees in China were **planted** in 1958, say state media. They produced little fruit. Farmers in Hainan have been giving it another try. The island province is one of the few places in China with the right climate for **durian** **cultivation**. The farmers’ output is increasing, to perhaps 200 tonnes this year, according to reports. But self-**reliance** is a long way off. China imported 1.4m tonnes of durians last year.

**①短语**：

1.原文：In total, Chinese foodies gobbled up $6.7bn-worth of imported fresh durians last year, up from $4bn in 2022 and $1.6bn in 2019, the year durians overtook cherries as China’s largest fresh-fruit import by value.

词典: **gobble up很快耗掉某物；吞并，击垮**

例句：Hotel costs **gobbled up** most of their holiday budget.

旅馆住宿的费用耗掉他们度假预算的一大部分。

2.原文：The Musang King variety can fetch up to 500 yuan each.

词典: **fetch up to 达到**

例句：The painting is expected to **fetch up to** $400,000 at auction.

这幅画预计在拍卖会上能卖到40万美元。

3.原文：The high price puts some buyers off.

词典: **put off 使反感; 使对…失去兴趣**

例句：The high divorce figures don’t seem to be **putting** people **off** marriage.

高离婚率好像并没有使人们对婚姻望而却步。

4.原文：And it is a signatory, along with most South-East Asian countries, to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a free-trade deal that came into force in 2022.

词典: **come into force 生效**

例句：The volume is expected to slip as sanctions **come into force**.

随着制裁的生效，交易量预计会下滑。

5.原文：But this coincided with disputes over territory in the South China Sea.

词典: **coincide with 与……同时发生**

例句：The strike was timed to **coincide with** the party conference.

那次罢工选择在召开政党大会的同一时间举行。

6.原文：Meanwhile, Chinese farmers are looking to cash in on the action.

词典: **cash in on 利用（某事物）赚钱**

例句：Ticket prices are high and corporations and social media influencers **cash in on** festival themes.

门票价格高昂，企业和网红利用音乐节主题大赚一笔。

**②长难句**

原文：But at the moment **his country** only **has** **permission** to export frozen durians to China, **where** many want them fresh.

分析：本句包含一个定语从句。主句为“ **his country** only **has** **permission** to export frozen durians to China”；“**where** many want them fresh”为非限制性定语从句，where指代in China。

译文：**目前马来西亚只允许向中国出口冷冻榴莲，而许多中国消费者想要新鲜的榴莲。**

1. 原文：**It has funded big infrastructure projects** in the region under its Belt and Road Initiative, including some **that** bring durians to its doorstep.

分析：本句包含一个定语从句。主句为“**It has funded big infrastructure projects**”；“**that** bring durians to its doorstep”为限制性定语从句，修饰some，some指代infrastructure projects。

译文：**根据“一带一路”倡议，中国资助了该地区的大型基础设施项目，其中包括一些将榴莲运送到中国的项目。**

**③写作技巧：**

But self-reliance is **a long way** off.

**但自给自足还任重道远。**

短语：a long way 很长的距离

**英文中有很多与空间或距离相关的表达有其比喻用意。比如，本文中的a long way本义为“很长的距离”，可以引申为“很大的进步，很大的作用”。**

**Sth is a long way off本义为“距离某个地方很远”，可引申为“要实现某事还需要很多的努力；还需要很久”。**

**类似的表达还有：have a long way to go**

例句：The road to global traffic being totally electric is still a long way off.

全球交通完全电动化的道路还有很长的路要走。

**④背景知识：**

埃里克·陈居住在距离马来西亚首都吉隆坡90分钟车程的小镇劳布。曾经，“贫穷”是生活在劳布的榴莲种植者们的标签，他们经常开着卡车在马来西亚各处兜售价格低廉的榴莲。然而15年前，面对家人朋友的不解，埃里克放弃了高薪的IT职业、坚持改行，开了一家销售榴莲的公司。2011年，马来西亚开始以果肉、果酱的形式对华出口榴莲，2018年出口冷冻的整颗榴莲。如今，事实证明当年的他作出了正确的决定。

据新华社报道，在马来西亚总理安瓦尔19日为访马的中国国务院总理李强举办的“中马友好年”招待会上，李强总理就说道，中国连续15年是马来西亚最大的贸易伙伴，而马来西亚的榴莲、山竹等特色水果更是在中国成为“网红”商品。而马来西亚方面公布的数据显示，2022年榴莲占了马来西亚水果整体出口额的58.6%。而中国是马榴莲的主要出口市场，马来西亚对华冷冻榴莲出口总额从2018年的1.7亿林吉特（约合人民币2.6亿元）飙升至去年的近12亿林令吉（约合人民币18.5亿元）。正如马来语中一个与榴莲有关的词“durian runtuh”，字面上指的是掉落的榴莲，实际上指的却是意外之财。榴莲改变了当地榴莲种植者们的生活。

但马来西亚人依旧希望可以将非冷冻的新鲜榴莲出口到中国。用马来西亚农业及粮食安全部长拿督斯里穆罕默德萨布的话说，这将令超过6.3万名马来西亚榴莲种植者受益。

中国人对榴莲等东南亚水果的喜爱，不仅改变了马来西亚人的生活，也带动着更多东南亚国家的经济发展。每天，大约有1000个装有榴莲的集装箱从泰国的庄他武里府各地的包装厂离开，送上开往中国的货运列车。泰国媒体形容，榴莲在当地造成的交通拥堵堪比曼谷繁忙的十字路口。这一说法虽然略显夸张，但中国消费者对榴莲的需求的确让当地人忙碌起来。一家专营榴莲及榴莲制品的企业负责人纳塔克里特·埃姆斯库尔说，20年前，庄他武里府只有10家榴莲包装厂，现在却有600家。而埃姆斯库尔的公司计划于今年在泰国证券交易所上市，成为泰国榴莲行业上市的第一家企业。

数据显示，中国已成为仅次于美国的第二大新鲜水果进口国。饱满多汁的印尼山竹、芳香满溢的柬埔寨芒果、软糯香甜的越南香蕉……正搭乘着列车、货船以最快的速度来到中国，摆上货架，送上中国消费者的餐桌。而东南亚国家的果农们不用再担心水果的销路和当年的收益。

段落大意：

【1】中国消费者对榴莲的需求日益增长。

【2】原因之一是中国中产阶级的增长。

【3】榴莲已经成为一种身份的象征。

【4】原因之二在于近年来中国开放了市场。

【5】该举措部分是为了满足国民日益增长的需求，同时具有其战略意义。

【6】中国农民也想通过种植本土榴莲来获利。