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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **China's largest private women's and children's hospital network is now owned by TikTok owner ByteDance:** In competition with comparable services from Baidu, JD Health, and other companies, the TikTok owner's [healthcare arm](#) now operates an online medical consultation app, which runs eight hospitals across four Chinese cities, targeting expats and high-income locals. In June, Beijing-based Amcare, which operates eight hospitals across four Chinese cities, was acquired by ByteDance. In the middle of June, China's antitrust authority gave the merger its unequivocal blessing. During the Covid-19 outbreak, demand for online healthcare services has soared. By 2025, the internet healthcare business in China is anticipated to be worth 198 billion yuan (US\$29 billion).
- **Zhou Zhou is a Chinese woman who became popular on Weibo after going missing in Nigeria:** This week, the top [trending topic](#) on the Chinese social media network Weibo was Zhou Zhou, a Chinese woman who was seven months pregnant and was married to a Nigerian. After posting on social media on July 28 that she would leave China and join her African husband, Zhou Zhou caught the attention of internet users. Netizens worried that Zhou Zhou had vanished when she ceased posting on her social media platforms. The narrative of Zhou Zhou sparked a wave of reports on the alleged state of affairs in West Africa. Some people said Zhou Zhou would learn that her husband really had "multiple wives." In response, the Chinese Consulate in Nigeria stated that they would investigate the situation. The retort from

Zhou Zhou gained over 140 million views after going viral. They had already planned a check-up at a nearby hospital, she said, adding that her husband does not have multiple wives. She was frequently accused of being an "attention seeker" and of creating "a hype" on purpose.

NEWS IN CHINA

- When House Speaker Pelosi visited Taiwan, China had warned the US not to breach a "red line." The initial response from Beijing fell short of what some home viewers had anticipated. China's government has mobilised its state media to promote its response, calling the military exercises "unprecedented." It is thought that the former editor of the state-sponsored tabloid Global Times is a crucial figure in stoking nationalist sentiment. An authoritative assessment claims that "China's actions have matched the tone communicated by the administration." According to analysts, China's Hu Jintao has been used as a scapegoat for inciting online nationalism. Chinese social media users who had been disappointed by China's reception to Nancy Pelosi's visit had changed their minds. According to Alfred Wu, "Wolf warriors occasionally need to pay the price."
- Zhang Yiran is the daughter of Lu Yang, an outspoken Chinese poet. She has petitioned Chinese authorities to overturn her father, poet Lu Yang's, 'cruel' prison term. Her father was given a six-year prison term for urging Chinese leader Xi Jinping to resign in a social media video. Zhang called her father's sentencing "unjust and

cruel." Zhang: "This is an unfair, unjust and cruel sentence, and I urge all people of conscience to support my father".

- Alibaba experiences its first flat revenue growth since going public. On Thursday, the Chinese e-commerce behemoth's stock increased by more than 6% in New York. Retail sales for the company fell in April and May but have since rebounded. The CEO of the largest Chinese e-commerce company, Zhang Lei, tried to make the most recent results seem promising. However, he cautioned of a rocky path ahead, referring to broader economic threats. Recently, Alibaba has come under more scrutiny, especially since it was included on a significant US watchlist.
 - At the ASEAN foreign ministers' gala in Cambodia, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi walks out of the event. comes after China was criticised by the US and Japan for conducting military drills near Taiwan. Beijing responded by labelling Tokyo's "poor behaviour" about the matter as "disappointing." Wang Yi, the foreign minister of China, left a meeting of foreign ministers in Cambodia. His walkout was in response to criticism of China's military drills near Taiwan following Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the US House, visit to the island this week, which infuriated Beijing. During his discussion with Pelosi, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida made some "very bad" remarks, according to a spokeswoman for China's foreign ministry. Wang Yi, the foreign minister of China, left a Phnom Penh evening gala for foreign ministers. Then, when it was time for Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa
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Hayashi to speak at the meeting, he staged a second walkout.

- The Belt and Road Initiative is heavily integrated within Liaoning Province, maintaining open sea and land routes. Over the past ten years, the province's general regeneration has made significant progress. Shenyang is now the largest production base for BMW in the world thanks to investments from BMW Brilliance totaling about 83 billion yuan. Premier Zhang Gaoli says Liaoning wants to make fresh strides in all-around vitalization. The opening-up and coastal economic belt of the province is centred on Shenyang and Dalian. The combined economy of the six cities in the region was 1.35 trillion yuan in 2021.
- Wang Yi and Bui Thanh Son, the foreign minister of Vietnam, met in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The two diplomats met on the margins of a series of meetings to promote East Asian cooperation. They promised to intensify their mutual cooperation and move quickly into the next stage. According to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, China and Vietnam should increase their interactions and mutual learning. In order to fully realise their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, Wang stated that China is eager to cooperate with the Vietnamese side. Wang emphasised that the one-China principle has received support from almost 100 nations.
- One of China's main production hubs for summer grain is the province of Shandong. The province produced 26.41 million metric tonnes of wheat, a staple crop, up 0.2%

from the previous year. Due to flooding, approximately 70% of Shandong's wheat was planted after its expected date. Natural disasters such as flooding and drought are what farmers are most concerned about.

INDIA WATCH

- In the midst of an increasing number of foreign reactions to developments in the Taiwan Strait and tensions between the United States and China, New Delhi chose to maintain a "studied silence" on the developing scenario. At a critical juncture in border negotiations, India avoids controversy with China at a sensitive time in border talks. The Chinese army alone has over 900,000 soldiers, and PLA would be at least 300,000 to 400,000 soldiers. With this trend, the Chinese military can put boots on the ground on both. A report says China maintains 60,000 soldiers along the border with India. Even if these numbers hold just theoretically, China can still manage to conflict simultaneously. It means that there's no easing of the border standoff. In fact, the Taiwan drill serve as a reminder that China doesn't hesitate to start a war and that it only understands the language of strength, which means India needs to be prepared for a Chinese escalation. That's what India is trying to reach out to others, in the next few months, Indian forces will participate in several key exercises. In the month of October, India is hosting a drill with American troops at altitude of 10,000 feet in the state of Uttarakhand Hills. General Charles Flynn, U.S. Army Pacific, earlier in June said that working together as a counterweight to some of those corrosive
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and corrupted behaviours that the Chinese demonstrate. But this timing is interesting as Xi Jinping will seek a record 3rd term as the President of China in October, which would be overshadowed by the regional powers' military drills. Such as the US-Indonesia exercise Super Garuda Shield with 14 countries as observers includes Canada, France, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Korea.
