

7.9.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Weibo reacts to Zheng Shuang's account being closed:** Zheng Shuang's personal and studio Weibo accounts have been permanently closed building on China's continued entertainment industry clampdown. She has also been fined USD 46 million for alleged tax evasion; fans on Weibo have expressed concern for her.
- **Multiple Hanyu fan accounts freezed:** China continues to tighten the control of the "rice circle" and microblogs freeze multiple Korean entertainment fan accounts. Weibo's action comes against the backdrop of a widespread crackdown on celebrity cult by Chinese authorities.

II. News in China

- Afghan Taliban announced the formation of a new government and declared the establishment of the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan"; at the same time, the list of some government officials was announced.
- Movements of the Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhunzada have continued to attract attention from all parties. Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid has now told reporters at a press conference that the supreme leader of the Taliban, Ahunzada, would lead the country as an "Emir". In Atta's leadership structure, Ahunzada is at the top. Ahhunzada has kept a low profile for several years, and the outside world knows little about it. On August 29, a Taliban spokesperson rarely disclosed that Ahunzada has been living in Kandahar, an important city in Afghanistan, and will soon appear in public.
- Zhao Leji held a video meeting with Chen Jinxiu, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, and director of the Central Inspection Commission.
- Five senior Chinese officers were promoted to the rank of General in a ceremony in Beijing on Monday. President Xi Jinping and the China Military Command vice chairmen were present. The promoted officers are: Commander of the Western Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army Wang Haijiang; Commander of the PLA Central Theater Command Lin Xiangyang; Commander of the PLA Navy Dong Jun ; Commander of the PLA Air Force Chang Dingqiu ; President of the PLA National Defence University Xu Xueqiang.
- A symposium was held in Beijing on Monday to mark the publication of the study outline for Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in attendance.

III. India Watch

- As highlighted by Zabiullah Mujahid in his interview with a Chinese reporter (see our report from 6.9.21), the Taliban are banking on external media communications via Chinese newspapers and media houses. Continuing with that fashion, Chinese media like Guancha, Global Times and more have re-started (initial attempts at the time of the immediate fall of Kabul and return of Taliban had backfired amongst Chinese public, see our reports from end of August) attempts at painting the Taliban in a more acceptable light to the people. Profiling of Taliban leaders such as Ahunzada as capable of building Kabul forward --while making room for China's own expectation of the Taliban that it will move away and limit terror activities -- has seen focus. See this excerpt from [Guancha](#) on Ahunzada: "In Arabic, Ahunzada's first name "Haibatura" means "gift of Allah". According to an earlier report by Reuters, Ahunzada is a scholar of Islamic law. Unlike the previous leader, Akhtar Mansour, Ahunzada is not a warlord, but a scholar of Islamic law."
- General Wang Haijiang is now the fourth person to lead the Western Theater Command since December 2020 which overlooks the boundary with India, Nepal and Bhutan. Such quick developments and changes in command structure have also built an aura of secrecy around who is actually heading the WTC.