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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Kenyan President-elect Ruto received a congratulations message from Xi Jinping:** William Samoy Ruto received a phone call from President Xi Jinping on September 7 to congratulate him on becoming the President of the Republic of Kenya. The friendship between China and Kenya has a rich history, and current cooperation in a number of areas has produced successful outcomes, according to Xi Jinping. He said he places a high value on the improvement of Sino-Kentan ties and was ready to collaborate with President Ruto to advance the creation of a Sino-Ken-Ken-Ken-Kan comprehensive strategic alliance for the benefit of the two nations' respective populations.
- **The Chinese premier wishes the new British prime minister well:** Liz Truss received a congratulatory message from Chinese Premier Li Keqiang congratulating her on her appointment as prime minister of the United Kingdom. Li stated in his message that the development of healthy and stable relations between China and Britain is consistent with the strategic interest of the two peoples, and that China is prepared to cooperate with Britain to move the bilateral relationship forward along the correct path toward long-term consistency on the basis of respect, equality, and mutual benefit.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Taiwanese pro-independence organisations have urged election candidates to sign commitments to never capitulate in the scenario of a Chinese invasion. The opposition

Kuomintang (KMT) came under fire from the World United Formosans for Independence (WUFI) for sending its vice chairman Andrew Hsia on a tour of several Chinese cities and provinces during military saber-rattling from Beijing sparked by the visit of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan on August 2-3. Following the visit to the island, there were several days of PLA military operations in the area around Taiwan. Beijing maintains that Taiwan must be "unified" with China, using force if necessary. Following his naturalisation as a Singaporean citizen, the founder of a significant Taiwanese tech giant reapplied for Taiwanese nationality, claiming he wanted to aid in the effort to counter the military threat from Beijing. The 1911 Republic of China, that has governed Taiwan since it ceased being a Japanese dependency after World War II, has regained its passport, thanks to billionaire Robert Tsao, the founder of United Microelectronics Corp. (UMC), who expressed his hope that all will safeguard Taiwan against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

- After a 6.8-magnitude earthquake, China initiates a rescue operation in southwest Sichuan. According to the most recent official Chinese statistics, the 6.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Luding county on Monday left at least 66 people dead and 253 more injured. Emergency crews in the southwest Chinese province of Sichuan raced to evacuate and help thousands of victims. On Tuesday, the front pages of state-run media outlets prominently emphasised the appeal for "all-out rescue operations... prioritising preserving lives and limiting losses" made

by the leader of the governing Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Xi Jinping. The epicentre, which was found to be 200 kilometres (124 miles) from Chengdu, the provincial capital, according to a resident of Moxi Township, was found to be a few kilometres outside of the town in the Hailuoguo scenic tourism area.

- Before Liz Truss became the new British prime minister, Chinese state media attacked her for saying that China poses a serious threat to national security. In a poll among the party's members, Truss defeated former chancellor Rishi Sunak and was chosen as the party's leader on Monday despite a cost-of-living problem. After seeing Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday, she replaced Boris Johnson as prime minister. The British government experienced a power vacuum during the two-month leadership race as elected Boris Johnson travelled for at least two trips abroad after resigning in response to a wave of resignations from other ministers. Tens of thousands of employees are on strike right now for pay and working conditions that keep up with the rate of inflation, which is above 10%. During Nancy Pelosi's visit to the United States on August 2-3, Foreign Secretary Truss, who has shown her respect for the late former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, called China's ambassador to the U.K. for crisis talks on Beijing's military aggressiveness against Taiwan.
 - Xi pushes for significant technological advances. In order to remove barriers impeding the nation's development and to acquire a strategic advantage in important fields, President Xi Jinping stressed the
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necessity of mobilising all of the nation's resources on Tuesday. Xi made the comments while ruling over a session of the Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform. Xi is also the secretary general of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the chairman of the Central Military Commission. He leads the commission as well. He emphasised the necessity of concentrating on the country's strategic demand in the scientific field, optimising resource allocation for technological innovation, enhancing the country's strategic powers in science and technology, and significantly increasing the country's capacity for overcoming the challenges in technological progress. In order to expand their significance in fostering the country's high degree of technical independence and self-reliance, Xi called for giving academicians' roles in science, technology, and engineering full play.

- Leading Chinese lawmaker calls for increased parliamentary communication across BRICS. Li Zhanshu, the head of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, urged the BRICS nations' legislatures to actively participate in strengthening the group's unity and expanding cooperation on Tuesday. Li spoke at a parliamentary meeting of the BRICS while presiding over it via video link. Li stated that China's NPC is prepared to expand cooperation with the national parliaments of the BRICS countries in order to encourage the growth of collaboration and make a contribution to the recovery and feasible development of the global economy. Li noted that the cordial

transactions between national parliaments have provided legal assurances and government initiatives to BRICS cooperation. Li urged the BRICS nations' legislatures to preserve fairness and equity in order to preserve peace and security. In order to hasten the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, he further urged all parties to keep improving coordination. Li emphasised the significance of legislative body exchanges for BRICS cooperation and advocated for active expansion of these exchanges as well as more dialogue on state governance and higher-quality legislation.

INDIA WATCH

- According to Chinese commentators, the BRICS countries' economic hardship has been resulting in domestic political shifts, which in turn have weakened their shared identity, position, and zeal to continue developing the cooperation mechanism. For instance, South Africa and Brazil, which have mediocre economic performance and uncertain internal political environments, are reluctant to pursue the BRICS agenda because they feel it will limit their ability to pursue their national interests abroad. The industrialised economies of the West, represented by the US, are gradually beginning to show signs of recovery post the pandemic. The US has started making efforts to reclaim its status as the world's economic leader while still holding a leading position in a fresh phase of technical advancement and industrial transformation. China believes that restricting the BRICS process to its initial five members will further diminish its overall international power and its right to
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speak at international platforms at a time when the BRICS countries' collective strength has been deteriorating and they are facing competitive pressure from conventional developed country-led cooperation mechanisms. China is therefore interested in increasing the number of BRICS members.
