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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## NEWS IN CHINA

- President [Xi Jinping](#) addressed a telegram to the 36th African Union Summit on February 18 in which he warmly congratulated the nations and people of Africa. In the past year, the AU, according to Xi Jinping, has brought African nations together and taken the lead, actively responded to global challenges, accelerated the creation of the African Free Trade Area, played a significant role in mediating problems in African hotspots, and driven the continuous advancement of Africa's international status and influence. He expressed a desire to work with the leaders of African nations to advance friendly relations between China and Africa, closely coordinate and collaborate on issues of a global and regional nature, and advance the development of an elite China-Africa community with a shared destiny.
- Five financial institutions, including Bank of China, Minsheng Bank, Bohai Bank, China Construction Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank China Co., Ltd. Yuan, were subjected to [administrative punishment decisions](#) after the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission thoroughly investigated and dealt with a number of legal and regulatory violations. According to the Chinese Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, major violations of prudent operating norms in loan management, misuse of loan funds, and falsified statistics are the main focus of legal and regulatory offences. The illicit issue of mortgage loans and the unauthorised flow of credit card money into securities firms are further examples of China Construction Bank's transgressions of rules and regulations. In response, the five banks claimed that the sanctions were based on issues found by the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission during relevant inspections in 2019. As of right now, all

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corrections have been made in compliance with legal requirements, and those in charge of the related duties took it seriously.

- The official opening of the 2023 Zhongyuan Financial Forum took place on February 18th . The meeting saw the announcement that Zhongyuan Bank intends to hire Li Xunlei, chief economist of Zhongtai Securities, Ma Jun, director of the Green Finance Professional Committee of the China Society for Finance and Banking, and Ren Zeping, an independent economist and vice president of the China Private Economy Research Association, as its chief economists. Ren Zeping has been referred to as the "Internet celebrity economist" throughout his career. Every time he assumes a new position because of the ongoing scandal that has followed him over the years, a lot of outside attention is paid to him.
- The Xinjiang Guanghui Basketball Club responded with a statement on February 18, 2023, Beijing time, in reaction to the Chinese Basketball Association's determination that the Xinjiang Men's Basketball Team's registration was unlawful. The Chinese Basketball Association was requested to reverse its judgement after Xinjiang Guanghui claimed that the team had not broken any of the "Chinese Basketball Association Registration Management Measures." The Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) made the official announcement on February 17 that the Discipline and Ethics Committee of the CBA had issued a notice regarding the punishment of Xinjiang Guanghui Basketball Club Co., Ltd., affirming that Xinjiang Guanghui had violated

registration laws and imposing a fine of being prohibited from introducing domestic players for a year.

- In a meeting with European Union foreign affairs chief, Josep Borrell on Saturday outside of the conference on international security in Munich, Wang, the former foreign minister of China who is now in charge of the Central Foreign Affairs Committee of the Communist Party, emphasised that China and the EU were not "rivals". According to the Chinese foreign ministry, Wang added that "both sides should maintain openness and cooperation, resist decoupling and work together to maintain the stability of the global production and supply chain". China has made appeals for deeper ties with the EU following the pressure from the West in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Beijing has presented itself as being impartial and has refrained from criticising the invasion.
  - Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN, stated on Friday that NATO should make a good contribution to world peace and stability rather than merely causing difficulty. The ambassador emphasised that, in essence, the security concerns in Europe that have culminated in the Ukraine crisis are directly tied to NATO's ongoing eastward expansion since the end of the Cold War. He urged a broad and in-depth discussion between the US, EU, and NATO and Russia. Zhang emphasised the significance of strictly upholding international treaties and carrying out legal duties in a fair and honest manner, pointing out that these are the fundamental tenets of the rule of law.
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- The second joint maritime exercise between the warships of China, Russia, and South Africa will take place in the sea and airspace east of Durban to Richards Bay in South Africa from February 20 through February 27, according to a weibo post from the [Ministry of Defense](#) on February 19. Joint Actions to Protect the Safety of Shipping and Maritime Economic Activity is the subject of the joint exercise. The Huainan, Rizhao, and Hoh Xil Lake ships were sent by China to take part in the 42nd round of escort missions in the Gulf of Aden. The BRICS countries' defence and security cooperation will be further advanced by this joint exercise, which will also improve everyone's capacity to jointly uphold maritime security.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Husband douses wife with acid:** A woman who experienced domestic abuse has spoken up on social media about the [horrific acid attack](#) that left her permanently scarred. A 31-year-old woman called Zhang and her husband, Xu Zhong, got into a fight on January 14, 2023, about their marriage in Kaihua County in Quzhou, Zhejiang. On February 18, the subject became popular on the Chinese social media sites Weibo and Douyin. Around 82 million people saw the Weibo post titled "Husband Splashes Wife with Acid, Gets Detained for Ten Days".
- Trapped white stork escapes after being rescued: Recently an [oriental white stork](#) was discovered imprisoned on an electrical power tower in Yancheng, Jiangsu. After being saved by members of the local

power supply business, public safety personnel, and rescue stations, the oriental white stork was successfully released and given additional care. The "Chinese Treasure of Birds" is the oriental white stork, a first-class national key protected wild animal. Weibo users have been hailing the front-line power workers for their bravery after the rescue footage went viral there on Sunday.

## INDIA WATCH

- China made no attempt to sever ties with Moscow following Russia's invasion of the Ukraine. In fact, it confirmed Moscow's claim that NATO's provocations led to the invasion. That hardly made Europeans happy. There have been other skirmishes in the Europe-China relationship before the Ukraine crisis, such as when China suddenly cut off trade with Lithuania and imposed sanctions on European legislators, think tanks, academics, and committees in retaliation for the European Union (EU) imposing some sanctions on Chinese government officials linked to horrendous human rights abuses suffered by Uighurs in Xinjiang. India can benefit from Europe's shift in policy towards China. Supply chains around the world are beginning to branch out from China. India would tremendously benefit from improved access to Western finance, technology, and markets for goods, services, and labor. Transfers of defense technology in particular would significantly increase India's ability to deter Chinese expansion. Hence, New Delhi would benefit most from an agreement between India and the West in which each contributes in some way to fulfilling the objectives of the other. A bright omen in this regard is Europe's weakening relationship with China.
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