

**WEEKEND ISSUE**  
**20.11.21-21.11.21**

*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON**  
**CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Diplomatic ties with Lithuania downgraded:** CCTV, on a Weibo post, explained that China has downgraded its ties to Lithuania after a Taiwan representative office was opened in Vilnius, Lithuania's capital.
- **Peng Shuai returns to the public eye:** Attending a teenagers tennis tournament, Peng Shuai was seen waving to the audience in a video clip posted on Weibo by Global Times. After concerns for her safety flared on social media and the global community, video clips of Peng Shuai having dinner with her friends also emerged, calming safety concerns.

## II. News in China

- Peng Shuai spoke to the International Olympic Committee via video call, stating that she is safe. The concern for her safety came after she seemingly disappeared after posting on Weibo alleging sexual harassment by a high-ranking Chinese political leader.
- Harsh working and living conditions of Vietnamese workers in Serbia emerged while constructing China's Shandong Linglong Tire Co facility. The tire facility was already under scrutiny by environmentalists for the pollution it could emit and now has been criticised by human rights activists. Miso Zivanov, a human rights activist of Zrenjaninska Akcija (Zrenjanin Action) nongovernmental organization, stated that the workers' documents were taken away and they have not been paid their salaries. Additionally, these workers receive no medical attention.
- A new study published found that the first case of symptomatic COVID-19 can be traced to a female vendor in China's meat market in Wuhan. The study published found discrepancies in WHO's findings. The study was led by Michael Worobey, the Head of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona and a leading expert in tracing origins and evolutions of viruses.
- China-Africa cooperation and ties continue to expand. The upcoming Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation will take place next week and is expected to reveal plans to be implemented between China and Africa until 2035. The US has also been ramping up efforts to expand ties with Africa, signing contracts worth \$1 billion and \$2.17 billion with Senegal and Nigeria respectively.
- John C Aquilino, the Head of the US Indo-Pacific Command, stated that US and its allies need to recognize China's assertive military actions and work together in order to operate simultaneously more efficiently.

- Alibaba, Baidu, Tencent, and E-Commerce platform JD.Com Inc and Suning were fined by China's Market Regulator for violating anti-monopoly laws.

### **III. India Watch**

- Africa plays an important role in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As the continent continues to receive foreign aid and funds from China, China continues to expand its sphere of influence and encircle India. The West and India will need to take coordinated efforts to bring Africa into its circle, as neither India nor the United States alone can match up to China's economic might. Combined with taking coordinated military actions, taking coordinated economic efforts will also play a vital role in countering China. For India, reinvigorating the India-Japan bilateral focused on Africa connectivity is crucial.
- The recent findings into the origins of COVID-19 are likely to bring global scrutiny and cautiousness back to China. However, it will also bring the same to the WHO and subsequent international institutions that defended China, therein leading to doubts regarding their authenticity as international structures.