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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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## NEWS IN CHINA

- China urged Israel not to encroach upon Palestinian land and resources. Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) told the UN Security Council, that China urges Israel "to stop encroaching upon the land and resources of the Palestinian people". He also emphasised that illegal expansion on the occupied territories must be stopped as it violates international law and the UNSC Resolution 2334. The Chinese envoy stressed on upholding the status quo in the region, that of the holy sites and the international humanitarian aid. He reiterated that China will continue to support the cause of Palestinian people.
- According to the China-CELAC Private Sector Forum held in Dongguan, Guangdong Province, the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region is currently the second largest destination for China's investment overseas. The trade between China and the LAC region has reached around 485 billion US dollars in the year 2022. According to Xu Lejiang, the executive vice chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), China aims to pursue high-quality development to create more opportunities in the LAC countries and around the world. He said that the Chinese private enterprises operating in the LAC region must contribute to the growing friendly relations between China and the LAC countries.
- China installed at least three buoys near the Spratly Islands in the disputed waters of South China Sea. The Chinese Ministry of Transport announced that the buoys were placed near the Irving Reef, Whitsun Reef and Gaven Reef in the Spratlys area for purposes of navigation safety and maritime operations. The buoys were deployed by the South China Sea Navigation Safety Centre. However, the Ministry has not revealed when the installations were made. China's deployment of buoys is speculated to be a reaction to a similar deployment by the

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Philippines though no mention of Philippines actions were found in the official statements of China.

- At the SmartHK Forum held in Guangzhou, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, John Lee said that Hong Kong aims to enhance mutual cooperation with Guangdong and to achieve high-quality growth that will help in the integration of economies in the Greater Bay Area. Wang Weizhong, the governor of Guangdong, said that Guangdong provides great opportunities for domestic as well as overseas companies including those based in Hong Kong.
- The Third Belt and Road Energy Partnership Forum started in the city of Xiamen in Fujian Province. The theme for the forum is “Stepping towards High-quality Energy Development”. The forum was held in both online as well as offline modes. Invitations were extended to the representatives of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries, financial institutions, research institutes, think-tanks and universities. The keynote address stressed on strengthening of high-quality BRI energy cooperation and addressing the challenges in energy development collectively. The event was organised by China’s National Energy Administration.
- A plan for the development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region was jointly unveiled by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the local governments of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei. According to the plan, the aim is to significantly improve the level of

coordinated development of industry in the region by 2025. The MIIT said that the coordinated industrial development in the region has yielded landmark achievements. The Ministry also said that the region's business environment will be improved by strengthening the measures and coordination of factors involved.

- A new method for treating celiac disease was developed by an international research team of researchers from China, Pakistan and other countries, stated Gansu Province’s Lanzhou University. The research work was published in the journal, Food Research International. Aman Khan, leader of the study and a Pakistani postdoctoral fellow at Lanzhou University, said that celiac disease is an immune disorder that is triggered by the indigestion of gluten that is common in Asian countries because of the consumption of food made from flour. Li Xiangkai, Aman’s advisor and a professor with the environmental microbiology group under Lanzhou University, said that the new solution will be a “therapeutic adjunct agent” that will help treat celiac disease.
  - The senior officials of the Communist Party of China (CPC) met with the delegation of the Bangladesh ruling party. The delegation of the Awami League met with the head of the International Department of the CPC) Central Committee, Liu Jianchao. Muhammad Faruk Khan, a presidium member of the Awami League and the chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, led the Bangladeshi delegation. There were discussions and exchange of views on key issues like strengthening the
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communication between China and Bangladesh, nation-building and peace and stability in the region.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Discussion on Weibo about a girl who died from anorexia trends:** #15岁女孩减肥仅24.8kg去世 trended on Weibo as Chinese netizens react to the death of a 15 year old girl who weighed only 24.8 kilograms. According to the girls' father, she had not eaten anything and drank only water for around 50 days and had consistently lost weight. The doctors had diagnosed her with anorexia nervosa. She was admitted to the ICU for more than 20 days but was not able to survive. #那个为爱减肥的广东少女走了 was used by the users online to comment that the Guangdong girl is gone. Netizens reacted to the news saying that eating disorders and anxiety related to aesthetics are a result of celebrity diets that trend in China.

## INDIA WATCH

- China's increasing engagement with South Asian countries like Bangladesh increases India's security concerns. India and Bangladesh share cordial ties which are carefully cultivated and rooted in shared history, culture, language, and ideologies. However, in recent years, ties between the two countries have been under strain due to issues like India's Citizenship (Amendment) Act; dam construction over the Teesta river; and China's burgeoning presence in the region. China has gained a strategic edge through its vaccine diplomacy, trade diplomacy and the Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI). China has been making large investments in infrastructure and economic sectors in Bangladesh. China waived off tariffs on several products from Bangladesh and also seeks to provide Bangladesh with assistance in constructing a canal network and river management of Teesta. China is constantly trying to engage in India's neighbourhood to increase its influence. China's growing presence is a concern for India as it threatens India's interests in the region. Several scholars in the field also believe that China's infrastructure investments in Bangladesh are a part of its 'encirclement strategy'. India closely observes such developments in its neighbourhood and has made attempts to counter China's increasing influence through its policies. For example, India gives great importance to Bangladesh in its Act East policy. Though many believe that the China factor in its relations with Bangladesh is of great concern to India, which is also evident from India's policy decisions, some scholars believe that the "China factor" or its role in Bangladesh is "being somewhat overplayed".

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