

28.7.21

*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

- **Weibo celebrates China's Tokyo wins, but cyberbullying for some athletes abounds:** Tokyo Olympics are dominating Chinese social media with China ranking 1st on the live medal table on the 5th day of Olympics. However, some Chinese female athletes like Wang Luyao (who was a favourite to win women's air-rifle but failed to make it to the finals) and Yang Qian (sport shooter who won China's first gold medal at the 2020 Olympics but is being attacked over her huge Nike shoes collection).
- **Patriotic consumerism rises amidst flooding and Olympics:** With Western brands boycotting cotton from Xinjiang in March 2021, triggering a wave of 'patriotic brand' consumerism, the current wave is also being pushed by the Olympics and the Henan flood, with domestic brands such as Erke (鸿星尔克) becoming popular for their flood relief donations.
- **China #meToo movement gains traction post Weibo post from last week calling out Chinese singer:** China's entertainment world was shaken by 18 year old Du Meizhu's accusation that 19 year old singer-actor-model Kris Wu. This week, as international brand sever ties with Wu, China's #meToo movement seems to be beginning with Meizhu's Weibo post having over 7.3 million likes.

## II. News in China

- People's Daily carried on the front page the first in a series of articles that are set to provide the mid-year review of Chinese economy. The articles lists China and the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) success in maintaining a strong economy; the articles are essentially an exercise in presenting positive narration of the CCP's work. Important areas covered are Mars rover Zhurong, the Shenzhou mission, third-generation nuclear power unit Hualong No. 1 beginning commercial operations, the Baihetan hydropower project, and GDP rising by 12.7% year-on-year.
- Wang Yi met with Mongolian Foreign minister Batmunkh Battsetseg in Tianjin while Wei Fenghe met Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. These state-visits are providing interesting insight into China's Middle Eastern, East Asian and Central Asian foreign policy.
- Coverage on floods in major Chinese newspapers has receded to middle pages; for example, in People's Daily, the only news on the same is on page 4 where also it is just a piece on the release of RMB 3 billion by the Chinese Finance Ministry for flood relief and reconstruction operations.

- The China Association of Journalists held the 149th news teahouse in Beijing. Zhang Yun, former director of the Institute of History of the China Tibetology Research Center, was invited to exchange questions and answers with reporters at home and abroad on the theme of "Development and Change in Tibet". Such focus on Tibet continues in light of Xi's visit to Lhasa.

### **III. India Watch**

- Especially with Mongolia, India must note the interesting outreach China has done over the past couple of weeks. First, Xi spoke to Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, then Wei Fenghe met with the Defense Minister and now Wang Yi has met the foreign minister.
- Two motorcycle gunmen on a road in Karachi, Pakistan, opened fire on a vehicle belonging to a Chinese citizen. This follows the Kohistan terror attack which China is pushing Pakistan to strongly investigate on. Recent reports in Chinese official media have condemned Uighur militants or the Pakistani Taliban as behind the attack.
- China has recently received a high-profile delegation of the Afghan rebel Taliban, and US Secretary of State Brinken, who is visiting India, is also paying close attention to the situation in Afghanistan and China while strengthening relations with India. Taliban spokesman Mohamed Naim said that the two-day visit began on Tuesday with the nine-member Taliban delegation being led by Taliban's top political commissioner Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. India must focus on building a stronger Afghanistan outreach before China fills the power-vacuum left by the US post withdrawal.