

18.8.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Public opinion over Taliban remains divided as videos from Afghanistan emerge:** In continuation with our assessment from yesterday, public opinion in China over the Taliban has remained divided, inching more towards anti-Taliban sentiment as videos of people trying to leave Afghanistan emerge from Kabul airport. Focus is now also going on the future of women and girls in Afghanistan under Taliban.
- **Hashtags like #whatshappeninginMyanmar trend:** As pro-democracy protests sweep Myanmar, Weibo is seeing an increasing number of posts on the situation with hashtags like #saveMyanmar seeing rapid censoring.

II. News in China

- Speaking at the 27th National Conference on Party Building in Colleges and Universities, Wang Huning talked about the goal of promoting "party building and ideological and political work in colleges and universities" with the aim of cultivating "socialist builders and successors".
- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying has stated that "China encourages the Afghan Taliban to pursue a moderate and prudent religious policy" while hoping that "Afghan regime will make a clean break with all kinds of international terrorist forces" with a special focus on East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM).
- After a break (which coincided with what we believe was the time of Beidaihe meeting --read older newsletters for more information) Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian's regular press conferences have once again started. He has stated China expects the Afghan Taliban to establish "an open and inclusive political structure through dialogue and consultation". Importantly, he also stated clearly that "international practice is that if you want to recognize a government, you must first wait until the government is formed".
- As the Fort Detrick coronavirus theory grows, People's Daily Online has reported that American scientists have been studying artificial coronavirus synthesis technology for a long time (in-depth observation) citing American academician Ralph Barrick.
- China's Science and Technology Daily has published an article that talks about how China is expected to take the lead in building a solar powered space station.

III. India Watch

- Even as over 60 countries like the US, the UK, Australia, Japan and the ROK among others have issued a joint statement on Afghanistan asking that all nationals wanting to leave the country should be allowed to do so, China has not endorsed the same, only "noting" its issuance. It continues to present official rhetoric that it hopes Taliban will move away from terrorist activities. Divided public opinion on Taliban in China coupled with China's expectation that Taliban will clampdown on terrorist activities with a special focus on ETIM is at present narrating Beijing's stand on the situation in Kabul.
- The solar energy domain, where India has the International Solar Alliance (ISA), requires more focus by the Indian government especially as China's plans and infrastructure for generating solar power supercedes New Delhi's. The time to build the ISA as a foreign policy tool based on energy security is ripe as countries are looking to build a greener post-COVID trade and global supply chains.