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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Weibo to ban user accounts that contain bad words:** This announcement has gone viral on Weibo which has set a deadline till 8 December to clear their usernames. All accounts that contain slang or vulgar words as usernames will be banned or temporarily suspended thereafter. The new Weibo regulations are part of the 2021 'Qinglang' campaign to clean up the internet and eliminate harmful content.
- **The new list of celebrities to be banned:** CAPA's live streaming branch issued another list of names of celebrities with a 'bad record'; this list included the names of Chinese celebrities that do not fall under the category of live streamers but are barred from entering the industry based on their track records.
- **Ceremony held for a martyred soldier:** Some military observer accounts on Weibo have uploaded a video of a ceremony being held for a martyred soldier in Taojiang County in Hunan. The soldier's name was Wen Tao(温涛) and the information available on the Chinese internet is that he was martyred on 15th November 2020 while carrying out a special task on the border frontline. On his tombstone (shown in the video), the same sentence was written. There is no information available about his area of post or deployment. On Social Media, Weibo users have written that he was in the "Sirius Commando Unit/Sky Wolf Commando Unit (天狼突击队)", which is an anti-terror squad belonging to the Western theatre and that he died while on a secret mission which cannot be made public knowledge.

II. News in China

- China's company Sino Soar Hybrid Technology has suspended a project to install hybrid energy plants in three islands of Sri Lanka over security concerns.
- Shanghai Pudong New District People's Court made a criminal judgment against the defendants Feng, Zhao, Bao, and Dong for accepting bribes from non-state workers. The judgment stated that as 4 senior executives of Dalian Wanda Group were prosecuted, this case also involves the corruption case of Zhu Zhanbei, former vice president of Dalian Wanda Group in December 2020.
- WTA announced an immediate suspension of all tournaments in China, including in Hong Kong. This is seen in connection with Peng's sexual assault allegations.
- Chinese FM Wang Yi recently visited Ethiopia and expressed strong willingness to strengthen bilateral ties. During his visit, he met the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. He further pledged his support to the government as he stated that Ethiopia is capable of handling the Tigray conflict.

- Non-mainstream HK media has reported that the name of bank Vice President Zhou Xuedong has disappeared from the "Leadership" column of the China Development Bank's (CDB) official website. State media reports suggest that Zhou Xuedong's most recent appearance was on November 13th when he attended the CDB meeting to learn the spirit of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the CPC. Zhou Xuedong was the leader of the takeover group on behalf of the Chinese government that took over Baoshang Bank in 2019.
- Major projects of the National Social Science Fund of China were released which include more than 300 social science projects funded by the Chinese government. The names of the projects can provide insight into the types of projects or research the Chinese government encourages.

III. India Watch

- The three Sri Lankan islands are located close to Tamil Nadu; this project could be another furtherance of Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean that can increase potential risk of surveillance.
- The recent visit of Chinese FM to Ethiopia came against famine-like conditions in the country and reports have suggested that there is a severe need for assistance. Hence, China will find leeway to further push its infrastructure projects without directly modeling internal politics. The conflict in the region has killed thousands of people and forced millions away from their places. Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) forces have battled Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government forces for a year with the intention to topple the government; infrastructure aid at this juncture would be greatly welcomed.
- Baoshan Bank was one of the most important asset holding banks of Xiao Jianhua (Chinese-Canadian businessman and billionaire known for managing assets for descendants of prominent Chinese leaders especially Jiang Zemin and Zeng Qinghong; he was abducted in China in 2017). Non-mainstream HK media is seeing some kind of connection here, but not very clearly. Baoshan Bank was a Bank in Inner Mongolia; Xiao Jianhua's wife is also from Inner Mongolia and it is known that Xiao Jianhua holds his assets mostly through his relatives and wife. The deputy leader of the Baoshan Bank takeover group was Li Guorong, the former deputy director of the Sichuan Supervision Bureau of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission. Li Guorong was also dismissed in July this year; the reason given was that he used his risk disposal power to make money. It must also be noted that in the eighth round of inspection by the 19th Central committee focusing on 25 financial institutions (report dated 27.9.21), among the 25 financial institutions, CDB was also included.

- Peng's disappearance from public view prompted the world's most prominent tennis stars to demand answers to her whereabouts. Yet domestically in China, there seems no support or nationalist rage that would usually engulf such a situation. Social media in China has remained silent. On the contrary, China has expressed its anger against the WTA decision by making a statement to stay away from Western domination.