



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 28, 2026 - April 04, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

During the period of March 28 to April 4, 2026, China's security posture was characterized by a complex interplay of diplomatic engagement, assertive maritime actions, and heightened internal security measures. Significant developments included resumed, yet tense, bilateral talks with the Philippines on the South China Sea, immediately followed by Chinese patrols around Scarborough Shoal, underscoring persistent maritime disputes. Diplomatically, China positioned itself as a key mediator in the ongoing Iran-Gulf war, proposing a five-point peace plan, while simultaneously preparing for a high-stakes summit with the US President, signaling a potential thaw in bilateral relations despite lingering tensions over Taiwan and technology transfer. Domestically, widespread protests over environmental and governance issues led to increased security controls, notably in Beijing, highlighting internal stability challenges.

Key Security Developments

- Diplomatic Engagement on South China Sea Disputes

On March 28, 2026, the Philippines and China resumed their Bilateral Consultative Mechanism (BCM) talks in Fujian, China. Discussions included potential oil and gas exploration and other maritime cooperation, aimed at increasing confidence in the maritime domain, despite Manila "firmly reiterating" its position and concerns over China's actions that have "disrupted lawful activities and posed risks at sea" in the South China Sea.

- Maritime Assertiveness in the South China Sea

Just one day after diplomatic talks with the Philippines, on March 29, 2026, China conducted naval, air, and coast guard patrols around the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea. China's military and Coast Guard stated these patrols serve as an "effective countermeasure" against "rights-violation and provocative acts," emphasizing its continued claim over the shoal, which is also claimed by the Philippines.

- Upcoming US-China Presidential Summit

US President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit Beijing in April 2026 for a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping, with discussions expected to cover trade and military matters. This planned meeting signals a potential easing of tensions in US-China relations, following increased Chinese purchases of US agricultural goods.

- US Arms Sales to Taiwan Postponed

In a move to avoid provoking Beijing ahead of President Trump's April visit, the United States postponed a planned \$10 billion arms sale to Taiwan, which included long-range surface-to-air missiles and anti-drone equipment. Separately, on March 30, 2026, the US approved Taiwan's request to defer payment for conventional arms systems, including HIMARS and Javelin ATGMs, until May 2026, due to legislative deadlock in Taiwan's parliament regarding its special defense budget.

- China's Diplomacy in the Iran-Gulf War

On April 4, 2026, China, in conjunction with Pakistan, formally presented a five-point peace plan for the Iran-Gulf war to Saudi Arabia. This initiative, released on March 31, calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, guarantees of sovereignty for all parties, protection of energy and civilian infrastructure, and the restoration of free passage through the Strait of Hormuz. China is actively stepping up its diplomacy on the conflict, opposing a United Nations proposal to use force to open the Strait of Hormuz.

- Cybersecurity Law Enforcement and Amendments

China's revised Cybersecurity Law (CSL), which came into effect on January 1, 2026, has formally incorporated Artificial Intelligence (AI) development into its cybersecurity governance framework, broadening the law's scope and strengthening penalties for violations. Additionally, on March 17, 2026, the Ministry of Public Security published a draft Law on Cybercrime Prevention and Control, aiming to enhance authorities' ability to trace user activity, suspend financial accounts and communication services, and bar individuals from leaving the country in cybercrime-related cases.

- Alleged AI Technology Smuggling to China

On March 25, 2026, the US Department of Justice charged a Chinese national, Stanley Yi Zheng, and two US citizens, Matthew Kelly and Tommy Shad English, with conspiring to smuggle millions of dollars worth of export-controlled AI computer chips to China through Thailand. This incident highlights ongoing concerns regarding illicit technology transfer.

- Internal Protests and Security Tightening

A wave of protests and clashes between residents and police erupted across multiple regions in China, including Wuhan and Guangdong Province, reflecting public frustration over environmental concerns and land disputes. On March 28, hundreds of residents in Wuhan protested a battery manufacturing project, leading to detentions. In response, authorities have increased security measures, particularly in Beijing, and introduced stricter controls on drone usage, placing the capital under regulated airspace.

- Increased Defense Budget

China's national defense budget for 2026 was announced at 1.94 trillion yuan (\$281 billion), representing a 6.9% increase from the previous year's executed budget. This marks the 11th consecutive year of single-digit growth and is intended to advance the integrated development of mechanization, informationization, and intelligentization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), optimize joint operations, and promote new-domain combat forces.

- Thaw in India-China Trade Relations

On March 28, 2026, India and China held discussions on expanding bilateral trade on the sidelines of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 14th Ministerial Conference. This meeting, between India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao, signaled a cautious but significant thaw in trade tensions and an intent to rebuild trust.

- Chinese Firms Eye Deeper EU Presence Amid Espionage Concerns

A report released on March 28, 2026, at a forum in Luxembourg indicated that Chinese companies plan to deepen their presence in the European Union market, despite concerns over regulation and policy uncertainty. Concurrently, a French news agency reported on March 27 that agents from China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) have been using fake LinkedIn profiles to approach staff at NATO and EU institutions for espionage recruitment.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's activities during this period reflect a strategic effort to manage complex international relationships while asserting its interests. The resumption of South China Sea talks with the Philippines, immediately followed by patrols around Scarborough Shoal, highlights a dual strategy of dialogue and assertive presence. This approach aims to de-escalate direct confrontation while solidifying territorial claims, but risks undermining confidence-building measures. The planned US-China summit in April 2026, despite the postponement of US arms sales to Taiwan, suggests a mutual desire to stabilize relations between the two major powers. However, underlying tensions, particularly regarding Taiwan's defense capabilities and US efforts to curb China's access to advanced AI technology, remain significant friction points.

China's proactive diplomatic role in the Iran-Gulf war, including the joint peace plan with Pakistan and opposition to military intervention in the Strait of Hormuz, positions Beijing as a responsible global actor and a potential alternative to Western leadership in regional crises. This engagement also serves China's energy security interests, as it seeks to ensure the safe passage of its vessels through the critical waterway. The strengthening economic ties with the EU, despite European concerns over cybersecurity and alleged espionage, underscore China's continued global economic

integration and its efforts to diversify partnerships. The cautious thaw in trade relations with India also indicates a pragmatic approach to managing regional rivalries through economic engagement.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's defense policy continues to prioritize the modernization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) with a 6.9% increase in its 2026 defense budget to 1.94 trillion yuan (\$281 billion). This sustained investment is directed towards advancing the PLA's mechanization, informationization, and intelligentization, alongside optimizing joint operations and developing new-domain and new-quality combat forces. This modernization drive aims to enhance China's strategic capability to safeguard national sovereignty and development interests, with a stated goal of building a world-class military by the PLA's centenary in 2027.

The naval, air, and coast guard patrols around Scarborough Shoal demonstrate China's ongoing commitment to projecting power and enforcing its claims in the South China Sea. These actions, even amidst diplomatic talks, underscore a strategy of maintaining a robust military presence in disputed maritime zones. The US Department of Defense's new national defense strategy, which prioritizes deterring China in the Indo-Pacific, indicates that major powers are closely monitoring China's military expansion and regional assertiveness. The US postponement of arms sales to Taiwan, while diplomatically motivated, also highlights the delicate balance of power in the Taiwan Strait and the potential for military developments to escalate tensions.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to continue its dual-track diplomacy, engaging in dialogue while maintaining a firm stance on core interests. The upcoming Trump-Xi summit in April will be a critical event, potentially setting the tone for US-China relations for the remainder of the year. We can expect continued, albeit cautious, engagement with the Philippines on maritime issues, likely punctuated by further Chinese patrols or presence operations in the South China Sea. China will also likely intensify its diplomatic efforts regarding the Iran-Gulf war, aiming to solidify its role as a global mediator and protect its energy supply lines. Domestically, authorities will remain vigilant against public discontent, with continued tight security measures in major cities and strict controls over information and public gatherings.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The South China Sea, particularly around Scarborough Shoal and other disputed features, remains a primary flashpoint, with the risk of accidental escalation during patrols or encounters with other claimant states. The Taiwan Strait also presents a significant risk, especially with ongoing US arms sales (even if delayed) and China's increasingly bellicose rhetoric towards "Taiwan independence." The Strait of Hormuz could become a flashpoint if China's diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the Iran-Gulf war fail, potentially impacting global energy markets and drawing in more international actors. Internally, localized protests over environmental and governance issues could escalate if not managed effectively, posing challenges to social stability.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the outcomes and joint statements from the Trump-Xi summit, any new incidents or agreements in the South China Sea, the progress of China's peace initiative for the Iran-Gulf war, and the stability of oil transit through the Strait of Hormuz. Domestically, the frequency and scale of public protests, as well as the government's response, will be crucial indicators of internal stability. Further US actions regarding Taiwan's defense, including the eventual approval and delivery of delayed arms packages, will also be important to watch.

Strategic recommendations: China should prioritize establishing clear communication channels and de-escalation mechanisms with all parties in the South China Sea to prevent miscalculation. A pragmatic approach to the Taiwan issue, focusing on economic and cultural ties while managing political differences, could help reduce immediate tensions. Leveraging its growing economic influence to foster stability in the Middle East, particularly through its peace initiatives, would enhance its global standing. Internally, addressing the root causes of public discontent, such as environmental concerns and governance issues, through transparent and responsive policies, will be vital for long-term stability.

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: BBC China

- [China bans storing cremated remains in empty 'bone ash apartments'](#) (2026-03-31 10:53)

China bans 'bone ash apartments' where mourners are storing cremated remains instead of cemeteries.

- [Kris Jenner's image spreads in Chinese social media good luck trend](#) (2026-03-30 12:59)

Hundreds of thousands of posts have been shared in the past three days as users hope for prosperity

- [Why Chinese tech companies are racing to set up in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-29 23:07)

Mainland firms are using the territory to test products and as a springboard for global expansion.

### Source: CGTN

- [China expects over 90 mln railway trips during Qingming holiday](#) (2026-04-04 03:19)

China is likely to see 90.5 million railway passenger trips from Friday to next Tuesday during the upcoming Qingming Festival holiday travel rush, according to the national railway operator.

- [China issues guideline for AI ethics governance](#) (2026-04-03 14:48)

China issues guideline for AI ethics governance

- [China, Canada agree to hold economic, financial strategic dialogue](#) (2026-04-03 13:26)

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and Canadian Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne on Friday agreed in Beijing to hold a China-Canada Economic and Financial Strategic Dialogue in the second half of this year.

- [41 arrested in joint China-Thailand-Vietnam anti-drug operation](#) (2026-04-03 12:32)

41 arrested in joint China-Thailand-Vietnam anti-drug operation

- [China Crafted | Heavenly Han: Life, death and the art of immortality](#) (2026-04-03 12:07)

Heavenly Han is an immersive virtual exhibition that introduces crafts from China's Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220) through the lens of Lady Dai, or Xin Zhui, a noblewoman whose life and even "

afterlife" were preserved in extraordinary detail.

- [China-Africa partnership drives green growth in Lake Victoria](#) (2026-04-03 09:51)

China-Africa partnership drives green growth in Lake Victoria

- [China issues guidelines on global sustainable development cooperation](#) (2026-04-03 09:29)

China issues guidelines on global sustainable development cooperation

- ['Now I Met Her:' A heartwarming family comedy for Qingming Festival](#) (2026-04-03 08:37)

The heartwarming comedy Now I Met Her opened in theaters in China on Friday, giving movie audiences a family-viewing option during the country's Qingming Festival.

- [How to keep your heart healthy? A doctor explains](#) (2026-04-03 08:26)

What impact does high blood pressure have on the heart and brain? Who should keep life-saving medication within reach? And can your smartwatch provide a timely warning of possible sudden cardiac arrest?

- [Thai Princess Sirindhorn to visit China April 4-11](#) (2026-04-03 08:05)

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand will visit China from April 4 to 11 at the invitation of the Chinese government, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Friday.

- [Patrolling at 5,000 meters: Youth guarding the nation](#) (2026-04-03 07:03)

Patrolling at 5,000 meters: Youth guarding the nation

- [Chinese drug fugitive repatriated from US](#) (2026-04-03 06:58)

A Chinese fugitive suspected of drug-related crimes has been repatriated from the United States to China, Chinese police said on Friday.

- [China's new-type energy storage capacity to top 370 GW by 2030](#) (2026-04-03 06:58)

China's new-type energy storage capacity to top 370 GW by 2030

- [China urges global support for Arab unity and cooperation](#) (2026-04-03 06:57)

A senior Chinese diplomat called on the international community to respect the autonomous choices of the people in the Middle East, pay attention to the legitimate concerns of regional countries and support Arab states in resolving historical disputes, strengthening unity and cooperation, and exploring development paths suited to their national conditions.

- [Restoration project revives Xinjiang's historic Kuqa old town](#) (2026-04-03 06:54)

Once a nearly deserted lane of Reystan Street in Kuqa's old town, the neighborhood has been revived since a 2023 restoration project. Now home to 287 shops and 386 photo spots, the

renovated area supports over 2,000 tourism workers and benefits more than 20,000 residents.

- [The art of contemplating death to live a meaningful life](#) (2026-04-03 06:46)

The end of life, being universal and inevitable, is a concern central to the human experience.

- [Jiangxi's 'super training school' for humanoid robots debuts](#) (2026-04-03 06:28)

Jiangxi's 'super training school' for humanoid robots debuts

- [Sun edges Kuai in all-Chinese round of 16 thriller at ITTF World Cup](#) (2026-04-03 06:12)

Sun edges Kuai in all-Chinese round of 16 thriller at ITTF World Cup

- [Shenzhen stuns defending champion Guangsha for eighth straight victory](#) (2026-04-03 06:05)

Shenzhen stuns defending champion Guangsha for eighth straight victory

- [HKSAR govt. files court application to forfeit Jimmy Lai's properties](#) (2026-04-03 04:47)

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government on Thursday filed an application with the Court of First Instance for forfeiture of the offense-related properties of Jimmy Lai in order to achieve the important objectives of preventing and suppressing acts and activities endangering national security.

- [French luxury giant signals confidence in China](#) (2026-04-03 02:47)

French luxury giant Hermès opened a new store in Beijing's Sanlitun North on April 2, 2026, marking its fourth location in the capital.

- [Zijin Chen: Writing stories that feel real](#) (2026-04-03 02:30)

Zijin Chen: Writing stories that feel real

- [Chinese vice premier calls for further modernization of water networks](#) (2026-04-03 00:41)

Chinese Vice Premier Liu Guozhong has called for efforts to accelerate the development of a modern water network, comprehensively advance the protection and management of rivers, and continuously improve capabilities to safeguard water security.

- [Chinese, Swiss envoys hold phone talks on Middle East tensions](#) (2026-04-02 15:18)

Zhai Jun, special envoy of the Chinese government on the Middle East issue, on Tuesday held a phone conversation with Wolfgang Amadeus Brulhart, Swiss special envoy to the Middle East. The two sides exchanged views on the current tensions in the Middle East.

- [Wang Yi: Ceasefire key to safe navigation in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-04-02 15:08)

A ceasefire and an end to hostilities in the Middle East represent the strong appeal of the international community and constitute the fundamental solution to ensuring safe navigation in

the Strait of Hormuz, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday.

- [Wang Yi: China, Germany can play a role in ending Mideast hostilities](#) (2026-04-02 14:59)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday said China and Germany should play a constructive role in defusing Middle East tensions during a phone conversation with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul.

- [Chinese FM calls for early ceasefire in talks with Saudi counterpart](#) (2026-04-02 14:53)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday held a phone call with his Saudi counterpart, Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, calling for an early ceasefire as the conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran continues to escalate and destabilize the Middle East.

- [ZXMoto wins WSBK races, showcasing China's manufacturing prowess](#) (2026-04-02 14:51)

A Chinese motorcycle brand has roared into the global spotlight. ZXMoto, founded by entrepreneur Zhang Xue, secured back-to-back victories at the Portugal round of the World Superbike Championship (WSBK), marking a historic first for China's motorcycle industry and breaking a 38-year dominance by established European and Japanese brands.

- [Chinese couple's sweet love story turned AI proposal video goes viral](#) (2026-04-02 12:59)

Chinese couple's sweet love story turned AI proposal video goes viral

- [Illegal US, Israel's military ops root of Hormuz disruption: official](#) (2026-04-02 12:37)

Illegal US, Israel's military ops root of Hormuz disruption: official

- [Beijing sees best air quality, heavy pollution nearly eliminated](#) (2026-04-02 11:57)

Beijing sees best air quality, heavy pollution nearly eliminated

- [PAGE X: How did ancient Chinese people understand time?](#) (2026-04-02 11:18)

How did ancient Chinese people read time in the sky and seasons on Earth? Where does the Dragon Boat Festival trace its origins? And where does history give way to literature?

- [Chinese researchers unlock greener pathway to key industrial materials](#) (2026-04-02 09:48)

Chinese researchers unlock greener pathway to key industrial materials

- [New study helps trace microplastics on 'roof of the world'](#) (2026-04-02 09:39)

New study helps trace microplastics on 'roof of the world'

- [China urges better use of China-US economic and trade mechanism](#) (2026-04-02 09:15)

China's Ministry of Commerce on Thursday called for further leveraging the China-US economic and trade consultation mechanism and strengthening dialogue and communication to promote the healthy, stable and sustainable development of bilateral economic and trade relations.

- [Spokesperson: Hormuz obstruction stems from US-Israeli attack on Iran](#) (2026-04-02 09:12)

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday that obstruction of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz stems from the illegal US-Israeli military operations against Iran. She said only by ending the fighting can peace and stability return to the Middle East and the Gulf region, and added that China is willing to continue playing a constructive role.

- [Sky-high spring celebrations as giant kites soar over Hohhot](#) (2026-04-02 09:07)

Soaring above the vast grasslands of Hohhot in Inner Mongolia, giant kites in a wide variety of animal forms, including prehistoric creatures, have drawn locals and visitors to the city's kite art season.

- [What main health concern should marathon runners consider?](#) (2026-04-02 08:33)

What main health concern should marathon runners consider?

- [Art exhibition held aboard China's space station, in Beijing museum](#) (2026-04-02 07:34)

Art exhibition held aboard China's space station, in Beijing museum

- [China Popcast: 'Chinamaxxing' and what it takes to be a Chinese baddie](#) (2026-04-02 07:19)

Chinese American influencer Sherry Zhu, also called "Cousin Sherry" by her followers, and New York mother Sade join China Popcast to discuss the viral becoming Chinese trend and why people want to be Chinese baddies.

- [A taste of Qingming: Traditional shefan in Tongren](#) (2026-04-02 07:04)

As Qingming Festival approaches, people in Tongren, Guizhou, make Shefan – a traditional Chinese rice dish with fresh wild herbs, a beloved custom for the festival.

- [Sport kites energize Hohhot's kite art season](#) (2026-04-02 06:45)

Sport kites soar and dive in coordinated formations, injecting energy into this year's kite art season in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, which runs from March 20 to April 6.

- [Shangri-La: A journey to a hidden paradise](#) (2026-04-02 06:44)

As China continues to open up and ease visa policies, China travel is on the rise. "Becoming Chinese" is trending on social media, with more visitors seeking to experience China like locals.

- [Chinese FM voices readiness to work with Bahrain to push for ceasefire](#) (2026-04-02 06:20)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a phone call on Thursday with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, during which both sides exchanged views on tensions in the Persian Gulf and called for efforts to ensure security in the Strait of Hormuz.

- [Brain-computer interface tech advances from R&D; to clinical trials](#) (2026-04-02 06:07)

China is placing high importance on Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) technology, officially included in the 2026 government work report, with Chongqing advancing it from research and development to clinical trials and showing early signs of practical success.

- [Eight Chinese make last 16 at ITTF Men's and Women's World Cup](#) (2026-04-02 04:58)

Eight Chinese make last 16 at ITTF Men's and Women's World Cup

- [Shanghai end 25-year title wait in Chinese Women's Volleyball League](#) (2026-04-02 04:49)

Shanghai end 25-year title wait in Chinese Women's Volleyball League

- [Niwu, Xizang: Where mist-shrouded peaks give way to blossoming spring](#) (2026-04-02 04:07)

In Nagqu , China's Xizang Autonomous Region, lies "little Jiangnan." With their peaks shrouded in clouds, the towering snow-capped mountains mirror the elegance of a traditional Chinese ink painting.

- [Test cargo craft advances China's space station resupply](#) (2026-04-02 02:21)

Test cargo craft advances China's space station resupply

- [Health Talk: When the children of the stars grow up](#) (2026-04-02 02:16)

Health Talk: When the children of the stars grow up

- [A world of melody: An autistic youth finds his voice](#) (2026-04-02 02:05)

A world of melody: An autistic youth finds his voice

- [Hot Take: Inside Chinese motorcycle maker ZXMOTO's historic win](#) (2026-04-01 15:05)

Hot Take: Inside Chinese motorcycle maker ZXMOTO's historic win

- [Chinese premier stresses optimizing energy structure](#) (2026-04-01 14:51)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang has stressed efforts to advance the construction of a new-type power grid and accelerate the adjustment and optimization of the energy structure.

- [Can Pakistan and China calm the chaos in West Asia?](#) (2026-04-01 14:45)

Regardless of the immediate or positive outcome of this meeting between long-standing partners on the embroiling conflict in West Asia, what stands out from Pakistan's efforts is that it deserves commendation for extending an olive branch beyond its neighbors through constant engagement. With China as a strategic partner, this can help navigate the region from plunging into further chaos. The only way in sight to ensure the region's stability is through a phased and prudent approach to diplomacy and dialogue.

- [Mainland to make proper preparations for KMT chairwoman's visit](#) (2026-04-01 13:06)

A Chinese mainland spokesperson on Wednesday said the mainland will make proper preparations for the upcoming visit of the chairperson of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) party, Cheng Li-wun, in April.

- [China opposes Philippines' renaming of China's Nansha Qundao](#) (2026-04-01 11:11)

China firmly opposes any actions by the Philippines that undermine China's sovereignty, rights and interests, and will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

- [China braces for cross-border travel rush during Qingming holiday](#) (2026-04-01 11:00)

Cross-border travel via China's ports is expected to surge during the Qingming Festival holiday from April 4 to 6, with daily crossings projected atop 2.3 million, up 11.1% from a year earlier, according to immigration authorities.

- [Chinese NGOs highlight human rights achievements at UN council session](#) (2026-04-01 10:23)

Chinese civil society organizations showcased China's human rights philosophy and highlighted the country's progress on human rights protection at the 61st session of the UN Human Rights Council held in Geneva from February 23 to March 31.

- [China's high-tech industries record robust growth in Q1, tax data show](#) (2026-04-01 09:57)

The latest tax data show that the Chinese economy has continued to perform steadily, with innovation momentum strengthening, as evidenced by robust revenue growth in high-tech industries in the first quarter of 2026.

- [China voices opposition to US curbs on China-Venezuela cooperation](#) (2026-04-01 09:48)

China firmly opposes the United States' manipulation of the so-called "general licenses" to restrict China-Venezuela cooperation, and China's lawful rights and interests in Venezuela must be safeguarded, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

- [China: Japan's long-range missiles exceed 'self-defense' boundaries](#) (2026-04-01 09:46)

China expressed serious concerns on Wednesday over Japan's recent deployment of long-range missiles capable of striking enemy bases, a move announced by Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi on Sunday.

- [Chinese mainland slams Taiwan's 'decoupling' attempts](#) (2026-04-01 09:09)

A Chinese mainland spokesperson on Wednesday severely criticized Taiwan authorities' bid to decouple from the mainland in its industrial and supply chain development.

- [China-Kazakhstan Year of Cultural Exchange kicks off in Beijing](#) (2026-04-01 09:02)

The China-Kazakhstan Year of Cultural Exchange officially launched on Tuesday in Beijing.

- [China, Bhutan hold candid, constructive discussions on border issue](#) (2026-04-01 08:51)

China and Bhutan engaged in candid and constructive discussions regarding their border issue during the 15th Expert Group Meeting held in Beijing from March 30 to April 1.

- [China welcomes international participation in five-point initiative](#) (2026-04-01 08:38)

The China-Pakistan initiative on the Gulf and Middle East region is open, and all countries and international organizations are welcome to respond to and participate in it, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

- [Sons and soldiers: Cinematic ode to revolutionary heroes set to debut](#) (2026-04-01 08:29)

An operatic film titled Eight Sons, Eight Soldiers, which draws inspiration from a soul-stirring tale set against the backdrop of China's revolutionary period in the 1930s, is set for nationwide release on April 3.

- [Experts: China-Pakistan five-point initiative reflects common appeal](#) (2026-04-01 06:07)

Analysts say the proposal presents a comprehensive framework for easing tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran, and reflects what they describe as the "greatest common denominator" among competing interests.

- [No energy worries for Taiwan compatriots after reunification: mainland](#) (2026-04-01 05:59)

Compatriots in the Taiwan region will no longer need to worry about shortages of energy and other supplies after peaceful reunification, a mainland spokesperson said on Wednesday.

- [Our Long March: Red Memories of Qinglinkou Ancient Town](#) (2026-04-01 05:35)

In April 1935, during the Long March—a major strategic military operation by the Chinese Red Army—the Fourth Front Army passed through Qinglinkou Ancient Town in Jiangyou, Sichuan Province. The Fourth Front Army was one of the Red Army's main forces, and the 30th Army was a unit under its command. Its headquarters were set up here.

- [Taiping Ferry: Key Site of the Four Crossings of the Chishui River](#) (2026-04-01 05:34)

Taiping Ferry is located in Taiping Town, Gulin County, Sichuan Province, at the meeting point of the Chishui River and the Gulin River. In the spring of 1935, during the Long March—a strategic military operation undertaken by the Chinese Red Army—this site served as a key crossing point when the Red Army crossed the Chishui River for the second and fourth time. (The phrase "Four Crossings of the Chishui River" refers to a series of maneuvers that helped the Red Army break free from enemy encirclement.)

- [Xiongan at nine: From blueprint to a model city of the future](#) (2026-04-01 05:31)

Xiongan New Area, what began as a blueprint in 2017, is now taking shape as a model city of the future.

- [Expert: Early intervention key for children with autism](#) (2026-04-01 03:52)

Expert: Early intervention key for children with autism

- [Scientists identify central China as new global biodiversity hotspot](#) (2026-04-01 02:08)

Scientists identify central China as new global biodiversity hotspot

- [Fishing ban brings Yangtze River ecosystems back from the brink](#) (2026-04-01 02:03)

Fishing ban brings Yangtze River ecosystems back from the brink

- [Expert links severe convective weather in S China to climate change](#) (2026-04-01 00:57)

Expert links severe convective weather in S China to climate change

- [This bridge is built for wildlife to cross highway](#) (2026-03-31 22:54)

This bridge is built for wildlife to cross highway

- [China, Pakistan put forward 5 proposals on restoring peace in Mideast](#) (2026-03-31 14:24)

China and Pakistan put forward five proposals on restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East during talks between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Beijing on Tuesday.

- [China aims for core IoT industry scale of over 3.5 tln yuan by 2028](#) (2026-03-31 14:06)

China has set a target for its core Internet of Things (IoT) industry to exceed 3.5 trillion yuan (about \$505.8 billion) by 2028, according to an action plan jointly issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and other departments.

- [China's Tech Mosaic: Inside Beijing's high tech hub](#) (2026-03-31 12:00)

Discover how AI ecosystems are powering real business growth at "Magic World" Beijing AI New Quality Industry Community in Beijing E-Town.

- [Chinese scientists create 2 never-before-seen atomic nuclei](#) (2026-03-31 11:56)

Scientists in China have created two new atomic nuclei that have never been observed before: Berkelium-235 and Americium-231.

- [Xi's article on correct view of governance performance to be published](#) (2026-03-31 11:26)

An article by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on establishing and practicing a correct understanding of governance performance will be published on Wednesday.

- [Chinese, Pakistani foreign ministers hold talks on Iran situation](#) (2026-03-31 11:03)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Beijing on Tuesday to discuss the Iran situation.

- [Rapeseed Flowers in Full Bloom in Wujiangzhai](#) (2026-03-31 09:53)

In April, the rapeseed flowers in Wujiangzhai, Zunyi, Guizhou Province, reach their peak bloom. Rapeseed flowers are cultivated not only for their bright yellow blossoms but also for their seeds, which are pressed to produce cooking oil—an essential ingredient in Chinese cuisine. Wujiangzhai is a riverside town in northern Guizhou, promoted as a "new landmark for tourism in Guizhou." Nestled against green mountains and built along the water, the town features stilted houses (traditional wooden structures supported by poles on slopes) and terraced fields, where golden flowers bloom in tiers across the landscape.

- [Working as an Ophthalmologist in the Greater Bay Area](#) (2026-03-31 09:53)

Dr. Jacky Ching-Kit Tsui, a Hong Kong ophthalmologist, now practices at Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center in Guangzhou.

- [China warns against Japan's rightward shift of SDF, remilitarization](#) (2026-03-31 09:12)

The international community needs to stay on high alert against the rightward turn of Japan's Self-Defense Forces and trend of remilitarization in Japan, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

- [Love and heritage interwoven on the runway](#) (2026-03-31 09:08)

This is a story of love and heritage. Presented at the 2026 China International Fashion Week in Beijing, it brings to life the bond between a couple from the Miao ethnic group and their granddaughter, touching many viewers.

- [China's 'Four Treasures' family throws blockbuster reunion in Beijing](#) (2026-03-31 09:06)

The 56th National Four Treasures of the Study Art Expo, threw a massive bash from March 27 to 30 in Beijing.

- [Apricot blossoms fuel booming cultural tourism in Xinjiang](#) (2026-03-31 09:01)

Shache County in Xinjiang launched a cultural tourism event on March 28, blending its vast apricot fields with folk performances, intangible cultural heritage displays, and rural experiences.

- [Chinese, Pakistani foreign ministers to discuss Iran situation](#) (2026-03-31 08:48)

Chinese, Pakistani foreign ministers to discuss Iran situation

- [China builds high-speed rail tunnel beneath its largest river](#) (2026-03-31 08:03)

China builds high-speed rail tunnel beneath its largest river

- [Chinese designers on the future of fashion](#) (2026-03-31 07:47)

Golden oranges, verdant greens—this season of China Fashion Week, a group of Chinese designers is painting the future of fashion in vibrant hues.

- [Ancient craft + future tech from the designers' perspective](#) (2026-03-31 07:46)

From hand-crafted metal leaves that move with your body, to 3D-printed patterns rooted in ancient Chinese tailoring – two designers reimagine tradition through technology at the China Artists Association Youth Art Talent Program – Fashion 100 exhibition at the Central Academy of Fine Arts Art Museum.

- [China says three Chinese vessels recently sailed through Hormuz Strait](#) (2026-03-31 07:39)

Three Chinese vessels have navigated through the Strait of Hormuz recently with the facilitation and coordination of relevant sides, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning confirmed on Tuesday.

- [AI Powered smart farm in Beijing grows 20 vegetables on 13 hectares](#) (2026-03-31 07:17)

As China and Africa mark the Year of People to People Exchanges, this smart farm offers a practical blueprint for climate smart agriculture.

- [Chinese vice premier calls for enhancing global data governance](#) (2026-03-31 05:17)

At the inaugural assembly of the World Data Organization held in Beijing on Monday, Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang read out a congratulatory message from President Xi Jinping and delivered a keynote speech.

- [Pakistani FM heads to China for talks on regional issues](#) (2026-03-31 04:43)

Pakistani FM heads to China for talks on regional issues

- [China Opening-Up: China's development brings opportunities for world](#) (2026-03-31 02:49)

China Opening-Up: China's development brings opportunities for world

- [4 dead, 9 injured in blast at tunnel construction site in SW China](#) (2026-03-31 01:55)

4 dead, 9 injured in blast at tunnel construction site in SW China

- [China's new 7-tonne unmanned cargo drone set for maiden flight](#) (2026-03-31 01:32)

China's first 7-tonne-class large transport drone, Changying-8, is set to make its maiden flight on Tuesday in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province.

- ['Wrinkles of the Earth': A remote Chinese region's leap out of poverty](#) (2026-03-31 01:29)

'Wrinkles of the Earth': A remote Chinese region's leap out of poverty

- [Report shows improving ecology in China's Qinling Mountains](#) (2026-03-31 00:45)

Report shows improving ecology in China's Qinling Mountains

- [China announces actions against Japanese lawmaker over Taiwan question](#) (2026-03-30 15:10)

China announces actions against Japanese lawmaker over Taiwan question

- [Expert: How World Data Organization may bridge data fragmentation](#) (2026-03-30 14:46)

Expert: How World Data Organization may bridge data fragmentation

- [China's new commercial rocket Kinetica-2 completes maiden mission](#) (2026-03-30 14:30)

China's new commercial rocket Kinetica-2 completes maiden mission

- [Yale choir meets Guizhou: A cultural exchange through song](#) (2026-03-30 14:12)

Yale choir meets Guizhou: A cultural exchange through song

- [How Chinese cities are redefining culture-driven urban growth](#) (2026-03-30 13:52)

How Chinese cities are redefining culture-driven urban growth

- [China says measures against Furuya in line with international practice](#) (2026-03-30 13:46)

China says measures against Furuya in line with international practice

- [World Data Organization launches in Beijing to boost data governance](#) (2026-03-30 13:23)

World Data Organization launches in Beijing to boost data governance

- [How 'Swift Response to Public Complaints' works in China's megacities](#) (2026-03-30 12:59)

This article explores how China's megacities use the 12345 government hotline to respond efficiently to public complaints. Cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou have adopted innovative and technology-driven approaches to improve public service delivery and state-citizen interactions. The system not only resolves individual issues but also supports proactive governance and policy improvement, offering insights for other cities seeking more responsive governance.

- [Xi congratulates Sassou Nguesso on re-election as Congolese president](#) (2026-03-30 12:17)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory message to Denis Sassou Nguesso on his re-election as president of the Republic of the Congo.

- [China protests US senators' visit to Taiwan region](#) (2026-03-30 10:35)

China firmly opposes official interactions between the United States and China's Taiwan region, and has made stern representations to the US side, said a Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesperson on Monday.

- [Xi Jinping urges mobilizing whole society in tree-planting efforts](#) (2026-03-30 09:21)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday called for mobilizing the whole society to actively participate in afforestation, stressing that a sound ecological environment is shared by all and requires the joint efforts of all.

- [Chinese VP calls for deeper cooperation with Seychelles](#) (2026-03-30 09:19)

Chinese Vice President Han Zheng has called for deepening strategic partnership and expanding practical cooperation with Seychelles.

- [Yellow River Estuary: A haven for birds](#) (2026-03-30 09:11)

The Yellow River Estuary in Dongying, Shandong Province, is a paradise for birds.

- [How Pingju Opera has captured young hearts for generations](#) (2026-03-30 09:10)

How Pingju Opera has captured young hearts for generations

- [China Fashion Week: Tibetan aesthetics in motion](#) (2026-03-30 08:46)

At the Gangren Zhuoga show, traditional Tibetan crafts are reimagined through modern design.

- [Xi Jinping congratulates World Data Organization on its inauguration](#) (2026-03-30 08:42)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory message to mark the inauguration of the World Data Organization.

- [Report: China rises to 9th place in innovation ranking index](#) (2026-03-30 07:14)

China has climbed to 9th place globally in the National Innovation Index Report 2025, released Sunday by the China Academy of Science and Technology Development (CASTD) at the 2026 Zhongguancun Forum Annual Conference.

- [China builds high-speed rail tunnel 89 meters under Yangtze River](#) (2026-03-30 07:07)

China builds high-speed rail tunnel 89 meters under Yangtze River

- [Severe weather alerts issued across southern China](#) (2026-03-30 06:58)

Severe weather alerts issued across southern China

- [World Data Organization established in Beijing](#) (2026-03-30 05:46)

The World Data Organization (WDO) held its first general meeting in Beijing on Monday, marking its official establishment.

- [China takes countermeasures against Japanese lawmaker Keiji Furuya](#) (2026-03-30 05:34)

China has decided to take countermeasures against Japanese lawmaker Keiji Furuya in response to his frequent visits to China's Taiwan region, according to a statement issued Monday on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- [Cutting food waste for a zero-waste future](#) (2026-03-30 05:24)

Cutting food waste for a zero-waste future

- [Over 1,000 Japanese rally in Tokyo after Chinese embassy intrusion](#) (2026-03-30 05:02)

More than 1,000 Japanese citizens gathered again in Shinjuku on Sunday evening to protest a series of dangerous policy moves since Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi took office, demanding the government properly handle the incident in which a Japanese Self-Defense Forces officer forcibly entered the Chinese embassy in Japan and immediately apologize to China.

- [Hot Take: Meet China's 30-story floating island for deep-sea research](#) (2026-03-30 03:25)

China is building the world's first floating artificial island designed for all-weather, deep-sea scientific research, a 30-story-tall giant developed by Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

- [CPC Central Committee, Xi invite KMT chairperson to visit mainland](#) (2026-03-30 02:47)

CPC Central Committee, Xi invite KMT chairperson to visit mainland

- [Air China resumes direct flights between Beijing and Pyongyang](#) (2026-03-30 01:33)

Air China resumed direct flights between Beijing and Pyongyang on Monday.

- [Construction of large marine research platform starts in Shanghai](#) (2026-03-30 01:17)

Construction of large marine research platform starts in Shanghai

- [Chenghai: A Chinese Toy Story](#) (2026-03-30 00:15)

Chenghai: A Chinese Toy Story

- [Hot Take: How China's virtual production is scaling bigger ideas](#) (2026-03-29 14:58)

Hot Take: How China's virtual production is scaling bigger ideas

- [China leads the world in invasive BCI products](#) (2026-03-29 14:51)

China leads the world in invasive BCI products

- [Motorcycle event draws thousands to Chengdu](#) (2026-03-29 11:45)

Large-scale motorcycle event highlights the growing popularity of racing culture in China

- [PLA, CCG conduct patrols around Huangyan Dao in South China Sea](#) (2026-03-29 10:40)

The China Coast Guard (CCG) on Sunday conducted law enforcement patrols in the territorial waters around China's Huangyan Dao and its surrounding areas in the South China Sea.

- [China Weekly News Quiz: March 23-29, 2026](#) (2026-03-29 09:10)

Do you know what happened in China last week? Take our weekly news quiz to test your knowledge and get up to speed on the latest developments in case you missed something.

- [Spring stirs life across Gansu's Yellow River wetlands](#) (2026-03-29 07:57)

Spring arrives on the plateau in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province. As wetlands in the Yellow River basin begin to thaw, flocks of birds soar and flutter, while yaks and sheep roam freely, filling the landscape with life.

- [Shunde spring travel guide](#) (2026-03-29 07:52)

In early spring, the Lingnan region in southern China welcomes warm weather and blooming flowers.

- [2026 China Fashion Week: The warmth of fashion](#) (2026-03-29 07:47)

Step into the 2026 China Fashion Week, where fashion is no longer just about clothing, but a stage for cross-border collaboration.

- [Tokyo protest demands govt apology for SDF intruder at Chinese embassy](#) (2026-03-29 07:06)

Hundreds of Japanese citizens gathered in Shinjuku, a bustling district in Tokyo, on Saturday evening, holding placards and demanding that the government apologize to China following the forcible intrusion by an active-duty Self-Defense Forces (SDF) officer into the Chinese embassy in Tokyo on Tuesday.

- [Chinese military delegation holds security dialogues with EU, NATO](#) (2026-03-29 04:48)

Chinese military delegation holds security dialogues with EU, NATO

- [9 trapped in building collapse in NE China](#) (2026-03-29 04:42)

9 trapped in building collapse in NE China

- [Japanese police search SDF base linked to Chinese embassy intruder](#) (2026-03-29 04:33)

Japanese police on Sunday searched the Self-Defense Forces base where Kodai Murata is stationed, as well as his residence, after he was arrested for forcibly entering the Chinese embassy in Japan on Tuesday.

- [China welcomes WTO interim arrangements on e-commerce agreement](#) (2026-03-29 01:11)

Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao has expressed support for the adoption of the WTO agreement on e-commerce with interim arrangements announced on Saturday.

- [Chinese marketplace embraces Peruvian cocoa](#) (2026-03-28 20:25)

Peru is exporting record amounts of cocoa and awakening taste buds beyond the US and Europe, with growing exports to Asia, especially China, as part of a tariff-free trade agreement.

- [Death toll from building fire in north China rises to 3](#) (2026-03-28 13:59)

Death toll from building fire in north China rises to 3

- [Solemn representations lodged in HKSAR over US interference](#) (2026-03-28 13:49)

Solemn representations lodged in HKSAR over US interference

- [A bird's nest with a lesson: Principal redefines education goals](#) (2026-03-28 12:22)

A bird's nest with a lesson: Principal redefines education goals

- [China rolls out long-term care insurance system](#) (2026-03-28 11:13)

China rolls out long-term care insurance system

- [China calls for a stable, healthy relationship with Philippines](#) (2026-03-28 09:59)

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong called for a stable and healthy bilateral relationship with the Philippines, highlighting that friendly and cooperative ties have historically been the mainstream in China-Philippines relations.

- [From street child to Nobel laureate: Life is a grand experiment](#) (2026-03-28 09:58)

From street child to Nobel laureate: Life is a grand experiment

- [China, Philippines agree to properly manage South China Sea situation](#) (2026-03-28 09:58)

China and the Philippines agreed to enhance dialogue and properly manage the situation in the South China Sea during the 11th meeting of the bilateral consultation mechanism on the South China Sea in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, on Saturday.

- [100 days of Hainan FTP: Visa-free foreign arrivals jump 54%](#) (2026-03-28 09:57)

The Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) marked the 100th day of the island-wide special customs operations on March 27.

- [World's first 50-trillion yuan bank: ICBC releases 2025 results](#) (2026-03-28 09:13)

World's first 50-trillion yuan bank: ICBC releases 2025 results

- [Yale students sing "Jasmine Flower" in central China's Zhangjiajie](#) (2026-03-28 08:39)

Yale students turned a Zhangjiajie mountain escalator into a moving concert stage.

- [Sinan Qingming cake carries seasonal folk customs](#) (2026-03-28 08:37)

As Qingming Festival, or Tomb-Sweeping Day, approaches, Sinan Qingming Cake is here!

- [Three Bays of the Yellow River: Eco-beauty draws visitors](#) (2026-03-28 07:46)

Located in Sanyuan Town, Yongjing County, Gansu Province, the Three Bays of the Yellow River is a rural tourist destination that seamlessly blends natural ecology with cultural and travel experiences.

- [Chase Bruce Lee's legacy in Shunde](#) (2026-03-28 07:41)

Welcome to Shunde, the ancestral hometown of martial arts icon Bruce Lee in Foshan, Guangdong Province.

- [AI and data key to environmental governance, says Tsinghua scholar](#) (2026-03-28 06:49)

AI and data key to environmental governance, says Tsinghua scholar

- [What Boao says about the future of 'trendy'](#) (2026-03-28 05:42)

What Boao says about the future of 'trendy'

- [HKSAR chief executive meets Singaporean PM on deepening cooperation](#) (2026-03-28 05:05)

John Lee, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), on Friday met with Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong. Lee said Hong Kong and Singapore will continue to deepen cooperation, and bring more opportunities to Asia.

- [German's winner lifts Beijing Ducks over Guangdong after late comeback](#) (2026-03-28 04:51)

German's winner lifts Beijing Ducks over Guangdong after late comeback

- [China condemns US-Israeli attack on girls' school in Iran at UN debate](#) (2026-03-28 04:38)

At the request of Iran, China and Cuba, the 61st session of the UN Human Rights Council held an emergency debate on March 27 regarding the attack on Minab Primary School in Iran. Jia Guide, China's Ambassador to the UN, attended the session and outlined the Chinese position.

- [UN honors 3 Chinese cities for advancing sustainable waste management](#) (2026-03-28 04:33)

Three Chinese cities – Hangzhou, Sanya and Suzhou – were on Friday recognized by a United Nations (UN) advisory board for taking bold and ambitious steps to reduce waste and advance the circular economy.

- [HKSAR government slams UK's untruthful report on Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-28 03:15)

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government on Friday strongly condemned the untruthful remarks, slanders and smears against the HKSAR in the so-called six-monthly report released by the UK.

- [China planning human research program at space station](#) (2026-03-28 02:39)

The China Manned Space Agency announced that it would solicit proposals for a space human research program starting April 1, targeting major strategic, fundamental, and forward-looking scientific issues related to the long-term healthy survival of humans during future space station flights and lunar landing missions.

- [Chinese vice premier calls for further cooperation with WIPO](#) (2026-03-28 01:05)

China is willing to strengthen friendly cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to achieve more results, Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang said in Beijing on Friday.

- [China urges Philippines to control operations of maritime, air troops](#) (2026-03-28 00:46)

A Chinese military spokesperson on Friday urged the Philippine side to strictly control operations of its maritime and air troops, immediately cease all provocative and risky acts, and stop its smear campaigns and propaganda.

- [Chinese-American forensic scientist Henry C. Lee dies at 87](#) (2026-03-28 00:33)

Dr. Henry C. Lee, a world-renowned forensic scientist, died Friday at his home in Henderson, Nevada at the age of 87, according to a release from the University of New Haven.

## Source: China Defense Blog

- [Retrofitting Active Protection Systems \(APS\) onto Older AFVs](#) (2026-03-31 03:15)

Up until now, every photo of PLA armored vehicles equipped with Active Protection Systems has featured the newer platforms: Type 99A/B, ZBD 04A, and the like. But now we finally have a field shot of an older Type 96 MBT casually sporting one. Also worth noting: the accompanying maintenance support vehicle is carrying an unmanned ground vehicle, designed to haul equipment and supplies

- [This blows, PLA 200KG dynamite brick/satchel charge](#) (2026-03-29 19:28)

Old school PLA vibes here. Troops from a brigade of the 73rd Group Army carrying on the proud tradition of solving problems with dynamite. One takeaway from the war in Ukraine is that the humble satchel charge or the TM 62 anti-tank mine acting as one, is still

- [Z 20F anti submarine helicopter aboard a Type 054A frigate.](#) (2026-03-29 03:22)

Anti submarine warfare has long been the soft spot in China's otherwise fast growing naval power. Before the Z 20F came along, the PLAN had to make do with the lighter,

shorter range Z 9 and the imported Russian Kamov Ka 27/28/31 series. The Kamovs were capable for their time, but they're aging fast with some already retired, and keeping those Russian imports maintained is like trying to service

- [Still in love with their Y-5 biplane](#) (2026-03-28 08:18)

Sure, the 60 year old J 7 has finally retired from frontline service. Really, took it long enough! but the Y 5, on the other hand, is still going strong like that one grandpa who refuses to stop driving, in this case, jumping. According to today's (March

## Source: China | The Guardian

- [A day in the life of Asia's fuel crisis](#) (2026-04-03 04:00)

From farms in New Zealand to factories in Delhi, the effects of the oil crisis triggered by the Iran war are rippling across Asia Continue reading...

- ['People are exhausted by Blackpink and BTS': the DIY Chinese bands redefining corporate 'idol' pop](#) (2026-04-02 15:23)

Since the regime quashed China's version of the K-pop industry in 2021, an underground 'alt-idol' culture has emerged, championing freedom and experimentation Over the past decade, "idol" culture has turned east Asia into a pop music powerhouse as global audiences have flocked to Japanese and especially South Korean groups. Formed and exactly trained by big entertainment conglomerates, bands such as BTS and EXO have blown up internationally thanks to bombastic songs, sensational dance routines and marketing campaigns designed to build a parasocial relationship between performers – idols – and their fans. Their neighbour China, however, the population of which is roughly eight times that of Japan and South Korea combined, has produced few groups with similar fame. Until 2021, Chinese versions of Korean idol-training shows – think The X Factor with considerably more challenging choreography – were gaining huge audiences. But the shows, and the fan culture they inspired, drew the ire of the Chinese government. It cracked down on "toxic" fandom, an initiative that included banning idol-development shows. "It was an excuse to regulate the internet," says Emily Liu, who runs the popular idol newsletter Active Faults. The government has also unofficially prohibited Korean pop idols from performing in mainland China for the last decade due to geopolitical tensions. Continue reading...

- [New Zealand signs defence pact with Cook Islands after quarrel over China deal](#) (2026-04-02 01:55)

Agreement comes after Wellington halted millions in aid to its former colony after Cook Islands formed strategic partnership with Beijing New Zealand and the Cook Islands have signed a

defence and security declaration, ending a year-long diplomatic row that erupted after the Cook Islands struck strategic agreements with China. The Cook Islands was a dependent New Zealand colony from 1901-65 but has since operated as a self-governing nation in “free association” with New Zealand. Its roughly 17,000 citizens hold New Zealand citizenship. There are obligations between the two nations to regularly consult on matters of defence and security. Continue reading...

- [‘System malfunction’ causes robotaxis to stall in the middle of the road in China](#) (2026-04-01 17:17)

Distressed riders who were stranded for hours say Apollo Go customer service agents offered ‘useless platitudes’ A “system malfunction” has caused several self-driving robotaxis to stall in the middle of the road in China, police have confirmed, after distressed riders were stranded for hours. Local authorities in the central Chinese city of Wuhan said they began receiving calls “one after another” on Tuesday night from riders reporting that autonomous vehicles operated by the Chinese internet company Baidu had frozen. Continue reading...

- [Robotaxi outage in China’ s Wuhan leaves passengers stranded in moving traffic](#) (2026-04-01 16:43)

More than 100 of the Baidu driverless vehicles stopped running because of a system malfunction. Some robotaxi passengers were left stranded in the middle of fast-moving traffic in a major Chinese city after their driverless vehicles stopped running, according to police and media reports on Wednesday. A preliminary investigation indicates more than 100 robotaxis came to a halt because of a “system malfunction”, police in the city of Wuhan said in a statement, without elaborating. No injuries were reported. Continue reading...

- [Pakistan and China propose five-part peace plan for Middle East](#) (2026-03-31 15:30)

Foreign ministers Ishaq Dar and Wang Yi met in Beijing as Pakistan pushes for peacemaker role. Middle East crisis – live updates. Pakistan and China have released a joint five-part proposal for peace in the Middle East, after Pakistan’ s foreign minister flew to Beijing on Tuesday to seek Chinese support for the country’ s faltering efforts to negotiate an end to the war. The one-day meeting between Ishaq Dar and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, came as Pakistan continues to push for the role of peacemaker between the United States and Iran, even as the war shows little sign of relenting. Continue reading...

- [China to ban storing remains of dead in ‘bone ash apartments’](#) (2026-03-31 04:54)

Practice of using apartments to store relatives’ ashes has risen as rapid urbanisation and aging population increases competition for cemetery plots. China is introducing a law to stop people storing the ashes of their dead relatives in empty high-rise flats rather than paying steep costs for increasingly scarce cemetery plots. China’ s new funeral management legislation will prohibit the use of “residential housing specifically for the purpose of storing cremated remains” and the burial of corpses or construction of tombs in “areas other than public

cemeteries” . Continue reading...

- [US-based dissident artist put on trial in China over satirical Mao sculptures, says rights group](#) (2026-03-31 04:07)

New York-based Gao Zhen was detained in 2024 during a family visit to China and then tried for ‘defaming national heroes’ The Chinese dissident artist Gao Zhen, known for making satirical sculptures of China’s former leader Mao Zedong, has been tried over accusations of “defaming national heroes and martyrs” , his wife and a rights group have said. Gao, 69, who was detained in 2024 during a visit to China from the US, faces a maximum three-year prison sentence, his wife, Zhao Yaliang, and Shane Yi, a researcher at the Chinese human rights defenders group, said. Continue reading...

- [The ‘Third Front’ : China resurrects Mao’s military capabilities](#) (2026-03-30 23:00)

As ties with Washington sour, China is reviving a cold war strategy to defend against a US attack Dotted across the mountainous roads of Sichuan and just a few hours’ drive from some of China’s most bustling cities, the crumbling ruins of an abandoned military experiment are eerily quiet. Top secret factories that once housed thousands of workers are now overgrown with vegetation; nearby villages, empty of young people who were once shipped in from across the country to build China’s future, are plastered with advertisements for hearing aids and, in once case, a bundle deal on coffins. Millions of workers were deployed to these remote mountain locations as part of a huge defence program that stayed secret for over a decade. Continue reading...

- [Two of Australia’s largest sources of jet fuel could be cut off as South Korea and China eye restrictions](#) (2026-03-30 02:38)

South Korea’s transport ministry says domestic airlines have asked authorities to redirect export-bound jet fuel back to the local market amid a supply crunch • Get our breaking news email, free app or daily news podcast South Korean airlines have asked their government to help redirect jet fuel exports to the domestic market, threatening half of Australia’s imports of the critical fuel after Chinese authorities earlier this month flagged export restrictions. Amid deepening concerns across Asia about the impact of the escalating Middle East conflict, an official at South Korea’s transport ministry told the Guardian that “some domestic carriers” had asked authorities to redirect export-bound jet fuel back to the local market due to supply concerns. Continue reading...

- [China’s ‘teapot’ oil refineries keep economy brewing – but surging crude prices leave them strained](#) (2026-03-30 00:00)

The factories, which buy cheap crude and turn it into fuel, are struggling as higher oil prices threaten their razor-sharp margins The towns that are the bulwark of China’s energy security can, at a moment of global crisis, appear deceptively quiet. Trucks carrying oil trundle along wide-open highways that have little traffic, while a few boarded-up shops in crumbling low-rise

buildings hint at a long-forgotten local buzz. A ramshackle noodle shop serving hand-pulled ribbons of dough was empty at lunchtime, save for a few construction workers and a teacher watching videos on Douyin, the social media platform, with his meal. Continue reading...

- [The Guardian view on Myanmar's forgotten war: the military cosplay democracy but people demand the real thing | Editorial](#) (2026-03-29 16:30)

Five years of brutal conflict have made the army more determined to crush opposition, and others more convinced they must resist China promoted elections in Myanmar, while those fighting for democracy boycotted them. That tells you everything about the shift to a supposedly civilian administration in the coming days, five years after the military seized power in a coup. It appears likely that Min Aung Hlaing will swap his leadership of the army for the presidency. Whatever the details, the junta will still be running the show, and bombing civilians – just while cosplaying as democrats. Myanmar's suffering has been overshadowed by higher-profile wars. But the conflict-monitoring organisation Aclod estimates that about 93,000 people have been killed since 2021, while the UN says that 3.6 million are displaced. The junta does not control much of the country, limiting where polls could be held. The opposition refused to take part, and others were excluded from voting because they are denied citizenship. Little wonder the main military-backed party declared a landslide victory – despite having won just 6% of the vote in a 2020 election. Continue reading...

## Source: China - Foreign Policy

- [How China Reinvented the BRI](#) (2026-04-03 04:01)

Western tariffs accelerated its transformation into a sophisticated extension of China's industrial policy.

- [America's War Machine Runs on Tungsten—and It Could Run Out](#) (2026-04-02 20:44)

U.S. operations in Iran risk draining limited U.S. stocks.

- [Will the Iran War Evaporate the Gulf's AI Oasis?](#) (2026-04-02 20:17)

The Iran war has punctured—though not completely popped—the region's tech bubble.

- [The Next Global Food Crisis Has Already Begun](#) (2026-04-02 19:21)

Blocked fertilizer shipments plus La Niña spell trouble for farmers around the world.

- [Xi's Innovation Paradox](#) (2026-03-31 21:30)

Recent mandates show the Chinese leader wants both loyalty and creativity from officials.

- [A Complacent America Shrugs Off New War Technologies](#) (2026-03-31 11:34)

From the president on down, many Americans still do not grasp the implications of drones and other threats.

## Source: Financial Times China

- [‘Big bang’ of animal life may have begun earlier than thought](#) (2026-04-02 18:00)

Fossils from south-west China offer new clues to date of crucial evolutionary period

- [Pakistan and Afghanistan hold peace talks in China](#) (2026-04-02 08:38)

First face-to-face contact since December comes after tensions erupted into open conflict

- [Trump’ s protectionist Nixon redux takes a darker turn than the original](#) (2026-04-02 04:00)

Tricky Dick’ s trade and currency war gave way to a pivot towards the multilateral

- [Apple at 50: how Asia fuelled its rise to the top](#) (2026-04-02 04:00)

Japanese industry and Chinese manufacturing prowess played roles in the tech giant’ s success, with consequences for both

- [FirstFT: Chinese government bonds resilient amid global debt sell-off](#) (2026-04-01 21:37)

Also in today’ s newsletter: SpaceX kicks off largest IPO process in history, and Saudi Arabia bridles at Trump’ s handling of Iran war

- [The global economy turns out to be more resilient than we had feared](#) (2026-04-01 04:00)

Trump’ s tariffs have not led to the kind of retaliatory action many expected

- [Chinese government bonds emerge as lone war haven](#) (2026-04-01 02:25)

Yields on China’ s debt are down marginally since the start of the conflict while those of other major economies have risen

- [Iran war gives Chinese exporters chance to grab global market share](#) (2026-03-31 21:00)

Ample oil reserves and renewables growth make manufacturing sector more resilient than rivals

- [UK submarine captain steps down after link to Chinese spy case](#) (2026-03-31 20:17)

Navy previously conducted investigation into senior officer to examine potential blackmail risk

- [Huawei comeback loses pace as cloud and phones falter](#) (2026-03-31 15:43)

Chinese tech conglomerate reports slowest revenue growth in three years

- [Geely to use Volvo Cars’ plants over building overseas factories](#) (2026-03-31 14:16)

Move is in contrast to rival BYD, as founder warns of “very serious” overcapacity in global car industry

- [In trade’ s ‘law of the jungle’ , the winners are clear](#) (2026-03-31 04:00)

It is China and the US that prosper when power sets the terms for global commerce

- [‘C-Reit’ gives global investors a route out of Chinese property](#) (2026-03-31 04:00)

CapitaLand of Singapore was the first international sponsor of a Chinese real estate investment trust

- [A blueprint for Chinese global leadership](#) (2026-03-30 14:04)

With the US destroying its own credibility, the opportunity is Beijing’ s for the taking

- [China cracks down on ‘bone ash’ burials in empty apartments](#) (2026-03-30 01:00)

Younger tenants do not mind dead neighbours if it drives down rents in a building

- [Eli Lilly to sign \\$2bn deal for AI drug development with Hong Kong biotech](#) (2026-03-29 11:00)

Global pharmaceutical companies are aggressively searching for new medicines in China

- [Could rising energy prices cure China’ s deflationary funk?](#) (2026-03-29 11:00)

Market Questions is the FT’ s guide to the week ahead

- [The Iran war will cement China’ s superpower status](#) (2026-03-29 11:00)

Beijing’ s industrial prowess positions it for economic and diplomatic gains

- [In a world of \\$100 oil, fast fashion loses its defensive charms](#) (2026-03-29 04:00)

Polyester-heavy retailers could soon start to feel the cost of their exposure to higher oil prices

- [US senators to urge passage of defence bill in visit to Taiwan](#) (2026-03-28 03:00)

Trip by bipartisan lawmakers shows support in face of rising Chinese pressure

## Source: New York Times China

- [Cosmopolitan Shanghai Is an Uneasy Fit in China’ s Narrative of Western Sins](#) (2026-04-03 04:01)

Shanghai’ s many layers of architecture, culture and politics have made it a difficult fit for the Communist Party’ s preferred narrative of Chinese victimhood and Western sins.

- [A Bid to Use Force to Open Strait of Hormuz Hits Roadblocks at U.N. Security Council](#) (2026-04-03 03:29)

Several permanent members of the Security Council opposed the resolution, drafted by Bahrain in coordination with its Gulf neighbors, officials said.

- [Rival Nations Seize On Choke Points to Counter Trump](#) (2026-04-02 22:42)

From Iran to China, President Trump's global aggression has encouraged other countries to search for new ways to pressure the U.S. economy.

- [The Race for the Future of the Moon](#) (2026-04-02 21:12)

The Artemis II mission isn't just about science and exploration. It's part of a high-stakes space race between the U.S. and China.

- [Trump Officials Try to Fight Foreign Disinformation They Once Dismissed](#) (2026-04-02 16:40)

The war in Iran has exposed the need to mount a defense against foreign influence campaigns, officials and experts say.

- [China's Aiming for the Moon, and NASA Is Looking Over Its Shoulder](#) (2026-04-02 05:57)

The U.S. space agency launched a lunar flyby Wednesday, but Beijing is pursuing its own space program with formidable focus. Here's what we know about it, in photos and videos.

- [Remember the Oil Shocks of the '70s? This Is Going to Be Worse. Much Worse.](#) (2026-04-01 20:48)

Higher oil prices and limited supply will accelerate a turn toward cleaner technologies, especially in Asia and Europe.

- [Robot Taxis Stop in Traffic in Chinese City, Stranding Travelers](#) (2026-04-01 11:26)

The authorities in Wuhan, the site of one of the world's largest experiments in self-driving cars, cited a "system failure" after widespread reports on Tuesday evening.

- [The Fall of a Cambodian Money-Laundering Giant](#) (2026-04-01 11:00)

The former chairman of a financial group was brought to China in handcuffs, the latest high-level capture in a widening investigation into organized crime.

- [U.S. Senators Press Taiwan to Raise Military Spending, as China Protests](#) (2026-03-31 10:28)

Four visiting senators urged Taiwan to break an impasse over a \$40 billion budget proposal, highlighting concerns in Washington about the threat from China.

- [Eric Swalwell Sends Cease-and-Desist Letter to F.B.I. Over Case Files](#) (2026-03-31 01:24)

A Trump administration effort to gather documents from an old investigation had alarmed law enforcement officials, who feared it would be used to smear the Democratic lawmaker.

- [Xi Invites Taiwan's Opposition Leader to Talk 'Peace' Ahead of Trump Summit](#) (2026-03-30 10:32)

The planned visit by Cheng Li-wun appears designed to show Beijing's influence and convey a benign message ahead of the summit with President Trump.

- [Gao Zhen, a Chinese Artist Accused of Mocking Mao, Goes on Trial](#) (2026-03-30 04:20)

Gao Zhen, who emigrated to the United States years ago, was arrested during a visit to China and now faces up to three years in prison for artwork.

- [Why the Iran War May Force Countries to Rely Less on Natural Gas](#) (2026-03-29 09:00)

The U.S. and other exporters are poised for a windfall, but disruptions to Persian Gulf supplies are also pushing gas-buying countries to consider alternatives like coal, solar and nuclear energy.

- [F.B.I. Said to Dig Up Old Investigative Files on Democratic Lawmaker](#) (2026-03-28 20:15)

The urgent instructions at the Trump administration's behest to gather and relay the files on Representative Eric Swalwell have alarmed some career law enforcement officials.

## Source: South China Morning Post

- [China team release world's first bamboo drone flight control software – for free](#) (2026-04-04 06:00)

A team of researchers in China has unveiled what they describe as the world's first open-source flight control system designed specifically for bamboo-frame drones, offering a potential breakthrough in the push for low-cost, eco-friendly unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The system, developed by researchers at Northwestern Polytechnical University's school of civil aviation, aims to solve a long-standing bottleneck in sustainable drone design: integrating non-traditional materials such as bamboo...

- [Chinese woman whose pet dog was poisoned, killed by neighbour, sacrifices job for the cause](#) (2026-04-04 06:00)

A Chinese woman who sacrificed her job and life to get revenge on a neighbour who poisoned her pet dog to death has shown her face publicly for the first time. After her beloved pet dog Papi, a 13-year-old white West Highland Terrier, was poisoned and killed in a children's playground in her residential compound in Beijing in 2022, Li Yihan has dedicated her life to defending the animal's rights. Police found a 65-year-old man surnamed Zhang, who lived in the neighbourhood, to be the...

- [Israel targets Iran-backed Hezbollah sites in Lebanon in fresh strikes](#) (2026-04-04 05:16)

The Israeli military said on Saturday it had begun striking “Hezbollah infrastructure” in Beirut after it destroyed a bridge in eastern Lebanon to prevent the Iran-backed group’s reinforcements from crossing. Two loud explosions were heard in the capital within half an hour early on Saturday, with smoke billowing from one of them. Local media reported two strikes on Beirut’s southern suburbs, a locality that has been a target of Israeli strikes in recent days as the military presses on with its...

- [Malaysian bookshop hits on novel idea to bring back readers addicted to ‘brain rot’ clips](#) (2026-04-04 05:00)

“You don’t even have to look for it,” nine-year-old Anaqi said of the short videos he watches online. “It just shows up automatically, and it’s super interesting.” That instinctive pull is familiar to his father, Firdaus Omar. The 39-year-old Malaysian civil servant said his two children – Anaqi and his six-year-old brother – could spend hours watching the kind of short, noisy, endlessly recommended clips now commonly dismissed online as “brain rot”. He is worried about the effect of such...

- [Probe launched after Hospital Authority data breach involving 56,000 patients](#) (2026-04-04 04:55)

Hong Kong’s privacy watchdog and police are investigating a large-scale data leak involving over 56,000 patients served by the Hospital Authority, which reported the unauthorised retrieval of a variety of information. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data said on Saturday that it received a report from the authority on Friday, noting that patients’ names, identity card numbers, genders, dates of birth, dates of hospital visits and health information had been leaked. The health...

- [Safety fears bloom in Japan as ageing cherry trees collapse in Tokyo parks](#) (2026-04-04 04:22)

Many of Tokyo’s popular and iconic Somei Yoshino cherry blossom trees were planted during Japan’s post-war advancement in the 1960s, and are now getting old and frail. Some have fallen and many others require support, triggering safety concern as the Japanese celebrate the season of their favourite flower. Two cherry blossom trees collapsed on Thursday, one at Kinuta Park in downtown Tokyo and the other at the Chidorigafuchi greenway. The one in Kinuta Park damaged a fence while the other tree...

- [Amber rainstorm warning in Hong Kong, with thunderstorms expected over weekend](#) (2026-04-04 04:17)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’s journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong is bracing for a series of thunderstorms on the weekend, with the weather forecaster issuing an amber rainstorm

warning on Saturday morning. The Hong Kong Observatory announced the amber warning, the lowest of the three-tiered rainstorm warning system, at 11 am. It also said rain was particularly heavy in Tai Po district and might cause serious...

- [KMB told to probe machines that gave free bus rides as revised HK\\$2 scheme launched](#)  
(2026-04-04 04:00)

The Hong Kong government has demanded that the city's largest franchised bus operator investigate the malfunctioning of its fare rebate machines, which provided free trips to passengers on the day a revised HK\$2 (26 US cents) transport subsidy scheme was implemented. The government told the South China Morning Post on Saturday that KMB would be responsible for paying the additional rebates that it accidentally provided to eligible passengers and other residents during the system malfunction on...

- [In a time of war, Chinese museums are a safe haven for ancient treasures of Iran](#)  
(2026-04-04 04:00)

From glimmering floral-patterned glassware to the vivid colours of intricately designed Persian carpets, artefacts from Iran have captivated visitors to a museum in northern China, where they have avoided the risks of damage in the war waged by the US and Israel. The relics, on display at the Inner Mongolia Museum in the regional capital Hohhot since December, have drawn growing attention since the start of the conflict in the Middle East and highlighted a cultural exchange that has been quietly...

- [Singapore's Workers' Party finishes investigation into chief Pritam Singh's conduct](#)  
(2026-04-04 03:43)

A Workers' Party disciplinary panel looking into secretary general Pritam Singh's conduct has completed its investigation into whether the chief had contravened the party's constitution, after his court conviction for lying under oath to a parliamentary committee. "The panel will present its finalised report and recommendations to the Central Executive Committee in April," Singapore's opposition party said in a statement on Saturday. "The Notice of the Special Cadre Members' Conference will be...

- [London mayor's protection officers relieved of duties after bag of guns 'misplaced'](#)  
(2026-04-04 03:09)

Armed police guarding London Mayor Sadiq Khan left a bag of guns outside his home which was found by a member of the public, it was reported. Scaffolder Jordan Griffiths told The Sun that his pregnant girlfriend found the bag in south London on Tuesday evening. Inside the bag was an MP5 semi-automatic Heckler & Koch carbine, a Glock pistol, taser and ammunition, the newspaper reported. "My partner saw the bag sitting in the road by the kerbside and became suspicious. She went over to it and...

- [‘Space plumber’ to the rescue as Artemis astronauts navigate life aboard Orion](#) (2026-04-04 02:40)

They are sipping smoothies, snapping phone pics, dealing with crashed email and fixing broken toilets: astronauts, they are just like us. The four crew members zipping through space towards the moon are carrying out a mission unlike any before it, but they are also still muddling on through life’s mundanities – all while they float around together in a square footage equivalent to two minivans. Mission specialist Christina Koch, the first woman to venture into deep space, said preparing for the...

- [Here comes the ‘Mounjaro bride’ : Indian women turn to weight-loss drug before wedding](#) (2026-04-04 02:25)

Soon-to-be brides and grooms seeking short cuts to shed pounds before the big day have become the latest consumer target for weight-loss drugs in India. New Delhi wellness clinic Klarity Skin Clinic touts a “Mounjaro bride” package, while other clinics have woven weight-loss injections into “pre-wedding” transformation packages typically focused on skin treatments and hairstyle makeovers. In a social media video, Klarity offers “guided nutrition, Mounjaro and smart workouts” to prepare brides...

- [Competition or ‘co-opetition’ : how is convergence shaping AI race between China and US?](#) (2026-04-04 02:00)

There was a surprise guest speaker at Nvidia’s widely watched GPU Technology Conference (GTC) in San Jose, California, last month: Yang Zhilin, the founder of Beijing-based Moonshot AI, the developer behind the Kimi family of foundational artificial intelligence models. Amid heated rhetoric about US-China AI competition, which some have likened to an “arms race”, the participation of a Chinese AI start-up’s CEO at the flagship event of American chipmaking giant Nvidia might have struck some as...

- [South Korea and Indonesia’s KF-21 fighter jet is ready. But will it sell?](#) (2026-04-04 02:00)

South Korea has spent a decade and billions of dollars trying to build a world-class fighter jet. Now that the finish line is drawing near, it’s nearly time to find out who will buy one. The first mass-produced KF-21 Boramae, developed jointly with Indonesia since 2015, was unveiled by Korea Aerospace Industries in Sacheon on March 25. Analysts say the aircraft could pave the way for South Korea, already one of the world’s top 10 arms exporters, to grab an even bigger slice of the global...

- [Pakistan offers 30 days of free public transport following 40% petrol hike](#) (2026-04-04 01:46)

State-run public transport in Pakistan’s capital and most populous province will be free for the coming month, officials said, after the government drastically raised fuel prices due to the Iran war. The announcement came after street protests and long queues of motorcycles at fuel stations triggered by a late-night decision on Thursday to impose a 42.7 per cent rise in the

price of petrol to 485 rupees (US\$1.70) per litre. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif back-peddled late on Friday, saying he...

- [Chinese overseas need not keep to ourselves. I certainly don't](#) (2026-04-04 01:30)

While enjoying a foot massage in Buenos Aires' Chinatown, I chatted with my masseuse, a Fujianese woman in her late 50s surnamed Wang. Her life, it seemed to me, mirrored that of many recent Chinese immigrants to Argentina. She eats exclusively Chinese food, her friends are fellow Chinese and she still speaks mostly Chinese. While it is not unusual for migrants anywhere to gravitate towards their own community, the tendency appears particularly strong among the Chinese. China's presence in...

- [Why South Korea, France prefer diplomacy over force in Hormuz](#) (2026-04-04 01:00)

Efforts by South Korea and France to secure safe passage for vessels through the Strait of Hormuz are likely to be centred on a post-war defensive armada with other countries. Analysts also say both nations are wary of joining the Middle East conflict at this point in time and antagonising Iran. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Friday revealed he had agreed with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron to cooperate on safety in the strategic oil supply strait. Lee made the remarks after a...

- [Chinese woman spits blood on train, receives US\\$58,000 in donations after viral video](#) (2026-04-04 01:00)

A sick woman in China who spat out blood on an underground train then wiped the bloodstain from the floor with her coat has received 400,000 yuan (US\$58,000) in donations from internet users moved by her plight. A video of the woman taken by a passenger on a train in Chongqing, southwestern China on March 23 has gone viral on mainland social media, Jiupai News reported. Hu Xinyao, 23, has a rare vascular condition called ANCA-associated vasculitis. She was on her way to a hospital for an...

- [Hong Kong airport opens sensory space for passengers with invisible disabilities](#) (2026-04-04 00:30)

Hong Kong International Airport has opened a sensory corner to ease travel stress for passengers with invisible disabilities, ranging from autism to dementia. Major airports around the world, including Singapore Changi and London Heathrow, have introduced sensory rooms or quiet zones for neurodivergent travellers in recent years, as part of a wider effort to enhance inclusivity. Chris Au Young, the Airport Authority's general manager of terminal and passenger experience, said the 30 square metre...

- [Southeast Asia seeks soft power to outlast US\\$300 billion buzz](#) (2026-04-04 00:00)

Later this month, Indonesian cinema-goers will finally get to see what audiences in Berlin saw in February: Jokowi's Ghost in the Cell. The horror-comedy, which had its world premiere at the prestigious Berlin International Film Festival, has been celebrated by influential trade

magazine Variety for rising above mere “escapist entertainment” to channel societal anxieties about corruption and environmental destruction. Yet it is only the latest example of Southeast Asia’s creative moment...

- [Australia’s 180-degree shift from 5 years ago: China in favour; US out](#) (2026-04-04 00:00)

Australian comedian Jenny Tian set off a wave of deep laughter across an Adelaide audience at a recent comedy festival by saying she had tired of democracy at home. So, Tian explained, she moved to the US to give “fascism” a whirl instead. The 30-year-old showbiz pro was born to Chinese parents, making her race a rarity in Western stand-up comedy. But the crowd was a near sell-out. I saw Tian’s March performance during a visiting media tour of Australia after days of meetings with national...

- [‘A game of whack-a-mole’: how could the scam industry bring China and the US together?](#) (2026-04-03 22:00)

The compound is modern with air conditioning in every room. Inside are a medical clinic, massage parlour, and Vietnamese barbecue, Chinese hotpot and halal eateries – a full range of conveniences. Yet the residents are gone – and they appear to have fled in haste. Clothes still hang out to dry, while the stench of rotting food lingers. Located in a secluded area in Kampot province near Cambodia’s border with Vietnam, the site is believed to be a telecoms scam centre. Cambodian authorities said...

- [The twilight of US hegemony and Israeli expansionism](#) (2026-04-03 21:30)

The whole world has come to oppose the Iran war, including most Americans. Just as Israel took part in the 1956 Suez crisis, which signalled the last hurrah of European imperialism, it is now jointly prosecuting a pointless but destructive war that is likely to spell the twilight of American hegemony. This time, though, the Jewish state won’t get away so easily. From the Palestinian territories to Iran and Lebanon, it can no longer hide its Zionist expansionism that threatens the entire...

- [US girl dies after being hit on head with metal water bottle, classmate arrested](#) (2026-04-03 21:19)

A 12-year-old has been arrested in connection with the death of a classmate who was hit in the head with a metal water bottle during an alleged bullying incident at a Los Angeles school, authorities said Friday. The juvenile, whose age and gender have not been made public, was arrested on suspicion of murder on Thursday, Los Angeles Police Officer Charles Miller said. The arrest stems from the February 25 death of 12-year-old Khimberly Zavaleta Chuquipa. The Los Angeles County District...

- [Pope Leo carries cross for full Good Friday procession, first to do so in decades](#) (2026-04-03 20:50)

Pope Leo lifted a wooden cross and held it aloft from his waist at the start of the 14 stations of the Way of the Cross at the Colosseum on his first Good Friday as pontiff, marking the first time in decades that a pope has set out to carry the cross to every station. “I think it will be an important sign because of what the pope represents, a spiritual leader in the world today, and for this voice, that everyone wants to hear, that says Christ still suffers,” Leo told reporters this week...

- [Trump seeks US\\$1.5 trillion for defence in new budget request amid Iran war](#) (2026-04-03 18:26)

US President Donald Trump is seeking congressional approval for US\$1.5 trillion in defence spending in his new budget proposal, underscoring his administration’s focus on military investment as the country remains engaged in conflict in the Middle East. The blueprint released by the White House on Friday for the financial year 2027 proposes a 44 per cent increase in the US defence budget – implementing the widely controversial plan first unveiled by Trump in a January social media post. If...

- [One US pilot rescued, another missing after Iran says it downed fighter jet](#) (2026-04-03 17:47)

One crew member from a US fighter jet shot down over Iran has been rescued by US forces, multiple news outlets reported on Friday, citing two US officials, while a second crew member remains missing. Iran on Friday claimed to have shot down an American fighter jet, releasing photos of apparent wreckage of an F-15E, while the United States reportedly launched a search-and-rescue operation for the crew. Earlier, Iranian state media released photos and videos purported to be the debris of the...

- [Artemis II’s moon-bound astronauts share first images of Earth’s brilliant blue beauty](#) (2026-04-03 17:33)

The Artemis II astronauts have captured our blue planet’s brilliant beauty as they zoom ever closer to the moon. Nasa released the crew’s first downlinked images Friday, 1½ days into the first astronaut moon shot in more than half a century. The first photo taken by commander Reid Wiseman shows a curved slice of Earth in one of the capsule’s windows. The second shows the entire globe with the oceans topped by swirling white tendrils of clouds. As of midmorning on Friday, Wiseman and his crew...

- [Iran war: French and Japanese-owned ships make first Strait of Hormuz crossings](#) (2026-04-03 16:32)

A French container ship and a Japanese-owned tanker have crossed the Strait of Hormuz, in what appear to be the first such transits since the war in Iran closed the crucial waterway. The CMA CGM Kribi container ship exited the strait on Friday, according to ship tracking data compiled by Bloomberg and two people familiar with the situation. That is the first ship linked to western Europe that is known to have made it through since the war began more than a

month ago. Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines...

- [Domestic helper arrested after 6-month-old girl dies in Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-03 16:24)

Police have arrested a domestic helper on suspicion of child neglect following the death of a six-month-old baby in northern Hong Kong. The force said it received a report from the baby girl's family at 11.39am on Friday that she had been found unconscious on a bed at home in the Fairview Park development in Yuen Long. Emergency personnel rushed the infant to Pok Oi Hospital in Yuen Long for treatment, police said. She was transferred to Tuen Mun Hospital, where she was later certified dead. A...

- [8 die in Ukraine in Russian strikes as Kyiv holds door open for Easter truce](#) (2026-04-03 15:57)

Russian strikes killed at least eight people across Ukraine on Friday, including in a "massive" missile and drone attack near the capital, local authorities reported. Ukrainian officials claim the Kremlin is changing its tactics to increase civilian suffering, shifting to daytime barrages and preparing to target more key infrastructure. President Volodymyr Zelensky has signalled Kyiv's openness to a potential Easter truce. The holiday is celebrated on April 12 in Ukraine and Russia. Zelensky...

- [Sri Lanka arrests 152 in alleged Chinese-run cyberscam](#) (2026-04-03 15:23)

Police in Sri Lanka arrested 152 foreign nationals, mostly Chinese, on Friday for allegedly running a cyberscam operation out of a hotel in the island's northwest, officials said. The raid took place in the coastal town of Chilaw, 80km (50 miles) north of Colombo, following a tip-off, said police spokesman Frederick Wootler. "Those involved in scamming will be dealt with under our criminal law, while others could be deported," Wootler said. Local police sources said two Chinese men who tried to...

- [US adds 178,000 jobs in March, rebounding from February losses](#) (2026-04-03 14:23)

American employers added a surprisingly strong 178,000 new jobs last month, rebounding from a dismal February, while the unemployment rate dipped to 4.3 per cent. The Labor Department reported on Friday that hiring marked a rebound from the loss of 133,000 jobs in February. The job gains were about three times what economists had forecast. The unemployment rate was down from 4.4 per cent in February. That is partly because the labour force – those working and looking for work – dropped by...

- [China's gravity-detecting SQUID gets closer to spotting US nuclear submarines](#) (2026-04-03 14:00)

Chinese researchers unveiled a gravity detector with world-leading precision last month, potentially expanding the military applications of the technology. It uses a superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) to detect objects by measuring tiny changes in gravity. The team that developed the instrument says it can be used for scientific research and finding

underground resources. It also brings the country one step closer to being able to spotpatrolling nuclear submarines. According to...

- [Beijing mandates internal AI ethics reviews to ensure ‘controllable’ tech](#) (2026-04-03 13:54)

Chinese companies engaging in artificial intelligence activities are required to set up internal “AI ethics review committees” under new rules released by Beijing on Thursday, effective immediately. The notice comes as policymakers look to ensure that fast-paced AI progress can continue in a “healthy” manner amid growing consumer and enterprise adoption. Jointly released by 10 government bodies and institutions including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, National Development...

- [Hong Kong customs seizes HK\\$3.4 million worth of suspected drugs, arrests 2 men](#) (2026-04-03 13:45)

Hong Kong customs officers seized 6.5kg of suspected drugs worth about HK\$3.4 million (US\$433,800) and arrested two men in separate cases earlier this week. The Customs and Excise Department said on Friday the first arrest occurred two days earlier at Hong Kong International Airport when officers found 3.1kg (6.8lbs) of suspected ketamine in the baggage of a man, 43, who arrived from Bangkok. The department said the suspected drugs were concealed inside food packaging in the baggage. In the...

- [US can take Strait of Hormuz ‘with more time’ , says Trump](#) (2026-04-03 13:18)

President Donald Trump on Friday said the US can open the Strait of Hormuz with a little more time, as pressure mounts for his administration to find a quick resolution to a war against Iran. “With a little more time, we can easily OPEN THE HORMUZ STRAIT, TAKE THE OIL,& MAKE A FORTUNE,” he said in a post on Truth Social. Nearly five weeks after it started with a joint US-Israeli aerial assault, the war in Iran continues to spread chaos across the region and roil financial markets, raising...

- [East Asia’ s crisis of confidence in the US is militarising China’ s backyard](#) (2026-04-03 12:30)

The dust and debris of the US-Israeli war on Iran have yet to settle, but its strategic shock waves have reached East Asia. From Tokyo to Taipei, a reassessment is under way. The conflict, intended to project American resolve, has been a brutal stress test for the US-led order – with catastrophic results for Washington’ s credibility. Far from cementing its primacy, America’ s misadventure has revealed a superpower that is overstretched, vulnerable and seen as an unreliable partner. This erosion...

- [Pakistanis face up to 54% rise in fuel prices](#) (2026-04-03 12:02)

Pakistanis faced record fuel price increases on Friday, as petrol and diesel prices rose by up to 54 per cent driven by the war in the Middle East that has caused global oil prices to surge. The

increase adds pressure to a cash-strapped nation already grappling with high inflation, as economists warned the hike would push up food prices and living costs. Pakistan's Petroleum Minister Pervez Malik said late on Thursday that the increase was "unavoidable". He said the government was forced to...

- [China, Europe and why Beijing took a swing at Iran over the Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-04-03 12:00)

In a rare condemnation of its strategic partner, China has come out in opposition to Iran's attacks on Gulf nations, calling for a ceasefire and a guarantee of the safety of shipping lanes. Addressing a UN Security Council meeting on Thursday, Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, said: "China does not support Iran's attacks on Gulf Cooperation Council nations and condemns all indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians and non-military targets. The security of..."

- [Tencent expands OpenClaw suite with enterprise tool amid China's 'lobster' craze](#) (2026-04-03 12:00)

Tencent Holdings has launched a new OpenClaw tool for enterprises that promises easy deployment of the artificial intelligence agent as part of the Chinese internet giant's efforts to capitalise on the "lobster" frenzy in the country. ClawPro, launched in public beta by Tencent's cloud unit on Thursday, works as an AI agent management platform for enterprises, allowing them to deploy OpenClaw templates, select models and agents, track token consumption and manage security settings. Tencent said...

- [Malaysia drops appeal on abducted activist's case, family still seeks answers](#) (2026-04-03 11:41)

Malaysia has given the family of missing pastor Raymond Koh access to a long-classified government report after dropping a legal challenge, but questions remain unanswered over his case, according to rights groups and lawyers. The situation surrounding Koh has revived memories of other Malaysians who are believed to be victims of enforced disappearances in the country. Koh has not been seen after the then 62-year-old was abducted in broad daylight in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, on February 13,...

- [No more 'cold peace' across Taiwan Strait: former KMT chairwoman calls to rebuild trust](#) (2026-04-03 11:09)

The former chairwoman of Taiwan's main opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), has called for cross-strait dialogue to break the state of "cold peace", rebuild trust and avoid conflict. "The key to cross-strait relations lies not in radical confrontation, but in profound mutual trust," Hung Hsiu-chu wrote on a popular mainland online platform on Thursday. She also called for a return to the 1992 consensus, an unofficial agreement between Beijing and the then-ruling KMT in Taiwan. It states that...

- [Washington launches export initiative to ensure ‘future of AI is led by the United States’](#) (2026-04-03 11:00)

The US government has unveiled an AI export initiative designed to cement American technological leadership while countering China’s growing influence in the sector. Washington is inviting US companies to form “preset” consortiums to offer full-stack artificial intelligence solutions around the world. Applications will be accepted until the end of June, the International Trade Administration (ITA), an agency under the US Department of Commerce, said in a news release issued on Wednesday. The...

- [Xiaomi lifts handset prices as memory chip crunch ripples through supply chain](#) (2026-04-03 11:00)

Xiaomi has raised prices on several smartphone models, joining a broader wave of increases across China’s handset makers as surging memory chip costs ripple through the global consumer electronics supply chain. The company said on Friday that prices for three models would rise by about 200 yuan (US\$29), with the adjustments taking effect next Saturday. The move follows similar increases by domestic peers including Oppo, Vivo and Honor in March. Xiaomi attributed the hike to “continued sharp...

- [China watching ‘like a hawk’ as US Artemis 2 crew fixes toilet on moon trip](#) (2026-04-03 11:00)

China would be closely watching the US Artemis 2 lunar fly-by mission, which has already encountered challenges, including a malfunctioning toilet soon after launch, an expert said. As China gears up to bring astronauts to the moon, the first human return to lunar orbit since the Apollo era over 50 years ago could offer Beijing valuable technical insights. Quentin Parker, a professor of astrophysics at the University of Hong Kong, described China as watching the Artemis 2 mission “like a...

- [Hong Kong documentary pulled from cinemas 3 years ago to be screened in Italy](#) (2026-04-03 10:43)

An award-winning documentary capturing the lives of six girls over 10 years by Hong Kong director Mabel Cheung Yuen-ting will be screened at a film festival in Italy, three years after it was pulled from local cinemas due to a lack of consent from interviewees. To My Nineteen-year-old Self, which centres on Ying Wa Girls’ School, was one of the four special screenings revealed in the Far East Film Festival’s line-up on Thursday. The film festival, to be held between April 24 and May 2 in Udine,...

- [New Zealand doctor bills US embassy for rising fuel costs: ‘payment expected within 7 days’](#) (2026-04-03 10:25)

A New Zealand doctor has sent the US embassy in Wellington an invoice for his clinic’s fuel bills, saying that President Donald Trump and his administration should take responsibility for starting a war that has sent oil prices spiralling. Shane Dunphy asked the embassy to reimburse

him for the NZ\$2,790.95 (US\$1,600) in petrol vouchers he gave staff at Onslow Medical Centre in the capital so that they could travel to work, The Guardian newspaper reported. “Because of the current fuel crisis,...

- [Human remains found on Thai ship attacked by Iran in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-04-03 10:22)

Human remains have been found aboard a cargo ship struck by Iran while transiting the Strait of Hormuz last month, the vessel’s owner said on Friday, after three crew members were reported missing following the attack. US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February prompted Tehran to respond by effectively closing the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial artery for global oil supplies. The Thai-flagged Mayuree Naree was struck in March while travelling through the strait after departing Khalifa port in the...

- [Ma Xingrui becomes China’s third Politburo member investigated for corruption](#) (2026-04-03 10:05)

Ma Xingrui, a member of China’s Politburo and the former Communist Party boss of Xinjiang, is being investigated by the anti-corruption watchdog, state news agency Xinhua reported on Friday. He is the third member of the ruling party’s elite political body to come under investigation in the current term that began in 2022, a situation unseen in decades. He Weidong, former vice-chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC), is also being investigated and was expelled from the party...

- [With an eye on China, Japan looks to kamikaze drones and low-cost missiles](#) (2026-04-03 10:00)

Japan plans to introduce a fleet of kamikaze drones and low-cost missiles to boost deterrence against regional threats including China, according to Japanese media reports. The Yomiuri newspaper and Kyodo news agency reported on Wednesday that the strategy was focused on “integrated attacks” from unmanned aerial vehicles and long-range stand-off missiles, citing government and ruling coalition sources. They said the drones and missiles would be used to break down enemy air defences and...

- [Malaysia urged to take more aggressive action to tackle energy crisis](#) (2026-04-03 10:00)

Malaysia has so far been spared the worst of the regional energy crunch, but experts say the government needs to move quickly and take more aggressive measures to prevent a worsening economic crisis if the Iran war becomes a drawn-out conflict. Much of Southeast Asia has been hit hard by the energy crisis, with thousands of motorists ditching their vehicles over the lack of fuel and governments burning through billions of dollars and scrambling to find alternative fuel sources to rein in prices...

- [Rats versus pets: Hong Kong dog owners want rodent poison in boxes, not bags](#) (2026-04-03 10:00)

Hong Kong pet owners have called for environmental authorities to place rat poison in boxes instead of hanging them in transparent bags, with one owner saying his dog had to visit the veterinarian three times in recent months after accidentally consuming pellets that spilled from broken bags onto the pavement. In response to queries by the South China Morning Post, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said rodenticides were used “only when warranted” , and had adjusted the...

- [Why ‘dung collector’ was a highly lucrative profession in ancient China](#) (2026-04-03 10:00)

In ancient China, a highly lucrative and fiercely competitive profession known as the “dung collector” brought its exponents significant profits. These people were responsible for gathering human waste, otherwise known as night soil, from residents’ chamber pots. Due to a lack of modern toilets and flush systems, people stored human waste in chamber pots and were not allowed to dispose of it freely. Waste from each household was collected by specialised workers known as “dung collectors” . At...

- [Hong Kong committed to helping mainland China’ s health standards ‘go global’](#) (2026-04-03 09:31)

Hong Kong is committed to helping mainland China’ s medical and health standards “go global” , with a local minister hailing the city’ s first time hosting a national medical conference as an event of “great significance” . Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau also said Hong Kong was striving to meet the mainland’ s certification requirements for a local stroke centre, following the accreditation of a heart disease treatment facility under national standards last year. Lo officiated at the opening of...

- [Israel strikes over 3,500 Lebanon targets in month with 1,000 militants dead: military](#) (2026-04-03 09:26)

The Israeli military said Friday it had struck more than 3,500 targets across Lebanon in the month since fighting with the Hezbollah militant group began. Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war on March 2 after Iran-backed Hezbollah launched rockets at Israel to avenge the US-Israeli attack that killed Iran’ s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Israel has responded with massive strikes across Lebanon and a ground offensive. The Israeli military said on Friday it had killed about 1,000...

- [Helium supply shock threatens Asian chipmakers as economic slowdown fears mount](#) (2026-04-03 09:00)

The Iran war is rattling Asian chipmakers as damage to Qatar’ s gas facilities chokes off supplies of helium, an essential ingredient in manufacturing products ranging from smartphones to medical scanners. Analysts warn that the supply disruption is expected to trigger ripple effects across the global economy for some time. Pradeep Philip, head of Deloitte Access Economics, said that while there had been considerable focus on the energy shock

arising from the conflict, the crisis over helium...

- [Work from home, but we're watching: Indonesia, Malaysia geo-track remote civil servants](#) (2026-04-03 08:44)

Indonesia and Malaysia have ordered civil servants to work from home to save fuel amid the Iran war but with digital surveillance measures far stricter than those used during the pandemic. Civil servants in Indonesia must activate location tracking and respond to work communications within five minutes. Their Malaysian counterparts must log into a geolocation monitoring system every hour. Those who fail to comply face escalating sanctions. The work-from-home policies, announced within days of...

- [Hong Kong set for thunderstorms and showers on Saturday, Observatory says](#) (2026-04-03 08:41)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong is expected to be hit by thunderstorms and showers on Saturday, with the weather to remain unsettled for the rest of the Easter holiday, the local forecaster has warned. The Hong Kong Observatory said on Friday that occasional showers – which would be heavier at times – and some fast-moving thunderstorms brought by a trough of low pressure would hit...

- [Hong Kong customs seizes HK\\$280,000 worth of dried shark fins from Panama](#) (2026-04-03 08:31)

Hong Kong customs officers have seized about 162kg of suspected dried shark fins from protected species worth about HK\$280,000 (US\$35,720) from Panama at the airport. The Customs and Excise Department said on Friday that officers inspected an air consignment declared as dried fish maw arriving from the country the day before. Upon inspection, officers found six boxes of suspected scheduled dried shark fins, weighing about 162kg (357lbs), inside the consignment. The case has been handed over to...

- [3 reasons Xi-Trump summit won't be a waste of time for China](#) (2026-04-03 08:30)

The Trump administration has assured us that the long-awaited summit in Beijing between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump will now be held on May 14 to 15. Whether you believe the meeting will go ahead is up to you. Beijing has not confirmed it, but neither has it contradicted the White House. That is more than can be said for Tehran's brutal response to White House claims that US-Iran peace negotiations are under way. Even if we take the White House summit claim at face value,...

- [Beijing hails US cooperation as ICE returns suspected drug smuggler to China](#) (2026-04-03 08:00)

A Chinese fugitive suspected of drug-related crimes has been repatriated from the United States and handed to police in China, the first such case in years, according to state media. The

suspect was returned to China by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) via cooperation channels between the two countries, based on information provided by Chinese narcotics control authorities, state news agency Xinhua reported on Friday, citing the Ministry of Public Security. The Chinese national,...

- [Iran says shot down F-35 fighter jet with new defence system](#) (2026-04-03 07:56)

Iran on Friday said it shot down an F-35 fighter jet. A statement by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Iran's elite military force, said the fighter jet was shot down over Iranian airspace by a new, advanced defence system. There was no initial confirmation of the incident from the United States, which has been waging war against Iran alongside Israel since February 28. The IRGC said the F-35 was the second to have been shot down. "Due to the complete destruction of the aircraft,...

- [Revamped transport fare scheme triggers concerns about cost for working elderly](#) (2026-04-03 07:53)

Hong Kong's elderly residents have raised concerns about the financial burden placed on their low-income peers under a revised HK\$2 (26 US cents) transport fare scheme that came into force on Friday, with some avoiding higher-charging, long-route buses. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han said the implementation of the new arrangements had gone smoothly on the first day. He also stressed that the government was still subsidising a large part of the fares and the saved funds would...

- [Operation Santa Claus: Maxim's ramps up programmes, fundraising for Tai Po fire victims](#) (2026-04-03 07:52)

A major Hong Kong catering and restaurant conglomerate has stepped up its annual fundraising efforts to provide emergency relief to those affected by the deadly Tai Po fire and long-term community projects for vulnerable groups. For more than 18 years, Maxim's Group has supported Operation Santa Claus (OSC), an annual charitable fundraising initiative organised by the South China Morning Post and public broadcaster RTHK. "The (OSC's) mission of 'unlocking the city's spirit of giving' strongly...

- [3 Chinese nationals arrested in Malaysia over fake US visa passes](#) (2026-04-03 07:48)

Fourteen Chinese nationals and a Malaysian man have been detained by the immigration department for various offences in Kuala Lumpur. In the first case, three Chinese nationals were detained for using fake passes as supporting documents to obtain entry visas to the United States. Immigration director general Zakaria Shaaban said the arrests were made following intelligence gathering and an enforcement operation conducted on Wednesday. "A team from the enforcement division detained one man and...

- [Chinese airlines shed weight, add flights over Russia to trim fuel costs amid Iran war](#) (2026-04-03 07:02)

From controlling the weight of aircraft to sending more flights to Europe via Russian airspace, Chinese airlines have adopted a range of measures in response to the surge in oil prices resulting from the Middle East conflict that threatens to crimp their razor-thin margins. A number of carriers, including China Eastern Airlines, have been enforcing more precise and complex cost management measures in recent weeks to save fuel, according to industry insiders. They include stricter load and weight...

- [US delays Japan' s Tomahawk missile supplies as Iran strikes take priority](#) (2026-04-03 06:30)

Japan' s order for hundreds of Tomahawk missiles from the US is under threat as the American-Israeli war with Iran burns through inventories, the latest example of how the conflict is drawing in supplies and troops at the expense of defending against Washington' s primary strategic rival, China. Tomahawk missiles are a centrepiece of Tokyo' s new strategy of equipping itself with long-range strike capabilities to deal with challenges from China and North Korea. But Washington has informed Tokyo...

- [Trump' s 'Stone Age' threats against Iran spark war crimes alarm](#) (2026-04-03 06:26)

Threatening to destroy Iran' s electricity grid and to reduce the country of 90 million to destitution, US President Donald Trump is shattering precedent by not just accepting but gloating about acts seen as potential war crimes. The consequences for Trump, at least in the near term, are probably none, experts say, as his administration works hard to undermine international institutions tasked with keeping norms. The Geneva Conventions governing the laws of war, agreed following World War II,...

- [Indonesia rebalances energy policy as Iran war spurs new projects](#) (2026-04-03 06:20)

Indonesia is accelerating the transition to clean and renewable energy while pushing for more investments in oil and gas projects, critical minerals and rare earth mining, amid the global energy crisis triggered by the Middle East conflict. In the past week, Jakarta signed a raft of deals with international partners to develop renewable and fossil fuel projects, aimed at achieving energy security as an insurance against the impact of heightened geopolitical tensions. Green energy could also...

- [China launches heavyweight rocket to challenge SpaceX' s Falcon 9. It fails](#) (2026-04-03 06:04)

China' s attempt to launch its most powerful privately developed rocket failed on Friday after the vehicle suffered a flight anomaly. The Tianlong-3 rocket is being developed in hopes of breaking a key bottleneck in the country' s roll-out of internet satellite megaconstellations to compete with SpaceX' s Starlink. The Tianlong-3, built by Beijing-based start-up Space Pioneer and seen as China' s answer to the US company' s workhorse, the reusable Falcon 9, lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite...

- [Myanmar's junta chief Min Aung Hlaing wins parliamentary vote to become president](#) (2026-04-03 06:00)

Myanmar's junta chief Min Aung Hlaing won a parliamentary vote on Friday to become the country's president, formalising his grip on political power in the war-torn nation five years after he ousted an elected government. His transition from top general to civilian president follows a recent lopsided election won overwhelmingly by an army-backed party, which critics and Western governments derided as a sham to perpetuate military rule behind a veneer of democracy. The 69-year-old general...

- [Tesla outraces China's BYD in pure electric car sales to regain world's top spot](#) (2026-04-03 06:00)

Tesla has regained the global pure electric vehicle (EV) crown for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2024, after its deliveries rose 6.5 per cent year on year in the three months ending March. The modest increase was enough for the US carmaker to beat China's EV king BYD, which posted a 25.5 per cent drop in sales during the first quarter of 2026. Tesla's deliveries worldwide between January and March hit 358,023 units, it said in a statement on Thursday. Tesla builds only pure electric...

- [Chinese man blasts ghost stories over speakers for 10 hours daily to retaliate against neighbour](#) (2026-04-03 06:00)

Following a dispute with his neighbour, a Chinese man resorted to blasting ghost stories for more than 10 hours a day as revenge, deliberately keeping the volume just below the legal limit, drawing widespread ridicule online. The case was revealed by the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China. The man, surnamed Lu, and his cohabiter, surnamed Li, both from Guangzhou in Guangdong province, southern China, became embroiled in a dispute with their neighbour, surnamed Xie. The exact...

- [University town to be fast-tracked, Eric Chan says after mainland China visit](#) (2026-04-03 05:55)

Hong Kong's No 2 official has pledged to fast-track a new university town's development following a visit to similar projects in mainland China and said authorities will devise a strategy to attract top institutions from across the border and overseas to take part. Chief Secretary Eric Chan Kwok-ki and his working group on the university town's planning and construction, which falls under the Committee on Development of the Northern Metropolis, concluded its three-day visit to the mainland after...

- [Trump hails 'victories' in Iran; China's underwater tunnels: SCMP's 7 highlights](#) (2026-04-03 05:00)

We have selected seven stories from this week's news across Hong Kong, mainland China, the wider Asia region and beyond that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Controlled

escalation? Trump hails ‘victories’ in Iran but vows more strikes US President Donald Trump declared the US Israel war against Iran had delivered “decisive, overwhelming victories” ,even as he signalled that key military...

- [Cuba pardons 2,010 prisoners in ‘humanitarian’ gesture amid US pressure](#) (2026-04-03 04:50)

Cuba’ s government announced on Thursday that it was pardoning 2,010 prisoners as a “humanitarian” gesture during Holy Week, after pledging in March to release dozens amid heightened US pressure on Havana. The major announcement comes days after US President Donald Trump eased a de facto oil blockade of Cuba by allowing a Russian tanker to deliver crude to the fuel-starved island. The Trump administration has called for change in communist-run Cuba’ s system of government and the US president has...

- [Indonesian grandmother freed from Malaysian death row returns home: ‘feels unreal’](#) (2026-04-03 04:49)

An Indonesian woman who spent nearly 15 years on death row in a Malaysian prison for drug trafficking has returned home after receiving clemency, in a case rights groups say highlights the exploitation of poor migrant women in cross-border drug operations. Ani Anggraeni, also known as Asih, boarded a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Jakarta late on Thursday after being freed from custody. In a video message shared with This Week in Asia while en route, the 66-year-old said she was still struggling to...

- [Strait of Hormuz crisis](#) (2026-04-03 04:26)

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- [Hong Kong police on the hunt for 2 men who attacked taxi driver after quarrel](#) (2026-04-03 04:00)

Hong Kong police are on the hunt for two men who allegedly attacked a taxi driver with whom they had an argument in Yuen Long in the early hours of Friday. The force received a report from the 57-year-old victim at 2.50am. The cabby said he had asked the two men blocking his vehicle off at 3 Kau Yuk Road to move aside, but his plea triggered a quarrel and led to him being attacked by the pair. The two men, both described as non-ethnic Chinese, fled after the attack. Officers arriving at the...

- [‘I can’ t breathe’ : Korean Air sued over in-flight death of passenger](#) (2026-04-03 03:40)

Korean Air said on Friday it will faithfully respond to legal procedures in the United States, where a lawsuit was filed in Virginia on behalf of the estate of Porscha Tynisha Brown, who died at age 33 in March 2024, during a flight from Washington to Incheon operated by the airline. Burns Charest, the law firm representing the complainants, claimed her death resulted from a series of critical failures by Korean Air flight personnel. According to the complaint, Brown experienced sudden...

- [World’ s highest hotel opens in Hong Kong’ s West Kowloon in 2011 – from the SCMP archive](#) (2026-04-03 03:11)

This article was first published on April 3, 2011 If the altitude doesn’ t give you a nosebleed, the room rates might By John Carney You could say it is the height of luxury. And if putting on the Ritz is your thing, it’ s just the place for you. The highest hotel in the world opened in Hong Kong last week, and if the altitude doesn’ t give you a nosebleed, the price of a room will. Taking up floors 102 to 118 of the International Commerce Centre (ICC), the five-star, 312-room Ritz-Carlton Hotel...

- [Hongkongers opt for mainland Chinese tours during Easter amid Middle East war](#) (2026-04-03 02:58)

More Hongkongers have chosen to head north to mainland China during the Easter holiday amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East that has disrupted air traffic, an industry leader has said. Hong Kong Tourism Association executive director Timothy Chui Ting-pong said the number of outbound tour groups to the mainland during Easter rose 30 per cent year on year. He noted particularly strong growth in long-haul tours, such as those to the provinces of Guizhou, Hunan and Hubei. “The local economy...

- [Will Philippines’ anti-disinformation bills empower state to ‘decide the truth’ ?](#) (2026-04-03 02:00)

The Philippines is weighing a new anti-disinformation law, but digital rights advocates and researchers warn that the leading proposals could give the government sweeping powers while doing little to stop the networks that actually drive online influence campaigns. In February, President Ferdinand Marcos Jnr asked Congress to prioritise 21 measures before adjourning in June, including an anti-disinformation law that he said should be “balanced” – fighting fake news while maintaining freedom of...

- [Leapmotor targets global growth with Europe R&D; hub, eyes Canada assembly](#) (2026-04-03 02:00)

Leapmotor, one of China’ s strongest-performing electric vehicle (EV) makers this year, is accelerating its global push with a new innovation centre in Europe and plans for potential local assembly in Canada, as it looks to entrench production of its low-cost smart cars overseas. The Hangzhou-based carmaker, backed by Fiat owner Stellantis, has also raised its overseas sales target by 50 per cent, betting that higher fuel costs and easing trade barriers will bolster demand for Chinese-made...

- [Could China’ s metal-like composite make drones, planes and rockets 26% stronger?](#) (2026-04-03 02:00)

Challenging six decades of convention, Chinese scientists have proposed a new composite material manufacturing method that could improve the strength and reliability of structures

used in drones, aircraft and spacecraft. By introducing an advance in the so-called balanced lay-up approach – a method of stacking fibre layers symmetrically and in opposing angles to minimise internal stresses – the research team reported strength gains of up to 26 per cent. It also led to a 13 per cent improvement...

- [Trump hails destruction of Iran’s tallest bridge, warns of ‘much more to follow’](#) (2026-04-03 01:52)

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday the tallest bridge in Iran had been destroyed, hours after threatening to bomb the country “back to the Stone Ages”. Ghodrattollah Seif, the deputy governor of Alborz province, where the B1 bridge is located, said the strike had killed eight people and wounded 95 others, according to state TV and Fars news agency. Due to reporting restrictions, Agence France-Presse is not able to access the sites of strikes nor to independently verify tolls in...

- [Don’t let geopolitical rivalry skew debate over Jimmy Lai’s sentencing](#) (2026-04-03 01:30)

The sentencing of Jimmy Lai Chee-ying has been cited by several Western officials and media outlets as further evidence that Hong Kong’s legal system is in decline. Lai, the founder of the now-closed Apple Daily newspaper, faced multiple charges, including two counts of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces and one count of conspiracy to publish seditious publications. He was convicted last December and sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment in February. That same month, however, the Court of...

- [50 minutes, 50,000 calls, US\\$1.2 million lost: Singapore’s high-speed scam](#) (2026-04-03 01:27)

A Malaysian electrician was recruited by a syndicate and travelled to Singapore to set up devices in a rented house that would blast thousands of automated scam calls, with call origins masked to appear like they were being made locally. The devices transmitted over 50,000 call sessions over a 50-minute period, linked to around 18,000 phone numbers, 40 of which later featured in 42 police reports. The call sessions contained automated voice messages perpetuating scams from purported government...

- [More Hongkongers to travel over long Easter break despite higher costs](#) (2026-04-03 01:00)

More Hongkongers are expected to travel elsewhere during the five-day Easter weekend from Friday despite a sharp jump in fuel surcharges, according to industry leaders. They also expect more visitors from mainland China during an overlapping Ching Ming Festival holiday, but doubt the influx will deliver any significant boost to the city’s tourism revenue. Some noted that the Easter break might have encouraged travel to the Middle East, but many tour groups have been cancelled until October due...

- [Chinese man uses septic tank trucks on wedding day; bride happily embraces unique choice](#) (2026-04-03 01:00)

A man in China who followed his parents into the sewage removal business has used nine septic tank trucks to greet his bride on their wedding day. The nuptials, the first of their kind in China, unfolded on March 28 in Suixi county of central Anhui province, the hometown of the groom Pan Haonan. The event trended on social media and a video of the proceedings was viewed 5 million times, receiving nearly 20,000 likes, the news outlet The Cover reported. Pan's father has been engaged in removing...

- [Solomon Islands residents live in fear of WWII bomb explosions](#) (2026-04-03 00:00)

After playing in a forested area in the Solomon Islands, Billy's children often break out in rashes or itchy boils at home. A few years ago, the family became dizzy, suffered headaches and vomited – they believed it was due to the clams from nearby mangrove beds that they had eaten. “It was lucky that we stopped the children from eating them,” said Billy, whose family lives a hand-to-mouth existence in the village of Yandina in the Russell Islands. The 50-year-old farmer suspected that...

- [After car crash, Tiger Woods told officer he was ‘talking to the president’](#) (2026-04-02 23:33)

After crashing his SUV last week in Florida, Tiger Woods took out his phone and told a deputy, “I was just talking to the president,” according to body camera footage released Thursday showing Woods' arrest on a DUI charge. The phone conversation was not captured on video, but Woods could be heard saying, “Thank you so much,” as he hung up and the deputy approached. It was not clear if Woods was referring to US President Donald Trump, whose former daughter-in-law, Vanessa Trump, is dating...

- [The US-China trade war 1 year on: who really holds the upper hand?](#) (2026-04-02 22:00)

As China and the United States wrapped up their sixth and most recent round of trade talks in Paris this March, a minor mishap briefly stole the spotlight. A sudden gust of wind toppled two American flags in the background, where journalists were waiting for US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. Officials rushed to tape them to the wall – a fitting tableau for a trade war that, one year on, is patched together by a truce yet remains far from resolved. At their respective press appearances,...

- [Nasa's Artemis crew gets green light to make big push to the moon](#) (2026-04-02 21:52)

Nasa gave the four Artemis astronauts circling Earth the green light on Thursday to head for the moon and carry out the first crewed lunar fly-by in more than 50 years. Nasa Flight Director Jeff Radigan told the astronauts the mission management team had approved firing up the engine of their Orion capsule to send the spacecraft on a trajectory towards the moon. The 5 min and 49 second burn is scheduled to take place at 7.49pm and send the astronauts out of Earth orbit to begin the three-day...

- [From the US to Hong Kong, there's no excuse for insider trading](#) (2026-04-02 21:30)

The mighty Zambezi River has its source in northern Zambia, and flows north, west, south, then east, tracing borders for several countries including Zimbabwe. As the river enters Zimbabwe, the water molecules begin to flow faster, unknowingly energised – developing first into a rush, then eventually a torrent as they plunge down the Victoria Falls. This is an excellent analogy of the extremes of stock market price movements. In a stock market crash, prices move slowly, then very fast. My...

- [Hegseth ousts army's top uniformed officer, even as US wages war on Iran](#) (2026-04-02 21:23)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has asked the Army's top uniformed officer to step down, the Pentagon said on Thursday without giving a reason for the departure as the United States wages a war against Iran. General Randy George “will be retiring from his position as the 41st Chief of Staff of the Army effective immediately”, said Sean Parnell, the Pentagon's top spokesman. George has held the post of Army chief of staff, which typically runs for four years, since August 2023 under the Biden...

- [Iran war: music and barbecues in Tehran despite Trump's 'Stone Age' threats](#) (2026-04-02 20:11)

In a leafy Tehran park on Thursday, Iranians gathered for picnics on the final day of the Persian new year holidays, shrugging off US President Donald Trump's threats to bomb Iran “back to the Stone Ages”. The country has been at war for more than a month and Trump – who launched the conflict alongside Israel on February 28 – has vowed to strike Iran hard for another “two or three weeks”. Powerful blasts shook the Iranian capital on Thursday. Still, hundreds of families sat out under mild,...

- [Rubio raises concerns over China's detention of Panama-flagged ships](#) (2026-04-02 19:34)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has voiced “serious concerns” over China's intensified inspections of Panama-flagged vessels, vowing that the US “stands firmly” with Panama amid the Latin American country's escalating fallout with Beijing. Rubio said China's recent actions “raise serious concerns about the use of economic tools to undermine the rule of law in Panama, a sovereign nation and vital partner for global commerce”. “Detentions, delays, or other impediments to the movement of vessels...

- [Trump fires Pam Bondi as US attorney general, amid Epstein files furore](#) (2026-04-02 17:20)

US President Donald Trump removed Attorney General Pam Bondi from her post on Thursday, a White House official said, following mounting frustration with her performance, including her handling of investigative files related to the late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Trump had also reportedly grown frustrated that Bondi was not moving quickly

enough to prosecute critics and adversaries who he wanted to face criminal charges. In a socialmedia post, Trump praised Bondi as a “Great...

- [Trump tariffs cast shadow as US-China trade shrinks ahead of leaders’ meet](#) (2026-04-02 16:25)

Direct trade between China and the United States continues its shrinking trend, new US government data showed on Thursday, as the anniversary of “Liberation Day” highlights how last year’s tariff escalations deepened tensions between the two global powers. The figures come ahead of a planned leaders’ meeting in Beijing next month, where both sides are expected to explore ways to stabilise relations after a period of renewed economic strain. The February international trade data by the US Census...

- [Tai Po blaze hearing: property firm failed to identify, follow up on fire hazards](#) (2026-04-02 15:18)

An employee of the property management firm at Hong Kong’s inferno-ravaged Wang Fuk Court housing estate has admitted the company failed in its contractual obligations to identify and follow up on fire hazards, while none of its top management testified at an evidential hearing into the disaster. The eighth day of the hearing by the independent committee investigating the November 26 blaze that claimed 168 lives centred on Cheng Tsz-ying, a property officer at ISS EastPoint, the property...

- [Man stabs 4 children to death at Uganda kindergarten](#) (2026-04-02 15:14)

Four children were stabbed to death on Thursday at a kindergarten in Uganda’s capital, Kampala, police said. The male suspect, in his thirties, gained access by posing as a parent before attacking children aged around two and three with a knife, police said. “We confirm a tragic incident at the Ggaba Early Childhood Development Program school in Makindye Division, Kampala City, where a male suspect brutally stabbed and killed four juveniles,” police spokeswoman Racheal Kawala said. The suspect...

- [Britain says 40 countries discuss reopening Strait of Hormuz after Iran blockade](#) (2026-04-02 15:09)

About 40 countries are discussing joint action to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to stop Iran holding “the global economy hostage”, Britain said on Thursday, after US President Donald Trump said securing the waterway was for others to resolve. British foreign minister Yvette Cooper said Iran’s “recklessness” in blockading the waterway was “hitting our global economic security” as she chaired the virtual meeting, which included France, Germany, Canada, the United Arab Emirates and India. “We have...

- [What will the US do next in its war on Iran? Chinese pundits point to a likely path](#) (2026-04-02 15:00)

The US is likely to “escalate to de-escalate” its conflict with Iran, planning more aggressive strikes in the coming weeks to force a resolution, even as a complete ceasefire seems unlikely, according to Chinese analysts. In a prime-time address on Wednesday, US President Donald Trump declared that the US-Israel war against Iran had delivered “decisive, overwhelming victories”, with Washington’s core military objectives nearly completed. Without giving details, Trump also threatened to send...

- [China’s Iran war strategy, Trump’s Hormuz ask: 7 global relations reads](#) (2026-04-02 15:00)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering global relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Iran’s exiled prince Reza Pahlavi plans to flip the script on Beijing Allies of exiled Iranian royal Reza Pahlavi signalled a potential reset in Tehran’s ties with China and Russia, as the 65-year-old increasingly positioned himself as a central figure in Iran’s political future – a claim that...

- [US crude tops US\\$110, Wall Street falls after Trump vows more Iran attacks](#) (2026-04-02 14:28)

Stocks slumped and oil prices soared on Thursday after President Donald Trump vowed the US will continue to attack Iran and failed to offer a clear timetable for ending the conflict in the Middle East. The S&P 500 fell 1.1 per cent, with three out of every four stocks in the benchmark index losing ground. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 545 points, or 1.2 per cent, as of 9.52am Eastern. The Nasdaq composite fell 1.6 per cent. Major indexes throughout Europe and Asia also fell. The broad...

- [How Trump’s plan to take Iran’s Kharg Island could come unhinged](#) (2026-04-02 13:28)

Donald Trump’s threat to seize Kharg Island – a key Iranian oil hub – could be a risky proposition, analysts say, given its strategic location in the Persian Gulf. The small coral island lying about 33km (21 miles) offshore handles around 90 per cent of Iran’s crude shipments. It also sits close to missile and drone ranges stationed on the Iranian mainland and about 660km (410 miles) from the now heavily fortified Strait of Hormuz. The Trump administration has been considering deploying troops...

- [Hong Kong authorities seek forfeiture order for properties tied to Jimmy Lai’s crimes](#) (2026-04-02 13:21)

The government has filed an application to confiscate properties linked to crimes committed by former media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying in accordance with Hong Kong’s national security laws. A government spokesman on Thursday also said the application filed with the Court of First Instance aimed to achieve the “important objectives of preventing and suppressing acts and activities endangering national security”. Lai, 78, founder of the now-defunct Apple Daily tabloid-style newspaper was sentenced...

- [Italy arrests German-Indian ‘guru’ on child abuse allegations](#) (2026-04-02 13:12)

The suspected leader of an isolated forest community on the Mediterranean island of Sicily has been arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting child abuse, Italian news agencies ANSA and Adnkronos reported on Thursday. The suspect is a man of German-Indian origin. He is said to have led a community of 15 people, including two children, who lived in a forest near Cefalu on Sicily’s northern coast. The two children, aged 7 and 11, were reportedly not vaccinated, did not attend school and had to...

- [Chinese AI giants pivot toward proprietary models to drive revenue, performance](#) (2026-04-02 13:07)

Chinese companies including Alibaba Cloud and Zhipu AI have opted not to open-source some of their latest artificial intelligence models as they look to capture the full value of their usage through official revenue generating channels. While none of the companies have said that they are moving away from their open-source strategies, the development reflects an industry trend where the most powerful models are growing in size, making them increasingly difficult to host on local hardware. This...

- [Looking for Easter holiday inspiration? Here’s what’s happening in Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-02 13:03)

Hong Kong begins a five-day long weekend break for the Easter and Ching Ming Festival holidays on Friday, with authorities expecting busy inbound and outbound travel during the period. Mainland China marks the festival, also known as tomb-sweeping day, between Friday and Sunday. For Hongkongers remaining in the city and visitors from the mainland and elsewhere, the South China Morning Post lists key activities open to the public. Coffee festival The popular coffee festival returns to the West...

- [France’s Macron says military operation to ‘liberate’ Strait of Hormuz ‘unrealistic’](#) (2026-04-02 12:51)

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that a military operation to liberate the Strait of Hormuz is “unrealistic”, while lamenting Donald Trump’s differing daily statements on the Iran war and Nato. “There are those who advocate for the liberation of the Strait of Hormuz by force through a military operation, a position sometimes expressed by the United States,” Macron said during a visit to South Korea. “I say sometimes because it has varied, it is never the option we have chosen...

- [Call to close loopholes in Hong Kong’s child sexual offence bill](#) (2026-04-02 12:46)

More than 30 groups and individuals have collectively called on the government to close loopholes in Hong Kong’s child sexual offence bill and provide greater protection to survivors. In a paper released on Thursday, the non-profit organisations and professionals also urged the judiciary to review its practice directions to safeguard child abuse victims who often suffered

from intense cross-examination in court, which could lead to secondary harm. They highlighted the urgent need to examine...

- [How East Asia is being quietly reordered by the US war on Iran](#) (2026-04-02 12:30)

A month into the Iran war, Washington still says it expects to achieve its objectives in weeks, not months. That may prove optimistic. The terms on offer from the United States and Iran barely overlap, and markets remain unconvinced a durable settlement is close. But one fact is clear: the war's most consequential effects may be felt not only in the Middle East but across East Asia. It would be a mistake to see this as only an oil story. It is also about hierarchy. In East Asia, the war is...

- [Hong Kong can become global hub for autism support, Unesco official says](#) (2026-04-02 12:06)

Hong Kong's leader has pledged to foster an inclusive society for people with autism, with a Unesco official saying the city has the potential to become a global hub for support services. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu on Thursday highlighted the importance of a better understanding and acceptance of autistic people at an event marking the United Nations' World Autism Awareness Day. "Awareness is our starting point. Inclusion is our destination. Action is the bridge that joins them," he...

- [Philippines weighs social media ban for minors, but will it be enough?](#) (2026-04-02 12:00)

The Philippines is the latest country to consider banning minors from social media, joining a regional wave led by Australia and Indonesia, but technology analysts warn that restricting access alone will do little to address the platform design flaws that expose young users to harm. Philippine Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday called for legislation to limit minors' access to social media platforms, days after Indonesia began enforcing a ban on under-16s using "high-risk" platforms such as...

- [Anthropic's AI code leak ignites frenzy among Chinese developers](#) (2026-04-02 12:00)

Less than a year after US artificial intelligence start-up Anthropic called out China as an "adversarial nation" and vowed to restrict the country's access to its technologies, the company inadvertently released coding secrets, triggering a frenzy among Chinese developers. The leak occurred after an Anthropic employee accidentally included the modified source code of Claude Code, the company's sensational AI coding tool popular among developers worldwide, in a file within a software package...

- [Trump's fragile ex-China mineral-alliance plan faces cost surge amid Iran war oil shock](#) (2026-04-02 12:00)

An oil-supply shock caused by the US-Israel conflict with Iran is complicating US President Donald Trump's already fragile mineral-alliance strategy, analysts said, given the acute vulnerability of energy-intensive rare earth refining and critical metal supply chains to such

disruption. Oil and gas are essential for the critical mineral industry, according to analysts. Hydrometallurgical extraction for rare earth elements and other metals, such as nickel and cobalt, relies on a suite of chemical...

- [New World pulls back on Causeway Bay acquisition amid uneven recovery](#) (2026-04-02 11:34)

Hong Kong's New World Development (NWD) has shelved plans to acquire the remaining stakes in three commercial sites in Causeway Bay, signalling continued caution among developers despite signs of improving demand in the core office market. The company, which has been selling assets to reduce debt, said it would "exercise prudence as appropriate, having regard to cost and efficiency, as well as overall market supply and demand, with a view to delivering reasonable returns". NWD, which reported...

- [40,000 taxi drivers sign up for e-payment systems as new rules come into force](#) (2026-04-02 11:12)

More than 40,000 Hong Kong taxi drivers have adopted major electronic payment platforms AlipayHK and WeChat Pay HK, easing a protracted pain point for mainland Chinese visitors who are expected to arrive in droves during the coming Ching Ming Festival break. AlipayHK, a joint venture of Ant Group, an affiliate of Alibaba Group Holding, which owns the South China Morning Post, said on Thursday that its e-payment system was available to 46,000 taxi drivers. WeChat Pay HK said it had more than...

- [PLA upgrades ageing tanks with protection system for potential Taiwan operation](#) (2026-04-02 11:00)

The People's Liberation Army has upgraded its ageing tanks for a potential Taiwan operation, equipping them with a system to counter drone attacks and anti-tank missiles, according to state media. Type 96A main battle tanks with the GL-6 active protection system, or APS, installed were shown in video footage released by official newspaper China Youth Daily on Monday. The tanks belong to the 71st Group Army unit under the PLA's Eastern Theatre Command, which is mainly responsible for possible...

- [Hong Kong to impose 2 tier penalty for carrying vapes in public from April 30](#) (2026-04-02 10:39)

Anyone in Hong Kong found carrying more than five vape pods or 100 heat sticks in public will face a maximum fine of HK\$50,000 and up to six months in jail from April 30, while those with smaller quantities will receive a fixed penalty of HK\$3,000. The amended tobacco control law also provides for a future territory-wide ban on such products although no timeline has been set, the government said on Thursday. "The government decided to implement the ban in phases, starting with public places, due...

- [Bali rocked by spate of murder cases – is Indonesian island more dangerous now?](#)

(2026-04-02 10:30)

Bali's reputation as a carefree tropical escape has been shaken by a string of brutal crimes, including the kidnapping and dismemberment of a Ukrainian man and the fatal stabbing of a Dutch visitor. The cases – some involving foreign suspects and bearing the hallmarks of organised or premeditated violence – have fuelled growing alarm, prompting residents and visitors to the Indonesian holiday island to ask: Is Bali becoming a stage for international crime? Observers say the cases do not indicate...

- [China EV makers surge back in March as subsidies and financing spur demand](#)

(2026-04-02 10:00)

Chinese electric vehicle (EV) makers posted a strong rebound in sales last month, shaking off the weak start to the year as local government subsidies and aggressive financing incentives drew in first-time buyers. Momentum is expected to carry through the coming months, with dozens of new models set to debut at the Auto China show in Beijing, likely to stimulate fresh demand. “The sweeping improvement in deliveries revived hopes for a steady [EV] market after a woeful performance in January and...

- [China youth flock to TCM bars for ‘prescription cocktails’ amid rise of ‘punk wellness’ lifestyle](#) (2026-04-02 10:00)

By night, some young Chinese are swapping traditional cocktails for so-called traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) bars, where herbal-infused spirits promise everything from heartbreak cures to wellness boosts. In these dimly lit venues, R&B or rock music pulses through the speakers while behind the bar, drawers brim with herbs rather than bottles. Bartenders in white coats, often certified TCM practitioners, begin each visit by taking pulses and asking about lifestyle habits before crafting...

- [Why China and Vietnam are shifting from confrontation to calm in South China Sea claims](#)

(2026-04-02 09:01)

Despite land reclamation efforts in the fiercely contested South China Sea, an unusual silence has fallen between Beijing and Hanoi over their rival claims. Observers said this suggested both sides were prioritising pragmatism to keep tensions in check. In March, months into reports suggesting continued Chinese dredging activities at Antelope Reef in the Paracel Islands, Hanoi broke its silence by lodging a protest with Beijing over what it called “illegal and invalid” foreign...

- [Trump sends crude surging as Iran speech fails to allay war concerns](#) (2026-04-02 09:00)

US President Donald Trump tried to sell the war on Iran to sceptical Americans in a televised address, saying that the conflict was “nearing completion” and that there was no need to worry about the closure of the Strait of Hormuz to shipping. The US would hit Iran “extremely hard over the next two to three weeks”, Trump said on Wednesday from the White House.

“We’ re going to bring them back to the Stone Ages,” he said. He didn’ t give a specific deadline for the end of operations during the...

- [Surging ‘Jewish terrorism’ in West Bank condemned but goes unpunished](#) (2026-04-02 08:45)

Violence by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank has reached unprecedented levels since the start of the war with Iran, with NGOs and opposition figures denouncing an environment of impunity. While so-called “Jewish terrorism” has drawn widespread condemnation both in Israel and abroad, little has been done to curb it. Assaults by violent settlers against Palestinians have been carried out for years, often to the indifference of mainstream Israeli...

- [Discovery Bay resident files ombudsman complaint over plan for full taxi access](#) (2026-04-02 08:36)

A Discovery Bay resident has lodged a complaint with the city’ s ombudsman over authorities’ handling of a proposal to allow unrestricted taxi access to the resort-style seaside community in Hong Kong. A petition bearing 1,700 signatures from concerned residents has also been submitted to the Transport Department calling for proper public consultation and wider communications on the measures. Taxis have had limited access to Discovery Bay since 2014, restricted to the north plaza of the sprawling...

- [Malaysian minister offers personal aid to family of man killed in drink-driving crash](#) (2026-04-02 08:30)

A Malaysian minister visited and provided financial aid to the widow of a motorcyclist who was killed in a drink-driving accident that threatened to inflame racial tensions in the country. Transport Minister Anthony Loke visited the family of the late Amirul Hafiz Omar, 33, on Sunday, accompanied by Road Transport Department Director General Aedy Fadly Ramli. He gave Amirul’ s 32-year-old widow, Nor Nadia Abdul Majid, money from his own pocket to help the family with expenses. “However, no amount...

- [‘China shock 2.0’ is a false narrative born of Western anxiety: Chinese media](#) (2026-04-02 07:55)

A leading Chinese state media outlet has run back-to-back front-page editorials over the past two days pushing back against claims that China’ s economy is losing steam and that the global economy is experiencing a “China shock 2.0” . “Looking across the globe, China’ s growth target stands out as second to none,” the state-run Economic Daily wrote in a Thursday editorial, noting that the country’ s goal of achieving 4.5 to 5 per cent growth in 2026 was far higher than the 2.6 per cent global growth...

- [Russia is luring students with large financial packages to join drone units](#) (2026-04-02 07:42)

Students across Russia are being offered large financial incentives to join drone units fighting in Ukraine as operators and engineers, while companies in Russia's central Ryazan region have been given quotas to sign up workers for the army, documents show. The recruitment effort, which comes as Russian forces continue to grind forwards on the battlefield in Ukraine and as US-brokered peace talks are on ice due to the Iran war, suggests Moscow is diversifying its push to replenish its army's...

- [Goldman Sachs economist sees Iran war testing China's self-reliance](#) (2026-04-02 07:30)

Andrew Tilton, chief Asia-Pacific economist at Goldman Sachs, speaks to the South China Morning Post about the long-term future of China's economy after the "two sessions" in Beijing and ahead of an expected Xi-Trump summit – all during an oil crisis sparked by the US-Israel war against Iran. SCMP Plus readers get early access to articles in the Open Questions series. What impact will the oil shock arising from the Iran war have on the growth of Asian economies this year? Asia is greatly...

- [Leslie Cheung's path to stardom, 10 new K-dramas to watch: 5 Lifestyle highlights](#) (2026-04-02 07:08)

We have selected five Lifestyle stories from the past seven days that resonated with our readers. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. 10 of the best new K-dramas to watch in April 2026 Spring is here and with it an all-new line-up of tantalising K-drama offerings, ranging from fantasy, action and animation to a wide variety of romance. 2. How Leslie Cheung broke all the rules to become a Hong Kong superstar In the golden age of Hong Kong's...

- [How China's 'pig semen eyedrop' could help deliver Alzheimer's treatment](#) (2026-04-02 06:47)

A therapy using pig semen-derived exosomes, engineered into eye drops capable of penetrating deep into retinal tissue, may hold the key to breaching the brain's defences against diseases like Alzheimer's. This advance, led by Professor Zhang Yu at China's Shenyang Pharmaceutical University, originally targeted a rare childhood eye cancer retinoblastoma that often resists conventional treatments due to its delicate location near the brain. Published in peer-reviewed journal Science Advances on...

- [Leader of Hong Kong's Catholics calls for giving young offenders 'second chance'](#) (2026-04-02 06:34)

The head of Hong Kong's Catholic diocese has urged the government to offer young offenders a "second chance to start anew" and to introduce legal provisions to help those with minor criminal records pursue their careers. In his Easter message on Thursday, Cardinal Stephen Chow Sau-yan also encouraged authorities to reduce the use of key performance indicators (KPIs) so that educators could have more time and space to better support students, amid persistently high youth suicide rates. "I call on...

- [Wreck of Danish flagship sunk by famed British admiral discovered after 225 years](#)  
(2026-04-02 06:20)

More than 200 years after being sunk by Admiral Horatio Nelson and the British fleet, a Danish warship has been discovered on the seabed of Copenhagen Harbour by marine archaeologists. Working in thick sediment and almost zero visibility 15 metres (49 feet) beneath the waves, divers have been working against the clock to unearth the 19th century wreck of the Dannebrog before it becomes a construction site in a new housing district being built off the Danish coast. Denmark's Viking Ship Museum,...

- [Premier Li Qiang pushes AI-powered, next-gen energy system amid global shocks](#)  
(2026-04-02 06:10)

As global supply volatility intensifies, Premier Li Qiang has called for faster development of a “new-type power system” to accelerate the green transition and expand the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the sector. During a three-day visit to the southwestern province of Sichuan, Li stressed the need to expand green electricity supply and optimise the energy mix to bolster security and support economic growth. He urged market players to explore new grid architectures, improve system-wide...

- [From Wagyu to joss paper: rise of pet spirit money, luxury farewell ceremonies take China by storm](#) (2026-04-02 06:00)

“Pet spirit money” in various currencies has emerged as a burgeoning trend, with many promoting “luxury dog funerals” that include paper servants and companion pets, as well as unique paper offerings such as salmon, tuna, steak, Wagyu beef and dried chicken. In China, holding funerals for loved ones and burning joss paper have long been revered mourning traditions, originally intended to express remembrance and respect for the deceased, as well as to convey the hope that they will thrive in the...

- [Hong Kong's CLP Power to give out HK\\$100 shopping coupons to 600,000 customers](#)  
(2026-04-02 05:43)

Hong Kong's CLP Power will distribute HK\$100 (US\$13) consumption coupons to about 600,000 eligible customers, including elderly people receiving concessionary tariffs, using HK\$60 million from the company's Community Energy Saving Fund. The initiative follows the power company's earlier announcement that it would raise its fuel cost adjustment (FCA) charge starting this month, citing a discrepancy between forecast and actual fuel prices amid the United States-Israel war against Iran, which has...

- [Why Asean neutrality in Iran war is key to unlocking Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-04-02 05:41)

Asean's neutrality in the Iran conflict is key to granting access to the coveted Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran likely seeking to win global opinion amid its war with the United States and Israel. Amid boiling tensions in the Gulf, Iran has wielded its control of the strategic channel to choke

global oil supplies, especially to the US and its allies. Many countries – including those from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – have turned to diplomatic efforts to secure safe passage for...

- [Hong Kong man, 89, rescued after being found clinging to care home exterior wall](#) (2026-04-02 05:07)

An 89-year-old Hong Kong man has been rescued after he was discovered clinging to the exterior wall of a care home in To Kwa Wan following a fall from a second-floor window. Care home staff filed a report with the police at around 8am on Thursday, stating that the man was hanging from the wall. The building is located at the intersection of Lok Shan Road and Ma Tau Wai Road. The force said the man fell from the window while trying to retrieve something and clung to a section of the wall near an...

- [Australia's Albanese says Iran war goals met, asks what more is left to achieve](#) (2026-04-02 04:45)

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the US-Israeli war on Iran appears to have achieved its key initial aims of curbing Tehran's nuclear and missile capabilities – and questioned what further goals remain. “We did express support for the original objectives: preventing Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon and degrading its capacity to endanger its neighbours,” Albanese said in a speech on Thursday at the National Press Club in Canberra. “And now those objectives have been...

- [Malaysian woman's apology for damaging double-parked car triggers outcry](#) (2026-04-02 04:16)

A parking dispute in Kuala Lumpur has expanded into a wider debate over entitlement, public humiliation and online bullying in Malaysia, after a woman who damaged a car blocking her own issued a public apology that many said looked coerced. The row began on Tuesday in Wangsa Maju, a densely populated suburb of the Malaysian capital, where videos shared on Threads showed a woman unable to reverse out of her parking spot after a red Perodua Ativa was left double-parked behind her car for about an...

- ['Impossible for Chinese': Yale scientist Zhang Kai leaves US to break racial ceiling](#) (2026-04-02 04:00)

For Zhang Kai, a pioneering scientist who is building an ultra-large-scale cellular structure group data bank with unprecedented precision, returning home to China was the natural choice to fulfil his ambition. “In the United States, it is almost impossible for a Chinese scholar to take the lead on this project,” Zhang said during a March 26 interview with China Science Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the country's most prestigious research institution. On...

- [Fourth ex-teacher charged in Singapore amid string of student sex abuse cases](#)

(2026-04-02 03:47)

A former teacher was charged in Singapore court on Thursday with multiple charges over sexual acts with an underage student. The 34-year-old Singaporean was handed nine charges in total – six of committing indecent acts with a young person and three charges of sexual penetration of a minor. A gag order imposed by the court prevents the publication of anything that might identify the accused and the victim. Court records indicate that the pair have a “former teacher and student...

- [Hong Kong’ s unified stock exchange opens for trading in 1986 – SCMP archive](#)

(2026-04-02 03:30)

This article was first published on April 3, 1986. By Jerry Norton Debut-day is full of contradictions Considering the historic nature of yesterday’ s share market trading, a strong rally might have seemed appropriate. Instead, the first session in the new unified stock exchange saw prices finish sharply down from Thursday’ s close. But most brokers still described themselves as well satisfied with the performance, despite the Hang Seng index closing the morning-only trading session 22.67 points...

- [Hong Kong’ s property deals exceed 7,000 for the sixth straight month in March](#)

(2026-04-02 03:24)

Hong Kong’ s property transactions crossed 7,000 for the sixth consecutive month in March – the first time in four years that monthly volumes stayed above this level – amid rising demand, according to estimates compiled by leading real estate agencies. The value of transactions for offices, shops, new and second-hand homes, industrial spaces and car parking slots amounted to nearly HK\$64 billion (US\$8.16 billion), according to separate estimates by Centaline Property Agency and Ricacorp...

- [Tai Po fire hearing: management company may have breached duty to ensure safety](#)

(2026-04-02 03:14)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’ s journalism by subscribing. An independent committee investigating the cause of Hong Kong’ s deadliest inferno in decades is expected to conclude its first round of evidential hearings on Thursday, with the role of the property management firm at blaze-hit Wang Fuk Court under scrutiny. Lam Man-yan, technical officer with ISS EastPoint - the property manager of the Tai Po housing estate...

- [Estonian start-ups eye Singapore as ‘natural gateway’ to build digital trust in Asean](#)

(2026-04-02 03:13)

Perched on top of a shoe shelf at the entrance of Veriff’ s headquarters in Tallinn, Estonia, is a sign of a cartoon unicorn that reads “Welcome to Unicorn Land!” , serving as a reminder of the identity verification company’ s rise from a local start-up to a valuation of US\$1.5 billion in

seven years. Veriff, which boasts clients including PayPal, Bumble and Visa, was founded by Kaarel Kotkas in 2015. It is one of at least 10 unicorn companies – privately held start-ups valued at more than US\$1...

- [Malaysia's Anwar warns against 'sabotage, hatred' over fuel prices](#) (2026-04-02 02:32)

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim called on enforcement agencies to step up action against what his government sees as false claims about fuel and electricity prices as it seeks to shore up public confidence amid a global energy crunch. The communications regulator has identified 96 posts of misleading content circulating on social media, he said. Anwar urged authorities, including police and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, to take action against those spreading what...

- [US lifts sanctions on Venezuela's acting President Rodriguez, who praises Trump](#) (2026-04-02 02:09)

The United States on Wednesday lifted sanctions on Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez, according to an Office of Foreign Assets Control entry on the Treasury Department website. The newly announced sanctions relief is the latest US recognition of Rodriguez as a legitimate authority in Venezuela ever since the US military captured her predecessor, Nicolas Maduro, and his wife on January 3 in Venezuela's capital, Caracas. The pair have since been taken to New York to face drug...

- [Will coming changes to HK\\$2 transport scheme hurt working elderly most?](#) (2026-04-02 02:00)

John Hau, a 66-year-old Hongkonger, was frustrated by the government's decision to revamp the HK\$2 (26 US cents) transport subsidy scheme. The discount allowed him to pay just HK\$4 to make the round-trip rail commute from his home in Sham Shui Po in Kowloon to Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island, where he works as a security guard at a hotel. From Friday, he will need to pay an extra HK\$1.20, an amount that does not bother him financially but emotionally. "The impact on my finances is not substantial,...

- [The 'split' legal profession in Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-02 01:30)

A major feature of Hong Kong's legal profession is the division between barristers and solicitors. Barristers specialise in court work and legal advice relating to litigation, and can generally only be engaged through a solicitor. Solicitors provide a broader range of legal services, covering both contentious and non-contentious matters. Some solicitors also focus on courtroom advocacy and are accredited as solicitor-advocates. The "split" profession is not common to all legal systems. In fact,...

- [Hong Kong's next 5 years must take city from alignment to action](#) (2026-04-02 01:30)

Hong Kong is preparing its own medium-term development blueprint alongside China's coming 15th five-year plan, which officials have described as a "golden strategic period" for

the city. This is more than a procedural shift. For the first time, Hong Kong is attempting to align its policy cycle in advance with national planning priorities, yet alignment on its own is not a strategy. The more pressing question is whether the city can define a role that is distinct, necessary and difficult to...

- [Controlled escalation? Trump hails ‘victories’ in Iran but vows more strikes in next few weeks](#) (2026-04-02 01:22)

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday declared the US–Israel war against Iran had delivered “decisive, overwhelming victories”, even as he signalled that key military objectives were still “nearing completion” and that further strikes could inflict heavy damage on targets in the country. “We are going to hit them extremely hard. Over the next two to three weeks, we are going to bring them back to the Stone Ages, where they belong. In the meantime, discussions are ongoing,” he said in a...

- [China woman clings to truck to follow husband; man threatens divorce after male doctor examines wife](#) (2026-04-02 01:00)

A woman in China who suspected her husband of infidelity clung to the back of his truck to follow him until being found by the police. A traffic police officer in Bachu county in Xinjiang, northwestern China, stopped a small-sized truck one evening at the end of March after noticing a woman hanging herself outside the trailer of the vehicle without any protective equipment, the Xinjiang Legal Daily reported. The truck driver, surnamed Yu, was surprised to see that the woman, who is his wife, was...

- [Indonesia earthquake kills 1, triggers tsunami waves](#) (2026-04-02 00:45)

An earthquake of magnitude 7.6 struck in Indonesia’s Northern Maluku Sea on Thursday, killing one person, damaging buildings and triggering tsunami waves, authorities and witnesses said. Indonesia’s meteorology agency BMKG said tsunami waves were reported in five locations, the highest at 0.75 metre (2.46 feet) in North Minahasa in North Sulawesi and about 50 aftershocks were monitored, the largest at a magnitude of 5.8. BMKG chief Teuku Faisal Fathani initially said modelling indicated there...

- [Is it time to call an end to Hong Kong’s boar war?](#) (2026-04-02 00:30)

Shortly before the evening rush hour recently, chaos erupted at Hong Kong’s Wu Kai Sha MTR station when a wild boar stormed through the concourse. The animal, about 1.2 metres long and weighing around 40kg, knocked down an elderly man. The charging boar left a trail of blood on the station floor, injuring three other residents in a frenzied dash towards a nearby bus terminus and housing estates. “I saw it rampaging at the bus terminus while residents followed, snapping photos,” a woman working...

- [Why Japan’s advanced fighter project may get Canadian tailwinds](#) (2026-04-02 00:00)

Japan could get a boost in its push for a next-generation fighter jet if Canada joins a multinational consortium backing the aircraft's development, as Tokyo aims to narrow the gap with China's fast-modernising air force. The Canadian government said it intended to take part in the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), currently involving Japan, the United Kingdom and Italy, the Asahi newspaper reported on Tuesday. Japan is planning to replace its ageing F-2 fleet with a sixth-generation stealth...

- [How to take down a US F-35 over Iran? Chinese engineer's prophetic tutorial goes viral](#) (2026-04-02 00:00)

A striking phenomenon is emerging from China as the Middle East conflict presses on: technically skilled civilians are volunteering their expertise online to help Iran counter US military might, without seeking payment or official backing. The trend was vividly illustrated on March 14, when a detailed tutorial on taking down America's F-35 appeared on Chinese social media and went viral. Created by the account "Laohu Talks World" and subtitled in Persian, the video meticulously explained how...

- [Historic Artemis II moon mission lifts off, amid US lunar race with China](#) (2026-04-01 22:41)

Four astronauts blasted off on Wednesday for a trip around the moon, marking humankind's deepest venture into space in an odyssey that aims to launch the US into a new era of interstellar exploration. Carrying three Americans and one Canadian, a 32-story rocket rose from Nasa's Kennedy Space Centre, where tens of thousands gathered to witness the dawn of this new era. Crowds also jammed the surrounding roads and beaches, reminiscent of the Apollo moonshots in the 1960s and '70s. It is Nasa's...

- [DNA links serial killer Ted Bundy to unsolved murder of 17-year-old US girl](#) (2026-04-01 22:33)

Utah officials announced on Wednesday that they were closing a five-decade-old case after finding "definitive proof" that American serial killer Ted Bundy killed a 17-year-old Utah girl. The girl, Laura Ann Aime, went missing on the night of October 31, 1974, after leaving a party alone to make a purchase from a convenience store, the Utah County Sheriff's Office said. Her body was found by two college students on Thanksgiving Day that year, according to authorities, who added that her body...

- [Eyes on Chinese airline regulator as it seeks difficult balance on fuel surcharge rises](#) (2026-04-01 22:00)

Chinese airlines are mulling the introduction of higher fuel surcharges, as authorities strive to balance the impact of surging oil prices with the need to preserve airline margins and at the same time avoid dampening consumer demand. Although a formal announcement from the national regulator is pending, at least two domestic airlines released notices on Wednesday about plans for sixfold surcharge increases, after another airline rescinded a similar notice on

Tuesday. According to notices put...

- [Reinflate the property sector? No, China wants an ambitious redesign](#) (2026-04-01 21:30)

For years, China's embattled real estate sector has been framed as a terminal drag on the economy – a deflating bubble that policymakers are unwilling to rescue but unable to ignore. That framing misses what is happening. The absence of a large bailout is not so much a sign of the leadership's indifference as a deliberate choice. It points to something more consequential than short-term market stabilisation: a systemic effort to redesign the sector's role in the macroeconomy. The old development...

- [China targeted in US birthright citizenship debate, but Supreme Court justices sceptical](#) (2026-04-01 21:21)

China has emerged as a focal point in the debate over US birthright citizenship, as the nation's Supreme Court appeared sceptical of oral arguments on Wednesday in a landmark case driven by President Donald Trump's push to restrict the practice. Birthright citizenship “has spawned a sprawling industry of birth tourism”, said Solicitor General D. John Sauer, Trump's top litigator, in his opening remarks before the highest court in the country. “Uncounted thousands of foreigners from potentially...

- [Iran's president sends message to Americans in unusual open letter](#) (2026-04-01 20:38)

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian criticised the US war against his country in an open letter to the people of the United States on Wednesday, calling it an absurd operation that is costly for their nation. “Today, the world stands at a crossroads,” the president wrote in his message. “Continuing along the path of confrontation is more costly and futile than ever before.” While Iran had seen many aggressors throughout its history, “All that remains of them are tarnished names in history, while...

- [Russia says it has taken full control of Ukraine's Luhansk region](#) (2026-04-01 19:55)

The Russian defence ministry said on Wednesday that its forces had taken full control of the Luhansk region in eastern Ukraine, suggesting they had wrested control of a small sliver of land which had remained beyond their reach since 2022. Reuters could not independently verify the battlefield report and a Ukrainian military spokesman said there had been no battlefield changes in the area in the last six months. More than 99 per cent of Luhansk, one of four Ukrainian regions Russia claimed as...

- [How China's state insurer is turning Brazil's credit crisis into an export advantage](#) (2026-04-01 19:21)

With one of the world's highest benchmark interest rates among major economies, Brazilian importers who buy from China are turning to a state-owned Chinese credit insurer to sustain trade flows that reached US\$158 billion in 2024. Facing working capital lines that cost upwards of two per cent a month, equivalent to roughly 27 per cent a year according to market

calculations, mid-sized importers are securing deferred payment terms directly from Chinese suppliers through credit limits backed by...

- [Hong Kong woman loses HK\\$2.5 million in online collagen drinks scam](#) (2026-04-01 16:03)

A housewife in Hong Kong has lost nearly HK\$2.5 million (US\$320,500) in an online shopping scam after she tried to buy collagen drinks for HK\$530, according to police. The victim saw a Facebook post advertising collagen drinks and transferred HK\$530 via Faster Payment System, police said on their CyberDefender Facebook page. The seller later claimed the item was out of stock and offered a refund, sending the woman a link to a fake Facebook page that asked for her online banking...

- [Tai Po probe: workers turned off fire safety system, disregarding regulations](#) (2026-04-01 15:36)

Staff at the property management company at Hong Kong's inferno-ravaged Wang Fuk Court housing estate acted with disregard for legal requirements, taking such actions as deactivating the fire safety system despite knowing they needed a registered contractor to do so, an evidential hearing has been told. Victor Dawes, lead counsel for an independent committee investigating the November 26 blaze that claimed 168 lives, also pointed to the management company's workflow as a contributing factor in...

- [4 Hong Kong schools to close as 9 seek mergers over insufficient enrolment](#) (2026-04-01 15:00)

Four of 15 Hong Kong public primary schools at risk of closure due to insufficient enrolment plan to shut down, while nine are seeking to merge with other institutions, the Education Bureau has said. One intended to run Primary One classes privately from the coming school year, it said. The bureau said four schools would gradually wind down operations or at the latest end their services by the 2029-30 academic year, and nine had applied to merge with other institutions. But one of the...

- [How Donald Trump could reframe US goals in Iran war to justify finishing it](#) (2026-04-01 15:00)

With Washington's objectives in the Iran war shifting, the evolving goals could allow US President Donald Trump to justify success and finish the conflict sooner than expected, Chinese analysts said. However, the observers cautioned that a wide gap with Israel over the conflict's endgame could hinder the White House from swiftly moving past the war. The assessment coincides with growing international scepticism regarding the duration of the war in the Middle East. With global oil markets already...

- [US threats for new Chile leader, China tariff on Mexico: 7 Latin America relations reads](#) (2026-04-01 15:00)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering Latin American relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. As Trump ramps up pressure on Cuba, China has ‘very limited options’ As Washington stepped up rhetoric and pressure on Cuba after the start of its campaign in Iran, Beijing found itself torn between geopolitical reality and ideological affinity. Read the full story here. 2. US threats...

- [France suspects link to pro-Iranian group HAYI in foiled Paris bomb plot](#) (2026-04-01 14:30)

France suspects a pro-Iranian group known as HAYI to be behind a foiled attack on Bank of America’s Paris offices, its anti-terrorism prosecutor said on Wednesday, while stressing the link has not yet been formally established. HAYI, which stands for Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiyya, or Movement of the Companions of the Right Hand of Islam, had posted a video on social media on March 23 targeting Jewish interests and communities in France and Europe, the prosecutor’s office said in a...

- [Trump-Xi summit hopes, UN ‘manipulation’, stand-up comedy: 7 US-China relations reads](#) (2026-04-01 14:30)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering US-China relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Trump-Xi summit will be very amicable, predicts former Biden official US President Donald Trump’s focus on short-term deliverables and Chinese President Xi Jinping’s bid for bilateral stability are likely to mean an exceptionally amicable summit when they finally sit down, despite “unusual” ...

- [Is China’s commercial rocket now cheaper than Elon Musk’s SpaceX Falcon 9?](#) (2026-04-01 14:00)

China’s commercial space sector has reached a cost milestone as its new rocket debuts for less than the ticket price of the latest SpaceX Falcon 9 reusable launch vehicle. The Kinetica-2 Y1 carrier rocket, also known as the Lijian-2 Y1, took off on its inaugural flight on Monday before delivering three satellites into orbit, including a prototype commercial cargo spacecraft and a satellite to function as a mini-orbiting space lab. The rocket developed by Chinese commercial space firm CAS Space –...

- [BBC defends action in new sex abuse scandal involving DJ Scott Mills](#) (2026-04-01 13:54)

The BBC defended on Wednesday its handling of a DJ sacked years after he was the subject of a police investigation into allegations of sexual offences against a teenage boy. The controversy surrounding former radio host Scott Mills, 53, is the latest involving a high-profile presenter to roil the publicly funded broadcaster. London’s Metropolitan Police said this week that it questioned Mills in 2018 over allegations of “serious sexual offences” against a boy under the age of 16. The case was...

- [Trump claims Iran wants ceasefire, Tehran calls remarks ‘false and baseless’](#)

(2026-04-01 13:32)

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday claimed that Iran’s leader wanted a ceasefire, in a social media post that Tehran called “false and baseless”. Trump claimed that “Iran’s New Regime President” was seeking a ceasefire, which he said would happen only once the Strait of Hormuz was “open, free, clear”. It was not immediately clear who Trump was referring to in Iran, which still has the same president. The US president, who is scheduled to address the nation later in the day, had earlier said...

- [US church launches search for new HKIS school head amid legal row with operator](#)

(2026-04-01 13:10)

A US church that co-founded a prestigious Hong Kong international school has said it will take the lead in searching for a new head as the operator had failed to nominate candidates since 2022, accusing it of creating the “risk of leadership interruption” in the latest salvo in a war of words. The move by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) was revealed in a letter to parents on Sunday from Hong Kong International School (HKIS) management, which called the search part of church actions...

- [What does the China-Pakistan plan for the Iran crisis mean for a post-war order?](#)

(2026-04-01 13:00)

By issuing a joint five-point plan on the Iran crisis on Tuesday, China and Pakistan have laid out what Chinese analysts described as a “feasible path” towards a ceasefire and renewed diplomacy. At the same time, the move quietly signalled an early effort to shape the post-war Middle East order in a region where the long-standing US-dominated security framework was already facing growing strain and uncertainty, the observers said. In recent weeks, regional powers have emerged as mediators to...

- [Philippines seeks Iran talks for safe passage of vessels through Hormuz amid energy crisis](#)

(2026-04-01 12:55)

Manila is following its Southeast Asian neighbours’ lead by seeking talks with Iran to secure safe passage for Philippine-bound tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, a move observers have called “a matter of survival”. Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro posted on social media that she and energy secretary Sharon Garin had met Iran’s envoy Yousef Esmailzadeh on Wednesday to discuss energy cooperation and the advancement of bilateral ties. “Pleased to meet Iranian Ambassador to...

- [What the Iran war reveals about Nato’s appetite for conflict over Taiwan](#) (2026-04-01 12:30)

The United States attacked Iran without consulting its European allies. President Donald Trump assumed the operation would be a quick win, over before anyone had to take a position. Instead, Washington answered a question Western governments had long avoided. After years

of pushing Nato towards confrontation with China, would the transatlantic alliance fight a war it had not chosen together? The answer was no. Iran and Taiwan are different cases. One sits on Europe's wider periphery and carries...

- [Taiwan's KMT chair Cheng Li-wun to honour Sun Yat-sen on landmark mainland China trip](#) (2026-04-01 12:17)

Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of Taiwan's main opposition party Kuomintang (KMT), will visit Nanjing during her visit to mainland China next week. According to a KMT press statement issued on Tuesday night, she will pay tribute at the mausoleum of Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Republic of China – Taiwan's formal name – and a symbol of the shared past between Taiwan and the mainland. Cheng will arrive in Shanghai on April 7 and then travel by train to Nanjing, in eastern Jiangsu province, the itinerary...

- [Hong Kong investment chief joins global board in first for Chinese sovereign funds](#) (2026-04-01 12:00)

The head of Hong Kong's government investment agency has been appointed as a director of a global organisation that brings together leading firms and investors, marking the first time a Chinese sovereign wealth fund has held a seat on the board. FCLTGlobal announced on Wednesday that Clara Chan Ka-chai, CEO of the Hong Kong Investment Corporation (HKIC), had become one of the 19 directors on its board. "Clara brings deep experience and thoughtful leadership that will strengthen our work to..."

- [Qiushi reaffirms China's trade-rebalance push, calls old export-led growth 'unsustainable'](#) (2026-04-01 12:00)

China's top Communist Party journal has reaffirmed the country's push to rebalance trade, saying a worsening global environment marked by rising protectionism and geopolitical tensions is adding urgency to its ongoing shift from an "unsustainable" export-driven growth model. "The underlying conditions, and both domestic and external environment shaping China's trade balance, are undergoing profound changes, while deep-seated weaknesses in the foreign trade sector remain pronounced," said a...

- [Japan, France to draw road map for supply of critical minerals](#) (2026-04-01 11:58)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed on Wednesday to design a road map for critical minerals supply as they seek to deepen cooperation in the sector amid China's dominance of global rare earths. The two leaders also affirmed that Japan and France will maintain close communication in support of efforts to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East and establish a high-level dialogue on artificial intelligence, Takaichi said at a joint press appearance...

- [Hong Kong weighs tougher enforcement against illegal fuel sales as prices soar](#) (2026-04-01 11:47)

Hong Kong's security minister has revealed that authorities are reviewing fire safety laws to expand enforcement powers and toughen penalties as part of a broader crackdown on illegal fuel sales in the city amid surging global oil prices. Secretary for Security Chris Tang Ping-keung said on Wednesday the government's review included possible penalty increases, expanding enforcement powers for the Fire Services Department to make arrests and seize vehicles, and an examination of the legal...

- [Shenzhen robot maker turns to Hong Kong for computing power and listing](#) (2026-04-01 11:12)

A Shenzhen-based tech firm taking part in Hong Kong trade fairs is leveraging the city as a springboard for global expansion, with plans to list locally this year while using its computing power to help enter the North American market. Robert Chan Kwok-cheung, global strategy officer at EngineAI, said on Wednesday the company's presence in the city was a strategic move to bypass technical and geopolitical hurdles. EngineAI, which is one of Shenzhen's "eight great guardians of embodied..."

- [China orders nationwide museum audit after Nanjing's US\\$12 million Ming artwork scandal](#) (2026-04-01 11:00)

Beijing has ordered a sweeping national inventory of all state-owned museum collections following a high-profile scandal at a top museum, where former officials illegally sold donated national treasures for personal gain over several decades. The National Cultural Heritage Administration (NCHA) announced the nationwide campaign on Wednesday. It mandates that every state-owned museum conduct a meticulous, piece-by-piece physical count of its collections this year, verifying every artefact against...

- [Is the Strait of Hormuz a ticking environmental time bomb?](#) (2026-04-01 11:00)

The risks of environmental calamity in the Strait of Hormuz are mounting with each passing week of the Iran conflict, conservationists have warned, as giant tankers filled with fuel are trapped in a small area and Iran continues to fire missiles and drones at Gulf oil assets. The potential for catastrophe in the waterway was sharpened on Monday when a Kuwaiti crude tanker was set ablaze at Dubai Port in an Iranian attack that damaged its hull, sparking warnings of a possible oil spill. The...

- [Revamped 'Hong Kong Story' exhibition spotlights city's roots in Chinese culture](#) (2026-04-01 10:15)

A permanent exhibition showcasing Hong Kong's history reopened on Wednesday after a major revamp that emphasised the city's roots in Chinese culture, with visitors expressing mixed reactions to the changes. The "Hong Kong Story" exhibition – which opened in 2001 and closed for renovation in late 2020 – has been reduced from two storeys to a single floor, but expanded from eight to 10 galleries. The revamped exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui features more than 2,800...

- [Indonesian peacekeepers’ deaths spur calls for Middle East exit plan](#) (2026-04-01 10:13)

The killing of three Indonesian peacekeepers in southern Lebanon is a stern test of Jakarta’s Middle East policy, with analysts saying the incident has raised questions over the risks of overseas deployment in Gaza and the region, as well as limits to global accountability. Several Indonesian lawmakers and observers said the deaths had exposed how little protection diplomatic positions could offer during a spiralling conflict, arguing that Jakarta should reassess its role in Lebanon and...

- [Chinese navy arrives in Sea of Japan just as Tokyo deploys long-range missiles](#) (2026-04-01 10:01)

As Tokyo was completing the deployment on Tuesday of its two Type 25 missiles targeting China, a Chinese naval fleet entered the Sea of Japan, while bilateral tensions continued to escalate. China has strongly protested the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force’s addition of the newly designated Type 25 long-range surface-to-ship guided (SSM) missile and hypervelocity gliding projectiles (HGP). The deployments were an example of “neo-militarism in Japan, which has become more than just a perilous...

- [China ‘immersive’ fun buses see rise of mobile venues for karaoke, films, dim sum, and more](#) (2026-04-01 10:00)

In recent years, a new “city bus” trend has been gathering pace in southern China. It offers a fresh spin on the “city walk” craze and sees buses transformed into roving venues for karaoke, film screenings and even yum cha. In Guangdong province, some young people are embracing what they see as the most local way to explore the region: using themed public buses to take in the slow rhythms of everyday life. While eating is banned on public transport in most mainland cities, passengers on...

- [US House committee calls for major crackdown on China’s alleged sanctioned oil imports](#) (2026-04-01 09:10)

Lawmakers in the United States have urged the administration of US President Donald Trump to take action against China’s alleged sanctioned oil imports by blacklisting port operators and blocking complex settlement networks. Despite Washington’s temporary easing of sanctions on Russian and Iranian oil to relieve price pressures from the US-Israeli war in Iran, the “House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party” has released a 41-page...

- [Why Myanmar top general’s exit is window dressing to cement military rule](#) (2026-04-01 09:05)

The Myanmar junta’s attempts to place its top man in the country’s highest civilian position have been described by analysts as a “constitutional repackaging of continued military rule”. On Monday, Min Aung Hlaing, who led the military in the 2021 coup and has headed the junta

since then, resigned from the armed forces, moving one step closer to becoming president. Hestepped down after Myanmar’ s parliament had cleared the way for his nomination. Hehanded over the role of commander-in-chief of...

- [Trump eyes Iran exit before Hormuz shutdown ends](#) (2026-04-01 09:01)

US President Donald Trump said attacks on Iran could stop within two or three weeks even without an agreement, leaving a question mark over the reopening of the vital Strait of Hormuz. “We’ ll be leaving very soon,” US President Donald Trump told reporters in the White House on Tuesday. “Iran doesn’ t have to make a deal.” The president was scheduled to address the nation and “provide an important update on Iran” at 9pm New York time on Wednesday (9am on Thursday in Hong Kong). Brent crude held...

- [Beijing says cremated spy remains returned from Taiwan are reminder of ‘heroic deeds’](#) (2026-04-01 09:00)

Beijing has confirmed receiving the cremated remains of historic Communist Party spies from Taiwan and hailed the “patriots” as providing encouragement in its pursuit of reunification. Zhang Han, spokeswoman for the mainland’ s Taiwan Affairs Office, told reporters on Wednesday that the ashes had been returned before the Ching Ming Festival, a tomb-sweeping day, on April 5 and days before the chairwoman of the opposition Kuomintang party, Cheng Li-wun, was expected to visit. “The heroic deeds of...

- [Hong Kong retail sales jump nearly 12% in first 2 months of year](#) (2026-04-01 08:49)

Hong Kong’ s retail sales jumped by nearly 12 per cent in the first two months of 2026 against a year ago, with authorities pointing to growth in the local economy and a surge in tourists. Provisional figures released by the Census and Statistics Department on Wednesday showed retail sales reached HK\$35 billion (US\$4.47 billion) in February, driven by the Chinese New Year holiday and major events in the city. Sales were HK\$37.3 billion in January. Growth hit 19.3 per cent in February and 5.5 per...

- [Malaysia denies Anwar delayed disclosure of probe into MACC chief, threatens legal action](#) (2026-04-01 08:45)

Malaysia’ s government has said it “strongly denies” a claim made in a news report that Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim sought to delay the release of findings from an investigation into the country’ s anti-corruption chief, and will take legal action over the allegation. The latest claim has sharpened scrutiny of Anwar, whose reformist image and anti-corruption credentials have come under strain amid a series of allegations involving the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and its chief...

- [Mainland China, Hong Kong premium office supply to peak as demand lags, Cushman says](#) (2026-04-01 08:30)

Prime office supply in mainland Chinese cities and Hong Kong is estimated to peak this year, while demand remains hampered by an economic slowdown and global uncertainties, according to Cushman & Wakefield. At the end of 2025, premium office inventory in 21 major cities in Greater China – including Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, as well as Taiwan – amounted to 99.2 million square metres (1.07 billion sq ft), up 4.6 million square metres or 8.4 per cent from a year earlier,...

- [The surge of global business interest in China’ s ‘harbour of stability’](#) (2026-04-01 08:30)

Against a backdrop of war and global uncertainty, Chinese Premier Li Qiang delivered a clear message at the recent China Development Forum: China is committed to being a “harbour of stability” for the world. The forum, which drew CEOs from global companies such as Siemens, Nestlé and Apple, signalled to the world that while the United States flails, China offers reliability and steady governance. Even before the US-Israeli war on Iran, however, my inbox was already telling me that something was...

- [Hong Kong airport named world’ s best at Global Travel Awards 2026](#) (2026-04-01 08:10)

Hong Kong International Airport has been voted the world’ s best airport, along with accolades recognising its security standards and facilities. An Airport Authority spokesman said on Wednesday that the city’ s airport had been named “Best Airport in the World” at the Global Travel Awards this year. Organiser International Media & News Group, based in Britain, said the awards recognised the best hotels, airports, airlines and destinations based on votes cast by 2.5 million travellers from more...

- [How US’ ‘stupid war’ with Iran torched fuel price stability in America](#) (2026-04-01 08:00)

At a petrol station in the Washington suburbs, drivers confronted the harsh domestic repercussions of the war on Iran, as spiking fuel prices hit household budgets hard. Jeanne Williams, 83, had just driven 160km from Richmond, Virginia, where she was visiting her elder sister. “That is horrible,” she said, stunned by the prices visible on the Liberty petrol station’ s LED board. “I’ m not angry. I’ m just bewildered, confused, unhappy,” she said. “Because we didn’ t ask for the war.” On Tuesday,...

- [China’ s electric cars and Iran war, BYD’ s profit run ends: 7 EV reads](#) (2026-04-01 07:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage on electric and new energy vehicles from the past two weeks to help you stay informed. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. The Iran war could widen China’ s EV lead over its global rivals. Here’ s why Surging oil prices driven by the US-Israel war on Iran could accelerate the global adoption of electric vehicles – a sector that helped China overtake Japan to become the world’ s largest seller of automobiles...

- [Australia and Japan face jet fuel supply crunch as China cuts exports](#) (2026-04-01 07:22)

China's exports of jet fuel have declined sharply in recent weeks amid the US-Israel war on Iran, leaving countries including Australia and Japan facing a supply crunch and scrambling to find alternative sellers. China is Asia-Pacific's largest jet fuel and kerosene exporter, but shipments from the country fell nearly 40 per cent month on month in March to 204,000 barrels per day, figures from trade data provider Kpler showed. The cutback is likely to hit hardest in Australia and Japan, which...

- [Dog lost for a week in New Zealand bush found after strangers fund US\\$6,300 air search](#) (2026-04-01 07:14)

When a hiker fell from a 55-metre (180-foot) waterfall in wild New Zealand bush, rescuers were forced to evacuate the badly hurt woman without her dog, which could not be found. After strangers raised thousands of dollars for a search, border collie Molly was flown to safety by a helicopter pilot who was determined to reunite pet and owner. A week earlier, an emergency rescue helicopter found Jessica Johnston with bruises and lacerations after a fall at a rocky spot at the waterfall on the South...

- [HKTVmall parent firm under fire for testing how long detached animal heads can survive](#) (2026-04-01 07:14)

The parent company of Hong Kong online retailer HKTVmall has defended its life science project involving testing the viability of detached animal heads and limbs, responding to animal ethics concerns by saying no pets were experimented on. Hong Kong Technology Venture Company revealed the project on Monday in its annual results, and said it believed the research to be a world first that could be applied to organ transplants and potentially “extending human lifespan” . “The related experiments...

- [Ganfeng Lithium forecasts strong battery demand amid China-US rivalry in renewable energy](#) (2026-04-01 07:00)

China's Ganfeng Lithium, the world's largest producer of lithium metal, is envisioning an “explosive growth” in the global energy storage system (ESS) market in 2026, spurred by higher prices of the key battery material and buoyant demand for renewable energy infrastructure. Executives including president Wang Xiaoshen told an investors' conference on Tuesday that the global decarbonisation drive had created a strong and sustainable trajectory for Ganfeng, which swung from loss to profit last...

- [Some Hong Kong taxi drivers unprepared as new e-payments rule takes effect](#) (2026-04-01 06:47)

Some Hong Kong taxi drivers have yet to install e-payment options even after the city's mandatory electronic payment choices for taxis came into effect, highlighting a digital divide challenge facing cabbies, the South China Morning Post has observed. Under the Transport Department rule that came into effect on Wednesday, all drivers must offer passengers at least

a QR code option and an alternative e-payment method. The initiative aimed to elevate the quality of taxi services by leveraging...

- [Malaysian anti-corruption body offers to pay for witness' s flight in chips probe](#) (2026-04-01 06:45)

Malaysia' s anti-corruption agency on Wednesday offered to pay for the flight of a London-based key witness to help with its investigation into possible corruption linked to a US\$250 million deal signed last year between the government and British chip design firm Arm Holdings. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has for the past month been on the hunt for former government aide James Chai, whom it said was a key witness in its probe on possible abuse of power, fraud and governance...

- [South Korean restaurants struggle to survive as global oil prices eat into profits](#) (2026-04-01 06:44)

Kim Bong-hwan, who runs a barbecue restaurant in Myeong-dong in central Seoul, is feeling the brunt of rising costs, with wholesale beef prices climbing from about 28,000 won (US\$18) per kilogram to more than 40,000 won in recent weeks. "Everything' s going up – beef, pork, eggs, vegetables and even disposable materials like plastic bags and containers," he said. "Prices have risen 20 to 30 per cent in just a few weeks." Kim, who has operated the restaurant for more than 15 years, said raising...

- [How Israel dodged Hormuz energy crisis while others reel from the blow](#) (2026-04-01 06:43)

Iran' s chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz has thrown the global economic system into turmoil, yet Israel, which launched attacks on Tehran alongside the United States, has emerged as a rare exception. Since Israel and its US ally started the Middle East war on February 28, economies from Asia to Europe and the US have come under pressure from surging oil and natural gas prices that have driven up fuel and electricity costs. Israel, however, has remained largely insulated from the shock. Central...

- [China gains ground in DR Congo' s mining sector as Australian firm loses permits](#) (2026-04-01 06:00)

Two significant decisions within eight days made by the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo reflect the current state of its mining industry, where Chinese companies have emerged as preferred partners. On March 19, DR Congo' s Mining Registry announced the cancellation of mining permits held by Australia' s AVZ Minerals for non-payment of surface rights fees. It was the second cancellation in three years suffered by the company in DR Congo after its Manono lithium concession was revoked...

- [Japan solo dining chain surges in popularity in China; hours long wait times lead to scalpers](#) (2026-04-01 06:00)

A new solo dining trend among Chinese people is boosting the success of Japanese diner brands such as Sushiro. The conveyor belt sushi chain opened its first mainland shop in Guangzhou in southern China's Guangdong province in 2021. Its popularity boomed when the brand opened its first shop in Beijing in 2024. It was reported that there was a queue of up to 1,500 tables. When Sushiro entered Shanghai in December 2025, there were already 700 groups of people waiting before its first opening....

- [Malaysian minister warns of 'very, very serious' energy crisis](#) (2026-04-01 05:54)

The Malaysian government has entered "crisis mode" in response to the ongoing global energy supply disruption, its transport minister has warned. "This is not a laughing or joking matter. It is a very, very serious matter," Transport Minister Anthony Loke said on Tuesday, as quoted by the New Straits Times newspaper. "For the past month, energy costs have risen by more than 100 per cent." According to news website Free Malaysia Today, Loke said: "Even though at this moment our lights are still...

- [Fidel Castro's grandson backs capitalism and Trump deal, slams Cuba leader](#) (2026-04-01 05:23)

Amid ongoing talks between the Trump administration and Cuban leaders, Sandro Castro, the controversial grandson of Fidel Castro, told a major US television news network that most Cubans on the island want to embrace capitalism and that the country's hand-picked president, Miguel Diaz-Canel, has done a poor job. His statements to CNN's Havana correspondent, Patrick Oppmann, echoed earlier calls by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio for a change of leadership in Havana, and seem to suggest that...

- [Pakistan eyes Gulf investment, defence deals in return for playing peacemaker in Iran war](#) (2026-04-01 05:21)

Pakistan is hoping that its role in building a diplomatic off-ramp from the US-Israel war on Iran will enable it to become a key actor in the Middle East after the conflict ends, analysts say. If Islamabad can deliver without being sucked into the maelstrom, it can capitalise on its position as peacemaker by signing defence deals with Gulf monarchies and attracting investment from them to strengthen its weak economy. This will help finance Pakistan's military expansion for its envisioned new...

- [World's first Chinese-language TV station goes off-air in 2016 – SCMP archive](#) (2026-04-01 04:30)

This article was first published on April 2, 2016. by Eddie Lee Staff, fans bid farewell to broadcaster It was finally curtains for Asia Television last night (April 1, 2016) after a couple of near-shutdowns last month and one dramatic twist after another to the embattled station's chequered final episode. Just before the stroke of midnight, the cash-strapped broadcaster pulled the plug after airing a re-run of one of its trademark Miss Asia beauty pageants. The only fresh programmes on air...

- [China doubles down on chemical plant expansion with tech breakthrough amid Iran war](#) (2026-04-01 04:00)

China is doubling down on mega chemical plants to secure the “industrial gold” needed for its green technology and to scale the coal-based production of chemicals whose global supply is stalled by conflict in the Middle East. On March 20, construction began on the world’s largest coal-to-ethylene glycol project in Xinjiang’s Turpan prefecture, which is expected to produce 2.4 million tonnes per year, according to state news agency Xinhua. China’s first 100,000-tonne/year solution process-based...

- [Japan begins tax increases to bankroll record US\\$8 billion military build-up](#) (2026-04-01 03:40)

Japan on Wednesday raised tobacco and corporate taxes to finance a boost in defence spending, with income tax hike set to follow in 2027 as the government projects the tax increases will add some 1.3 trillion yen (US\$8 billion) annually in revenue. As the security environment surrounding Japan deteriorates and the government is set to further strengthen the country’s defence capabilities, the public is likely to face further tax burdens to finance the outlays, which have now ballooned to a...

- [China-Pakistan five-point plan to end Iran war](#) (2026-04-01 02:56)

China and Pakistan unveiled a joint five-point plan on Tuesday to restore peace in the Persian Gulf after five weeks of US-Israeli bombardment of Iran. China, Pakistan five-point initiative for restoring peace in the Middle East by scmp

- [Tai Po fire hearing: estate management staff tearfully reject failure to help claims](#) (2026-04-01 02:26)

The seventh session of the independent inquiry into Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades is under way, with the focus turning to ISS EastPoint, the property management firm for Wang Fuk Court. The blaze, which started on November 26 last year and raged through seven of Wang Fuk Court’s eight towers for about 43 hours, killed 168 people and displaced nearly 5,000 residents. ISS clerk Lok Sin-ying, who was stationed at the estate, resumed her testimony on Wednesday morning before the judge-led...

- [Japan races to limit fallout from Chinese embassy break-in](#) (2026-04-01 02:00)

Japan has moved swiftly to contain the diplomatic fallout after a member of its Self-Defence Forces broke into the Chinese embassy in Tokyo last week. But observers and local media say the incident has given Beijing an opening to reinforce claims of rising militarism and anti-China sentiment in Japan. Yoshinobu Kusunoki, commissioner general of the National Police Agency, on Monday called the break-in on March 24 “extremely unusual and serious”, adding that it “should not have happened”. His...

- [How China is building faster high-speed railways using vast underwater tunnels](#)

(2026-04-01 02:00)

China has finished digging the underwater section of a high-speed rail tunnel stretching more than 14km (9 miles) under a busy segment of the Yangtze River, as the country increasingly turns to vast subterranean passages to expand its railway network. The tunnel beneath China's longest waterway, which will link Shanghai's Chongming Island with Taicang city in neighbouring Jiangsu province, is on track to be completed by the end of the year, state broadcaster CCTV reported. The project will allow...

- [Top Chinese developers' losses mount as debt overhaul props up operations](#)

(2026-04-01 01:58)

Major Chinese property developers reported operating losses in 2025 as a recovery in the world's second-largest economy remained elusive after five years of decline, with some headline profits driven mainly by non-cash gains from debt restructuring. China Vanke posted a record 88.56 billion yuan (US\$12.9 billion) loss last year in the latest sign that mainland developers continued to struggle under debt pressure and slowing residential sales. The developer said its annual revenue fell 32 per...

- [Why China is always misunderstood and misrepresented](#) (2026-04-01 01:30)

Why didn't China develop its own scientific and industrial revolutions when it made so many discoveries and advances over millennia? That is often called "Needham's question", named after the historian of Chinese science and tech Joseph Needham. Why didn't China develop capitalism during the Song dynasty when it was so close to achieving a breakthrough with trade, commerce, currency and semi-industrialisation, and an emerging merchant class? The Hungarian-French sinologist Etienne Balazs, among...

- [Scottish man linked to gang arrested in Indonesia's Bali after Interpol issues red alert](#)

(2026-04-01 01:08)

A Scottish man, described as a senior figure in an international crime syndicate, was arrested shortly after landing on the resort island of Bali, according to authorities in Indonesia. The 45-year-old, identified as Steven Lyons, was taken into custody by immigration officers at Ngurah Rai International Airport on Saturday on arrival from Singapore, Untung Widiyatmoko, head of Indonesia's branch of Interpol, said on Tuesday. The immigration system had flagged him as the subject of an Interpol...

- [Japan's Shibuya to fine litterbugs on the spot from June as visitor numbers surge](#)

(2026-04-01 01:00)

Tokyo's Shibuya ward – home to the famous scramble crossing and one of the Japanese capital's busiest shopping and nightlife districts – is abandoning its long-standing policy of asking people to take their rubbish home. Instead, it is turning to on-the-spot fines as visitor numbers surge and litter piles up. Under a new campaign branded "If you throw trash, you

lose cash” , anyone caught dropping rubbish will be fined 2,000 yen (US\$12.50), with enforcement starting on June 1 after a grace...

- [Why Empress Dowager Cixi and people in ancient China used animal faeces in beauty routines](#) (2026-04-01 01:00)

In ancient China, it was not uncommon to use animal excrement in beauty treatments, a practice exemplified by Manchu Empress Dowager Cixi (1835–1908), who reportedly included bird droppings in her lifelong skincare routine. Cixi, who rose from a low-ranking concubine to power as regent, effectively ruled the Qing dynasty (1644–1911) for nearly 50 years, from 1861 until her death in 1908. While she navigated China through major challenges such as the Boxer Rebellion, foreign imperialism, and...

- [Mandarin is replacing Cantonese. Offbeat AI fights back as Big Tech looks away](#) (2026-04-01 01:00)

Preserving Cantonese has been challenging due to the dominance of Mandarin, limited learning resources and a lack of a standard written form. With a declining number of young learners, the language faces an uncertain future. Artificial intelligence (AI) – seen by some as an existential threat to humanity – may become the hope for saving the language, and many others, along with the distinct cultures they embody. This is the mission of Hong Kong-based deep-tech company Votee AI: to use large...

- [Russian military plane crashes into Crimea cliff, killing 29 people](#) (2026-04-01 00:44)

A Russian An-26 military transport plane crashed into a cliff in Crimea, killing 29 people on board, due to a possible technical malfunction, Russia’s defence ministry said early on Wednesday, according to news agencies. Tass news agency, quoting the ministry, said communication with the aircraft was lost at about 6pm local time on Tuesday on a planned flight over Crimea. The peninsula, covered in sweeping mountains leading down to the coast of the Black Sea, was annexed by Russia from...

- [‘I’m not dumb’: Hong Kong’s London trade office manager denies running spy network](#) (2026-04-01 00:30)

A national security trial in Britain that thrust the role of Hong Kong’s overseas trade promotion offices into the global spotlight has heard the defendant deny he was spying on prominent activists from the city and UK politicians on behalf of China. Two years after his arrest, Bill Yuen Chung-biu took to the witness box last week and challenged the prosecution’s claim that he ran a “shadow” policing operation in the country, serving as a conduit for information about the activists while working...

- [Will surging fuel prices push Filipinos deeper into credit card debt?](#) (2026-04-01 00:00)

Rising fuel costs linked to the Middle East conflict could push more Filipinos deeper into debt, analysts have warned, with one regional study describing the Philippines’ credit card burden

reaching a “critical” risk level. Although credit card ownership in the Philippines remains relatively low, data indicates that cardholders appear to be using them far more intensively as living costs outpace income growth. Credit card receivables in the Philippines have been growing consistently at more than...

- [Trump says US could end war in Iran in 2 to 3 weeks](#) (2026-03-31 22:33)

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that the US could end its military campaign against Iran within two to three weeks. “We’ll be leaving very soon,” he told reporters in the White House’s Oval Office, adding that the exit could take place “within two weeks, maybe two weeks, maybe three”. The declaration was Trump’s clearest to date that he intends to soon end a month-long war that has reordered the Middle East, disrupted global energy markets and changed the trajectory of the...

- [China’s science awards system is plagued by shadowy practices. Can reforms fix it?](#) (2026-03-31 22:00)

China’s science and technology awards system has been accused of being riddled with loopholes and misconduct, including serious exaggeration of achievements, cultivation of personal connections and even bribery, according to critics within the academic community. These flaws, though repeatedly addressed by the authorities, are said to remain deeply entrenched, casting a shadow over China’s rapidly advancing innovation sector that is widely regarded as a key pillar in its rivalry with the...

- [Couple convicted of stealing trade secrets for China loses US citizenship](#) (2026-03-31 21:58)

A federal judge has revoked the US citizenship of a naturalised married couple from China after their 2021 convictions for stealing sensitive medical trade secrets and sharing them with China, the US Department of Justice (DoJ) announced on Tuesday. On March 30, federal Judge James E. Simmons Jr. of California’s Southern District ordered the denaturalisation of Li Chen and Yu Zhou, ruling their crimes showed a lack of the “good moral character” required for American citizenship. Chen and Zhou...

- [New York Mayor Mamdani puts city’s government back on TikTok](#) (2026-03-31 21:57)

Almost three years ago, New York City joined governments across the country in banning TikTok from its phones over security concerns about the Chinese social media site. On Tuesday, Mayor Zohran Mamdani, a bona fide social media star, took to the app to announce a reversal: “TikTok, we’re back.” The city will now allow agencies to start posting again on the short-form social media site as long as departments follow a set of security precautions, according to a memo from city cybersecurity...

- [How selective outrage over Iran war exposes the limits of realpolitik](#) (2026-03-31 21:30)

As with any conflict, the war in Iran has driven people to choose sides and adopt partisan positions. This includes the view that, despite the acts of aggression by the US and Israel, the

Islamic Republic somehow “deserves” the attacks due to years of regional instability caused by its Axis of Resistance. This is not to suggest that the Iranian regime has always been a victim. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ transgressions through the Quds Force have been well documented. But let’s be...

- [Trump-Xi summit: US trade chief casts doubt on pre-meeting Beijing visit](#) (2026-03-31 20:19)

Washington’s top trade negotiator suggested on Tuesday that, in a break from usual practice, members of US President Donald Trump’s cabinet will not visit Beijing ahead of the expected mid-May summit with President Xi Jinping to prepare or discuss deliverables. “I don’t think we’re going to need to do that,” Jamieson Greer, US Trade Representative, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television when asked about meeting his Chinese counterparts soon, ahead of the much-anticipated leaders’ ...

- [Trump fumes as judge halts his White House ballroom project unless Congress approves it](#) (2026-03-31 19:45)

A US judge blocked Donald Trump on Tuesday from proceeding with construction of a US\$400 million ballroom on the site of the White House’s demolished East Wing, halting for now one of the Republican president’s most visible efforts to reshape the seat of American power. US District Judge Richard Leon granted a request for a preliminary injunction by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a non-profit organisation that brought a lawsuit alleging Trump exceeded his authority when he razed...

- [Iran says it has ‘will’ to end war, as Trump zigzags on escalation](#) (2026-03-31 19:10)

Iran has the “necessary will” to end the war with the US and Israel, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday, stressing that Tehran was seeking guarantees the conflict would not flare up again. The comment by the head of state – which boosted markets in the US – came after a day of heavy strikes on Iran and followed a tough warning from the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Guards threatened to retaliate against leading US tech firms such as Google, Meta and Apple from...

- [Iran says will target Apple, Google and Meta if more of its leaders are killed](#) (2026-03-31 17:23)

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said on Tuesday that they would target leading US technology firms like Apple, Google and Meta if more Iranian leaders were killed in “targeted assassinations”. “These companies, starting from 8pm Tehran time on Wednesday, April 1, should expect the destruction of their relevant units in exchange for every assassination in Iran,” the Guards said in a statement listing the names of 18 companies it alleged were complicit in the killing of officials. “We advise the...

- [US top court rules against state ban on ‘conversion therapy’ for LGBTQ+ youth](#)  
(2026-03-31 15:14)

The US Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled against a law banning “conversion therapy” for LGBTQ+ kids in Colorado, one of about two dozen states that ban the discredited practice. An 8-1 High Court majority sided with a Christian counsellor who argues the law banning talk therapy violates the First Amendment. The justices agreed that the law raises free speech concerns and sent it back to a lower court to decide if it meets a legal standard that few laws pass. Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing for the...

- [Tai Po blaze hearing: property management worker unaware fire alarms deactivated](#)  
(2026-03-31 14:46)

A property management worker at the housing estate ravaged by Hong Kong’s deadliest fire in decades was unaware that fire alarms had been deactivated after the hose reel system was shut down for water tank repairs, an evidentiary hearing has been told. On the sixth day of hearings by an independent committee investigating the November 26 blaze in Tai Po that claimed 168 lives, questions also arose about why fire services water tanks on building roofs were being repaired – a move that prompted...

- [Philippines to rename disputed South China Sea islands to boost ‘sovereignty’](#)  
(2026-03-31 14:40)

The Philippines said on Tuesday it will rename more than 100 island features in a bid to reinforce its “sovereignty” in the disputed South China Sea, including areas claimed by China. The features to be renamed under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr’s executive order belong to the Spratly archipelago, site of repeated confrontations between Philippine and Chinese vessels. Beijing claims the South China Sea in nearly its entirety despite an international ruling that its assertion has no legal...

- [Why spike in fertiliser prices may boost China’s political clout amid Iran war shockwaves](#)  
(2026-03-31 14:00)

The US-Israel war on Iran has crippled exports of fertiliser from the Persian Gulf, raising the spectre of higher food prices if the conflict drags on. The disruption could hand China – the world’s largest fertiliser producer – greater political leverage over countries already locked in disputes with Beijing, though it is unlikely to weaponise exports, according to analysts. Global fertiliser prices have soared since Iran effectively blocked shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, through which...

- [Japan rape accuser condemns prosecution’s failure to protect victims](#) (2026-03-31 13:58)

A Japanese prosecutor who publicly accused her boss of rape condemned her office on Tuesday for failing to protect victims, after it rejected her request for an independent probe into harassment within the organisation. Very few women in Japan speak out about sexual assault but Hikari (not her real name) came forward in 2024 to accuse Osaka’s then top prosecutor of

raping her six years earlier. Kentaro Kitagawa, head of the Osaka District Public Prosecutor's Office, was arrested and admitted the...

- [6.5 million people to pass through Hong Kong borders during coming holiday](#) (2026-03-31 13:34)

Nearly 6.5 million people are expected to pass through Hong Kong's border control points during the coming Easter and Ching Ming Festival holiday, the Immigration Department has said. The department estimated that 6.44 million Hong Kong residents and visitors would pass through air, land and sea control points between Friday and Tuesday. About 5.43 million trips were expected to be made via land boundary control points linking Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The number of outbound and inbound trips...

- [China pledges 'strategic coordination' with Pakistan to help end US war on Iran](#) (2026-03-31 13:05)

China said on Tuesday it would enhance "strategic coordination" with Pakistan on the Iran crisis to promote dialogue and help end the conflict as Islamabad's top diplomat Ishaq Dar arrived in Beijing. Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Dar to discuss ways to de-escalate regional tensions and to formally launch a joint five-point initiative aimed at restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and the Middle East. Key points of the plan include a call for an immediate ceasefire, a halt to attacks on...

- [China has 'room' for imported inflation, but economic risks rising: PBOC adviser](#) (2026-03-31 13:00)

China has sufficient leeway to cope with imported inflationary shocks from Middle East instability, a monetary-policy adviser to the People's Bank of China said, but the country must balance those pressures with economic-growth risks. Huang Yiping, a member of the PBOC's Monetary Policy Committee, said that China was already experiencing upwards pressure on prices. But China's consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of inflation, has remained below its official target of 2 per cent in recent...

- [King Charles to visit US in late April amid Iran war concerns](#) (2026-03-31 12:55)

King Charles III will visit the United States in late April, Buckingham Palace said on Tuesday, despite some calls for the trip to be cancelled or delayed amid the Iran war. Confirmation of the monarch's first state visit to the US comes at a rocky time for the so-called US-UK "special relationship", with US President Donald Trump repeatedly criticising Prime Minister Keir Starmer's reticence over the US-Israel war against Tehran. The trip by the king and Queen Camilla would "celebrate the...

- [How US war in Iran is pushing Philippines closer to China](#) (2026-03-31 12:30)

The Iran war could provide an impetus for the Philippines and China to reach an agreement on disputed energy resources in the South China Sea, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr

said recently. Marcos, the rotational chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year, emphasised the need for a “reset” in relations with China given that regional states are confronting “very serious” economic and foreign policy restructuring. Marcos’ statements came shortly after the Philippine...

- [Trump urges countries seeking oil to go to Strait of Hormuz and ‘just take it’](#) (2026-03-31 12:22)

President Donald Trump on Tuesday urged countries that did not help in the US-Israeli strikes on Iran to buy American oil and go to the Strait of Hormuz and “just TAKE it”. Trump singled out Britain and France as unhelpful in the month-long war that has roiled global markets, driven up energy prices and seen Iran effectively close oil tanker traffic through the Strait. “All of those countries that can’t get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused...

- [Beijing’s top official on women’s affairs lays out 3 goals for Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-31 12:21)

Hong Kong should adopt measures that better meet the needs of women and family development in its first five-year plan and take pragmatic steps to create a fair and inclusive society, the country’s top official on women’s affairs has said. State Councillor Shen Yiqin made the remarks at the Hong Kong Family and Women Development Summit on Tuesday. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu also met her and pledged to advance work on family and women’s affairs and contribute more to national...

- [Hong Kong exporter confidence records steepest drop in 2 years](#) (2026-03-31 12:01)

Confidence among Hong Kong’s exporters fell at its steepest rate in two years amid global trade turbulence even as demand was expected to remain stable over the long term. The Trade Development Council (TDC) on Tuesday said its Exporters Confidence Index for the first quarter of 2026 showed that traders remained “cautious”, though trade diversification strategies have them “well prepared” for any further market disruptions. The index surveys over 500 traders from six major industries on a...

- [Could the energy crisis prompt US and China to ‘sit down and work together’ ?](#) (2026-03-31 12:00)

As the Strait of Hormuz crisis roils world energy markets, China and the US still have strong potential to work together to find solutions, according to a researcher with a Chinese think tank. Wang Lining – who heads the oil market department at the Economics and Technology Research Institute under state-run China National Petroleum Corporation – also said Washington’s change in direction on energy diplomacy was a “reminder” that Beijing could play a bigger role in global governance. Wang made...

- [Nepal to apologise to ‘untouchable’ Dalits for first time](#) (2026-03-31 11:30)

As a child, Saraswati Nepali was not allowed to drink from the same water jar as her classmates. When she was thirsty, she had to walk the 20 minutes home and back: the cost of being born a Dalit in a society that deemed her “untouchable”. Now, Nepal’s new government says it is finally ready to acknowledge that injustice. Prime Minister Balendra Shah’s administration announced on Sunday that the state would, for the first time, offer a formal apology to the Dalit community. It also pledged to...

- [China tests ‘world’ s heaviest cargo drone’ suited to high-altitude and island operations](#) (2026-03-31 11:29)

China has executed the maiden flight of the Changying-8, which it says is the world’s heaviest multi-terrain cargo drone with the potential for military applications. The CY-8, which was developed under defence contractor China North Industries Group Corporation Limited (Norinco), is capable of short take-off and landing as well as operating on high-altitude plateaus and island regions. According to China’s state broadcaster CCTV, the drone successfully completed its maiden flight on Tuesday...

- [No deals on mainland China visit, Taiwan’ s Premier Cho Jung-tai warns KMT chairwoman](#) (2026-03-31 11:13)

Taiwan’s Premier Cho Jung-tai has warned the chairwoman of the main opposition party Kuomintang (KMT) against engaging in talks or agreements involving government authority when she visits mainland China next month. Cheng Li-wun’s coming visit has rattled Taiwan’s ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and exposed unease even within KMT ranks – highlighting mounting friction over the opposition outreach to Beijing amid heightened tensions across the Taiwan Strait. Cheng is expected to lead a...

- [3 Chinese ships exit Strait of Hormuz as PetroChina stresses operations stable](#) (2026-03-31 11:00)

As global energy supplies are put under strain by Iranian disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, state-owned Chinese oil giant PetroChina has said its overall operations remain stable because most of its imports do not pass through the strait. However, the company’s investment operations in the Middle East had been “impacted to varying degrees”, as crude oil and natural gas imported through the strait accounted for about 10 per cent of its total operating volume, PetroChina...

- [Shenzhen activates China’ s first 10,000-card AI cluster with domestic chips](#) (2026-03-31 11:00)

China’s southern tech hub Shenzhen began operations of the country’s first 10,000-card intelligent computing cluster, built with advanced chips made by Huawei Technologies, in the latest sign of how the country is deepening its push for home-grown computing capabilities. Featuring a computing capacity of 11,000 petaflops, the new cluster, activated last week, is the country’s first 10,000-card intelligent computing cluster built with Huawei’s Ascend 910C AI

chips, according to Shenzhen Special...

- [Zhipu AI revenue jumps 132% in first post-IPO report, missing estimates](#) (2026-03-31 10:36)

Chinese artificial intelligence company Zhipu AI posted worse-than-expected annual revenue growth in its first earnings report since its initial public offering (IPO) in Hong Kong in January. Revenue rose 131.9 per cent year on year to 724.33 million yuan (US\$104.8 million) for the year ended December 2025, the Beijing-based company said on Tuesday, lagging an estimate of 756 million yuan by analysts polled by Bloomberg. Total losses soared 59.5 per cent to 4.72 billion yuan driven by mounting...

- [Malaysia court orders ex-PM Najib to pay US\\$1.3 billion to 1MDB unit](#) (2026-03-31 10:20)

A Malaysian court on Tuesday ordered jailed former prime minister Najib Razak to pay US\$1.3 billion to a former unit of scandal-tainted state fund 1MDB, state media reported. The Kuala Lumpur High Court ruled that Najib was liable for losses incurred by SRC International, a former subsidiary of sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad, state news agency Bernama reported. High Court judge Ahmad Fairuz Zainol Abidin ruled that Najib breached his fiduciary duties, abused his position...

- [Apple' s accidental AI feature roll-out in China risks regulatory backlash, expert says](#) (2026-03-31 10:00)

Apple' s accidental roll-out on Tuesday of its highly anticipated Apple Intelligence feature in mainland China – which has yet to receive regulatory approval – before swiftly pulling it could raise the ire of regulators and expose the US tech giant to potential penalties, an industry expert warned. The brief release could have violated local rules on artificial intelligence security evaluations, algorithm filings and data protection, according to You Yunting, a Shanghai-based intellectual...

- [How emperors and nobles kept warm without down quilts during winter in ancient China](#) (2026-03-31 10:00)

Before electricity, central heating, and down quilts, winter in ancient China was not simply a season but a test of class. Cold was shared by everyone, but warmth was usually not. During the Han dynasty (206 BC-220), emperors used specially designed “Warm Chambers” to protect themselves from the winter cold. The walls were plastered with a mixture of mud and Sichuan peppercorns, thought to preserve heat while resisting dampness and insects; curtains and screens helped keep out draughts. These...

- [Hong Kong homebuyers pile into new launches despite rate jitters and Middle East tensions](#) (2026-03-31 09:49)

Hong Kong homebuyers snapped up new launches on Tuesday as developers accelerated sales amid concerns over slower rate cuts and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. By about

3.50pm, all 254 flats released at the La Mirabelle project in Tseung Kwan O had been sold, according to market agents. “Today’s positive sales results at La Mirabelle is a vote of confidence for the Hong Kong residential market,” said Daryl Ng, chairman of Sino Group. “The Hong Kong residential market fundamentals are...

- [Is extortion widespread at Indonesia’s entry points? Officer’s firing sparks concern](#) (2026-03-31 09:40)

The firing of an Indonesian immigration officer at a Batam seaport, following reports of extortion of foreign tourists, has raised questions about the prevalence of such practices across the country’s entry points. Batam, in Indonesia’s Riau Islands province, is a popular destination for visitors from nearby Singapore as it boasts scenic beaches an hour’s ferry ride from the city state. The island’s appeal has recently been marred by allegations of extortion by immigration officers at Batam...

- [Wolf bites woman in German city shopping area](#) (2026-03-31 09:39)

A wolf bit a woman in a shopping area in Hamburg before it was pulled out of a lake in Germany’s second-biggest city, authorities said, in what is believed to be the first such attack since wolves returned to the country in 1998. The fire service said the woman was taken to a Hamburg hospital after the unusual encounter on Monday evening. There was no immediate information on her condition on Tuesday, and police did not detail where she was bitten. It also was not clear what led to the...

- [Filipino singer Matty Juniosa’s Golden Buzzer win stokes #SEAbings’ Southeast Asian pride](#) (2026-03-31 09:31)

A Filipino singer’s Golden Buzzer moment on Britain’s Got Talent has quickly become a fresh rallying point for Southeast Asian pride under the #SEAbings banner, as audiences in the region increasingly champion one another’s artists on the global stage. Matty Juniosa, a 27-year-old from the Philippines, drew a standing ovation after performing Prince’s “Purple Rain” on the British television competition on Sunday, earning the coveted Golden Buzzer from acerbic judge Simon Cowell and a direct...

- [China plans AI-powered smart shipping system by 2027](#) (2026-03-31 09:09)

China is ramping up efforts to deeply integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into its shipping industry by 2027, targeting breakthroughs in core technologies to build a smart maritime system as global competition intensifies. A new action plan by the Ministry of Transport and three other government bodies outlined a road map that includes creating at least three comprehensive pilot zones, launching more than five trial routes, developing over 10 replicable smart-shipping use cases and deploying...

- [In age of US-China rivalry, supply chain statecraft counts](#) (2026-03-31 08:30)

Geopolitical competition has long been understood in territorial terms. Power was measured by control over land, resources and populations. Rivalry was expressed through military confrontation, alliance formation and the defence of borders. As economic interdependence deepened in the 20th century, globalisation was seen as an arena within which states competed, but not itself the object of competition. That assumption no longer holds. Increasingly, the infrastructure of globalisation is becoming...

- [13 parents, middleman get up to 14 months in jail for bribing ESF employee](#) (2026-03-31 08:12)

A Hong Kong court has sentenced 13 parents and a middleman to up to 14 months in jail for offering bribes ranging from HK\$20,000 to HK\$200,000 (US\$2,600 to US\$25,600) to a kindergarten administrator at the city's biggest international school group in exchange for enrolments. In earlier mitigation, some of the defendants pinned the blame on Fatima Rumjahn, accusing the former English Schools Foundation (ESF) employee of "taking advantage of the parents' eagerness to get their children into..."

- [Japan has enough plutonium to make 5,500 nuclear warheads, PLA Daily says](#) (2026-03-31 08:08)

China's military mouthpiece accused Japan of "dangerously expanding" its defence industry – in capacity, technology and international engagement – and said it had "crossed the red line". In a rare full-page report on Monday, PLA Daily claimed Japan possessed an "astonishing" stockpile of nuclear materials and that it had the technology to produce nuclear weapons. It said 44.4 tonnes of plutonium had already been separated by the end of 2024 – enough to make about 5,500 nuclear warheads. The...

- [Malaysia raises 2026 growth forecast despite Iran war risks](#) (2026-03-31 08:00)

Malaysia's central bank has raised its 2026 growth outlook, saying the economy is on track to expand between 4 and 5 per cent despite mounting risks from the Iran war. The revised forecast from Bank Negara Malaysia marks an upgrade from the government's earlier target of 4 to 4.5 per cent, reflecting stronger-than-expected momentum in the second half of last year and resilient domestic demand. "Malaysia enters 2026 from a position of strength to navigate the challenges," BNM Governor Abdul...

- [Japan deploys long-range missiles to 2 bases amid China tensions, irking locals](#) (2026-03-31 07:53)

Japan's defence ministry said on Tuesday that long-range missiles with counterstrike capabilities have been brought into service at two Ground Self-Defence Force bases in the country. The deployment of the missiles at Camp Kengun in Kumamoto prefecture, southwestern Japan, and Camp Fuji in Shizuoka prefecture, central Japan, marks a shift from the country's exclusively defence-oriented policy under its war-renouncing constitution. Japan has for the first time acquired a counterstrike capability,...

- [EnerVenue plugs into US\\$300 million to scale next-gen batteries as it eyes Hong Kong hub](#) (2026-03-31 07:39)

EnerVenue – a rechargeable battery start-up co-founded by Full Vision Capital, the family office of Hong Kong tycoon Peter Lee Ka-kit – has raised US\$300 million in its latest round of financing and appointed a new CEO to accelerate the large-scale industrial deployment of its cutting-edge energy storage technology. The California-based company – which also counts government-backed Hong Kong Investment Corporation (HKIC) as an investor – said it would set up a regional headquarters in the city...

- [Hong Kong’ s Exco approves plans for elevated mass transit system in Kai Tak](#) (2026-03-31 07:17)

Hong Kong’ s key decision-making body has approved plans for an elevated smart mass transit railway system in Kai Tak that will connect the cruise terminal and other major facilities in the area to the local MTR station. The Executive Council’ s endorsement followed meetings by authorities with the project’ s critics and consultations with the public and the Legislative Council to address their concerns. The proposal was gazetted in July last year. “The public is generally supportive of the Smart...

- [Europe urged to ‘learn to fight for itself’ in case US-China truce collapses](#) (2026-03-31 07:00)

European governments breathed a sigh of relief in October when the US and China sealed a fragile trade truce that paused more sweeping Chinese rare earth restrictions and papered over a Sino-Dutch row over chipmaker Nexperia. Now, however, the European Union is being urged to come up with a battle plan should the ceasefire fail or expire. A spike in superpower tensions could expose the EU to Chinese export controls, potentially pulverising its military support for Ukraine, its own efforts to...

- [Fuelling up: the new ‘obsession’ drawing Singaporeans to Malaysia’ s Johor](#) (2026-03-31 06:42)

Singaporeans are not flocking to Malaysia’ s Johor just for groceries these days – fuel is the “obsession” for the moment. Petrol prices have spiked sharply in the city state due to the Middle East conflict, with RON95 at almost three times the price in Malaysia at S\$3.41 (US\$2.64) per litre. Singapore vehicles are only allowed to pump the unsubsidised RON97 fuel in Malaysia, which is being retailed in Johor Bahru at 5.15 ringgit (US\$1.27) per litre. A Singaporean who wanted to be known only as...

- [Japan seeks French backing as Macron begins Asia trip in Iran war’ s shadow](#) (2026-03-31 06:36)

Emmanuel Macron touched down in Tokyo on Tuesday with a packed agenda and a receptive audience in a Japanese government anxious about a choked oil route and looking for support

amid its diplomatic falling-out with Beijing. The French president's three-day visit, before he heads to South Korea later in the week, comes as Japan looks to Europe for solidarity amid a crisis in the Strait of Hormuz that has sent oil prices soaring. The backdrop to Macron's meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae...

- [Gulf allies want Trump to prolong US bombardment of Iran, officials say](#) (2026-03-31 06:16)

Gulf allies of the United States, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, are urging President Donald Trump to continue prosecuting the war against Iran, arguing that Tehran has not been weakened enough by the month-long US-led bombing campaign, according to US, Gulf and Israeli officials. After private grumbling at the start of the war that they were not given adequate advance notice of the US-Israeli attack and complaining the US had ignored their warnings that the war would have...

- [China influencer amasses over 1 million followers in 2 weeks by sharing how to rent a home tips](#) (2026-03-31 06:00)

A Chinese influencer gained more than a million followers in just two weeks by simply teaching people how to rent a home. His efforts earned widespread support and appreciation from Chinese netizens. The influencer, known as Gulumao, was born in the 1990s and is based in Xiamen, Fujian province, southern China. He went viral for offering simple, practical life-skill tutorials, becoming one of the fastest-growing creators on one major platform since the start of 2026. On February 26, he posted...

- [Hong Kong man gets 22 months in jail for pregnant woman's death in truck accident](#) (2026-03-31 05:51)

A former Hong Kong truck driver who caused the death of a pregnant woman was sentenced to 22 months in prison on Tuesday, with the judge saying the man had made “continuous” wrong decisions in his driving. District Judge Josiah Lam Wai-kuen also pushed back on the defence's mitigation argument that the accident had occurred because of a momentary lapse of judgment. “He had acted out of convenience for himself. This is not a lapse in judgment, but driving with bad judgment,” he said. Leung...

- [US may reassess Nato ties after Iran war ends, Rubio says](#) (2026-03-31 04:33)

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US may need to reassess its relationship with Nato after the Iran war is finished, calling the military alliance's alleged lack of support during the Middle East conflict “very disappointing”. Rubio assailed Nato members for denying access to military bases, following prior criticism from US President Donald Trump that partners in the security bloc are “cowards” and that the alliance is a “paper tiger”. “The president and our country will have to...

- [Bin bag panic grips South Korea as huge Iran war crisis budget agreed](#) (2026-03-31 04:33)

In Seoul last week, South Koreans were stripping shop shelves of plastic bin bags. Not food, not medicine. Bin bags. Nearly 2.7 million of the city's mandatory "pay-as-you-throw" bags were sold each day, almost five times the normal volume, as residents scrambled to stockpile what they feared might soon become scarce. City by-laws mandate that the prepaid bags – made from naphtha, a petroleum derivative – be used to throw away household waste. But with oil supplies under strain amid the...

- [Japan PM's fawning sparks backlash, Philippines' work-life balance fails: 7 Asia highlights](#) (2026-03-31 04:12)

We have selected seven stories from the SCMP's coverage of Asia over the past week that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Trump's 'wind-up doll'? Japan's PM faces backlash over White House fawning Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is facing accusations of diplomatic sycophancy after White House footage showed her giggling at a portrait of an autopen – placed by US President Donald...

- [Over 47,000 cabbies adopt Octopus, card readers ahead of e-payment regulations](#) (2026-03-31 04:05)

More than 47,000 registered Hong Kong taxi drivers have adopted the commercial version of the Octopus app or equipped their cabs with mobile card readers ahead of new electronic payment regulations taking effect on Wednesday, transport authorities have said. The new measures require cab drivers to provide at least two e-payment options, as part of a broader government push to modernise the industry's image and service quality. The Transport Department on Tuesday said the three dedicated service...

- [China and Kenya partner to finish 'most consequential' rail project](#) (2026-03-31 04:00)

Kenya has revived construction on its multibillion-dollar Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) extension that stalled more than six years ago, replacing heavy sovereign debt with innovative financing after renegotiating its loans with China. According to Kenyan officials, the Chinese firm China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) and its subsidiary, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), will build the railway's two remaining sections at an estimated cost of US\$5.4 billion. Kenyan President...

- [Tai Po fire hearing: management company unaware of alarm system shutdown notice](#) (2026-03-31 03:16)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Public hearings by a judge-led independent committee investigating Hong Kong's deadliest blaze in decades have entered their sixth day and will continue to focus on the deactivation of the fire alarm system and its impact on the ravaged Wang Fuk Court housing estate. Chung Kit-man, director and engineer of Victory Fire Engineering, the contractor responsible...

- [Iran pressuring Houthis to attack Red Sea ships, European officials say](#) (2026-03-31 02:55)

Iran is pushing the Houthis to prepare for a renewed campaign against Red Sea shipping, contingent upon any further escalation by the US in its war on the Islamic Republic, according to European officials familiar with the matter. Leaders of the Yemen-based Houthis, a militant group backed by Iran, are weighing options for more aggressive action after launching ballistic missiles at Israel, the people said, asking not to be named discussing sensitive matters. There are divisions within the...

- [Turn up the ‘Bass’ : why Bella Astillah, Syed Saddiq’ s new chapter has captured Malaysia](#) (2026-03-31 02:16)

For years, Malaysians watched singer-actress Bella Astillah’ s heartbreak unfold in public. Her tribulations – a troubled marriage, cheating scandal and very public split – struck a chord with many, underscoring the stigma that divorced women face in a conservative Muslim-majority society. When lawmaker Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, 33, proposed to her – first on Mount Kinabalu and later at a formal engagement ceremony in Kuala Lumpur – it resonated with many Malaysians who felt Bella was...

- [Chinese flight bookings rise by 20% ahead of April holiday break despite soaring airfares](#) (2026-03-31 02:00)

Flight bookings in China have grown 20 per cent year on year ahead of the annual Ching Ming Festival holiday that starts this weekend and follows public school breaks in much of the country – despite higher airfares on account of rising fuel prices. Holiday bookings had reached 2.04 million flight tickets as of Thursday, state broadcaster CCTV said, citing figures from data provider TravelSky Technology. CCTV’ s Sunday report said cross-border holiday flight bookings inbound and outbound stood at...

- [Bus driver arrested in Hong Kong after crashing into stationary taxi, killing 2](#) (2026-03-31 01:39)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 49-year-old bus driver on suspicion of dangerous driving causing death after a collision that killed two people on Lantau Link. The accident occurred at 11.16pm on Monday when a double-decker Long Win Bus on route E32A heading towards Tung Chung rammed into a stationary taxi on the Tsing Yi section of the highway, according to police. Firefighters were called to the scene to rescue the 66-year-old taxi driver and his 37-year-old male passenger, who were trapped...

- [Dubai’ s loss could be Hong Kong’ s gain, but only if city is ready](#) (2026-03-31 01:30)

When InvestHK’ s director general Alpha Lau Hai-suen recently said that companies using Dubai as a hub had mostly shifted to Hong Kong after the outbreak of the Iran war, the instinct to leverage the city’ s position as a safe haven for investment was understandable. Hong Kong should absolutely try to capture capital and talent unsettled by instability in the Gulf. However,

it should resist the temptation to confuse a geopolitical opening with a strategic victory. Opportunity does not become a...

- [Knife-wielding man shot by Hong Kong police dies after 10 days in critical condition](#) (2026-03-31 01:05)

A knife-wielding attacker with suspected mental illness who was shot twice by police in Hong Kong's Kwai Chung has died after spending 10 days in hospital in critical condition. The government on Tuesday confirmed that the 43-year-old suspect, identified by the surname Chung, was pronounced dead at Princess Margaret Hospital in Kwai Chung at 8.47pm on Monday. The incident occurred in the early hours of March 21 at the Kwai Chung section of Castle Peak Road, when three officers fired a total of...

- [Names and games: Taipei hits back over 'China' label, but will it pay off?](#) (2026-03-31 01:00)

Taiwan has pushed back against a growing number of foreign governments that label it part of China in their internal systems. But questions are mounting over whether Taipei's retaliatory moves can deliver results. The dispute has widened in recent weeks after South Korea, Denmark and Cameroon were found to have changed how they designate the island in official systems, such as those that handle visa documents, residence permits and international conference credentials. Taipei has responded with...

- [Chinese mum leaves son, 6, in hotel room for more than 2 weeks; staff act as carers](#) (2026-03-31 01:00)

A six-year-old boy in central China was left alone in a hotel for more than two weeks, touching hotel workers who stepped in to care for him like family. According to Henan Television, the boy, nicknamed Chengcheng, checked into a hotel in Zhengzhou, Henan province, with his 25-year-old mother, surnamed Yue, in February. She initially went out at night and returned during the day, but stopped returning in March and left no contact information. For more than half a month, Chengcheng stayed alone...

- [Hong Kong's IP hub ambitions require sustained investment, coordination: experts](#) (2026-03-31 00:30)

Hong Kong's initiatives to develop an intellectual property (IP) economy remain loosely defined and will require sustained investment and clearer coordination to take shape, industry players and analysts have said, following the latest budget outlining plans to turn the city into a regional IP trading hub. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said in his budget address last month that authorities aimed to strengthen Hong Kong's role in IP trading – including by refining tax arrangements,...

- [Japan's wartime past weighs on growing military role in Philippines](#) (2026-03-31 00:00)

As Japanese combat troops prepare to join war games in the Philippines next month – their first return to Philippine soil since 1945 – some Filipinos say the real issue is not only what Japan is doing now, but what it still has not fully reckoned with from the past. For survivors, activists and historians, Tokyo’s expanding security role in the Philippines has revived what one campaigner called “the elephant in the room” – the absence, in their view, of a formal state apology and official...

- [Chinese coffee brands need more than low prices to compete with global players: analysts](#) (2026-03-30 23:30)

With Chinese coffee brands eyeing overseas expansion, analysts said those seeking to succeed as global players must move beyond low-price strategies and a narrow focus on operational efficiency. “Overseas consumers have long associated Chinese brands mainly with cost performance,” said Fu Yifu, a special research fellow at Su Merchants Bank in Nanjing, in the eastern Jiangsu province. “To succeed globally, the core is to build a presence rooted in China’s operational efficiency while blending...

- [Taylor Swift sued for trademark infringement over Life of a Showgirl album title](#) (2026-03-30 23:02)

Pop megastar Taylor Swift was sued by a Las Vegas performer on Monday who said Swift’s latest hit album *The Life of a Showgirl* violates her trademark rights. Maren Wade said in the complaint that marketing for Swift’s album threatened to “drown out” her long-running *Confessions of a Showgirl* stage show and asked the court to block Swift from creating confusion with her album title. Representatives for Swift and her label Universal Music Group, also a defendant, did not immediately respond to...

- [Iran’s Islamic republic will ‘collapse internally’, says Netanyahu](#) (2026-03-30 22:36)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced confidence on Monday that Iran’s Islamic republic would eventually fall, though he again said that was not the objective of the US-Israeli war on the country. “I think this regime will collapse internally. But at the moment, right now, what we’re doing is just degrading their military capacity, degrading their missile capacity, degrading their nuclear capacity and also weakening them from the inside,” Netanyahu told conservative US broadcaster...

- [Europe’s crisis tourism: how the Iran war swallowed the EU’s geopolitical agenda](#) (2026-03-30 22:00)

In the days after the United States and Israel tipped the Middle East into a new and catastrophic crisis with their attacks on Iran, European leaders were all over the map. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz both voiced support for regime change in Iran soon after the strikes started more than four weeks ago. Each of them also questioned the continued utility of the international rules-based order, while Merz’s foreign minister Johann Wadepuhl...

- [Born in the USA? China targeted in Trump’ s birthright citizenship fight](#) (2026-03-30 21:55)

The US Supreme Court will hear arguments on Wednesday on birthright citizenship, with Chinese nationals at the centre of disputed claims of abuse amplified by US President Donald Trump’ s immigration campaign. “Birthright Citizenship is not about rich people from China, and the rest of the World, who want their children, and hundreds of thousands more, FOR PAY, to ridiculously become citizens of the United States of America. It is about the BABIES OF SLAVES!” Trump wrote on social media on...

- [Nasa begins countdown for humanity’ s first launch to the moon in 53 years](#) (2026-03-30 21:36)

Nasa began the countdown on Monday for humanity’ s first launch to the moon in 53 years. The 32-storey Space Launch System rocket is poised to blast-off on Wednesday evening with four astronauts. After a day in orbit around Earth, the Orion capsule will propel the astronauts to the moon and back. There are no stops – just a quick U-turn around the moon. The nearly 10-day flight will end with a splashdown in the Pacific. Managers said the rocket is doing well following the latest round of repairs....

- [Why India is quietly deepening its engagement with the Taliban](#) (2026-03-30 21:30)

As tensions simmer along the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier – fuelled by disputes over the contested Durand Line, recurring cross-border strikes and the persistent threat of Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) fighters operating from Afghan soil – a subtle but consequential geopolitical shift is under way. India is quietly but steadily stepping up its engagement with the Taliban. The urgency of this recalibration was underscored on March 16, when Pakistani military forces carried out one of the...

- [FBI says man who crashed his truck into Michigan synagogue was inspired by Hezbollah](#) (2026-03-30 21:00)

A man who crashed his pickup truck into a Detroit-area synagogue earlier in March was carrying out an attack inspired by the Iran-backed group Hezbollah and had sought to inflict as much damage as possible, the FBI said on Monday. Ayman Ghazali made a video before the attack at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield Township, saying he wanted to “kill as many of them as I possibly can” , said Jennifer Runyan, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Detroit, who announced new information more...

- [White House ballroom project to include ‘massive’ military complex](#) (2026-03-30 20:15)

The US military is upgrading White House facilities for the new East Wing, the administration said on Monday, after US President Donald Trump said the ballroom would be built atop a “massive” fortified complex. “The military is making some upgrades to their facilities here at the White House and I’ m not privy to provide any more details on that,” White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said at a press briefing. Leavitt’ s comments followed Trump’ s

own update on the US\$400 million White House...

- [US reopens embassy in Venezuela months after military operation to remove Maduro](#)  
(2026-03-30 19:45)

The United States has formally reopened its embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, after the restoration of full diplomatic relations with the South American country following the Trump administration's removal of then-president Nicolas Maduro in early January. The State Department announced on Monday that it had resumed normal operations at the embassy in Caracas – which had been in need of significant repair, including remediation from mould – after a seven-year closure that began during US President...

- [Chinese container ships pass through Strait of Hormuz at second attempt, data shows](#)  
(2026-03-30 19:27)

Two Chinese container ships sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Monday on their second attempt to leave the Gulf after turning back on Friday, ship-tracking data showed. The critical waterway has effectively been shut since the US-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28. The vessels sailed in close formation out of the strait and into open waters, data on the MarineTraffic platform showed. “Both vessels successfully crossed on a second attempt today, marking the first container vessels to...

- [Israeli parliament approves death penalty for Palestinians convicted of murdering Israelis](#)  
(2026-03-30 18:49)

Israel's Parliament on Monday passed a law approving the death penalty on Palestinians convicted of murdering Israelis. The bill's passage marked a major victory for Israel's far-right, which has pushed hard for the measure. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to the chamber to vote yes in person. The law makes the death penalty – by hanging – the default punishment for West Bank Palestinians convicted for nationalistic killings. The law also gives Israeli courts the authority to impose...

- [New York Times accuses Pentagon of flouting judge's order blocking its press access policy](#) (2026-03-30 17:59)

The Pentagon has flouted a court order blocking it from enforcing a policy limiting news reporters' access to the Defence Department's headquarters, a lawyer for The New York Times asserted on Monday in urging a federal judge to compel the government's compliance with the 10-day-old order. US District Judge Paul Friedman did not immediately rule from the bench after hearing a second round of arguments from lawyers for the newspaper and the Trump administration. The New York Times claims Pentagon...

- [French court convicts Chinese captain of oil tanker linked to Russian shadow fleet](#)  
(2026-03-30 17:21)

A French court on Monday issued an arrest warrant and a one-year prison sentence against the Chinese captain of a suspected Russian “shadow fleet” tanker over failing to comply with orders to stop his ship. Chen Zhangjie, 39, was sentenced in absentia after the French navy boarded the Boracay tanker in September before releasing the vessel and its crew days later, in what Russian leader Vladimir Putin condemned as “piracy”. The court in the western city of Brest also ordered Chen to pay a...

- [France investigates possible Iran link after bomb attack foiled outside Bank of America](#) (2026-03-30 16:31)

French authorities are investigating a suspected link to Iran after thwarting a bomb attack outside a Bank of America building in Paris at the weekend, the interior minister said on Monday. The authorities suspect a link to Iran due to similarities to other recent attempted attacks in Europe which a pro-Iran group claimed responsibility for, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said. On Saturday morning, Paris police officers spotted two suspects carrying a shopping bag near the Bank of...

- [Filipino farmer pleads ‘Stop US-Iran War’ after soaring fuel prices wipe out earnings](#) (2026-03-30 15:00)

After a seven-hour drive to a trading post in northern Philippines, 35-year-old farmer Elmer Ullani took home nothing but an empty petrol tank even after selling 10 tonnes of cabbage. Ullani, who hails from the northern town of Tinoc in Ifugao province, said he only managed to sell his produce – yielded over three harvest rounds – at a paltry rate of 8 to 9 pesos (15 US cents) per kilogram, earning him a total of 90,000 pesos (US\$1,482). All of his earnings went towards covering his fuel...

- [Will Iran’s strikes on Gulf smelters strengthen China’s aluminium trade?](#) (2026-03-30 15:00)

The world is bracing for an aluminium supply shock after two major Middle Eastern smelters were damaged in Iranian attacks over the weekend, a disruption likely to push more production to China in the near term and potentially for years to come, analysts said. Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA), a leading regional producer, reported “significant damage” at its Abu Dhabi site following strikes by Iranian missiles and drones, while Aluminium Bahrain said it was assessing the extent of damage at its...

- [Fire alarm, pump systems switched off before tragedy, Tai Po blaze panel told](#) (2026-03-30 14:32)

Fire alarm and firefighting pump systems at the housing estate engulfed in Hong Kong’s deadliest blaze in decades were found to have been switched off a week before the tragedy struck, with no action taken to reactivate them, an evidential hearing has been told. An independent committee investigating the Tai Po blaze, which broke out on November 26 last year and killed 168 people, on Monday also called on the public to provide information on

whether systemic problems – such as collusion – had...

- [Hong Kong man arrested on suspicion of taking upskirt images of woman shopper](#) (2026-03-30 14:28)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 36 year old man on suspicion of taking upskirt images of a woman in a Sha Tin mall. Officers received a report from a passer-by that a man was secretly filming a woman inside the GreenPrice store in New Town Plaza shortly before 2pm on Monday. Police arrived and arrested him on suspicion of unlawful recording or observation of intimate parts. He has been detained, and a Sha Tin district investigation team is handling the case. A female staff member told media...

- [Xiaomi, Alibaba ramp up AI recruitment amid global talent war](#) (2026-03-30 14:00)

Chinese tech giants Xiaomi and Alibaba Group Holding have launched spring recruitment drives amid fierce competition for the talent driving the global artificial intelligence boom. The campaigns come as the smartphone and e-commerce giants, respectively, look to increasingly position themselves as AI-first firms, amid growing commercial pressures in their traditional businesses. In a Weibo post on Monday, Xiaomi founder and CEO Lei Jun said the company's global recruitment campaign would target...

- [From Mach 0 to 6: this engine may power China's future fighter jets and missiles](#) (2026-03-30 14:00)

China is developing a revolutionary air-breathing engine for next-generation fighter jets and hypersonic missiles. Designed to operate continuously from a stationary start-up to over Mach 6, the “contra-rotary ramjet engine” could replace the combined turbine-ramjet systems currently used in high-speed flight. After more than three decades of work, the engine prototype has been completed and experimentally verified, marking a potential step towards engineering applications. The next steps...

- [Japan's PM will mull top-level talks with Iran at 'appropriate' time](#) (2026-03-30 13:54)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Monday she will consider holding talks with the Iranian leadership at an “appropriate” time based on the national interest as tensions remain high in the Middle East. Takaichi's remarks come as prospects for a US-Iran meeting mediated by Pakistan remain uncertain, with US President Donald Trump later renewing threats to hit Iranian energy infrastructure if a deal is not reached. “I will judge the appropriate timing for holding talks based on the...

- [Israel suspends military unit that assaulted CNN crew in West Bank](#) (2026-03-30 13:41)

The Israeli military has suspended a battalion whose soldiers assaulted a CNN crew in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in a rare case of punishment for soldier misconduct. The army announced on Monday it was suspending the Netzah Yehuda battalion after soldiers were filmed assaulting the CNN crew last week. Netzah Yehuda is a unit of ultra-Orthodox soldiers

that has been linked to abuses of Palestinian civilians in the past, including the death of a 78-year-old Palestinian American man after his...

- [Why Donald Trump needs a short-term win in Iran before he visits Xi Jinping in China](#) (2026-03-30 13:30)

The surge in US service members in the Middle East suggests the Iran war could become a protracted, low-intensity conflict as Donald Trump eyes a trip to China in May, Chinese military analysts say. The deployment of elite forces and the US president's recent tactics in Venezuela indicated Washington was highly aware of and seeking to avoid a costly drawn-out war like Vietnam, the observers added. On Sunday, The New York Times and The Washington Post reported that several hundred US Army Rangers...

- [Sweden charges 'monster' man for selling wife to over 120 men](#) (2026-03-30 12:47)

A Swedish prosecutor on Monday charged a man, suspected of selling his wife's sexual services to over 120 men, with aggravated pimping, several rapes and assault. The man, 62, was arrested in late October after his wife reported him to police in northern Sweden. He has been held in custody since then. According to the charge sheet, the man had for years benefited financially from pressuring his wife "to perform and submit to sexual acts". The man was accused of creating ads online, setting up...

- [US senators visit Taiwan to push defence spending as arms deadlines loom](#) (2026-03-30 12:39)

Four senior US senators are on a two-day visit to Taiwan to press for legislative approval of a NT\$1.25 trillion (US\$40 billion) special defence budget proposed by the island's government but stalled by the opposition as military pressure from Beijing intensifies. The visit – seen as signalling growing frustration in Washington over the delays – comes as Taipei faces looming payment deadlines for several US-approved arms packages, with funding still unresolved due to the legislative...

- [How the Hormuz attacks stoke oil-shock fears and memories of 1970s stagflation](#) (2026-03-30 12:30)

Oil prices have surged amid the US-Israel conflict with Iran, with attacks having disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz – a critical chokepoint that roughly one-fifth of the world's daily oil consumption moves through. With memories of 1970s stagflation still lingering, many are asking whether this is the start of another major oil crisis. Below is a concise look at prior shocks and what history suggests today. What happened during the 1970s oil shocks The first oil crisis in 1973-74...

- [Let's be clear: national security law update is not a power grab](#) (2026-03-30 12:30)

On March 23, Hong Kong's government brought into force amended implementation rules for Article 43 of the national security law. This is not a new power grab or an expansion of

authority. It is a technical, evidence-based refinement of the 2020 implementation rules that have governed national security enforcement since the law took effect. Rooted in common law principle and aligned with global legislative practice, the amendments clarify operational gaps, strengthen procedural certainty and...

- [Hong Kong schools urged to find ‘way out’ over falling student numbers](#) (2026-03-30 12:18)

The head of Hong Kong’s largest teacher training institution has urged all school governing bodies in the city to find a “way out” to handle dwindling student numbers. Professor John Lee Chi-kin, president of the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), also said on Monday that schools should develop their own features and strengths, stressing that teacher training should not be ignored despite the falling numbers. His remarks follow an announcement by education authorities two weeks ago that...

- [Tai Po fire survivors mourn heroine who alerted neighbours to flames](#) (2026-03-30 12:17)

Survivors of Hong Kong’s deadliest blaze in decades have mourned a woman who heroically knocked on neighbours’ doors to alert them to the flames but died in the tragedy, after fire alarms at Wang Fuk Court failed to go off. Pak Shui-lin’s husband, Sdanni Yip Ka-kui, and neighbour Lam Yin-ming, both Wang Tai House residents, praised the heroine for her kindness, but said that “she did not deserve to suffer such a fate”. They made the remarks on Monday as they testified at the fifth session of an...

- [Authorities rule out smoking areas at construction sites under proposed ban](#) (2026-03-30 11:55)

Hong Kong labour authorities have ruled out setting up designated smoking areas under a proposed ban on lighting up at construction sites due to “enforcement difficulties”, while pledging to deploy drones with heat sensors to strengthen inspections. Commissioner for Labour Sam Hui Chark-shum also said on Monday that the planned smoking ban – which was proposed in the wake of the deadly Tai Po fire last November – would apply to all areas of construction sites, replacing the existing restrictions...

- [China’s massive pig farms spark a supply glut as hog prices hit 8-year low](#) (2026-03-30 11:30)

China’s pig prices have plunged to their lowest level in nearly eight years, as the country struggles to deal with a persistent supply glut triggered by the spread of huge industrial farms and a post-holiday drop in meat consumption. Live pigs were selling for 11.05 yuan (US\$1.60) per kilogram on average during the third week of March, down 2.9 per cent from the previous week and 28 per cent from a year earlier, data from China’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs showed. Prices are now...

- [China’s sci-fi industry rides a tech wave as revenues hit record high](#) (2026-03-30 11:02)

China is seeing surging public interest in science fiction amid its push for technological development, with revenues reaching a record high and online search traffic more than tripling last year, according to a new report. China's sci-fi industry saw its gross revenues reach 126.1 billion yuan (US\$18.2 billion) in 2025, up 15.7 per cent year on year, according to an annual report released at the China Science Fiction Convention on Friday, as reported by Xinhua. The report also highlighted a...

- [Russian oil tanker arrives in Cuba as Moscow vows to stand by Havana](#) (2026-03-30 10:58)

Russia said on Monday that an oil tanker carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude oil had arrived in Cuba and that Moscow would stand by its friends by working on further supplies despite a US blockade of the Communist-run island. The US cut off Venezuela's oil exports to Cuba after toppling Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on January 3, and US President Donald Trump threatened to slap punishing tariffs on any other country that sent crude to Cuba. But Trump on Sunday signalled he was reversing...

- [Orthopaedist rebuked over performing bunion surgery without informed consent](#) (2026-03-30 10:55)

An orthopaedist has been issued a public warning letter and reprimanded by Hong Kong's medical watchdog after performing an unconventional bunion surgery without a patient's informed consent. The Medical Council on Monday found Dr Daniel Wu Yiang guilty of professional misconduct on four charges after the patient at Hong Kong Adventist Hospital underwent a syndesmosis procedure, a soft-tissue bunion surgery advocated by the doctor, without sufficient information about the operation or any...

- [Malaysia's food prices could rise by 50% as fuel costs soar, traders warn](#) (2026-03-30 10:30)

The energy crisis caused by the Iran war could push food prices up by as much as 50 per cent in Malaysia, trade associations have warned, as soaring fuel costs threaten to wipe out already narrow margins for roadside stalls and restaurants feeding the country's outsize appetite for eating out. Malaysia's government coffers have already taken a hit due to fallout from the conflict, with local fuel subsidy costs estimated to spike by more than fourfold to about 3.2 billion ringgit (US\$795 million)...

- [Myanmar paves way for junta chief to be civilian president, ruling with 'iron fist'](#) (2026-03-30 10:23)

Myanmar cleared the way on Monday for coup-leading General Min Aung Hlaing to become president and maintain his rule in civilian garb, with lawmakers nominating him as a vice-presidential candidate and the junta replacing him as military commander. Min Aung Hlaing has ruled Myanmar since 2021 when he ordered a coup toppling the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi – detaining the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, dissolving her party and triggering civil war. After five years of hardline rule, he...

- [‘To do something nobody’ s done’ : quantum physicist Zhu Zijie leaves Europe for China](#) (2026-03-30 10:18)

Science and Nature are among the world’ s most prestigious journals, which most scientists strive to publish in but never will. By the age of 30, quantum physicist Zhu Zijie had already published in both with significant discoveries on the behaviour of cold atoms. After graduating from Peking University, he went to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) – Albert Einstein’ s alma mater – for graduate studies and stayed there as a postdoctoral researcher for over a year. In...

- [China ‘city work’ new dating trend promotes love on the move as couples earn extra cash](#) (2026-03-30 10:00)

China’ s young city dwellers have embraced a quirky new dating trend known as “city work,” where couples enhance their romantic evenings by riding e-bikes and delivering takeaways. This innovative approach allows them to combat burnout while earning a little extra cash. Departing from the traditional “Beijing drifter” dating style characterised by lavish dinners, couples are now opting for a fun twist: delivering meals together after a long workday. For many, life has morphed into a monotonous...

- [Hong Kong eases rules for Wang Fuk Court residents retrieving belongings](#) (2026-03-30 09:35)

Displaced residents of the fire-hit blocks at Hong Kong’ s Wang Fuk Court may be allowed repeated trips back to their flats to collect belongings, after officials softened their stance amid an online petition appealing for greater flexibility. Deputy Chief Secretary Warner Cheuk Wing-hing said on Monday that residents who wished to go back and forth to pack their belongings could speak to their designated social workers. “We appreciate that residents do not want a ‘one-size-fits-all’ arrangement....

- [Mob retaliates after gunmen kill 12 in Nigeria bar](#) (2026-03-30 08:43)

Gunmen killed at least a dozen people in Jos, the capital of Nigeria’ s restive Plateau state, sparking retaliation from a mob that killed 10 more, locals said on Monday. Plateau state, in central Nigeria’ s Middle Belt region, experiences recurring violence in the countryside, mostly linked to land disputes between farmers and herders. Jos has seen bouts of sectarian violence in the past, but deadly, mass casualty attacks in the crowded city have been rare in recent years. At least 12 people were...

- [Japan’ s property market is well placed to withstand Iran war energy shock](#) (2026-03-30 08:30)

Spare a thought for investors seeking shelter from the energy shock caused by the war in Iran. There are no sanctuaries. Government bonds, a traditional beneficiary of a flight to safety, have fallen in response to fears central banks will be forced to raise interest rates to combat a surge

in inflation. Even gold, long viewed as a refuge in times of geopolitical uncertainty, has fallen about 15 per cent this month following a blistering rally. The safe haven credentials of Dubai have taken a...

- [Trump claims ‘regime change’ achieved in Iran war, predicts deal ‘soon’](#)  
(2026-03-30 07:31)

Israel said on Monday it was striking military targets across Tehran, a day after US President Donald Trump insisted a deal could “soon” be reached, while not ruling out ground operations. Iran also launched fresh strikes on Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia after its electrical facilities came under attack at the weekend, cutting power to parts of Tehran and surrounding areas. Trump also threatened on Monday to destroy Kharg Island, Iran’s oil wells and power plants if it does not agree soon to a...

- [Drink-driving death in Malaysia spirals into race-baiting, inflames ethnic tensions](#)  
(2026-03-30 07:30)

A horrific road crash in Malaysia’s port city of Klang that left a motorcyclist dead on Sunday has spiralled into racially charged commentary after initially being treated as a drink-driving case. Police said the crash happened at about 11.40am on Jalan Raya Barat, when an allegedly speeding Honda City driven by a local man in his twenties overtook several vehicles, crossed into the opposite lane and struck a motorcycle coming from the other direction. The rider, a local man in his thirties, was...

- [China steps up North Korea connections as regular Beijing-Pyongyang flights resume](#)  
(2026-03-30 07:09)

China’s flagship airline resumed direct flight services to Pyongyang on Monday, a symbolic and logistical development that marks warming bilateral ties and comes just weeks after passenger train services were restored for the first time in six years. The Air China flight arrived at Pyongyang Sunan International Airport on Monday morning. China’s ambassador to North Korea, Wang Yajun, and other embassy diplomats welcomed passengers at the airport, according to Chinese state news agency...

- [Man arrested after viral video shows child steering car on busy Hong Kong road](#)  
(2026-03-30 06:51)

Hong Kong police have arrested a man on suspicion of dangerous driving in connection with an online video allegedly showing him allowing a child on his lap to steer a car on a busy road. The force said on Monday that it had tracked down the 22-year-old man believed to be the driver seen in the video that went viral a day earlier. The footage, published in a Tuen Mun community group on social media, shows the child sitting on the driver’s lap and steering the wheel for more than a minute as cars...

- [Iran war, rogue drones force European aviation safety rethink](#) (2026-03-30 06:28)

Wars, including a widening conflict in the Middle East, are heightening risks for aviation as flight corridors are squeezed and drones become more widespread, Europe's top aviation safety regulator has said. The month-old Iran war is reshaping airspace across the Middle East and increasing disruption to flights, including clogging routes between Asia and Europe that previously transited or flew over the region. On top of the prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict and fighting between Pakistan and...

- [Hong Kong stocks fall with Asia as Iran conflict drives oil prices higher](#) (2026-03-30 06:10)

Hong Kong stocks dropped on Monday as escalating tensions in the Middle East sent oil prices to recent highs. Over the weekend, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels launched attacks directly on Israel, which intensified strikes on Tehran. The US has also deployed additional military forces to the Middle East. The escalation pushed up oil prices, with Brent crude jumping as much as 3.7 per cent to US\$116.80 a barrel, its highest in more than a week, while West Texas Intermediate rose to US\$101 a...

- [China 'left-behind aunties', known as senior girl group, gain popularity for charm, dance skills](#) (2026-03-30 06:00)

A troupe of left-behind rural women in central China has gained online fame through group live streams orchestrated by local Gen Z managers. In Junying village in Henan province, more than 20 women with an average age of 60 wear sunglasses and gloves, colourful jackets and dance with props in a disused courtyard. But this is no ordinary square dancing. In group live-streams, the aunties take on the viral dance routines favoured by younger internet users, while viewers send virtual gifts and...

- [Thai undertaker brings corpse to petrol station to prove fuel need](#) (2026-03-30 05:50)

A Thai undertaker's extreme mission to prove he was not hoarding fuel went viral over the weekend after he brought a coffin containing a body to a petrol station to convince attendants the extra fuel he needed was for cremation, not black market resale. Thais have been pressed into energy-saving mode by the US-Israel war on Iran, which has throttled oil and gas supplies to much of Asia. Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul insists there is enough fuel for over three months, while the...

- [42 arrested in HK\\$180 million crackdown on triad-linked renovation projects](#) (2026-03-30 05:28)

Hong Kong authorities have arrested 42 people in a joint crackdown on triad infiltration and corruption involving a consultancy firm and its building maintenance projects worth HK\$180 million (US\$23 million), according to the city's anti-graft watchdog. The arrestees include a consultancy firm owner, a registered inspector and multiple middlemen with organised crime backgrounds. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said on Monday that it carried out a joint operation with police...

- [Malaysia jails ex-babysitter for 1 year over toddler’ s death](#) (2026-03-30 04:49)

A former babysitter has been sentenced to one year in jail and fined 15,000 ringgit (US\$3,800) by a court in Malaysia for negligence resulting in a toddler’ s death. Judge N. Kanageswari on Monday also ordered Khairunnisa Ahmad Damamhuri, 41, to serve an additional four months if she fails to pay the fine, and to complete 48 hours of community service within six months of her release. She was also placed on a one-year good behaviour bond of 5,000 ringgit without collateral. Khairunnisa was...

- [Ant smuggling in China, new airport rules in Hong Kong: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-03-30 04:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage last weekend to help you stay informed about news across Asia and beyond. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Why are smugglers swarming East Africa for ants to send to China and Europe? 2. How a Tang dynasty tablet became a test for China-Japan restitution 3. Hong Kong passengers caught off guard by new airport limit of 2 power banks 4. Jiang Xueqin, the viral ‘prophet’ predicting the world’ s fate from...

- [EU’ s flagship Africa project under fire over ties to Chinese state-owned firms](#) (2026-03-30 04:00)

To European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the ribbon of rail snaking from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia across Angola to the Atlantic port of Lobito is “more than just infrastructure” . The Lobito Corridor rail upgrade is a flagship project of the EU’ s €300 billion (US\$346 billion) infrastructure drive, Global Gateway, launched to great fanfare in 2021 as a rival to Beijing’ s own Belt and Road Initiative. It is also pivotal to the EU’ s efforts to wean itself off...

- [DeepSeek 12-hour outage leaves millions cut off, sparks complaints as rivals gain ground](#) (2026-03-30 03:41)

Chinese artificial intelligence start-up DeepSeek suffered a prolonged outage overnight that extended into early Monday morning, disrupting service for hundreds of millions of users, according to a company notice and user feedback. The Hangzhou-based AI lab’ s namesake chatbot website and app were offline from Sunday evening, with the company continuing to investigate while issuing fixes from between 1am and 9am on Monday, according to service maintenance records the company published online. The...

- [Indonesian killed in Lebanon while on UN peacekeeping mission](#) (2026-03-30 03:40)

The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said a peacekeeper was killed when a projectile exploded at one of its positions near the southern Lebanese village of Adchit al-Qusayr on Sunday. Another peacekeeper was critically injured, it said in a statement early on Monday. Indonesia’ s foreign ministry said on Monday the deceased peacekeeper was one of its citizens and that three others were injured by indirect artillery fire in the vicinity of the

Indonesian UNIFIL contingent’ s position...

- [Heavy AI users report mental burnout from ‘babysitting’ models](#) (2026-03-30 03:22)

Heavy users of artificial intelligence have reported being overwhelmed by trying to keep up with and on top of the technology designed to make their lives easier. Too many lines of code to analyse, armies of AI assistants to wrangle and lengthy prompts to draft are among the laments by hard-core AI adopters. Consultants at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) have dubbed the phenomenon “AI brain fry” , a state of mental exhaustion stemming “from the excessive use or supervision of artificial...

- [Tai Po blaze hearing resumes after fire alarm goes off during morning break](#) (2026-03-30 03:00)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’ s journalism by subscribing. The hearings by an independent committee investigating the catastrophic Tai Po blaze that killed 168 people in Hong Kong have entered their fifth day, with the company responsible for the fire safety systems at Wang Fuk Court estate set to testify. Another seven residents have been slated to testify on Monday at the City Gallery building in Central, including...

- [Beijing sanctions Japanese lawmaker for ‘colluding with Taiwan independence forces’](#) (2026-03-30 02:59)

Beijing has imposed sanctions on Japanese lawmaker Keiji Furuya for allegedly “colluding with the Taiwan independence forces” . “Japanese House of Representatives member Keiji Furuya, despite strong opposition from China, has repeatedly made provocative visits to Taiwan and colluded with ‘Taiwan independence’ separatist forces, seriously violating the one-China principle,” China’ s foreign affairs ministry said in a statement on Monday. During his visit to Taipei on March 16, Furuya, a lawmaker...

- [Taiwan’ s Kuomintang leader to visit mainland China to aid ‘peaceful’ relations: Beijing](#) (2026-03-30 02:47)

Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of Taiwan’ s opposition party Kuomintang (KMT), will lead a delegation to mainland China next month at the invitation of Beijing, her first visit since assuming the position in November. Song Tao, head of Beijing’ s Taiwan Work Office, said on Monday that the Communist Party Central Committee and Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, would welcome her visit to Jiangsu province, Shanghai and Beijing from April 7 to 12, to “promote the...

- [Chinese company to use AI-powered chromosome testing to boost profits and fast-track IVF](#) (2026-03-30 02:45)

Biotech firm Hangzhou Diagens Biotechnology is banking on AI-powered chromosome testing to drive profit growth following its Hong Kong listing, as China’ s falling fertility rate spurs

demand for assisted reproduction. “In China, many young people do not want to marry or have children, and by the time they decide to start a family, they need medical help to do so,” Diagens’ founder and executive director, Song Ning, said. “We are meeting an increasing number of couples every year who struggle to...

- [Navigating autism in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-30 02:41)
- [Where can Japan store its nuclear waste? Island plan raises alarm](#) (2026-03-30 02:30)

Recent reports of Japan exploring the feasibility of using the remote Pacific island of Minamitorishima as a final disposal site for high-level radioactive waste have raised concern at home and abroad. An official request to carry out a survey assessing the island’s suitability for the facility was presented to the mayor of Ogasawara village, which nominally administers the island some 1,900km (1,200 miles) southeast of Tokyo, earlier this month. Similar requests have been made of two towns in...

- [Hong Kong’s autism support services are fragmented. Can the private sector help?](#) (2026-03-30 02:30)

In the first of a series on challenges facing Hong Kong’s growing autistic population, Fiona Sun examines how the city can mobilise stronger support from the private sector to turn systemic hurdles into opportunities. Hong Kong parent Raymond Lam Yiu-wah says caring for his five-year-old autistic son has been a constant source of stress, as the boy requires his full attention. The 42-year-old auditor said his son, diagnosed with autism at the age of two, had yet to speak in full sentences and...

- [UN Security Council’s inaction is tearing the world apart](#) (2026-03-30 02:30)

Every violation of international law invites the next. From Afghanistan to Iran, and across Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, Gaza and Venezuela, the line between what is permitted and what is prohibited has been steadily blurred by the complicit inaction of the United Nations Security Council. Wielding the veto as both a shield and a weapon, its permanent members act without grounding in the UN Charter. They play with the fate of millions, leaving a trail of death and destruction. Until recently,...

- [Israel adds US\\$10 billion to its war chest with defence budget increase](#) (2026-03-30 02:26)

Israel’s parliament approved the country’s 2026 budget early on Monday, providing for a significant increase in military spending as the country remains engaged in wars on multiple fronts. Lawmakers passed the budget with 62 votes in favour and 55 against. The vote averted an automatic government collapse and snap election that would have followed failure to pass the budget by March’s end, under Israeli law. The proposed total expenditure budget for 2026 amounts to around 850 billion Israeli...

- [Observatory cancels amber rainstorm warning at 11am after heavy rain in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-30 02:24)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. The Hong Kong Observatory has cancelled an amber rainstorm warning after heavy rains across the city. The warning was issued at 10am on Monday and cancelled an hour later. An amber rainstorm warning indicates heavy and persistent rain exceeding 30mm (1.2 inches) an hour falling over Hong Kong. "An area of intense thundery showers is affecting the vicinity of...

- [‘Lighthouses in space’ : the Chinese jam-proof satellite network to fill GPS gaps](#) (2026-03-30 02:01)

Chinese researchers say they have built an 11-satellite network for a jam-resistant, high-accuracy optical navigation system, designed to provide positioning where GPS is unavailable or disrupted, from self-driving cars and drones to deep-space missions. Optical navigation has also been used in the ongoing US-Israeli war with Iran, helping drones developed by companies such as Asio Technologies and General Atomics operate in environments where GPS signals are jammed. While positioning systems...

- [What makes Yuanjie – a Chinese optical chip star and Hong Kong IPO candidate – stand out?](#) (2026-03-30 02:00)

Yuanjie Semiconductor Technology, a Chinese maker of laser chips for optical communications, has emerged as one of the mainland exchanges' biggest beneficiaries of the artificial intelligence infrastructure boom – with its shares rising nearly ninefold over the past year as it pursues a Hong Kong listing. The Shaanxi-based integrated device manufacturer, whose shares closed at 1,100 yuan on Friday, now ranks second by share price among mainland-listed companies, trailing only Kweichow Moutai at...

- [New constitutional affairs chief Janice Tse to lead Hong Kong's first 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-30 01:38)

The newly appointed Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Janice Tse Siu-wa will prioritise formulating Hong Kong's first five-year plan, the city's leader has said, citing her rich experience in government as a key strength. "She is the best candidate among all as she has a solid foundation in working and communicating with the civil servants, and the network she established with the Legislative Council will be good for pressing ahead with the five-year plan," Chief Executive John...

- [Northern Metropolis data hub may surpass MTR Corp as Hong Kong's top power consumer](#) (2026-03-30 01:30)

A planned supercomputing hub in Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis could overtake the MTR Corporation rail operator as the city's single largest electricity consumer, prompting a green group and experts to call for setting energy efficiency standards to limit the sector's carbon emissions. According to The Green Earth's estimates, the new project – set to begin operating in 2029 – could increase the industry's annual carbon emissions by about 70 per cent

compared with current levels. Experts have...

- [Hong Kong-listed Insilico Medicine signs AI drug development deal with Eli Lilly](#) (2026-03-30 01:24)

Insilico Medicine has signed a potential multibillion-dollar deal with Eli Lilly to license out an early-stage drug pipeline and provide its artificial intelligence platform services in research and development collaborations. Under the agreement announced on Monday, US-headquartered, Hong Kong-listed Insilico will receive an upfront payment of US\$115 million. The deal could have a total value of around US\$2.75 billion tied to development, regulatory and commercial milestones, plus tiered...

- [Australian police killer shot dead after 7-month manhunt](#) (2026-03-30 01:03)

Australian police said on Monday that they shot dead a fugitive gunman wanted for killing two officers, ending a seven-month manhunt for one of the country's most-wanted criminals. Desmond Freeman fled into dense bushland in August last year after shooting and killing two police officers on a rural property in Victoria state. For the past seven months, hundreds of police have pursued Freeman through the region's rugged terrain, pouring resources into one of Australia's largest-ever manhunts. "A...

- [China woman spends US\\$1,700 to enrol dog in school for personality testing, training, company](#) (2026-03-30 01:00)

A young Chinese woman has spent an eye-watering 12,000 yuan (US\$1,700) to enrol her six-month-old Samoyed in a dog kindergarten due to her busy work schedule. The woman opted for a package that includes personality testing, behaviour training, social activities and even a school bus for pickup and drop-off. The woman, who uses the pseudonym Taotao, was born in the 1990s, and is based in Shanghai. She said that due to a lack of time to provide enough companionship, she enrolled her six-month-old...

- [Hong Kong on 'yellow alert', Kadoorie says, as Middle East war fuels energy crisis](#) (2026-03-30 00:30)

The conflict in the Middle East has triggered a global energy crisis that serves as a "yellow warning" for Hong Kong, which so far has escaped the severe impact seen elsewhere, tycoon Michael Kadoorie has said. "At this point, I think we're very lucky. Now we touched on the story of fuel. It may impact us. It does already send a warning light," the CLP Group chairman said. "So you have your traffic lights red, yellow and green. Well, we're yellow. We're not at red, but we have to think ahead as...

- [Sketching a recovery: China's art market puts next-gen buyers in the frame amid slowdown](#) (2026-03-30 00:30)

China's art market is showing tentative signs of recovery despite economic pressures, according to UBS, which cited rising participation from the next generation of wealthy families.

“We have been seeing a rebound, with more trips for auctions and purchases [in China],” said Amy Lo Choi-wan, chairman of UBS Global Wealth Management Asia and CEO of UBS HongKong, in an exclusive interview with the South China Morning Post. “So I am optimistic.” Despite a prolonged property downturn and weak...

- [Hong Kong can draw on Art March’ s success by keeping it authentic](#) (2026-03-30 00:30)

Last week, a friend and I chatted about our children’ s favourite art pieces after happening upon an auction house’ s exhibition in a building in the heart of Hong Kong’ s business district. We both recalled stopping to look at Yayoi Kusama’ s Mount Fuji prints. “I pass by the space twice every day,” my friend said. She told me that my son’ s pick – a piece by Sam Francis – was a new installation, replacing what had been a display of handbags. How often do we pause to notice art, or enjoy life in...

- [Why revived China-Philippine talks won’ t lead to energy cooperation in the South China Sea](#) (2026-03-30 00:00)

Maritime tensions between China and the Philippines are likely to persist despite Manila’ s call for energy cooperation, Chinese observers said after revived diplomatic talks on the weekend. Senior diplomats from the two countries met in the Chinese city of Quanzhou on Friday and Saturday for two rounds of talks, covering a range of issues from oil and gas cooperation in the South China Sea to renewable energy and coastguard communication. The foreign ministry consultations were held for the...

- [War on Iran is about to make clothes more expensive. Here’ s why](#) (2026-03-30 00:00)

Planning to update your wardrobe this summer? Industry insiders have some advice: do it soon. By the time autumn collections hit the racks, the aftershocks of war on Iran may have quietly picked your pocket. Clothing manufacturers and industry analysts are warning consumers to budget for price increases of 10 to 15 per cent as South Asia’ s US\$50 billion garment export industry reels from a cascade of war-driven shocks. Iran’ s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has choked natural gas supplies to...

- [Hong Kong restaurateurs revamp traditional dining as closures reshape industry](#) (2026-03-29 23:30)

Hong Kong’ s traditional Chinese dining landscape is undergoing a structural overhaul, with a leading restaurant operator pivoting to experiential dining and smaller footprints amid a wave of closures and residents heading across the border for shopping and dining. Traditional dim sum and Chinese restaurants have been closing across the city, including three Star Seafood Restaurant branches in districts such as Wong Tai Sin, and the 35-year-old Metropal Restaurant in Admiralty. Martin Lee, chief...

- [US to allow Russian oil tanker to reach Cuba in possible lifeline for Caribbean island](#) (2026-03-29 23:29)

The US is allowing a Russian tanker full of crude oil to reach Cuba, the New York Times newspaper reported on Sunday, possibly granting a lifeline to the Caribbean island amid a de facto oil blockade imposed by Washington. Ship tracking data showed the Russian-flagged tanker Anatoly Kolodkin on Sunday was just off the eastern tip of Cuba. The Times report, citing a US official briefed on the matter, said it was unclear why the US Coast Guard was allowing the shipment to go through. A move by...

- [Li Ka-shing's CK Life unit eyes China fast track for cancer vaccine pipeline](#) (2026-03-29 23:00)

CK Life Sciences, a unit of Li Ka-shing-backed CK Group, plans to bring its cancer vaccine candidates to mainland China through a “fast track” channel as Beijing moves to accelerate early-stage drug development. “We are planning to run investigator-initiated trials [IITs], hopefully, in the next year,” CK Life Sciences’ vice-president and chief scientific officer Dr Melvin Toh Kean-meng said in a recent interview. His comments came as CK Life Sciences set up Sequencio Therapeutics in Hong Kong...

- [European countries appeal to Israel to abandon plans to revive death penalty](#) (2026-03-29 22:26)

Four European countries have called on Israel to abandon a bill seeking to revive the death penalty for people convicted of acts of terrorism, a measure opponents say would target only Palestinians. In a joint statement on Sunday ahead of an anticipated final vote in the Knesset on Monday, foreign ministers from France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom expressed their “deep concern” about the bill. “The death penalty is an inhumane and degrading form of punishment without any deterring...

- [Why Kenneth Rogoff thinks China's yuan will be a reserve currency 'in the next 5 years'](#) (2026-03-29 22:00)

Professor Kenneth Rogoff of Harvard University has repeatedly warned that the US dollar is approaching a crisis of legitimacy. Having written extensively on the global recession in the late 2000s, Rogoff has turned his focus to the US currency’s increasingly unstable place at the top of the world’s financial hierarchy. A former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund and a chess grandmaster, he published *Our Dollar, Your Problem* in May last year. In this interview, Rogoff elaborates...

- [UK's PM Starmer to host industry leaders for Middle East war talks on Monday](#) (2026-03-29 21:52)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will on Monday convene senior government and military officials alongside energy, shipping, finance and insurance sector leaders to discuss the Middle East war, his office said late on Sunday. The round table meeting in Downing Street will examine the impact of Iran’s effective closure of the vital Strait of Hormuz, which has driven up oil prices and costs in various sectors around the world. Participants will include representatives

from energy giants Shell,...

- [Can Hong Kong hitch a ride on China's commercial aerospace wave?](#) (2026-03-29 21:30)

China's 15th five-year plan is about to make commercial aerospace a mainstream pillar of national development, and Hong Kong cannot afford to miss this opportunity. Whether the city can translate this national push into concrete local strengths will become a test of its ability to integrate with – and contribute to – China's next wave of strategic industries. Commercial aerospace has moved to a full-scale strategic policy in just a few years, sitting at the intersection of satellites,...

- [Man charged in Germany after fatal stabbing of his 13-year-old son](#) (2026-03-29 20:11)

A man has been charged with stabbing his wife, daughter and son in the western German city of Witten, resulting in the death of the 13-year-old boy, prosecutors said on Sunday. A judge at the district court in the nearby city of Bochum issued an arrest warrant on suspicion of murder and the man has been remanded in custody. The suspect has made no statement, a spokesman for the public prosecutor's office said. The 40-year-old German national was detained on Saturday. Police said an argument...

- [Netanyahu says Israel will widen its invasion of southern Lebanon](#) (2026-03-29 17:59)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday that Israel will widen its invasion of southern Lebanon. Netanyahu said Israel would expand what he called the “existing security strip” in Lebanon as Israeli forces continue to target the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group. “We are determined to fundamentally change the situation in the north,” he said on a visit to northern Israel, adding that “Hezbollah still has residual capability to fire rockets at us”. There were no immediate...

- [Hundreds flee as fire rips through German nightclub](#) (2026-03-29 17:08)

Hundreds of people were evacuated from a nightclub in southwest Germany after a fire broke out, police said on Sunday, with images from the scene showing the blaze raging on the building's roof. Police said the fire began at around 3.45am in the nightclub in Kehl, which is on the border with France. The blaze went on to “spread over the whole building”, a police statement said. All of the roughly 750 people inside at the time were able to escape, with three people treated by emergency...

- [Israeli police prevent Catholic leaders from celebrating Palm Sunday mass in Jerusalem](#) (2026-03-29 16:43)

The Israeli police prevented Catholic leaders from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to celebrate mass on the Christian holiday of Palm Sunday for the first time in centuries, the Latin Patriarchate said on Sunday. Jerusalem's major holy sites, including the church, are closed because of the continuing war in Iran, as the city has come under frequent fire from Iranian missiles. The Catholic Church called the police decision “a manifestly unreasonable and grossly

disproportionate...

- [Elite sports training opens new doors for Hong Kong youth](#) (2026-03-29 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] In Kai Tak Arena, under bright lights, a group of young fencers crossed blades in a demonstration bout that drew sharp intakes of breath from the crowd. Silver medallist Ho Sze-long from the 15th National Games of China faced off against Chan Lok-hei, a two-time junior silver medallist in Hong Kong, their movements precise and swift. Nearby, nearly 170 young fencers competed in the Champions Cup for 20 coveted places in...

- [Philippine oil refiner Petron buys Russian crude, eyes alternatives](#) (2026-03-29 15:37)

Petron Corp., the Philippines' only refiner, has procured 2.48 million barrels of crude oil from Russia as the Southeast Asian nation scours the world for alternative suppliers to support domestic energy needs with the war in Iran raging. "If the current crisis persists and alternative crude sources remain unavailable or insufficient, Petron may again be compelled to consider purchases of Russian crude oil to augment the national fuel supply," parent San Miguel Corp. said in a statement to...

- [Vietnam arrests 74 over falsified environmental, waste water data](#) (2026-03-29 14:24)

Authorities in Vietnam have arrested more than 70 people, including government officials, accused of falsifying data from air and waste water monitors at power plants and other major emitters, state media said Sunday. The state-run People's Police newspaper said police had identified "nearly 160 environmental monitoring stations that had been tampered with, altered and had their data falsified" – accounting for more than half of the total number of stations nationwide. Police arrested 74 people,...

- [‘Doctrine of the Mean’ : how the US lost a 2-decade race to China in brain implants](#) (2026-03-29 14:00)

For decades, the United States led the charge in the pursuit of brain-computer interface technology, betting big on bold, high-risk breakthroughs that promised to revolutionise medicine and human-machine integration. In the end, it is China crossing the finish line first. Using a semi-invasive approach that may lend credence to the Confucian "doctrine of the mean" – or the philosophy of seeking a middle path between extremes – a team in China has now come up with a commercially approved product...

- [Indonesia cuts free meals to save US\\$2.3 billion as fuel prices soar](#) (2026-03-29 13:36)

Indonesia is looking to save up to 40 trillion rupiah (US\$2.3 billion) by cutting back on its free meal programme, an official said on Sunday, in a first austerity measure taken in response to price pressures from the Mideast war. The meals, primarily intended for schoolchildren across the country, will be distributed for five days a week instead of six starting March 31 in a move that is expected to save "around 40 trillion rupiah", National Nutrition Agency deputy head

Nanik Sudaryati Deyang...

- [Ukraine strikes Russian Baltic port, hundreds of drones shot down](#) (2026-03-29 13:02)

A drone strike claimed by Ukraine triggered a fire at Russia's Baltic port of Ust-Luga as the regional governor on Sunday reported new damage at the major exporting hub hit for a second time in days. Ukraine has intensified retaliatory attacks on Russian infrastructure – including refineries, oil depots and ports – saying they are justified as part of the effort to cut revenues funding Russia's offensive. “There is damage to the port of Ust-Luga. There were no casualties,” Russian regional...

- [Quieter, stealthier, further: new hybrid unit to power China's small battle drones](#) (2026-03-29 13:00)

A hybrid propulsion system designed to make small battlefield drones stealthier and go further has passed its flight tests, according to Chinese state media. The system's motor is driven by fuel-powered electricity, combining two systems to make the best of both, according to a report on Friday on CCTV-7, China's military television channel. Drone propulsion has largely followed two distinct paths. Fuel-powered systems are typically used in bigger uncrewed aircraft, offering strong performance...

- [Europe's response to Iran war risks becoming its 'darkest hour'](#) (2026-03-29 12:30)

The European Union (EU) is a bystander in the Iran war, but it might end up sustaining significant collateral damage. On one hand, public opinion across Europe is opposed to a conflict that circumvents the core principles of international law. On the other, the continent remains deeply reliant on the United States for its energy and security needs. A definitive anti-war stance risks alienating President Donald Trump, leaving Europe strategically exposed. Talk about being caught between a rock...

- [Iran targets Bahrain aluminium, 2 injured amid Hormuz closure](#) (2026-03-29 12:22)

Aluminium Bahrain, which runs one of the world's largest smelters, said on Sunday it was assessing the damage following Iranian strikes on the facility and another major aluminium producer in the United Arab Emirates. Two employees at Aluminium Bahrain were hurt in Saturday's attack, the state-controlled company said, while regional peer Emirates Global Aluminium's site sustained significant damage from missile and drone strikes the same day. Most Gulf aluminium producers, which account for...

- [Brace yourself for conditions at fire-hit Wang Fuk Court, returning residents told](#) (2026-03-29 12:13)

Hong Kong authorities have warned former residents of fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court to brace themselves for the conditions in their homes when they return next month to collect belongings, while saying that those with health issues, among others, should not enter the buildings. The government also provided residents with psychological assessment

questionnaires to help them decide whether to return home as part of an operation starting on April 20, according to notices seen by the South China...

- [Japan upgrades destroyer with Tomahawk missiles. Why it might pose a threat to China](#) (2026-03-29 12:00)

Japan has upgraded a naval vessel with capabilities to fire long-range Tomahawk missiles, with the first firing test expected this summer – a move experts said would pose a security threat to China. The Aegis destroyer Chokai “completed modifications and crew training” in the US that started in October, “confirming its acquisition of Tomahawk missile launch capabilities” , Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said on Friday. He said a ceremony marking the acquisition of these capabilities...

- [French prosecutors open terror probe after Bank of America attack attempt](#) (2026-03-29 11:45)

French anti-terrorism prosecutors have opened an investigation into a suspected attack targeting Bank of America’s Paris headquarters after the reported overnight arrest of a man who allegedly tried to ignite an improvised explosive device outside the US bank’s premises. In an emailed statement to reporters, the national anti-terrorism prosecutor’s office said the investigation involves the suspected attempted destruction by fire or other dangerous means in connection with a terrorist plot, as...

- [China biotech deals hit record as innovative drugs draw interest of multinationals](#) (2026-03-29 11:26)

The cross-border outlicensing activities of Chinese biotech firms reached a record transaction value of US\$60 billion in the first quarter of 2026, driven by multinational pharmaceutical companies’ growing appetite for the country’s promising drug candidates. The deal value represented a 73 per cent jump from the same period a year earlier, and accounted for nearly half of the total US\$135.7 billion worth of agreements signed throughout 2025, the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA)...

- [Trump’s Iran war: could Republican rift and Maga discontent doom midterms?](#) (2026-03-29 11:00)

US President Donald Trump’s war on Iran has not only exposed White House decision-making flaws but also “clear cracks” within the Republican Party and his political base, observers in China say, warning of the risks posed to the party’s midterm prospects. As the US-Israel war with Iran enters its fifth week, mixed signals from Trump and his administration continue to trigger questions about the trajectory of Operation Epic Fury and the exit strategy. Trump has repeatedly claimed victory, most...

- [Mongolian parliament selects new prime minister amid corruption allegations](#) (2026-03-29 10:35)

Mongolia's ruling party selected a new candidate for prime minister on Sunday after the last head of government, Zandanshatar Gombojav, resigned after only nine months on the job. Uchral Nyam-Osor, the current party chairman who is serving as speaker of the Parliament, was nominated at a meeting of the Mongolian People's Party, according to state news agency Montsame. Uchral first joined the party in 2009, and is seen as a compromise candidate amid different party factions. Zandanshatar's...

- [Hong Kong's MPF authority to propose 2-tier surcharges for late employer contributions](#) (2026-03-29 10:18)

Hong Kong employers could face punitive surcharges for failing to clear outstanding contributions to their staff members' pension accounts for extended periods, with data showing only one in six bosses settled the arrears within the prescribed two-week deadline. The Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA), which manages the city's pension plans, said it was working on a "two-tier surcharge" mechanism proposal that it hoped to present to the government by the middle of the year. In a...

- [Chinese analogue chipmakers join wave of global price rises as mature-node firms eye gains](#) (2026-03-29 10:00)

A string of Chinese analogue chipmakers have announced price increases in step with their international peers, as a broader pricing wave sweeps across the semiconductor supply chain – a shift that analysts say could hand China's mature-node producers a rare window to gain ground. Novosense Microelectronics, SG Micro, Fortior Technology, Halo Microelectronics, Silan Micro and Kiwi Instruments are among the domestic firms recently raising prices, in line with global leaders including Texas...

- [China mum, inspired by son's heroic death, has handcrafted shoe pads for soldiers for 20 years](#) (2026-03-29 10:00)

A Chinese mother has handcrafted more than 1,000 pairs of shoe pads for new army recruits in memory of her soldier son who died rescuing his comrade two decades ago. Zhang Xinghui, from southwestern China's Chongqing municipality, is affectionately nicknamed "shoe pad mum". In 2005, her son, 19-year-old Gu Nu, died while patrolling a mountain in Tibet and rescuing his teammate from a landslide. Gu became a frontier guard in 2003 and was promoted as his squad's deputy leader. When Zhang learned...

- [Regional diplomats gather in Pakistan for talks to end Iran war](#) (2026-03-29 09:59)

Top diplomats from key regional powers were gathering in Pakistan on Sunday to discuss how to end the fighting in the Middle East, but there were few signs of progress as Israel and the US kept up strikes on Iran, and Tehran responded by firing missiles and drones across the region. Pakistan said foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt were taking part in the talks in Islamabad. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian held "extensive..."

- [ByteDance bolsters Seedance 2.0 with watermarking, IP safeguards ahead of global roll-out](#) (2026-03-29 09:00)

ByteDance has bolstered its controversial video-generation model Seedance 2.0 with “advanced” watermarking and intellectual property (IP) protection guardrails ahead of its global roll-out, the TikTok owner has said. The much-anticipated international release comes amid intense scrutiny from Hollywood studios over alleged IP theft after numerous Seedance-generated videos featuring famous Hollywood actors and characters went viral in February. On Wednesday, ByteDance said its global safety and...

- [Jiang Xueqin, the viral ‘prophet’ predicting the world’ s fate from a Beijing classroom](#) (2026-03-29 09:00)

Beijing-based high-school teacher Jiang Xueqin may not seem like an obvious candidate for a geopolitical “prophet”. Dressed casually in a polo shirt, the greying Chinese-Canadian looks unassuming. But through his hugely popular Predictive History YouTube channel, Jiang has become known as “China’ s Nostradamus”, gaining a following for his outlook on world affairs. While most of his fans are outside China, his lectures and interviews have been translated and uploaded on Chinese social media...

- [Australia’ s Karratha LNG plant closed after cyclone amid fuel shortages](#) (2026-03-29 08:44)

At least one of the world’ s largest LNG plants remained closed on Sunday after a cyclone knocked out power to thousands of people in Western Australia. The outages were restricting already stretched fuel supplies caused by the war in the Middle East. Woodside Energy, which processes fuel from one of the world’ s biggest offshore gas operations, said on Sunday that its Karratha plant remained offline. “We have commenced remobilising our workforce to some of our offshore facilities and inspections...

- [How to assess China’ s real chance of winning AI race against US](#) (2026-03-29 08:30)

In January, a top Chinese AI researcher told an industry summit in Beijing there was less than a 20 per cent chance of any Chinese company surpassing a leading US artificial intelligence firm in the next three to five years. The remark by Lin Junyang, until recently a technical leader working on Qwen, one of China’ s most capable open-source AI models under Alibaba (which owns the South China Morning Post), made headlines. But much of the commentary missed a more important question Lin posed:...

- [China’ s high-end yacht owners say industry growth stifled by structural gaps](#) (2026-03-29 08:00)

As the country with the world’ s largest cohort of billionaires, China is no stranger to wealthy elites engaging in luxurious leisure activities, but one common pastime in the West does not seem to have attracted a commensurate level of interest across the Pacific – yachting. While

Chinese e-commerce billionaire Richard Liu recently announced a multibillion-dollar investment in a new yacht company, regulatory hurdles and infrastructure gaps have kept China's wealthiest individuals from fully...

- [Dedicated Northern Metropolis laws may speed up projects by 1 year, minister says](#) (2026-03-29 07:36)

Dedicated laws to streamline statutory procedures for Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis may speed up some projects by about one year, the development chief has said. Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn Hon-ho also revealed on Sunday that the government was preparing to increase the residential component of some sites to make the investment more appealing for developers. The government unveiled a plan for proposed legislation earlier this month, comprising six main subsidiary laws designed to...

- [Hong Kong's ageing challenge: is Singapore's Kampung Admiralty model the answer?](#) (2026-03-29 07:30)

Hongkongers Oscar and Stella Chan, a couple in their late 60s, have little interest in moving into a traditional residential care home. The retired civil servants rent a flat in Ma On Shan in the New Territories and, while they acknowledge that ageing at home is not always "as straightforward as it sounds", they believe conventional care homes can "feel restrictive". "If my financial situation and health allow, I would much prefer not to stay in a residential care home for the elderly," Oscar...

- [Hong Kong remains stable as oil prices surge amid Middle East turmoil: Paul Chan](#) (2026-03-29 07:26)

Hong Kong authorities are closely monitoring the war in the Middle East sparked by the US-Israel attack on Iran and the resulting volatility in global oil prices, although the immediate impact on the city's economy remains limited, the finance chief has said. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also said on Sunday that, while international investor sentiment had been shaken by geopolitical instability, the city's financial markets continued to operate in an "orderly and smooth" manner, with...

- [Iran-linked hackers open low-cost digital front as US-Israeli attacks mount](#) (2026-03-29 06:49)

As they fled an Iranian missile strike, some Israelis with Android phones received a text offering a link to real-time information about bomb shelters. But instead of a helpful app, the link downloaded spyware giving hackers access to the device's camera, location and all its data. The operation, attributed to Iran, showed sophisticated coordination and is just the latest tactic in a cyber conflict that pits the US and Israel against Iran and its digital proxies. As Iran and its supporters seek...

- [Paralysed Hong Kong dancer Mo Li shares video of himself steering wheelchair](#)

(2026-03-29 06:18)

A Hong Kong dancer left paralysed after being struck by a giant screen at a concert by popular boy band Mirror has for the first time shown himself moving independently in a wheelchair since the accident 3½ years ago. Mo Li Kai-yin, 31, shared an Instagram video on Saturday of him operating an electric wheelchair with the caption, “A 90 per cent introvert be like:” followed by a bashful emoticon. In the clip, he appeared to be in good spirits as he steered the wheelchair using his right hand....

- [New China school system rewards diligent pupils with ‘digital pets’ to motivate them](#)

(2026-03-29 06:00)

Chinese secondary schoolteachers have introduced a new way of motivating pupils by awarding them “digital pets” that they can adopt online. The move has gained widespread attention and support. Recently, primary and secondary schoolteachers across China introduced an innovative “class pet-raising programme” in which pupils earn points for good behaviour to “feed” and nurture virtual pets. At the start of the new school semester, Liu Qianqian, a class head teacher at Hangzhou Shenglan Middle...

- [North Korea tests powerful missile engine. Will an ICBM launch follow?](#) (2026-03-29 05:49)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a test of a high-thrust solid-fuel engine for intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) capable of reaching targets around the globe, touting the development as elevating the country’s “strategic military power to the highest level” , state media said on Sunday. The test of the engine made of composite carbon fibre material produced a maximum thrust of 2,500 kilonewtons, up from 1,971 kilonewtons recorded during a similar experiment last September, the...

- [4 injured in multi-vehicle collision on busy Hong Kong road](#) (2026-03-29 05:40)

Four people have been injured in a multi-vehicle collision in Hong Kong’s Kowloon City after a van mounted a pavement and crashed into a wall. Police received a report at 8.34am on Sunday that a driver of a van travelling along Prince Edward Road West towards Mong Kok had lost control near the traffic lights at Earl Street, grazing a truck and a coach before crashing into the back of a car. The force of the impact propelled the van onto the pavement, where it came to a halt after hitting the...

- [The Philippines loves Jollibee. Overseas Filipinos love it even more](#) (2026-03-29 05:00)

No fast-food chain has ever meant quite what Jollibee means to Filipinos. Forget McDonald’s and KFC, Jollibee – with its sweet spaghetti and crispy Chickenjoy – is something else entirely: a cultural anchor for a diaspora scattered across every continent on Earth. With more than a million Filipinos leaving the Philippines every year in search of greener pastures abroad, the chain has followed them almost everywhere they have gone, building a brand that taps into deep emotions by offering a taste...

- [In 2011, Hong Kong film actor Alan Tang dies at 62 – SCMP archive](#) (2026-03-29 04:30)

This article was first published on March 30, 2011 by Danny Mok ‘Student Prince’ dies after heart problem Former actor Alan Tang Kwong-wing, known as the “Student Prince” , has died at home. He was 62. The family said he was checked by a family doctor for a heart problem at home in Kadoorie Avenue, Kowloon Tong, yesterday (March 29, 2011) afternoon. He was found collapsed on a bed by a maid around 9.30pm. Ambulance staff confirmed him dead at the scene. Police found nothing suspicious. Tang, who...

- [Hong Kong passengers caught off guard by new airport limit of 2 power banks](#) (2026-03-29 04:24)

Air passengers departing from Hong Kong have said they were unaware of a new rule limiting the number of power banks they could carry to two, with few reminder signs visible at the airport on the first day of its enforcement on Sunday. Hong Kong International Airport announced on Saturday night that departing passengers were restricted to carrying no more than two power banks. Citing new regulations from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Airport Authority said the global...

- [Why are smugglers swarming East Africa for ants to send to China and Europe?](#) (2026-03-29 04:00)

For most people, ants are unwelcome guests at a picnic, but international demand for the insects is driving a new black market in East Africa, where it could threaten ant populations and the broader environment. In early March, 27-year-old Chinese national Zhang Kequn was detained at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya, with more than 2,200 live queen ants packed in his luggage. Around the same time, Thai authorities seized a shipment of ants sent from the Kenyan port city of...

- [As Iran’ s drones swarm Gulf, Ukraine’ s wartime tech lands billion-dollar deals](#) (2026-03-29 03:57)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that his country had “undoubtedly changed the geopolitical situation” in the Middle East with a series of decade-long defence agreements with Gulf states being hit with Iranian drones and missiles. Has he? And how important are the agreements for Ukraine, more than four years into the Russian invasion and facing its own maelstrom of military, economic and diplomatic challenges? The Ukrainian leader has been on a whirlwind tour of the Gulf...

- [One rule for Israel and another for Iran risks nuclear disaster](#) (2026-03-29 03:30)

Israel’ s avowed goal in the Middle East war is to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Yet the double standard associated with this is hardly sustainable in the long run. The worst-kept secret in the world of nuclear politics is that Israel possesses a formidable arsenal of nuclear weapons. It began developing these in the 1950s and reached a fully operational

capability by the late 1960s. Although Israel refuses to confirm or deny this fact, arms control organisations have assessed that...

- [Malaysia' s Yong Zheng Xi on the '95% hard work' behind his Bridgerton fame](#) (2026-03-29 02:36)

From a law lecture hall to Barbie and later the glitzy ballroom of Bridgerton, Malaysian-born actor Yong Zheng Xi is quietly carving out a place for himself on the international stage. He appeared in the period drama as Lord Barnaby, a role that marks another milestone in a journey shaped as much by persistence as by talent. Yong, 32, began as a singer but it was only after moving to London to pursue a law degree that his career trajectory shifted. “When I came to London to pursue my...

- [China proposes a new way to measure academic influence in a departure from impact factor](#) (2026-03-29 02:00)

Chinese researchers have introduced a new methodology for evaluating medical and life science journals worldwide that does not rely on the “impact factor” traditionally used in the academic world. Experts view this as part of China' s broader efforts to strengthen its “academic discourse power” . Two new Dongbi Index journal lists, covering 4,027 medical and 3,064 life-science journals selected from more than 40,000 worldwide, were unveiled in Shanghai on March 21. They were developed by the...

- [As Cambodia' s scam crackdown deadline looms, criminal gangs flee](#) (2026-03-29 02:00)

Young, naive and now sleeping rough on a plastic sheet outside their embassy in Phnom Penh, Indonesians Abdul\* and Hafiz\* are among the expendable human resources of Southeast Asia' s scam trade. After a year-long tumble through Cambodia' s vortex of scams, they were cast out onto a pavement – penniless and without passports – waiting for the embassy to issue new travel documents and a plane ticket home. “Our Chinese boss stole all of our passports,” said Abdul, 20, gesturing to a dozen or so of...

- [Errors in Hong Kong Tai Po blaze hearing transcript raise transparency concerns](#) (2026-03-29 01:00)

The official transcript of a public hearing into Hong Kong' s deadliest blaze in decades has wrongly recorded several key details, the South China Morning Post has found, prompting an academic to urge that future proceedings be live-streamed to strengthen transparency and public trust. The errors included incorrect figures for the number of residents who escaped using lifts and the percentage of flats suffering severe damage, according to the SCMP' s review of the committee hearing investigating...

- [China woman uses an old photo to find brother who was lured away with bread 33 years ago](#) (2026-03-29 01:00)

Using only a childhood photograph, a woman in central China found her younger brother who had been lured away with a piece of bread more than three decades ago. Li Lin, 44, from Xiantao in Hubei province, was separated from her brother, Li Xin, in childhood after tragedy tore their family apart, Daxiang News reported. Their mother died of cancer, while their father reportedly suffered a mental collapse, left home and never returned. Orphaned at the ages of 11 and seven, the siblings survived by...

- [Kyoto is eyeing taller buildings. Critics warn it will look like ‘every other city in Japan’](#) (2026-03-29 00:00)

A proposal to scrap a ban on tall buildings in Kyoto to make way for towers and tourism infrastructure has drawn criticism that the move would fundamentally damage the skyline of Japan’s historic capital. A panel advising the city government suggested revising the existing height restriction – which limits buildings near Kyoto Station to a maximum of 31 metres – to 60 metres. The panel claimed on Wednesday the change would “revitalise” the area around the station that served as the gateway to...

- [How China is stepping into the cultural repatriation void left by a retreating US](#) (2026-03-28 22:00)

As one of the biggest targets of wartime looting in centuries past, China is now positioning itself as a global pioneer in repatriating lost cultural artefacts. In this article, the second in a two-part series, Xinlu Liang looks at how China is wielding law, diplomacy and a Global South coalition to rewrite the rules of restitution, filling a void left by a retreating US. In January, as the United States was withdrawing from a raft of heritage and science bodies around the world, China was...

- [AI infrastructure on the front line: Lessons for Asean from the Iran war](#) (2026-03-28 21:30)

On March 1, after Israel and the United States initiated attacks against Iran, Amazon Web Services reported drone strikes against data centre facilities in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The strikes caused structural damage to the company’s infrastructure, impairing cloud services for those countries. Iran warned that US tech companies with Israeli links, including Google, Microsoft, Palantir, Nvidia and Oracle, were on Tehran’s list of “legitimate targets” for countermeasures. Strikes on...

- [Iran war: US amphibious assault ship arrives in Mideast amid talk of ground operation](#) (2026-03-28 19:44)

The amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli has arrived in the Middle East, US Central Command said on Saturday, as speculation soared about the possible deployment of US ground troops in Iran. The ship arrived in the region on Friday, CENTCOM said in a social media post, noting that the vessel is the flagship for a contingent of “about 3,500” Marines and sailors. The group also includes “transport and strike fighter aircraft, as well as amphibious assault and tactical assets” , it said. The post...

- [Over 400,000 KitKat bars stolen, as thieves ‘make a break’ with 12 tonne shipment](#) (2026-03-28 19:12)

A huge shipment of KitKat chocolate bars has been stolen in Europe, the brand said, warning that the heist risked causing shortages in stores right before Easter. KitKat, owned by Swiss food giant Nestlé, confirmed in a statement on Saturday that “a truck transporting 413,793 units of its new chocolate range has been stolen during transit in Europe”. The shipment, weighing around 12 tonnes (13.2 tons), disappeared last week while heading between production and distribution locations, it...

- [Hong Kong airport caps power banks to 2 per passenger in line with global rule](#) (2026-03-28 16:21)

All passengers departing from Hong Kong International Airport are now prohibited from carrying more than two power banks, effective immediately, the Airport Authority announced on Saturday night. Citing new rules from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Airport Authority said the global aviation body had announced the requirements to address emerging aviation safety risks posed by lithium battery power banks. Under the new rules, each departing passenger may carry no more...

- [French police foil Paris bomb attack outside US bank](#) (2026-03-28 15:42)

French police stopped an apparent bomb attack outside a US bank in Paris early on Saturday when they arrested a man about to set off a homemade explosive device, officials and sources close to the case said. The incident occurred around 3.30am in front of a Bank of America building in the chic 8th arrondissement, a couple of streets from the Champs-Élysées. Police grabbed the man just after he placed a device, made of five litres of liquid (1.3 gallons), believed to be fuel, and an ignition...

- [Boy’s heart stops for 16 minutes after tube comes loose in Hong Kong hospital](#) (2026-03-28 15:20)

A probe has been launched into a serious medical incident in which a six-year-old boy’s heart stopped for about 16 minutes at Hong Kong Children’s Hospital after his breathing tube came loose from the ventilator. The hospital on Saturday said it was “deeply concerned” about the case. “The hospital has taken immediate measures to strengthen the monitoring of patients requiring ventilator care in the intensive care unit,” it said in a statement. “A root cause analysis panel will be set up to...”

- [1 month, 2 straits, more strikes: how long will the US-Israeli war on Iran last?](#) (2026-03-28 14:31)

As the US-Israeli war on Iran enters its second month, another major shipping lane is at risk of closure but the chances of a prolonged conflict remain slim, according to Chinese analysts. The assessment came on Saturday as Iran-backed Houthi rebels joined the fray by firing missiles at

Israel from Yemen. The Israeli military said it intercepted one of the projectiles. Chinese statenews agency Xinhua quoted a Houthi source as saying the missile attack was meant “as awarning” . The Houthis...

- [As US-Israel war on Iran rages on, anti-Trumpers protest on ‘No Kings’ day](#) (2026-03-28 13:43)

Massive protests against President Donald Trump kicked off on Saturday across the United States and beyond, as millions of people vent fury over what they see as his authoritarian bent and other forms of cruel, law-trampling governance. It is the third time in less than a year that Americans have taken to the streets as part of a grassroots movement called “No Kings” , the most vocal and visual conduit for opposition to Trump since he began his second term in January 2025. Now they have something...

- [Hong Kong MTR track intrusion prompts calls for tougher penalties, education](#) (2026-03-28 13:36)

Hong Kong railway experts have called for tougher penalties and stronger public education to prevent the misuse of emergency exits on trains following a recent incident on the MTR East Rail line that caused more than two hours of disruption during evening rush hour. The experts also cast doubt on a lawmaker’ s proposal to make emergency doors less accessible, saying the move could compromise passenger safety. A preliminary investigation found that a passenger had opened the emergency exit ramp in...

- [‘Like a horror movie’ : Hongkonger rescued after forced labour ordeal in Myanmar](#) (2026-03-28 12:55)

A Hongkonger has been rescued from Myanmar and transferred to Thailand after being held captive and forced to do illegal work, in an ordeal he described as a “horror movie” . The Security Bureau on Saturday said its dedicated task force had earlier received a request for help from the 25-year-old man who was trapped in Myanmar. It then liaised with the Chinese embassies in Myanmar and Thailand, the city’ s economic and trade office in Bangkok and Thai authorities to launch a joint operation. The...

- [Beijing tightens drone rules, citing ‘low-altitude security’ concerns](#) (2026-03-28 12:30)

Citing security concerns, Beijing will significantly restrict drone sales, storage and transport after tightening regulation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Chinese capital’ s airspace, according to state media. Beijing has banned the sale or lease of UAVs and 17 designated “core components” to any person or organisation unless granted public security approval, according to the regulation approved by the municipal legislative body on Friday. Bringing new drones or core components into...

- [Hong Kong police seize 1,600 litres of diesel, arrest 1 in raid of illegal fuel site](#) (2026-03-28 12:18)

Hong Kong authorities seized 1,600 litres (423 gallons) of diesel from an illegal fuel station in Sai Wan on Saturday as part of a continuing crackdown on illicit fuel sales, amid rising oil prices driven by conflicts in the Middle East. Officers from the Fire Services Department and police raided the site on Fung Mat Road, recovering diesel worth HK\$50,000 (US\$6,383) and confiscating fuelling equipment. A man was arrested at the scene for alleged violations of fire hazard abatement and...

- [AI ‘collusion’ forcing down wages a bigger threat than job-stealing robots: ILO economist](#) (2026-03-28 11:00)

The threat to employment posed by artificial intelligence was not a “robot apocalypse” that would steal jobs, but “algorithmic collusion” that could quietly erode wages and workplace safety, Ekkehard Ernst, the International Labour Organization’s chief macroeconomist, warned in Beijing on Tuesday. While public anxiety frequently centred on the potential for AI to trigger a mass wave of unemployment, Ernst said its disruptive potential had been overestimated. “I don’t think that we are anywhere...

- [Cambridge top architect Francois Penz relocates to China from UK](#) (2026-03-28 10:00)

Francois Penz, former head of the department of architecture at the University of Cambridge and a pioneer in the interdisciplinary field of architecture and film, has joined Nanjing University on a full-time basis. The school of architecture and urban planning of Nanjing University announced the appointment on its social media account on March 17. Penz is an emeritus professor at the university, a former director of The Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies, a fellow of Darwin...

- [Why Chinese pour leftover TCM medicine onto roads, hoping others will walk, drive over it](#) (2026-03-28 10:00)

While walking along China’s roads, it is not uncommon to see leftover herbs scattered on the surface. This is not some random dumping problem, it is in fact Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) leftovers deliberately poured out by the people who cooked them. Superstition has it that by pouring the TCM leftovers on public roads, other people can walk and drive over them, thereby helping keep illness at bay. There is a folk legend that the habit originated in the Tang dynasty (618–907). Sun Simiao,...

- [Singapore seizes record Asian pangolin scales disguised as ‘dried fish skin’](#) (2026-03-28 09:59)

Singapore has seized over 830kg (1,800 lbs) of Asian pangolin scales hidden in a shipment bound for Cambodia, authorities said on Saturday, calling it the largest haul of its kind discovered in the city state. Falsely declared as “dried fish skin”, the scales – estimated to be from more than 2,200 pangolins – were found in 30 bags on December 29 after officials intercepted an inbound truck carrying sea cargo, Singapore’s National Parks Board said in a statement. The announcement came as...

- [Singapore' s Lawrence Wong meets tycoons, leaders as he wraps up Hong Kong visit](#) (2026-03-28 09:51)

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has met Hong Kong political heavyweights and business leaders – including former Chief Justice Andrew Li Kwok-nang and Richard Li Tzar-kai, the son of tycoon Li Ka-shing – in what he described as a “short but meaningful visit” to the city. Wrapping up his first official visit to the city since he became prime minister in 2024, Wong said in a Facebook post on Saturday that closer cooperation between the two Asian financial centres would contribute to the...

- [4 held as Hong Kong seizes HK\\$92 million of illicit cigarettes from cargo vessel](#) (2026-03-28 09:17)

Hong Kong customs has seized about 20 million illicit cigarettes with an estimated market value of HK\$92 million (US\$11.46 million) from a cargo vessel during a joint anti-smuggling operation with authorities in mainland China. The cigarettes would have generated about HK\$68 million in tax revenue, authorities said on Saturday. Officers from the Customs and Excise Department, marine police and mainland law enforcement agencies conducted the operation in the early hours of Friday based on risk...

- [Hong Kong breaks ground on Northern Metropolis data centre to power AI push](#) (2026-03-28 09:04)

Construction has begun on a major data centre in the Northern Metropolis, with Hong Kong' s innovation and technology minister saying the project will supercharge the city' s computing power and drive the national AI push. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Saturday at the Range (Hong Kong) Sandy Ridge Data Facility Cluster, which spans more than 110,000 square metres. Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong said the project marked a leap forward in the city' s innovation and...

- [For Asia, the worst effects of Trump' s war on Iran are yet to come](#) (2026-03-28 08:30)

The law of unintended consequences, a theory popularised by American sociologist Robert K Merton, has rarely been more applicable to any situation than to US President Donald Trump' s war with Iran. Those consequences will be far greater than generally imagined. Their impact will fall heavily on Asia, the world' s most energy-import-dependent region and will almost certainly hurt US ally Japan more than it will the US' main rival, China. Indeed, China may even emerge from the crisis with an...

- [Asean countries warned against exploiting US-China tensions for short-term gain](#) (2026-03-28 08:00)

A prominent Chinese political scientist has cautioned Southeast Asian countries against leveraging China-US tensions for short-term benefits, saying this strategy could backfire. Speaking on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia on Friday, Zheng Yongnian, dean of the

school of public policy at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, said that in the context of South China Sea sovereignty disputes, the key challenge lay in how countries interpreted the China-US rivalry. “Many countries...

- [Hong Kong defends 3-hour limit for Wang Fuk Court residents to collect belongings](#) (2026-03-28 07:47)

Hong Kong authorities have insisted that a three-hour time limit is sufficient for residents of the fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court to retrieve their belongings, with discretion to be exercised for those requesting a second entry. Deputy Chief Secretary Warner Cheuk Wing-hing said on Saturday that although each household could register up to four people to enter the building, only one person would be allowed into severely damaged flats owing to safety concerns. “With four people and three hours...

- [Hong Kong police searching for driver on the run after hitting railing and bus](#) (2026-03-28 07:32)

Hong Kong police are searching for a driver who fled the scene after crashing a car into a barricade and hitting a bus on Saturday. The force said it received a report at about 9.20am that a car had crashed into a roadside railing along Pui To Road in Tuen Mun. During the incident the car also made contact with a bus that had stopped at a traffic light along the same road. The driver then got out of the vehicle and fled, police said, adding that no injuries were reported. It was not immediately...

- [Trump’ s Iran gamble falters as war drags on amid concerns of long-term chaos](#) (2026-03-28 07:05)

A month after the US and Israel launched the war with Iran, nothing seems to be going according to President Donald Trump’ s plan for a conflict lasting four to six weeks. Despite the assassinations of most of the Islamic Republic’ s political and military leaders, the regime shows no signs of collapse. Similarly, wave after wave of US and Israeli air strikes may have degraded Iran’ s ballistic missile and drone capabilities, but they still look set to remain a potent threat to the region for the...

- [US-based Iranian’ s cloth works at Art Central reflect complex fabric of her identity](#) (2026-03-28 07:00)

A series of artworks featuring six coats with distinctive features created by an Iranian-American artist for the Art Central festival will allow Hongkongers to reflect on themes of memory and conflict amid the ongoing war in the Middle East. Elnaz Javani, who was born in Iran in 1985 and currently lives in the United States, told the South China Morning Post that the work could also serve as a meditative space for Hongkongers amid rising global geopolitical tensions. She said her art also...

- [Pope Leo slams widening ‘chasms between the poor and the rich’ on Monaco visit](#) (2026-03-28 06:05)

Pope Leo on Saturday denounced the widening gap between the haves and have-nots as he visited Monaco, a millionaires’ playground that is the surprise pick for the first Western European trip of his papacy. Arriving by helicopter from Rome, the Pope was greeted by Monaco’s ruler Prince Albert II and his wife Princess Charlene at Monte Carlo’s heliport under radiant sunshine. Just after his arrival at the tiny principality on the French Riviera, Leo condemned what he termed the widening “chasms...

- [Chinese lithium battery electrolyte could double EV range and run in extreme cold](#) (2026-03-28 06:00)

Chinese scientists have created an all-weather electrolyte that could improve lithium batteries, allowing them to operate more efficiently at room temperature and in extreme environments. The research team from Shanghai and Tianjin said batteries made using the hydrofluorocarbon-based electrolyte had more than double the energy density of those made with traditional electrolytes when operating at room temperature. They said the batteries could also operate efficiently at minus 70 degrees Celsius...

- [From rural girl to tycoon: China woman, 55, marries lover, 25, with US\\$7.3 million dowry](#) (2026-03-28 06:00)

A 55-year-old Chinese medical aesthetics tycoon has shocked the internet by marrying her 25-year-old husband, reportedly with a 50 million yuan (US\$7.3 million) dowry. Yu Wenhong, 55, was born into a financially modest family in Dalian, Liaoning province, in northeastern China. After her father died, she began working in the beauty industry at the age of 18 to support her mother and younger brother. She started as an eyebrow tattooing technician and later went on to establish her own beauty...

- [Indonesia begins social media ban for children under 16](#) (2026-03-28 05:30)

Indonesia on Saturday began implementing a new government regulation approved earlier this month that bans children younger than 16 from access to digital platforms that could expose them to pornography, cyberbullying, online scams and addiction. With the move, Indonesia became the first country in Southeast Asia to ban children from having accounts on YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, Bigo Live and Roblox. It follows measures that Australia took last year in a world-first social...

- [Hong Kong government defends changes to national security law after US alert](#) (2026-03-28 05:23)

Hong Kong authorities have defended legal changes that have made it illegal to withhold smartphone passwords from police in national security investigations, after the United States sent a new alert to its citizens travelling to the city. The government on Friday also expressed “strong dissatisfaction with misleading information and sweepingly generalised descriptions”

by foreign organisations and media regarding the amendments to the Beijing-imposed national security law earlier this week, as...

- [As Vietnam leads on AI rules, Southeast Asia risks ‘economic own goal’](#) (2026-03-28 04:30)

Southeast Asian countries are racing to assert control over their data flows, driven by a potent mix of nationalist sentiment and security anxieties. But analysts warn that while certain measures may deliver domestic economic benefits, the broader push risks undermining innovation, deterring foreign investment and even cutting the region off from the global digital economy. On March 1, Vietnam became the first Southeast Asian nation to have in force a comprehensive law on artificial...

- [Hong Kong prison department’s IT system hacked, 6,800 employees’ data compromised](#) (2026-03-28 04:21)

A computer system containing Hong Kong prison employees’ personal data has been hacked, compromising the information of 6,800 current and former staffers. The Correctional Services Department said on Friday evening that a hacker had gained illegal access to one of its IT systems on Tuesday. “After a preliminary investigation, the Correctional Services Department believes the incident involved unauthorised access to the internal Knowledge Management System by a hacker, through which the hacker...

- [Can ‘reliable friend’ China fill the gap as US pressures allies to snub South Africa?](#) (2026-03-28 04:00)

China pledged to continue its support for South Africa on the same day that it emerged that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa had been disinvited from this year’s Group of Seven (G7) summit in France following US threats to boycott the event. On Thursday, Pretoria said that Ramaphosa’s invitation – issued personally by French President Emmanuel Macron at last year’s Group of 20 summit in Johannesburg – had been withdrawn because the organisers did not want a no-show from the United...

- [Why SD cards and hard drives are the new ‘digital gold’ in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-28 04:00)

After Hong Kong photographer Jacky Lau Kin-sang upgraded his camera systems a few months ago, he was shocked to find that the professional-grade high-capacity SD cards for the set-up cost up to HK\$3,000 (US\$383) per unit, three times more than expected. But the real shocker for the 42-year-old was that the price of the hard disks he had been purchasing for years to back up his clients’ images also skyrocketed from HK\$1,880 to HK\$3,880 for a 16TB model. “It means you essentially have to spend...

- [Bank of America to pay US\\$72.5 million to settle Epstein sex-trafficking lawsuit](#) (2026-03-28 03:33)

Bank of America has agreed to pay US\$72.5 million to settle a class-action lawsuit alleging that the bank facilitated a sex-trafficking ring orchestrated by Jeffrey Epstein, court documents showed on Friday. Bank of America said separately that while it continued to deny supporting Epstein's crimes, "this resolution allows us to put this matter behind us and provides further closure for the plaintiffs". The suit, filed by an unidentified woman on behalf of herself and other alleged victims,...

- [Nepal's ex-PM K.P. Sharma Oli arrested over alleged role in crackdown on protesters](#) (2026-03-28 02:55)

Nepal's former prime minister K.P. Sharma Oli and ex-home minister Ramesh Lekhak were arrested on Saturday morning over their alleged involvement in a deadly crackdown on protesters in September, police said. The detentions come a day after Prime Minister Balendra Shah and his cabinet were sworn in after the first election since the 2025 uprising that toppled 74-year-old Oli's government. "They were arrested this morning and the process will move forward according to the law," said Kathmandu...

- [First Hong Kong Sevens rugby tourney held in 1976 – SCMP archive](#) (2026-03-28 02:30)

This article was first published on March 29, 1976. By Jack Beattie World 'sevens' for HK? A seven-a-side rugby union world cup competition – and possibly staged in Hongkong! That's the exciting prospect that emerged after yesterday's first International "Sevens" Championships held at the Hongkong Football Club. Last night Rothmans and Cathay Pacific, the joint-sponsors of this unique event, which had 12 countries competing, were playing it a bit coy – but both agreed that a similar promotion...

- [US special envoy Witkoff predicts Iran talks as war enters second month](#) (2026-03-28 02:26)

US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said on Friday he believed Iran would hold talks with Washington "this week" as the US-Israeli war against Tehran entered its second month. The war began on February 28 when the United States and Israel launched air strikes across Iran, killing supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and sending shock waves across the globe. A month later the conflict showed no sign of ending, with US-Israeli strikes hitting two Iranian nuclear facilities on...

- [How China's EV makers think they can outrun disastrous price wars](#) (2026-03-28 02:00)

The era of price wars in China's electric vehicle (EV) market is giving way to a new contest: who can deliver better technology at the same price. On a cloudy evening in March, Shenzhen-based BYD put forward its answer with the unveiling of a battery capable of charging from 10 to 70 per cent in just five minutes – and to 97 per cent in nine minutes. The company said it would apply the technology to models priced as low as 155,000 yuan (US\$22,500) while building 20,000 charging stations this...

- [Death of South Korean ‘torture expert’ reopens authoritarian era wounds](#) (2026-03-28 01:30)

The death of one of South Korea’s most notorious police officers, known for his torture methods on prisoners, has revived painful memories of human rights abuses during the country’s era of military-backed authoritarian rule. Lee Geun-an, dubbed the “torture expert”, succumbed to multiple organ failure on Thursday at the age of 88. He had faced lifetime criticism for never expressing remorse and referring to himself as a “patriot”, once comparing his interrogation methods to “art”. Survivors of...

- [How to win friends and influence people in ancient China](#) (2026-03-28 01:30)

The way Stephen Selby tells it, Guiguizi (鬼谷子) sounds like the ancient Chinese version of Dale Carnegie’s enduring self-help book, How to Win Friends and Influence People. Given its contents and message, it should have been a text for the ages. After all, whether ancient, modern, postmodern, Eastern or Western, many of us still need to kiss up to wayward bosses and stroke their egos if we want to advance our careers – not to mention ancient despots who could chop off your head for saying the...

- [Myanmar travellers take to the trains as fuel prices rise](#) (2026-03-28 01:01)

Myanmar’s ageing railway stations are bustling with life, crowded with passengers as surging fuel prices due to the Middle East war drive commuters to choose trains over costly planes and cars. On a journey from the country’s largest city Yangon to the capital Naypyidaw, Agence France-Presse journalists sat in air-conditioned carriages full of travellers napping and sharing tea, fried rice and instant noodles. First class adult train tickets cost 19,000 kyats (US\$9), while the cheapest bus fares...

- [Malaysian politicians slam Philippine senator: ‘Sabah not a commodity’ to ease oil woes](#) (2026-03-28 01:00)

“Sabah is not a commodity” to solve issues faced by other countries, a politician from the Malaysian state said on Friday. Azrul Ibrahim of Parti Gagasan Rakyat Sabah Youth said Sabah is part of a sovereign nation and its position within the federation cannot be questioned by any party. “Attempts to link Sabah to current oil and gas issues as an excuse to revive outdated claims are unwarranted and are meant to divert the internal crisis suffered by certain parties,” he said in a statement on...

- [MTR Corp’s use of CRRC technology can act as ‘showcase’ for rest of the world](#) (2026-03-28 01:00)

The deployment of mainland China-made rail equipment and technologies by Hong Kong’s MTR Corporation can provide a “showcase” for their applications overseas, a top representative of manufacturing giant CRRC has said. Jin Guozhong, chief engineer of the CRRC Qishuyan Institute, the Chinese state-owned manufacturer’s research and development centre in Changzhou, said on Friday there was a synergy between the two rail firms that went

beyond equipment deployment. The semi-privatised MTR Corp had...

- [China puts Ma Xingrui protege Guo Yonghang under investigation for corruption](#)  
(2026-03-28 01:00)

A former top official of Guangdong province, widely seen as a “right-hand man” of former provincial governor Ma Xingrui, is under investigation for corruption. The investigation into Guo Yonghang, Communist Party secretary for Guangzhou from June 2023 until December, deepens the uncertainties about the fate of Ma, who was abruptly removed as Xinjiang’s party secretary in July and has since vanished from public life. Guo was named vice-chairman of the Guangdong provincial committee of the Chinese...

- [Chinese man rescued from ‘zip tie escape challenge’ after delivery man alerts police](#)  
(2026-03-28 01:00)

A Chinese man who became trapped while taking part in a viral “zip tie escape challenge” at home called for help and was rescued by a passing delivery man. The case involving the man from Guangzhou in southern China’s Guangdong province was recently reported by the local fire department to raise public awareness. A delivery man passing by the man’s rented home heard him calling for help and notified the police. Firefighters arrived, prised open the gate and discovered the man tied up tightly on...

- [Iran war energy shock revives Asean’s power grid plans: ‘it’s the way to go’](#)  
(2026-03-28 00:00)

For a few weeks after the bombs started falling on Iran, Southeast Asian governments told their people not to worry. Emergency funds would cushion the blow. Subsidies would hold. Prices would stabilise. A month on, with oil well above US\$100 a barrel, long queues for fuel forming at petrol stations across the region and Thailand restarting coal plants it had mothballed years ago, the reassurances have worn thin. Against this backdrop, an old question has resurfaced with fresh urgency: why does a...

## Source: The Diplomat China

- [When Feminist Speech Disappears Online, Chinese Women Find New Ways to Speak](#)  
(2026-04-03 13:40)

Post-censorship feminism offers insight into how activism adapts when public speech becomes risky.

- [The Notion of the Chinese Nation: How Beijing’s New Ethnic Law Pushes Taiwan Further Away](#) (2026-04-03 12:29)

Contrasting approaches to language and identity highlight a widening divide in how each side conceptualizes nationhood – part of the political and societal gap across the Taiwan Strait.

- [China and African Sovereignty: Beyond the Digital Silk Road Narrative](#) (2026-04-02 17:02)

African states have considerable agency to shape their own digital governance and are not simply accepting models imposed on them by China or other external actors.

- [Amid Iran War Energy Crunch, Taiwan Turns Back Toward Nuclear Energy](#) (2026-04-02 13:49)

With energy security back in the spotlight, the Lai administration has scrapped a longstanding plank of the DPP platform: opposing nuclear power.

- [The China-Pakistan Iran Peace Plan: All Words, No Commitment](#) (2026-04-02 11:52)

China's "five-point proposal" is structured to avoid friction or controversy. That's not a recipe for solving conflict.

- [Between Cooperation and Control: China's Expanding Role in Central America](#) (2026-04-01 12:36)

The key question is not whether China is "exporting authoritarianism," but how its cooperation mechanisms interact with domestic dynamics already moving in that direction.

- [Ko Wen-je's Downfall Strengthens the KMT's Position Ahead of Key Elections](#) (2026-03-31 17:13)

If the TPP ultimately fails to survive this crisis, the DPP may benefit in the long run. But in the near term, the KMT has the most to gain.

- [China's Economy Feels the Iran War Shock](#) (2026-03-31 13:40)

And it was already struggling.

- [Despite Growing Crackdown, Independent Religious Groups Defy China's Communist Party](#) (2026-03-30 12:39)

The latest round of repression shows the risks underground churches face – and how Chinese people continue to seek faith outside state control.

## Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [U.S. Risks Losing China Expertise as Exchanges Decline, Report Warns](#) (2026-03-30 19:46)

The post U.S. Risks Losing China Expertise as Exchanges Decline, Report Warns appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.