



# CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

## AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 02, 2026 - March 09, 2026

This report was produced using automated 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.

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## Executive Summary

During the period of March 2-9, 2026, China demonstrated a continued focus on strengthening its defense capabilities and asserting its geopolitical influence, while also signaling a desire for stabilized relations with the United States. Beijing announced a 7% increase in its defense budget for 2026, aiming to accelerate military modernization and develop advanced combat capabilities. Concurrently, China's Foreign Minister expressed optimism for a "landmark year" in U.S.-China relations, anticipating a summit between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump. Cybersecurity remained a critical area, with China vowing to protect its networks against perceived U.S. reconnaissance efforts, even as U.S. investigators suspected China in a breach of an FBI surveillance network. Tensions persisted in the South China Sea, with a Chinese expert casting doubt on the finalization of a code of conduct for the contested waters in 2026.

## Key Security Developments

- Defense Budget Increase and Military Modernization

On March 5, China announced a 7% increase in its defense budget for 2026, bringing the total allocation to approximately 1.9 trillion yuan (about \$275-277 billion). This increase, announced at the annual National People's Congress (NPC) meeting, marks the 11th consecutive year of single-digit growth but still exceeds the projected economic growth target. The funds are earmarked to accelerate the development of "advanced combat capabilities" and achieve comprehensive military modernization by 2035.

- Emphasis on Political Loyalty in the Military

Chinese President Xi Jinping, on March 7, stressed the importance of enhancing political loyalty within the military to advance national defense and armed forces modernization. Speaking at a plenary meeting of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and People's Armed Police Force delegation at the NPC, Xi warned against disloyalty and corruption, emphasizing rigorous oversight in key areas like fund flows and power exercise.

- Cybersecurity Concerns and U.S. Accusations

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning stated on March 2 that China would ensure its cybersecurity with all necessary measures, responding to reports of the U.S. Department of War discussing AI-powered reconnaissance of China's critical

infrastructure. Separately, on March 8, U.S. investigators reportedly suspected China-affiliated hackers were responsible for a cyber intrusion on an internal Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) surveillance network. This follows a February 25 report detailing China-linked hackers breaching over 50 telecommunications companies and government agencies in 42 countries using sophisticated cloud platform exploitation.

- Legalization of Overseas Counter-Terror Operations

As of March 1, China has legalized overseas counter-terror operations by its military, People's Armed Police, and public security organs. This new legislation permits the deployment of personnel outside China's borders for anti-terror activities, provided the "relevant country" agrees.

- Diplomatic Overtures to the United States

On March 8, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed hope that 2026 would be a "landmark year" for relations with the United States, ahead of an expected summit between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump in Beijing at the end of March. Wang emphasized the importance of high-level exchanges and managing existing differences. U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators are also scheduled to meet in mid-March in Paris.

- South China Sea Code of Conduct Doubts

A prominent Chinese South China Sea expert, Wu Shicun, stated on March 2 that finalizing a code of conduct for the contested waters is "100 percent not likely" in 2026. This assessment is largely due to the Philippines holding the ASEAN chair, as they are expected to raise the 2016 international arbitration ruling, which Beijing rejects.

- Naval Modernization and Unmanned Systems

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is reportedly enhancing its long-range operational capabilities through the construction of additional Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) vessels and the development of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Furthermore, the PLA is discussing the creation of separate unmanned systems formations to improve effectiveness in drone warfare, potentially drawing inspiration from models like Russia's Rubikon Center.

- Taiwan Strait Stance Reaffirmed

Premier Li Qiang, in his work report, reiterated China's firm stance to "resolutely fight separatist forces seeking Taiwanese independence" and "oppose external interference" in Taiwan's affairs. This comes as Taiwan's opposition Kuomintang (KMT) proposed a special defense budget of 350 billion New Taiwan Dollars (US\$11 billion) on March 5, indicating ongoing defense considerations in Taipei.

- Engagement on Middle East Conflicts

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi engaged in intensive diplomatic outreach, holding phone calls with counterparts from Russia, Iran, Oman, France, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. On March 5, Wang stressed the need to immediately stop military operations and reject the arbitrary use of force in international relations, following U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran. China also announced it would send Special Envoy Zhai Jun to the Middle East to work for de-escalation.

- Counter-terrorism Diplomacy at the UN

On March 5, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, Fu Cong, called for the international community to reject selective approaches and double standards in fighting terrorism. He urged the UN Security Council to promptly place the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its Majeed Brigade on the 1267 Sanctions List, citing incessant terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

## Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's security developments during this period underscore a dual strategy of internal strengthening and external engagement, significantly impacting regional stability and relations with major powers. The announced 7% increase in defense spending, while framed as moderate, signals Beijing's unwavering commitment to military modernization, particularly in advanced combat capabilities and naval power projection. This sustained military buildup, especially the potential for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and expanded AOR fleet, will likely intensify the existing security dilemma in the Indo-Pacific, prompting neighboring states and the U.S. to further bolster their own defenses and alliances. The ongoing tensions in the South China Sea, exacerbated by China's continued assertiveness and the Philippines' firm stance, remain a critical flashpoint, with a code of conduct appearing increasingly elusive.

Relations with the United States present a complex picture of both rivalry and potential dialogue. Foreign Minister Wang Yi's optimistic remarks about 2026 being a "landmark year" for U.S.-China relations, coupled with the anticipation of a Trump-Xi summit, suggest a desire from Beijing to stabilize the relationship amidst ongoing trade disputes and strategic competition. However, simultaneous accusations of Chinese cyber intrusions into U.S. networks highlight the deep-seated mistrust and the persistent nature of their strategic rivalry, particularly in the technological and cyber domains. The U.S. focus on "de-risking" its exposure to China's virtual monopolies, as noted in earlier reports, indicates that fundamental economic and technological competition will continue to shape the bilateral relationship, even with high-level diplomatic engagements.

China's deepening strategic partnership with Russia, reaffirmed by high-level exchanges and shared positions on international issues, continues to be a significant factor in the broader strategic landscape. Western officials' assessment of China's increased support for Russia's war in Ukraine underscores a growing alignment that challenges Western efforts to isolate Moscow. This partnership, particularly Russia's support for China's position on Taiwan, reinforces a united front against perceived Western hegemony and contributes to a more multipolar international order. China's diplomatic engagement in the Middle East, urging de-escalation following U.S.-Israeli strikes against Iran, demonstrates its aspiration for a stabilizing role in global conflicts, while also protecting its economic interests in the region.

## Military and Defense Analysis

China's military and defense posture is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by a sustained commitment to modernization and the development of advanced capabilities. The 7% increase in the 2026 defense budget to approximately \$277 billion, while a slight slowdown from previous years, still outpaces economic growth and underscores the priority Beijing places on its military. This funding is critical for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to achieve its goal of becoming a "fully modern force by 2035," with a particular emphasis on "advanced combat capabilities."

Key capability developments include the expansion of undersea warfare power, with the PLA Navy (PLAN) reportedly acquiring new submarines and drone weapons that pose a threat to America's undersea advantage. Furthermore, the PLAN is enhancing its ability to operate at longer ranges through the construction of additional Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) vessels and the development of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. These naval advancements are crucial for projecting power beyond China's immediate waters, potentially extending its military presence into the Indian Ocean and sustaining operations in the Western Pacific, including during a Taiwan Strait conflict. The PLA is also actively exploring the creation of separate unmanned systems formations, indicating a strategic focus on integrating AI and drone technology into future warfare doctrines, possibly drawing lessons from contemporary conflicts. President Xi Jinping's emphasis on political loyalty within the military, alongside modernization efforts, highlights the dual imperative of technological advancement and ideological control to ensure the armed forces remain under the absolute leadership of the Communist Party.

## Outlook and Forecast

Short-term Trends (1-3 months):

In the immediate future, China's security posture will likely be characterized by a continuation of its military modernization drive, coupled with cautious diplomatic engagement. The announced defense budget increase will translate into ongoing procurement and research in advanced military technologies, particularly in naval and unmanned systems. We can expect further rhetoric from Beijing emphasizing its commitment to safeguarding sovereignty and strategic interests, especially concerning Taiwan and the South China Sea. The anticipated summit between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump in late March will be a critical event, potentially setting the tone for U.S.-China relations for the remainder of the year. Cybersecurity will remain a highly contentious area, with both overt statements and covert activities likely to persist as a key dimension of U.S.-China rivalry.

#### Critical Flashpoints and Risk Areas:

The South China Sea remains a primary flashpoint. The expert assessment that a code of conduct is "100 percent not likely" to be finalized in 2026, combined with continued Chinese assertiveness and increased U.S.-Philippine military cooperation, suggests a high risk of continued low-level confrontations and potential for escalation. The Taiwan Strait also remains a critical risk area, with China's reiterated determination to counter "separatist forces" and "external interference." Any significant U.S. arms sales to Taiwan or increased military presence in the region could provoke a strong reaction from Beijing. The ongoing cyber warfare between China and the U.S. poses a constant threat of disruption to critical infrastructure and intelligence gathering, with potential for miscalculation or unintended escalation.

#### Indicators to Monitor:

Key indicators to monitor include the outcomes and rhetoric surrounding the Trump-Xi summit and subsequent U.S.-China trade talks, which will signal the potential for de-escalation or further friction. Observe any new military exercises or deployments by China in the South China Sea or near Taiwan, as well as responses from regional claimants and the U.S. Developments in China's defense industry, particularly regarding advanced naval platforms (e.g., nuclear carriers, AORs) and unmanned systems, will indicate the pace and direction of its military modernization. Finally, monitor China's diplomatic activities in the Middle East and its stance on the Iran conflict, as this will reflect its evolving role as a global power and its efforts to protect energy interests.

#### Strategic Recommendations:

For security analysts, it is crucial to maintain a granular understanding of China's military modernization programs, focusing on specific capability developments rather than broad spending figures. Close monitoring of cyber threat intelligence related to China-linked advanced persistent threats (APTs) is essential, given the recent reported breaches. In the diplomatic sphere, while acknowledging China's stated

desire for improved U.S. relations, it is important to assess whether concrete actions align with this rhetoric, especially concerning contentious issues like trade imbalances and intellectual property. Regional security assessments should prioritize scenario planning for potential incidents in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, considering the interplay of Chinese, U.S., and regional forces. Finally, understanding China's evolving role in global governance and its engagement in conflicts outside its immediate periphery, such as the Middle East, will be vital for comprehending its broader strategic ambitions.

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: BBC China

- [Hong Kong pro-democracy tycoon Jimmy Lai will not appeal conviction](#) (2026-03-06 09:19)

Lai was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in jail last month on charges for sedition and collusion with foreign forces.

- ['What is the game plan?': The Iran war is unsettling China and its ambitions](#) (2026-03-05 23:13)

China is not feeling the shock of war in the Middle East - yet. But it is feeling the ripples.

- [China sets lowest economic growth target since 1991](#) (2026-03-05 03:10)

It is also the first time the target has been lowered since it was cut to "around 5%" in 2023.

- [Partner of UK MP arrested on suspicion of spying for China, BBC told](#) (2026-03-04 17:25)

The Met Police suspect three men of assisting Chinese intelligence services in the UK.

- [What to know about the 'two sessions', China's biggest political meeting](#) (2026-03-04 01:04)

The carefully choreographed annual meetings signal the priorities of the world's second-largest economy.

- [China removes three retired generals from national advisory body](#) (2026-03-03 07:35)

Authorities gave no explanation for the ousters but they come as purges of military top brass pick up pace.

- [The little town making nearly all of China's lanterns](#) (2026-03-03 05:28)

A remarkable 80% of the country's lanterns are still made by hand in one small town in Hebei Province.

### Source: CGTN

- [Data transparency for green growth](#) (2026-03-09 03:12)

Data transparency for green growth

- [China's top procurator delivers work report to top legislature](#) (2026-03-09 02:11)

China's top procurator delivers work report to top legislature

- [China's chief justice delivers work report to top legislature](#) (2026-03-09 01:40)

China's chief justice delivers work report to top legislature

- [NPC deputy: China's maritime fleet and world-class ports lead globe](#) (2026-03-09 01:38)

China possesses the world's largest scale of maritime fleet and the world's largest cluster of world-class ports, said Ni Di, senior captain of China COSCO Shipping Corporation Ltd, on Monday.

- [China's CPI up 1.3% in February](#) (2026-03-09 01:33)

China's CPI up 1.3% in February

- [Xi Jinping attends plenary meeting of NPC annual session](#) (2026-03-09 00:59)

Xi Jinping attends plenary meeting of NPC annual session

- [China's top legislature starts 2nd plenary meeting of annual session](#) (2026-03-09 00:59)

China's top legislature starts 2nd plenary meeting of annual session

- [China's ambitious island-linking mega project](#) (2026-03-08 14:01)

China's ambitious island-linking mega project

- [10 outstanding women honored as China celebrates Intl Women's Day](#) (2026-03-08 13:58)

Ten outstanding women have been honored in China for their remarkable contributions, with their meritorious deeds made public as the country celebrates International Women's Day on Sunday.

- [Tibetan artists bring folk extravaganza to Hubei](#) (2026-03-08 09:03)

Artists from a folk art troupe in Shigatse, Xizang presented a grand celebration at the Xiangyunwan Cultural and Tourist Scenic Area in Hubei Province.

- [NPC deputy calls for dedicated law on special education](#) (2026-03-08 08:53)

On the sidelines of the 14th National People's Congress, CGTN's Yang Yan spoke with deputy Wang Jiapeng, the founder of United World College Changshu China, which brings together students from over 100 countries.

- [China travel: Easy to get around](#) (2026-03-08 08:48)

China's extensive public transportation network and ride-hailing apps make it easy for international visitors to get around.

- [China travel: Easy payments](#) (2026-03-08 08:47)

China offers multiple payment options for international visitors. From cash and credit cards to mobile payments, travelers can choose whichever method they prefer.

- [China travel: Easier entry](#) (2026-03-08 08:45)

China's expanding visa-free policy and streamlined entry procedures are drawing more international visitors.

- [CGTN Poll: Majority of Americans value stable ties with China](#) (2026-03-08 08:10)

A recent CGTN survey of 2,001 American respondents shows broad consensus that maintaining overall stability and positive momentum in bilateral relations is vital, with strong public expectation for deeper mutually beneficial cooperation and expanded exchanges between the two countries.

- [How China helps build a world where women thrive and shine](#) (2026-03-08 06:46)

How China helps build a world where women thrive and shine

- [Su Yiming attends first training session since Milano Cortina 2026](#) (2026-03-08 05:56)

Su Yiming attends first training session since Milano Cortina 2026

- [China and India must uphold good-neighborliness and friendship](#) (2026-03-08 04:04)

China and India must uphold good-neighborliness and friendship

- [Chinese FM stresses building community with shared future](#) (2026-03-08 03:39)

Chinese FM stresses building community with shared future

- [Taiwan never was, is not and never will be a country, Wang Yi says](#) (2026-03-08 03:31)

"Taiwan has been an integral part of China since ancient times. It never was, is not, and never will be a country," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

- [Chinese FM stresses peace, cooperation, friendship in South China Sea](#) (2026-03-08 03:28)

Chinese FM stresses peace, cooperation, friendship in South China Sea

- [Future of China-Japan relations hinges on Japan's choice, Wang Yi says](#) (2026-03-08 03:21)

Future of China-Japan relations hinges on Japan's choice, Wang Yi says

- [Wang Yi says China-Africa friendship demonstrates strong vitality](#) (2026-03-08 03:17)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday reaffirmed the enduring strength of China-Africa ties, noting that the tradition of beginning the diplomatic year with a visit to Africa has been upheld rain or shine for 36 consecutive years – a commitment he said reflects the spirit of China's foreign policy.

- [Wang Yi: China-LAC cooperation is about mutual help and support](#) (2026-03-08 03:07)

The resources of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) belong to the people who live there, the path of LAC countries should be chosen by their people and the choice of friends is a decision for LAC countries alone, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

- [Wang Yi says China will never seek hegemony as strength grows](#) (2026-03-08 03:02)

Wang Yi says China will never seek hegemony as strength grows

- [Wang Yi: Two-state solution only way to resolve Palestinian question](#) (2026-03-08 03:02)

Wang Yi: Two-state solution only way to resolve Palestinian question

- [Wang Yi on China-Europe ties: Intertwined interests are not threats](#) (2026-03-08 02:52)

Wang Yi on China-Europe ties: Intertwined interests are not threats

- [Chinese FM stresses protection of Chinese nationals overseas](#) (2026-03-08 02:48)

Chinese FM stresses protection of Chinese nationals overseas

- [Chinese FM: Global South key driving force to promote multipolar world](#) (2026-03-08 02:46)

The Global South has become a key driving force to promote a multipolar world, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a press conference on Sunday on the sidelines of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress.

- [China always prioritizes neighboring countries on diplomatic agenda](#) (2026-03-08 02:42)

China always prioritizes neighboring countries on diplomatic agenda

- [China, US should uphold mutual respect, FM says](#) (2026-03-08 02:37)

China, US should uphold mutual respect, FM says

- [China-proposed GGI could not be more timely, FM says](#) (2026-03-08 02:36)

China-proposed GGI could not be more timely, FM says

- [Wang Yi: China rejects use of force, promotes peaceful settlement](#) (2026-03-08 02:32)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that China calls for an immediate stop to military operations in the Middle East to prevent further escalation and avoid the spillover of the conflict.

- [APEC Shenzhen will focus on openness, innovation and cooperation](#) (2026-03-08 02:28)

China's commitment to growing together with the Asia-Pacific region is unwavering, and China will translate the goal of building an Asia-Pacific community into action, and turn its blueprint into reality, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

- [Wang Yi hails head-of-state diplomacy as anchor of Chinese diplomacy](#) (2026-03-08 02:17)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi Sunday highlighted the pivotal role of head-of-state diplomacy in shaping the country's foreign policy, describing it as the "anchor" of China's diplomacy.

- [Wang Yi: China-Russia ties resilient despite external pressure](#) (2026-03-08 02:17)

Working back-to-back lies at the heart of this relationship. And the strong strategic resilience enables it to defy any external instigation or pressure.

- [Key takeaways: Wang Yi on Middle East, US ties and multipolarity](#) (2026-03-08 02:01)

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the growing influence of the Global South, as well as China's commitment to multilateralism and cooperation and a "big year" for engagement with the United States featured prominently as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi took questions from the press in Beijing on Sunday.

- [Filmmaker Deng Lu: Let the storm rage even harder](#) (2026-03-08 01:52)

Filmmaker Deng Lu: Let the storm rage even harder

- [China cautions Nexperia over risks to chip supply chain](#) (2026-03-08 01:20)

China cautions Nexperia over risks to chip supply chain

- [Sunday Dare, Special Adviser to Nigerian President speaks with CGTN](#) (2026-03-07 21:20)

China and Nigeria first established relations in 1971. More than 50 years later that partnership resulted in nearly \$23 billion in bi-lateral trade last year.

- [China to advance high-level opening up, welcomes foreign investment](#) (2026-03-07 15:13)

China reaffirmed its commitment to high-level opening up on Saturday, with officials from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) pledging more market access and a better financial environment for foreign investors.

- [How China built a modern landmark for Confucius](#) (2026-03-07 14:32)

How China built a modern landmark for Confucius

- [Chinese leaders attend deliberations at annual legislative session](#) (2026-03-07 14:24)

Senior Chinese leaders on Saturday attended deliberations at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), the national legislature.

- [China sees surge in sci-tech achievements during 14th Five-Year Plan](#) (2026-03-07 13:48)

China sees surge in sci-tech achievements during 14th Five-Year Plan

- [Global influencers visit China's homegrown C919 large passenger jet](#) (2026-03-07 13:24)

Global influencers visit China's homegrown C919 large passenger jet

- [Five AI buzzwords from China's government work report](#) (2026-03-07 12:24)

Five AI buzzwords from China's government work report

- [From tea to heritage, Macao showcases tourism beyond casinos in London](#) (2026-03-07 12:04)

From tea to heritage, Macao showcases tourism beyond casinos in London

- [When war threatens civilization: Iran's cultural heritage at risk](#) (2026-03-06 08:11)

As military conflicts in the Middle East continue to escalate, Iran, Israel, Qatar and Bahrain have successively announced the closure of key museums and cultural venues. A quiet emergency effort to safeguard humanity's cultural heritage is unfolding under the shadow of war.

## Source: China Defense Blog

- [Why does the PLA still issue rectangular shields?](#) (2026-03-09 00:45)

Given that the Chinese rectangular shield seems cumbersome on today's fast moving, high tech, drone dominated battlefield, one might wonder why the PLA continues to issue it at the infantry level? The explanation is likely very simpler: these shields can be bundled together as a windbreaker. Monday, November 04, 2024 PLA heavy infantry update Finally, the PLA

- [Naval Aviation Aircraft Of The Day: Y-5 Transport](#) (2026-03-07 03:48)

While the PLAAF's operation of the Y-5 transport is well known, it may come as a surprise that the PLAN Naval Aviation also continues to field this updated variant of the Antonov An-2 'Colt.' A remarkably enduring aircraft, it's still going strong. At the same time J-35 as well. Talking about an age gap Sunday, December 01, 2024 Y-5 biplane said

- [They did it, they finally did it. Type59 MBT chassis with a Type99a Turret](#) (2026-03-07 02:11)

There aren't many additional details available beyond the photos provided. As for the intended users, there are currently no known examples of the Type 99A MBT being exported. If this vehicle is truly meant for the export market, one would expect the manufacturer to consider fitting it with a VT-4/MBT-3000 turret, given that platform's recent export successes Monday, January 05, 2026

- [Kilo Class, Boat 365](#) (2026-03-05 05:31)

Kilo 877EKM pennant 365 was imported from Russia, arrived in 1995, and decommissioned in 2021. During her service life she saw relatively limited operational use, spending long periods

undergoing refits. One major focus of these refits was the integration of Chinese-made communication and electrical subsystems. A notable example is the installation of the H/ZQQ-5 photoelectric mast, which

- [PLAN Support Ship Of The Day: Type 927 Nuclear Submarine Rescue](#) (2026-03-03 04:13)

Without much fanfare, a new Chinese Navy, PLAN Nuclear Submarine Rescue class, surfaced (pun, of course, intended). The Type 927 class represents the latest generation of China's large-scale submarine rescue vessels, with 2 already commissioned in 2023/24 and a third expected, designed to support nuclear-powered submarine operations and enhance deep-sea rescue capabilities. The 841 Xihu (

## Source: China | The Guardian

- [The half-abandoned Japanese island at the heart of tensions with China](#) (2026-03-09 00:54)

Kasasa island, in the Seto Inland Sea, has only seven residents but its fate is strongly intertwined with relations between Tokyo and Beijing. His island home is shrouded in mist, but his union jack woolly hat makes Hideya Yagi easy to spot as he greets the approaching boat. The 80-year-old, a former president of a construction company, is pleased to see the small group of passengers disembark, mainly because he is one of only seven registered residents at their destination, Kasasa island. Kasasa is known as the "Hawaii" of Japan's inland sea because of its warm climate and beautiful coastline. Yagi and his wife, Mihoko, eke out a quiet life alongside just one other couple and an elderly woman. The other two residents are almost always absent. Continue reading...

- [The Guardian view on EV charging: China took the right lessons from Britain's past | Editorial](#) (2026-03-08 17:25)

Megawatt fast EV charging reflects a coordinated grid strategy the UK once used. Privatisation and fragmentation now make that infrastructure far harder to build. The future of electric cars arrived this week in China. The world's biggest car seller, BYD, unveiled a new battery giving its latest electric models more than 600 miles of range. Remarkably, the Chinese motor-maker said 250 miles of range could be injected into its new batteries in just five minutes. If true, the last remaining advantages of petrol cars – long range and quick refuelling – are beginning to disappear. But such technology requires megawatt charging points. A single charger can draw as much power as a small town in Britain. BYD's system relies on chargers delivering around 1.5 megawatts of electricity – more than four times the fastest chargers in the UK. China is moving fast, planning thousands of megawatt charging stations within two years. Continue reading...

- [China's foreign minister says Iran war 'should never have happened'](#) (2026-03-08 07:16)

Wang Yi cautioned against a return to the ‘law of the jungle’ but stopped short of criticising Trump directly. War in the Middle East “should never have happened”, China’s foreign minister Wang Yi has declared, even as he struck a more conciliatory tone with the US ahead of a highly anticipated visit by Donald Trump. Regime change, a key stated aim of the US president as the US and Israel continue to attack Iran, “will find no popular support”, Wang said on Sunday. “A strong fist does not mean strong reason. The world cannot return to the law of the jungle,” he added. Continue reading...

- [Families of MH370 victims call for search extension, 12 years after Malaysia Airlines jet vanished](#) (2026-03-08 05:58)

Families of those onboard urge Malaysian government to extend contract with deep-sea exploration firm. Families of those aboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on Sunday urged the Malaysian government to extend a contract it signed with deep-sea exploration firm Ocean Infinity to continue a search for the aircraft that disappeared 12 years ago. The Boeing 777 was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew when it vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March, 2014, becoming one of the world’s enduring aviation mysteries. Continue reading...

- [Police search home of former Labour MP’s husband amid China spying investigation](#) (2026-03-06 19:36)

James Robinson, husband of Gloria De Piero, says police visited their home with a warrant but he has not been detained or questioned. The husband of former Labour MP Gloria De Piero has confirmed his home was searched on Wednesday as part of a police investigation into an alleged Chinese spying ring. James Robinson, a former aide to the ex-Labour deputy leader Tom Watson, issued a statement confirming the raid on the home he shares with his wife, but said he had not been detained or questioned by police. Continue reading...

- [Paul Keating savages Nine on anniversary of ‘irresponsible prediction’ Australia faced looming China war](#) (2026-03-06 07:59)

The ‘Red Alert’ series warned in 2023 that Australia needed to be ‘ready to fight in just three years’ – and Keating has again taken his fight to the newspaper group. Follow our Australia news live blog for latest updates. Get our breaking news email, free app or daily news podcast. Paul Keating has again accused the Sydney Morning Herald and the Age of misleading the public with their “irresponsible prediction” three years ago of a Chinese attack on Australia. The former prime minister took the opportunity of the third anniversary of Nine newspapers’ Red Alert series to repeat his disdain for the reporting and its primary author, international editor Peter Hartcher. Continue reading...

- [Jimmy Lai will not appeal conviction, paving way for political negotiations over release](#) (2026-03-06 04:09)

Decision marks end of years-long legal saga for 78-year-old critic of Chinese Communist party Jimmy Lai, the prominent pro-democracy activist who was recently sentenced to 20 years in prison in Hong Kong, has said he will not appeal his conviction. The decision marks the end of a years-long legal saga for the 78-year-old critic of the Chinese Communist party (CCP), and opens the door for political negotiations to his release. Continue reading...

- [Jimmy Lai and the rule of law in Hong Kong | Letter](#) (2026-03-05 17:08)

Bi Haibo of the Chinese embassy in the UK responds to an editorial Regarding your editorial (The Guardian view on Jimmy Lai: what Britain's caution says about its relationship to Beijing's power, 10 February), I wish to make the following points.

First, Jimmy Lai is by no means the “defender of democracy” portrayed in some western media narratives, but a principal figure behind the turmoil in Hong Kong. He was a key planner and participant in a series of anti-China incidents aimed at destabilising Hong Kong, and served as an agent and pawn of external anti-China forces. What he has done would constitute criminal offences in any country and must be punished in accordance with the law.

Second, Hong Kong returned to China in 1997, and the Sino-British Joint Declaration has long fulfilled its historical mission. The constitutional and legal basis for the Chinese government's governance of Hong Kong lies in China's constitution and Hong Kong's basic law. Since the enactment of the National Security Law in 2020, Hong Kong has restored stability, and the rights and freedoms of residents are better protected in a more secure environment.

Third, Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs, and Hong Kong's judiciary does not allow external interference. Moreover, China does not recognise dual nationality. Jimmy Lai is regarded in Hong Kong solely as a Chinese citizen.

We urge the Guardian to respect China's sovereignty and the rule of law in Hong Kong and to report on related issues in an objective and fair-minded manner.

Bi Haibo

Spokesperson, Chinese embassy in the UK Continue reading...

- [Donald Trump insists there are no wind farms in China. Here are 20 of them – in pictures](#) (2026-03-05 17:01)

The US president has made the easily debunked claim that there are no wind farms in China Continue reading...

- [China sets lowest GDP growth target for decades as it braces for economic slowdown](#) (2026-03-05 05:47)

‘High-quality growth’ target of 4.5-5% outlined at Two Sessions as Chinese premier talks of complex situations at home and abroad What are China's Two Sessions and why do they

matter? China has set its target for GDP growth to a record low of 4.5-5%, the first time since 1991 that the figure has dropped below 5%, reflecting an economic strategy that is shifting away from export-led growth to a model that leaders hope will be more resilient to external shocks. Li Qiang, China's premier, announced the target for 2026 in the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's annual parliamentary gathering, which began on Thursday. Continue reading...

- [Will China own the green energy future? – podcast](#) (2026-03-05 05:00)

The conflict in the Middle East has sent energy prices soaring, and for countries that import a high proportion of their fuel, it's a reminder of the perils of energy dependence. As the recipient of almost 90% of Iran's crude oil, China knows this only too well. Which partly explains why the country spent the last decade heavily investing in clean power. To find out what else could be driving the strategy, Madeleine Finlay speaks to senior China correspondent Amy Hawkins. And energy correspondent Jillian Ambrose reflects on how China's ambitions could affect the rest of the world. Support the Guardian: [theguardian.com/sciencepod](https://theguardian.com/sciencepod) Continue reading...

- [A Europe of clean, green cities and resurgent industry is a fantasy – unless we get really creative | Hans Larsson](#) (2026-03-05 05:00)

If we want things to be 'Made in Europe' again, we need to be realistic about how grimy and grey our centres of commerce once were. "Bitterfeld, Bitterfeld, where dirt falls from the sky," went a popular saying. Located in the intensely industrialised Chemical Triangle of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), in the 1980s Bitterfeld became known as the dirtiest town in Europe. Its chemical industry and lignite mines dumped toxic waste in waterways, and the air carried a concentrate of sulphur dioxide some 40 times today's levels. Europe would soon be rattled out of its postwar reliance on heavy industry, in favour of cheap imports from abroad. In the last days of the GDR, environmental activism brought the coup de grâce. The 1988 release of the undercover film *Bitter Things from Bitterfeld* shed light on the appalling living conditions in the Chemical Triangle, and the city's chemical plants were soon decommissioned. Hans Larsson is an architect at OMA/AMO. Continue reading...

- [Why does Yao Ming, the 7ft 6in ex-basketballer, attend China's Two Sessions meetings?](#) (2026-03-05 01:56)

Among the 3,000 delegates is former athlete who sits as an independent on the National People's Congress. What are China's Two Sessions and why do they matter? More generals purged as gather in Beijing. Among the generally drab lineup of mostly middle-aged men in suits who make up the nearly 3,000 delegates to the National People's Congress (NPC), China's parliament, a few stand out. There are delegates from China's 55 official ethnic minority groups, who often arrive dressed in traditional outfits rather than western-style suits. There are military members, identifiable by their uniforms. And then there is Yao Ming, the 7ft and 6in tall retired basketball player who, towering over every other person in the Great Hall of the People,

is hard to miss. Continue reading...

- [Gen Z flocks to Chinese medicine as trust in US health system plummets: ‘It’ s so personalized to being human’](#) (2026-03-04 15:00)

As Americans embrace ‘alternative’ remedies, people online joke that they’ re ‘Chinamaxxing’ their wellness routines. Did you drink ice water today? If you did, that was “not very Chinese of you” , according to Sherry Zhu, a 23-year-old Chinese American creator based in New Jersey. If you were really serious about “becoming Chinese” , you would be sipping hot water every day, she warned in a TikTok video with millions of views. “I really do feel like, digestion-wise, a lot better when I’ m drinking hot water,” she later explained to GQ. Zhu’ s guidance is taken from traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), a health system that dates back 5,000 years and offers a holistic approach to treating symptoms – physically, emotionally and spiritually. Other creators of Chinese descent have their own TCM hacks: keep your feet warm and your periods will be more bearable. Drink tea made with goji berries, jujubes and ginger as a cure-all. Move your body every day to promote the flow of qi, or internal energy. “Do my Chinese baddie routine with me,” they caption their videos in half-authoritative, half-joking tones. “Advice from your Chinese big sister.” Continue reading...

- [From the archive: China’ s troll king: how a tabloid editor became the voice of Chinese nationalism – podcast](#) (2026-03-04 05:00)

We are raiding the Guardian long read archives to bring you some classic pieces from years past, with new introductions from the authors. This week, from 2022: Hu Xijin is China’ s most famous propagandist. At the Global Times, he helped establish a chest-thumping new tone for China on the world stage – but can he keep up with the forces he has unleashed? By Han Zhang. Read by Emily Woo Zeller. Continue reading...

- [China’ s Two Sessions: what are the meetings and why do they matter?](#) (2026-03-03 23:50)

Annual political gathering kicks off this week in Beijing with the economy, technology and the military high on the agenda. More generals purged as Chinese delegates gather for event. China’ s annual Two Sessions meetings begin this week, with thousands of political and community delegates descending on Beijing from across mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau to ratify legislation, personnel changes and the budget over about two weeks of highly choreographed meetings. Continue reading...

- [China calls for vessels in strait of Hormuz to be protected amid soaring shipping costs](#) (2026-03-03 17:19)

Beijing’ s foreign ministry urges ‘all parties’ to avoid escalation as number of crossings drops 60% in one day. How escalating Iran conflict is driving up oil and gas prices – a visual guide. Business live – latest updates. The Chinese government has called for vessels passing through the strait of Hormuz to be protected by all sides in the escalating Iran conflict, as shipping freight rates soared. Maritime traffic through the strait – a narrow channel on Iran’ s

southern border that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman – has effectively been closed since the US and Israel launched missile attacks on Iran at the weekend, prompting a retaliation from Tehran. Continue reading...

- [‘Imperialist undertones’ : global south condemns US-Israeli war with Iran](#) (2026-03-03 13:11)

China calls it unacceptable to ‘kill leader of sovereign state’ , while South Africa questions ‘pre-emptive’ justificationMiddle East crisis – live updatesThe US-Israeli war on Iran has been condemned as illegal across much of the global south, with China saying it was unacceptable to “blatantly kill the leader of a sovereign state” .Many countries objected that negotiations between the US and Iran over its nuclear programme and missile capability were not given a chance to succeed before Washington and Israel began bombing, and analysts often saw the war in terms of a colonial-style exercise of might. Continue reading...

- [Trump’ s show of force in the Middle East creates a weakness China can exploit](#) (2026-03-03 04:36)

Beijing can again leverage its critical minerals dominance over an increasingly busy US military, as Taiwan slides further down the White House list of prioritiesUS-Israel war on Iran – live updatesAs the US and Israel opened a new chapter of chaos in the Middle East, China stands to benefit from a Washington establishment that does not have the political or physical resources to focus on Asia.Officially, China has condemned the attacks. Wang Yi, the foreign minister, called them “unacceptable” and called for a ceasefire, rhetoric that is typical of Beijing in response to Donald Trump’ s increasingly erratic foreign policy moves. Continue reading...

- [China’ s Two Sessions to reveal Xi’ s economic and defence plans as military purge casts shadow](#) (2026-03-03 01:44)

Top politicians will gather to set growth target with focus on technology self-reliance amid rising US competitionThousands of delegates will arrive in Beijing this week for China’ s annual Two Sessions, one of the most important events in the country’ s political calendar and a rare opportunity for the global media to see Beijing’ s top lawmakers up close.The Two Sessions” are concurrent gatherings of the National People’ s Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People’ s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an advisory body. Continue reading...

- [Weather tracker: February temperature records broken in France and Spain](#) (2026-03-02 10:51)

Warmth was result of high pressure developing across central Europe, which brought southerly windsThe end of winter brought unseasonably high temperatures across much of Europe but particularly so in northern Spain and south-west France as numerous February temperatures records were broken.Cities across Nouvelle-Aquitaine and the Basque Country, including Bordeaux, Bilbao and San Sebastián, matched or exceeded their long-term February records, with temperatures of 27.1C and 27.6C recorded in Bilbao and San Sebastián on Wednesday,

more than 13C above average for the time of year. Continue reading...

## Source: China - Foreign Policy

- [How the Iran War Could Consolidate China's Energy Dominance](#) (2026-03-06 22:25)

Amid global oil and gas disruptions, China stands prepared for the electrostate era.

- [Disapproval for Iran War Among Experts Is Sky-High](#) (2026-03-06 19:06)

A poll of IR scholars reveals strong opposition to the conflict and fears about its risks.

- [China Won't Play Security Patron for Iran](#) (2026-03-06 15:55)

Beijing doesn't want to imitate the United States' alliance obligations.

- [Why Aren't Energy Markets Reacting More to the Iran War?](#) (2026-03-05 17:57)

Each day of war that passes adds to the physical risks to global oil and gas, but so far markets have basically shrugged.

- [On Iran, China Cares About the Region More Than the Regime](#) (2026-03-05 10:00)

Beijing won't risk its broader Middle East interests to save the Islamic Republic.

- [How China Sees the War in Iran](#) (2026-03-03 22:32)

Beijing is an unentangled superpower—but one with key interests at stake.

- [A Middle Powers Club Would Make the World More Dangerous](#) (2026-03-03 15:35)

Mark Carney's tour of the Indo-Pacific this week is a rousing show of defiance, but it may have unintended effects.

## Source: Financial Times China

- [China said it ended poverty. Did it?](#) (2026-03-09 05:00)

The country has lifted more than 700mn people out of indigence, but some doubt Xi Jinping's claim that the mission is complete

- [China's growth target is a global problem](#) (2026-03-09 04:00)

Beijing's export offensive could be more destabilising than Trump's tariffs

- [China consumer prices buoyed by oil surge and lunar new year](#) (2026-03-09 03:14)

Deflationary pressures ease as AI-related spending rises and Beijing clamps down on overcapacity

- [China signals it wants a Trump visit despite Iran war](#) (2026-03-08 07:20)

Foreign minister Wang Yi says Beijing ‘positive and open’ on this month’s summit between the US and Chinese presidents

- [The last of Hong Kong’s colonial-era trainee schemes](#) (2026-03-07 05:00)

Swire defends management model that critics argue is outdated and inefficient

- [Ships in Gulf declare themselves Chinese to dodge attack](#) (2026-03-06 18:20)

At least 10 vessels have changed transponder messages in apparent attempt to avoid becoming targets

- [UK police search home of lobbyist and ex-Labour MP in China spy probe](#) (2026-03-06 17:17)

James Robinson, husband of former Labour MP Gloria De Piero, disclosed the search on Friday

- [US investors push for special funds to avoid Chinese tech](#) (2026-03-06 05:00)

Institutional clients increasingly want so-called parallel funds that exclude certain assets

- [Asia’s big economies brace for Iran war energy shock](#) (2026-03-06 01:52)

Some of the world’s biggest fuel importers rush to secure oil and gas supplies as Middle East conflict chokes flow

- [China sets cautious climate goals in five-year plan as coal remains core](#) (2026-03-05 17:25)

‘Underwhelming’ target leaves room for increase in energy and industry emissions in years to 2030, experts say

- [China spy case exposes new electoral hazards of foreign policy](#) (2026-03-05 09:30)

Allegations against former Labour advisers shake a government compelled to engage with world’s second-largest economy

- [Nvidia refocuses TSMC capacity as export controls stall China sales](#) (2026-03-05 05:00)

US group moves production away from H200s intended for Chinese market to latest Vera Rubin products

- [China warns of ‘challenges’ as it sets lowest GDP growth target in decades](#) (2026-03-05 00:22)

Figure given at annual meeting of parliament as Beijing prepares to release new five-year plan

- [Labour MP' s partner among 3 arrested in UK on suspicion of spying for China](#)

(2026-03-04 15:04)

London' s Metropolitan Police said officers had searched addresses in London, Wales and East Kilbride

- [Pair 'took law into their own hands' in spying for Hong Kong, court told](#) (2026-03-04 14:42)

Two British-Chinese nationals, including former UK Border Force official, accused of undertaking surveillance

- [Smith & Nephew 'well equipped' to ride out tariff uncertainty, chief says](#) (2026-03-04 14:31)

Deepak Nath confident medical device maker can weather drop in revenues from China and war in Middle East

- [Iran crisis sends European gas prices soaring](#) (2026-03-04 05:00)

The spiralling Middle East conflict sparked by US-Israeli strikes on Iran has roiled energy markets.

- [China' s elite pushes for overtime curbs and public holiday to tackle low birth rate](#) (2026-03-04 04:49)

Delegates pitch cash handouts to country' s 1.4bn people as Communist party leaders gather in Beijing

- [China to lean on Russian oil as Iran crisis chokes supply](#) (2026-03-04 04:00)

Energy disruption set to force Xi Jinping closer to Vladimir Putin and to mull drawing on reserves

- [Trump administration debates allowing Tencent to keep its gaming investments](#) (2026-03-04 00:27)

Chinese company' s investments in 'Fortnite' creator Epic Games and other creators have faced long-running US security review

- [China prepares landmark law curtailing minority language rights](#) (2026-03-03 05:00)

Bill to 'promote ethnic unity' by mandating Mandarin use would hasten decline of other cultures, critics say

- [China' s high-rise hog farms go international](#) (2026-03-03 02:15)

Livestock producers tout benefits of rearing pigs in multistorey buildings

- [BYD' s February sales fall by most since pandemic](#) (2026-03-02 07:39)

Hit to Chinese EV champion marks striking change from years of largely uninterrupted growth

## Source: New York Times China

- [For China, Billions of Dollars Are at Risk From a Widening War](#) (2026-03-09 04:32)

The country found a home in the Middle East for its investments and growing markets for steel, electric vehicles and solar panels. Those are now at stake.

- [A Loose Band of Emerging Powers Is Divided Over Iran](#) (2026-03-08 09:12)

Brazil, China and Russia all denounced the U.S.-Israeli attacks, but other nations in the BRICS group haven't, even though Iran is a fellow member.

- [For Xi, Trump's Embrace of War Proves China Needs More Power](#) (2026-03-07 05:15)

China is learning lessons from the war in Iran. Chief among them, the United States may pose an even greater threat than Beijing thought.

- [Trump Calls On Private Companies to Take On a Bigger Role in Cyber](#) (2026-03-07 04:36)

In his National Cybersecurity Strategy, President Trump sought an expanded role for private firms in cyberwarfare. He did not take on China or Russia in the document.

- [From 1991: Suicide of Jiang Qing, Mao's Widow, Is Reported](#) (2026-03-06 16:52)

A former actress who grew up in poverty, she was one of the most hated women in modern Chinese history for her role in the Cultural Revolution.

- [3 Australians Were on U.S. Submarine That Sank an Iranian Warship](#) (2026-03-06 12:00)

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's disclosure about the attack in the Indian Ocean prompted concern that Australia's close military cooperation with the United States could draw it into the fighting in the Middle East.

- [The Good Times Are Over in China's Liquor Capital](#) (2026-03-06 05:00)

Once celebrated for its fiery spirits, the town of Maotai has reeled from a bad Chinese economy, changing tastes and a crackdown on boozy official banquets.

- [Britain Arrests a Lawmaker's Husband on Suspicion of Spying for China](#) (2026-03-05 23:22)

Joani Reid, a Labour member of parliament, said she had never "seen anything to suspect" her husband had broken the law. The Metropolitan Police said three men were arrested under the National Security Act.

- [Iran's Friends Include China and Russia. But Where are They Now?](#) (2026-03-05 10:04)

Iran maintains ties with a range of countries, including Turkey, India, Russia and China. Yet in this war, their support is mostly rhetoric.

- [In a Riskier Era, China Bets on Technology to Resist U.S. Pressure](#) (2026-03-05 05:44)

China announced a 7 percent increase in military spending and a five-year plan to try to reduce its military and industry' s reliance on Western technology.

- [China Sets Economy' s Growth Target Below 5% for First Time in Decades](#) (2026-03-05 05:05)

The goal, announced at a gathering of Communist Party leaders, was the lowest since 1991 and can offer clues about China' s policymaking plans.

- [Ford and G.M. Face a Dilemma as China Excels in Electric Vehicles](#) (2026-03-03 10:06)

General Motors, Ford and other established automakers risk becoming relics if they don' t catch up to Chinese carmakers and technology companies in electric vehicles and self-driving cars.

- [U.S. Attacks on Iran Test Fragile Truce With China](#) (2026-03-03 09:11)

Beijing has condemned the U.S.-backed strikes on Iran, a close partner. Yet with trade talks looming, it is unlikely to risk a rupture with Washington.

- [Beyond a Trade War, China, Japan and Others in Asia Face a New Energy Threat](#) (2026-03-02 12:00)

China and its neighbors scrambled to soften the blow of a disorderly trade war. Conflict in the Middle East now threatens to disrupt the oil imports that power their economies.

- [In Alysia Liu and Eileen Gu, China and America See a Mirror Image](#) (2026-03-02 05:01)

The Olympic athletes are the subject of uncomfortable public comparisons that present online narratives that overlap more than both sides may realize.

- [China' s Parents Are Outsourcing the Homework Grind to A.I.](#) (2026-03-02 05:01)

Parents in China are turning to A.I. chatbots and other tools to help their children gain an edge and ease the fighting over homework.

## Source: South China Morning Post

- [The Philippines says its communist rebels are defeated – but are they?](#) (2026-03-09 06:00)

The mountains of the Philippines are quieter now. The jungle bases that once sustained Asia' s longest-running communist insurgency are mostly emptied out. Its tens of thousands of guerrilla fighters have been reduced, by the military' s account, to something “very, very

negligible” . After 56 years, the Philippine military thinks the fight is almost over – and that conviction is transforming the armed forces from the inside out. Commanders are overhauling training and strategy, moving away from...

- [China ‘city of humour’ is only place in nation with safety road signs warning drivers against joking](#) (2026-03-09 06:00)

The northern Chinese city of Tianjin is the only place in the country that has road signs warning drivers not to make jokes while driving for their safety. The sign features a cartoon of a driver and a passenger cracking jokes, with a slogan that says “Making jokes while driving is a safety hazard” . It went viral after several tourists spotted it and posted it online, and came as a shock to both travellers and locals. “It is true that only Tianjin needs a sign like this,” said one tourist. A...

- [Former Apple Daily executive editor appeals 10-year sentence in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-09 05:51)

The former executive editor-in-chief of Hong Kong’s defunct Apple Daily newspaper, founded by Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, has lodged an appeal against his 10-year sentence imposed under the national security law. Lam Man-chung’s lawyer filed the application at the Court of Appeal on Friday, ahead of the statutory 28-day deadline for criminal appeals expiring on Monday. The 56-year-old is the second defendant to seek a reduced sentence after Fung Wai-kong, 62, managing editor of Apple Daily’s English...

- [Surcharges considered as Hong Kong fuel prices set to rise amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-09 05:39)

Hong Kong’s transport sector is considering a temporary fuel surcharge for deliveries as pump prices are expected to climb further this week amid rising Middle East tensions, industry representatives have said. Ringo Lee Yiu-pui, governor and honorary life president of the Hong Kong, China Automobile Association, said on Monday that fuel prices in the city had been climbing even though petrol retailers were still selling inventories bought before the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, which drove up...

- [Where things stand after another weekend of war in the Middle East](#) (2026-03-09 05:39)

Iran has named a son of its late supreme leader as his successor. US President Donald Trump already had expressed disdain for Mojtaba Khamenei, calling him “unacceptable” . The Islamic Republic’s war strategy now has a new commander, and the powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has pledged allegiance. Oil prices shot above US\$100 a barrel. Both sides in the war struck new targets over the weekend, including civilian ones. Bahrain accused Iran of hitting one of the desalination plants that...

- [Malaysia vows to hold petrol prices as oil nears US\\$100 a barrel amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-09 05:34)

Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Monday that his government would do whatever it took to keep RON95 petrol at 1.99 ringgit (50 US cents) per litre – even as the US-Israel war on Iran pushed global crude prices towards US\$100 a barrel. “We will do our best to ensure the price of RON95 remains at 1.99 ringgit so that the rakyat (common people) are not burdened,” he said at the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry's monthly assembly in Kuala Lumpur. The pledge comes as the...

- [‘Two sessions’ 2026](#) (2026-03-09 05:16)

To see every province-level region's growth target, click on this Quick Digest.

- [Hong Kong police arrest man over alleged indecent assault and fight](#) (2026-03-09 05:08)

A man has been arrested in Hong Kong for allegedly indecently assaulting a woman in a stairwell before fighting with her husband. Police said the incident occurred at about 12.54am on Monday in a stairwell outside a building on Apliu Street in Sham Shui Po. A 30-year-old woman surnamed Lai reported that she was indecently assaulted by a man. Her 34-year-old husband subsequently became involved in a dispute with the suspect. During the altercation, the husband was allegedly attacked by the man,...

- [Cathay fares surge, CUHK professor suspended in Australia: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-03-09 04:37)

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. As Iran war closes Middle East skies, how high can Cathay Pacific fares fly? 2. Rising star chip scientist Jiang Jianfeng leaves MIT for Peking University 3. Takeaways from Foreign Minister Wang Yi at China's 'two sessions' 4. Singapore real estate giants feel the heat amid China's property...

- [China's award-winning mathematician Wan Daqing leaves California for Chongqing](#) (2026-03-09 04:29)

For mathematical genius Wan Daqing, life is no longer a competition between China and the United States. Instead, he has encountered the rivalry of universities from different provinces seeking to appoint him. Wan, winner of China's highest mathematics prize, retired from the University of California at Irvine (UCI) in July and returned to China to take up his new role in December, he confirmed in an email to the South China Morning Post. The International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians...

- [China's consumer prices keep rising after holiday spending surge](#) (2026-03-09 04:08)

China's consumer prices rose during the first two months of the year as a longer-than-usual Chinese New Year holiday drove a surge in spending, though analysts cautioned that Beijing might need to implement stronger measures to boost demand to sustain the recovery. The national consumer price index (CPI), a crucial gauge of inflation, rose by 0.8 per cent year on

year during the January-February period, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday. Readings for...

- [US begins large military exercise with South Korea while attacking Iran](#) (2026-03-09 03:45)

The United States began a large military exercise with South Korea involving thousands of troops Monday while also waging an escalating war in the Middle East. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff has said about 18,000 Korean troops would take part in Freedom Shield, which runs through March 19. US Forces Korea has not confirmed the number of American troops participating in the training in South Korea. The allies' combined exercise comes amid South Korean media speculation that Washington is...

- [Malaysia's new plan to beat obesity: slash gym licence fees in Kuala Lumpur](#) (2026-03-09 02:30)

Malaysia has cut operating licence fees for gyms in Kuala Lumpur by 80 per cent, offering fitness operators a regulatory "carrot" as the government tries to push residents in one of Southeast Asia's heaviest countries to exercise more. The move comes as Malaysia grapples with some of the region's highest obesity rates – a problem health officials say is especially pronounced in sedentary urban centres such as the capital. Under the new Kuala Lumpur rate, in force from January 1, gyms now pay 10...

- [Why China's critical mineral dominance is still disrupting US supply chains](#) (2026-03-09 02:00)

American companies are grappling with a shortage of critical minerals used in daily operations despite China easing some of its export controls, according to industry insiders. After Beijing and Washington agreed to a so-called trade truce last November, the Ministry of Commerce issued a notice suspending a ban on shipments of gallium, germanium and antimony to the US for one year. But China's dominant position in the global market for these vital raw materials, including heavy rare earths,...

- [Hong Kong developers test home-market recovery by raising prices, trimming discounts](#) (2026-03-09 01:30)

Developers in Hong Kong are testing the housing market's recovery by nudging prices up or paring discounts as improving sentiment and a rebound in transactions boost confidence in the city's property sector. But analysts said the moves remained uneven, with many newly launched projects still offering sizeable concessions as developers continued to prioritise clearing unsold inventory accumulated during the market downturn. New World Development plans to cut the discount offered under the 120-day...

- [Beijing's message is clear: Hong Kong must shape up and speed up](#) (2026-03-09 01:30)

The annual "two sessions" in Beijing are under way, and this year the annual ritual of reading tea leaves in this city has been made easier for politics watchers. That is because Beijing has

been blunt about the problems it thinks our city faces. There is the usual praise for the HongKong government and Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu' s leadership. One striking difference is that Premier Li Qiang included in his annual work report, delivered at the opening session of the National People' s...

- [In world full of turmoil, China 'stands firm as a mountain' with compatriots](#)

(2026-03-09 01:00)

China has vowed to firmly safeguard its overseas interests – a core objective reaffirmed in its latest five-year plan – at a time when global volatility is testing supply chains and regional influence. Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that Beijing would continue to strengthen its capacity to protect Chinese interests and citizens abroad, put the people first, and develop a global system for security and risk prevention. According to analysts, his remarks reflect the growing pressures on...

- [Agility and adaptability are in Hong Kong' s DNA, former leader CY Leung says](#)

(2026-03-09 01:00)

Escalating geopolitical tensions will not derail Hong Kong' s goal set out in the country' s 15th five-year plan and its efforts to implement the blueprint, former leader Leung Chun-ying has said, describing agility and adaptability as in the city' s DNA. The vice-chairman of the Chinese People' s Political Consultative Conference, the country' s top political advisory body, also said that Beijing expected Hong Kong to serve national development more proactively, calling on the city to “step forward...

- [China girl writes farewell note, offers US\\$120 to pamper parents, highlights left-behind kids' lives](#)

(2026-03-09 01:00)

A little girl from central China has touched millions of hearts online with a handwritten farewell message and money for her parents as they left for work. Xinyu, a 10-year-old from Shangqiu, Henan province, is raised by her grandmother with her younger brother while her parents work in Suzhou, eastern China. According to mainland reports, her parents only return home once a year during the Spring Festival, which this year ran from February 15 to 23, the longest holiday in recent years. Before...

- [Fears over Exchange Fund discipline overblown: Hong Kong' s dollar peg architect](#)

(2026-03-09 00:00)

Hong Kong has adequate safeguards to prevent any misuse of the Exchange Fund, according to the economist known as the “father of the city' s dollar peg” , who called concerns over the government' s decision to draw from the de facto sovereign wealth fund “a little overblown” . John Greenwood said the government' s plan to transfer HK\$150 billion (US\$19.1 billion) from the fund – which plays an essential role in defending the Hong Kong dollar' s peg to the US dollar – would have no effect on the...

- [Japan’ s cultural treasures still exposed to fire risk as safety upgrades stall](#) (2026-03-09 00:00)

Japan’ s most treasured historic sites still lack upgraded fire protection, raising concerns that irreplaceable cultural landmarks remain vulnerable to another catastrophic blaze. Government data shows work has yet to begin at about 30 per cent of the cultural properties prioritised for stronger safeguards under a national programme to improve fire resistance at key heritage buildings created in the aftermath of the devastating blaze at Shuri Castle in Okinawa in 2019. The campaign, overseen by...

- [Why have China’ s arms imports plummeted by 72% over the past 5 years?](#) (2026-03-09 00:00)

Beijing’ s arms imports have nose-dived by nearly three-quarters over the past five years, as it has replaced overseas weapons purchases with domestic technology, according to a Swedish think tank report. However, other countries in the region have increased in their overseas weapons purchases amid “fears over China’ s intentions” . A report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released on Monday said countries in Asia and Oceania imported 31 per cent of the world’ s arms...

- [Kyiv protests against Moscow’ s participation in Venice Biennale art festival](#) (2026-03-08 22:43)

Ukrainian ministers launched a protest at plans to reopen the Russian pavilion at the Venice Biennale, in a statement published in Kyiv on Sunday. Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and Culture Minister Tetyana Berezhna called the admission of Russian artists to international events unacceptable and asked the organisers to reconsider their decision. After all, they had condemned Moscow’ s aggression soon after the start of Russia’ s war against Ukraine more than four years ago, they noted. “It is...

- [Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, son and successor to Iran’ s supreme leader?](#) (2026-03-08 22:19)

Born on September 8, 1969, in the holy city of Mashhad in eastern Iran, Mojtaba Khamenei is one of six children of the late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed just over a week ago at the age of 86 during US-Israeli air strikes. Mojtaba Khamenei was chosen by Iran’ s Assembly of Experts to succeed his father as supreme leader, in a sign that hardliners were still firmly in charge. Because of his discretion at official ceremonies and in the media, Mojtaba Khamenei’ s true...

- [How will the Iran turmoil affect China and its Middle East ties? Pan Guang weighs in](#) (2026-03-08 22:00)

Professor Pan Guang has spent decades focused on Jewish studies, the Middle East and its ties with China. Among his many roles, Pan is founding director of a research centre on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. For other interviews in the Open Questions series, click

here. Amid recent events in Iran, how do you assess the impact on China? Will China's "petroyuan" settlement encounter problems, and what of the risks to the Belt and Road Initiative's infrastructure assets? Overall, the...

- [Device thrown near New York anti-Islam protest was bomb: police](#) (2026-03-08 20:45)

A home-made explosive thrown near anti-Islam protesters outside the New York mayor's home was a viable device "that could have caused serious injury or death", police said on Sunday. Two suspicious devices were thrown by a man identified by police as Emir Balat near the protest on Saturday led by a far-right influencer to oppose public Muslim prayer. An Agence France-Presse correspondent at the scene heard Balat shout "Allahu akbar" ("God is the greatest") during the incident, which is under...

- [Weaponise EU market against China or face manufacturing collapse: official think tank](#) (2026-03-08 20:30)

The European Union has been urged to weaponise its giant market to draw concessions from China, whose economic fragility is making it increasingly reliant on rich export markets. A new report from the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), the EU's official think tank, said "China's weakness creates opportunities" for the bloc to use its chokepoints and leverage to bring Beijing to the negotiating table in a credible way. With the United States rapidly narrowing for Chinese...

- [3 people arrested after 44 injured in Peru nightclub bombing: officials](#) (2026-03-08 20:05)

Authorities in Peru on Sunday said they have arrested three people following the bombing of a nightclub as the number of those injured rose to 44. The explosion happened early on Saturday at the Dali nightclub in the city of Trujillo in La Libertad region, which has the largest gold-producing area in Peru and is rife with extortion and illegal mining. La Libertad Regional Health Management confirmed that those injured rose from 33 to 44, including three minors between the ages of 16 and 17. At...

- [Iran's Assembly of Experts announces Khamenei's son, Mojtaba, as new supreme leader](#) (2026-03-08 18:39)

Iran's Assembly of Experts announced Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of the slain Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as the country's new supreme leader on Sunday. In a lengthy statement, the assembly said that "after careful and extensive studies ... in today's extraordinary session, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei (may Allah protect him) is appointed and introduced as the third leader of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the decisive vote of the respected representatives of...

- [Starmer holds call with Trump to discuss war in Middle East after latest rebuke over Iran](#) (2026-03-08 17:23)

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Donald Trump held a call on Sunday about the Middle East war, the UK government said, after fierce criticism of the British premier by the US leader. Trump had insulted Starmer over the latter's initial refusal to have any role in the US-Israeli war with Iran, which began on February 28. "The leaders began by discussing the latest situation in the Middle East and the military cooperation between the UK and US through the use of RAF bases in...

- [Macron to visit Cyprus as France deploys warships to Mediterranean amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-08 16:54)

French President Emmanuel Macron will visit Cyprus on Monday, his office said, as France deploys warships to the Mediterranean following a drone attack on the island EU member days ago. Macron will meet Cypriot counterpart Nikos Christodoulides and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Paphos to show "solidarity" and detail moves to "strengthen security around Cyprus and in the eastern Mediterranean", the Elysee said on Sunday. The visit will take place as the war pitting US and Israel...

- [US activists, politicians rally on anniversary of civil rights march](#) (2026-03-08 15:28)

Sixty-one years after state troopers attacked Civil Rights marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, thousands are gathering in the Alabama city this weekend, amid new concerns about the future of the Voting Rights Act. The March 7, 1965, violence that became known as Bloody Sunday shocked the nation and helped spur passage of the landmark legislation that dismantled barriers to voting for Black Americans in the Jim Crow South. But this year's anniversary celebrations – events run all...

- [Is Trump's China trip still on? Despite Iran, Wang Yi sees potential](#) (2026-03-08 15:00)

The United States and China could still have a "big year" in bilateral ties despite Washington's ongoing strikes against Iran, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday, suggesting a planned visit to China by US President Donald Trump remained on track. Uncertainty has been mounting over Trump's planned meeting with President Xi Jinping – expected to start on March 31 – after US and Israeli forces last month launched major strikes on Iran, one of China's key strategic partners and oil...

- [Bangladesh rations fuel as US-Iran war stresses energy supplies](#) (2026-03-08 14:40)

Bangladesh began fuel rationing on Sunday as the war in the Middle East deepened an energy crunch, creating long queues at petrol stations and boiling over into anger. The country of 170 million people imports 95 per cent of its oil and gas needs. Following the US and Israeli attacks on Iran, and Tehran's retaliatory strikes throughout the Gulf, the national oil company, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), restricted fuel sales for most vehicles. Authorities capped fuel purchases for several...

- [Wang Yi to Europe: leave protectionist attic, join the China market gym](#) (2026-03-08 14:11)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged European leaders to abandon bloc politics and instead “join the gym” of the China market to build muscle and competitiveness. Speaking to the press in Beijing on Sunday, Wang characterised China-Europe economic and trade ties as complementary advantages, saying that “a dynamic balance is entirely within reach amid growing ties” . “Building fences and barriers will only lead to self-isolation,” he cautioned. “We would be happy to see our European friends...

- [Hongkonger forks out HK\\$11,000 to flee Dubai after 8 failed attempts](#) (2026-03-08 13:36)

Hongkonger Shirley Sung finally returned home on Sunday after being stranded in Dubai for a week and making eight failed attempts to secure a flight, ultimately paying HK\$11,000 (US\$1,406) to escape the Middle East conflict via Kuala Lumpur. The 30-year-old solo traveller, who had flown to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a wedding, found herself in a tense situation as she witnessed missile interceptions and sought shelter in a hotel car park during Tehran’ s retaliatory attacks amid US-Israel...

- [Iran strikes on desalination plants threaten Arab states’ water supplies](#) (2026-03-08 13:22)

As missiles and drones curtail energy production across the Persian Gulf, analysts warn that water, not oil, may be the resource most at risk in the energy-rich but arid region. Hundreds of desalination plants sit along the Persian Gulf coast, putting individual systems that supply water to millions within range of Iranian missile or drone strikes. Without them, major cities could not sustain their current populations. In Kuwait, about 90 per cent of drinking water comes from desalination, along...

- [What’ s wrong with a G2? Wang Yi lays out China’ s case against great-power rivalry](#) (2026-03-08 12:59)

China’ s top diplomat has cast his country as “an irreplaceable mainstay” amid global upheaval, rejecting any suggestion of a US-China G2 duopoly for global co-leadership as a replay of disastrous great-power rivalries. Instead, against the backdrop of the escalating Iran conflict and Washington’ s renewed trade wars, Wang Yi renewed Beijing’ s call for a post-hegemonic order anchored in the United Nations, advocating an “equal and orderly multipolar world” that transcended bloc confrontation and...

- [Hong Kong police boost checks at Tai Po fire block after jewellery theft arrests](#) (2026-03-08 12:58)

Hong Kong police will impose a HK\$500 (US\$63) cash limit on construction workers and conduct searches using metal detectors under new security measures at Wang Fuk Court, after three labourers were arrested on suspicion of stealing jewellery while carrying out structural reinforcement work at the blaze-hit Tai Po estate. Police Commissioner Joe Chow Yat-ming revealed on Sunday that reinforcement work at the estate, which had been temporarily suspended following the incident, would resume on...

- [2 more suspects arrested over HK\\$10 million knifepoint robbery in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-08 12:58)

Hong Kong police have arrested two more suspects in connection with a HK\$10 million (US\$1.28 million) knifepoint robbery in Sheung Wan last week. Following further investigation, officers on Saturday arrested a 23-year-old man in northern Lantau and a 17-year-old boy in Ngau Tau Kok on suspicion of conspiracy to commit robbery, a police spokesman said. Together with three suspects aged 19 to 31 who were taken into custody on Friday, all five individuals have been charged with one count of...

- [Nuclear-armed North Korea is pivoting from reunification to coexistence](#) (2026-03-08 12:30)

The North Korea that leaves the ninth Workers' Party Congress is a different country from the one that left the eighth congress in 2021. Five years ago, the centrepiece of the eighth party congress was an ambitious weapons development programme unveiled by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and accompanied by belligerent rhetoric against the United States, both of which indicated the North Korean leadership's concerns about their vulnerability. Now, Kim's regime has an improved and resilient...

- [Singing circle in Amsterdam offers benefits to dementia patients](#) (2026-03-08 12:07)

Megan Worthy still recalls singing in a choir in the Australian capital, Canberra, as she was growing up. Now, as a rare form of early-onset dementia chips away at her vision and other brain functions, the 58-year-old is transported back to her musical youth as she and her daughter, Bronte, sing together with other people with neurological conditions in an Amsterdam concert hall, the Concertgebouw. "It's pretty brutal," Worthy said of her rare neurological condition. "I'm starting to lose..."

- [Nepali ex-rapper will form government after landslide election win](#) (2026-03-08 11:00)

A Nepali political party led by an ex-rapper is set for a landslide victory in the country's first parliamentary election since Gen Z protests ousted the old leadership that has ruled the Himalayan nation for decades. The Rastriya Swatantra, or the National Independent Party (RSP), formed only four years ago, had already won 117 of 165 directly elected seats and led in eight other constituencies in the results published on Sunday morning by Nepal's Election Commission. Other political parties...

- [Hong Kong, Singapore square off in race to become world's gold trading hub](#) (2026-03-08 11:00)

Hong Kong and Singapore have crossed swords over their ambitions to be the world's gold trading hub, but experts say the city holds an advantage over its Southeast Asian rival, citing its access to mainland China's robust market. As Hong Kong pushes ahead with measures to create an ecosystem for gold trading – highlighted as recently in the government's budget late

last month – the city state has reportedly been courting global heavyweights. In response to the South China Morning Post’ s queries...

- [Wang Yi warns Japan on Taiwan ‘red line’ , dashing hopes of ending diplomatic row](#) (2026-03-08 10:31)

Beijing’ s top diplomat has issued a stark warning against any attempt to thwart reunification with Taiwan and repeated his country’ s criticism of Tokyo, dimming hopes that the diplomatic row sparked by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’ s comments on Taiwan would come to an end any time soon. The comments by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, delivered in a press conference on Sunday as part of the “two sessions” , were the latest in a series of strong criticisms by Beijing officials following...

- [Families of MH370 passengers urge Malaysia to extend ocean search](#) (2026-03-08 10:06)

Families of those aboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on Sunday urged the Malaysian government to extend a contract it signed with deep-sea exploration firm Ocean Infinity to continue a search for the aircraft that disappeared 12 years ago. The Boeing 777 was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew when it vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, becoming one of the world’ s enduring aviation mysteries. Multiple search operations for the plane have been conducted in the...

- [Hong Kong must ensure motherhood no longer derails women’ s careers: advocates](#) (2026-03-08 10:00)

Hong Kong must do more to shatter the glass ceilings at its roots, moving beyond token diversity to ensure motherhood no longer derails women’ s careers, advocates have said on International Women’ s Day. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Sunday that women were “holding up more than half the sky” for Hong Kong as they accounted for 54 per cent of the population and comprised half of the government, legal and accounting workforce, with increasing representation in corporate leadership. The...

- [China boy, 14, skilled in wok spinning, praised for cooking in parents’ eatery to help ease burden](#) (2026-03-08 10:00)

A 14-year-old boy in eastern China has trended on social media after he helped out his under-pressure parents by skillfully cooking in their small noodle restaurant. Liu Yuze, a Grade Two student at a middle school in Taihe county of Anhui province, has been helping his parents in the restaurant since childhood, the Dawan News reported. Videos of the boy cooking like a professional chef and grasping skills like wok spinning have attracted more than 2.5 million likes online. “Cooking is my...

- [Beijing signals high hopes for South China Sea ‘golden rules’ by end of year](#) (2026-03-08 09:41)

China has signalled strong optimism for finalising negotiations with neighbouring Asian countries to seal a new institutional framework on contested South China Sea waterways. At China's annual foreign policy press conference on Sunday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi described the negotiations as having entered a "critical phase" for talks on the South China Sea Code of Conduct – a proposed set of rules between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) aimed at easing tensions. "All...

- [Hong Kong charity abruptly cancels 'Race for Water' fundraiser weeks before event](#) (2026-03-08 09:08)

A Hong Kong charity has abruptly cancelled its signature annual trail-running fundraiser just two weeks before the event, leaving hundreds of participants in the dark on the reasons behind the decision. The 11th edition of the "Race for Water", organised by A Drop of Life, was scheduled to take place on March 22 but would no longer proceed, according to the organiser, which did not provide reasons for the cancellation. "After careful consideration, A Drop of Life has decided to cancel the 'Race...

- [Iran war hits China's sulphur imports as economic fallout from conflict grows](#) (2026-03-08 09:00)

The escalating conflict in the Middle East is having a direct impact on China's access to sulphur – a raw material for producing fertiliser – just as the country enters its vital spring planting season. With China sourcing a large chunk of its sulphur from the Persian Gulf, the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz is already sending prices for the chemical shooting upwards as Chinese buyers complain of tightening supplies. China relies on imports for 47 per cent of its sulphur supply,...

- [Philippines' only cockroach expert defends bugs from extinction](#) (2026-03-08 08:35)

A thin band of light from Cristian Lucanas' headlamp pierces the blackness of a Philippine rainforest as he digs through the underbrush before gently scooping up a cockroach with his bare hands. As the Southeast Asian country's lone expert on the oft-misunderstood insect – and discoverer of 15 species – friends have dubbed the soft-spoken scientist "Ipis Lord", after the local name for the ubiquitous bug. While fully aware most view cockroaches as disgusting, disease-bearing pests, the...

- [As Hong Kong doubles down on innovation, Hongkongers must too](#) (2026-03-08 08:30)

I am not sure everyone in Hong Kong has taken fully on board the breadth and depth of the city's intended role in the future economic development of the nation. It is right there in the budget speech delivered by Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po, and it is being fleshed out in the 15th five-year plan now under discussion in Beijing. Sometimes the things that are presented most prominently are the ones most easily overlooked. In an early part of the speech, Chan stated that the government's...

- [China urged to build underground great wall of defence in crisis-hit world](#) (2026-03-08 08:00)

China should build an underground network across its western region to protect key energy and defence facilities, securing long-term reserves while boosting national security and crisis resilience, energy experts have said. Zhang Shishu, chief technical expert at Power Construction Corporation of China (PowerChina), a state-owned energy and infrastructure giant, called for critical facilities to be embedded deep beneath the Earth's surface at a safer, less detectable level. In an article for the...

- [1 holy month, 1 year's income: Malaysia's Ramadan bazaar boom](#) (2026-03-08 08:00)

By late afternoon in Putrajaya, the smell of smoke fills the air. Charcoal pits glow along the side of the road as office workers and families with school-aged children in tow move through the haze with the deliberate purpose of people who have not eaten since dawn. This is a Ramadan bazaar in full bloom: rows of bright pink drinks in plastic cups, towers of kueh – bite-sized sweet and savoury snacks – in every colour, and, at one particularly busy stall, rows of whole chickens turning slowly...

- [15th five-year plan presents 'golden strategic period' for Hong Kong: Paul Chan](#) (2026-03-08 07:47)

Hong Kong's financial chief has vowed to serve the nation and seize opportunities from the newly unveiled 15th five-year development plan, calling it a “golden strategic period” with great potential amid escalating geopolitics. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Sunday that Hong Kong would adopt “Artificial Intelligence+” and “Finance+” approaches to support mainland China's development plan for 2026 to 2030. Beijing on Thursday revealed the sweeping blueprint during the annual “two...

- [Demand for change in Turkey cannot be stopped, jailed Istanbul mayor says](#) (2026-03-08 07:30)

Political efforts to cripple Turkey's main opposition and lock up its presidential candidate will never stifle the people's frustration with the government and their growing demand for change, Istanbul's jailed mayor has said in an interview. “An irreversible process for a change in power has begun in Turkey and it won't stop until it is complete. I cannot stop it ... nor can the ruling party nor the judiciary,” Ekrem Imamoglu said in a written response to Agence France-Presse questions conveyed...

- [Sri Lanka hospital discharges 22 Iranian sailors rescued after warship sinking](#) (2026-03-08 06:30)

Sri Lanka discharged from hospital 22 Iranian sailors who were plucked from life rafts after their warship was sunk by a US submarine, officials said on Sunday. The sailors were treated at Karapitiya Hospital in the southern port city of Galle since Wednesday after the IRIS Dena was torpedoed just outside Sri Lanka's territorial waters. “Another 10 are still undergoing

treatment,” said a medical officer at the hospital. He said the bodies of 84 Iranians retrieved from the Indian Ocean were also...

- [Quantum tech breakthrough: China’s double-photon device breaks efficiency ceiling](#) (2026-03-08 06:30)

Chinese scientists have cracked a long-standing puzzle in quantum optics, creating a tiny device that spits out pairs of light particles on demand with unprecedented purity and efficiency – with potential implications for the quantum race. Single-photon devices are maturing rapidly, but the field is now pursuing efficient two-photon sources that can pave the way for sharper medical imaging, unbreakable encryption and next-generation sensors. In precision measurement, for instance, using two...

- [US embassy in Norway’s Oslo hit by explosion but no injuries, police say](#) (2026-03-08 06:15)

The US embassy in Oslo was hit by an explosion in the early hours of Sunday but no one was injured, police in the Norwegian capital said, adding the cause was not immediately known. The blast occurred around 1am local time and caused only “minor material damage” to one of the building’s entrances, Oslo police said in a statement. Investigators were examining the scene, while dogs, drones, and helicopters were involved in the search “for one or more potential perpetrators” , it said. “Police view...

- [Hong Kong considers raising MPF contributions after 13-year freeze on thresholds](#) (2026-03-08 06:14)

Hong Kong’s workers and employers may have to pay more into the Mandatory Provident Fund, as the pension regulator considers calls to raise the contribution threshold, which has remained unchanged for 13 years. Ayesha Macpherson Lau, chairwoman of the Mandatory Provident Fund Authority (MPFA), said in her blog on Sunday that the body had consulted various stakeholder groups since February on adjusting the minimum and maximum income levels used to determine contributions. She hinted at a possible...

- [China Qing era saw rise in female authors, poets, despite broad restrictions on women in arts](#) (2026-03-08 06:00)

From the 18th century onwards, female authors gained unprecedented prominence, from Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters in the West to the rise of significant women writers in Qing-era China (1644–1912). The increasing prominence of female Chinese authors was driven by Dream of the Red Chamber, an 18th-century masterpiece by Cao Xueqin, widely considered the pinnacle of Chinese fiction and one of the four great classical novels of Chinese history. Cao’s book was so important that a cottage...

- [Why Vietnam’s landmark AI law is first major regulatory test for Southeast Asia](#) (2026-03-08 06:00)

Vietnam's new law regulating artificial intelligence could become Southeast Asia's first real test of whether governments in the region are ready to move from voluntary guidelines to binding regulation, a shift analysts say could reshape how companies deploy AI across the region. The legislation, which took effect on Sunday, introduces a risk-tiered model where AI providers – both local organisations and foreign entities with a presence in the country – must classify their systems as low, medium...

- [Boom times for India's economy but opportunities remain uneven](#) (2026-03-08 05:15)

For years India's economy was driven by its vast services sector that saw millions of people working away in low-cost back offices providing consultancy for predominantly Western companies. But over the past decade they have given way to centres that allow firms to tap top-tier talent and technology, where white-collar staff perform tasks ranging from IT and data analytics to innovation and design. Today, these centres are the shiniest parts of India's red-hot economy but not everyone has been...

- [Takeaways from Foreign Minister Wang Yi at China's 'two sessions'](#) (2026-03-08 04:38)

Foreign Minister Wang Yi faced global media on Sunday morning to outline Beijing's positions on key issues, ranging from the expanding crisis in Iran to China's deepening dispute with Japan. The annual briefing, held as part of the annual "two sessions", came as China sought to project its leadership and influence amid mounting global instability and manage its strategic rivalry with the US. This year, the top Chinese diplomat fielded 21 questions in a briefing that lasted nearly 90...

- [US judge voids actions by Voice of America acting CEO Kari Lake, including mass lay-offs](#) (2026-03-08 04:15)

A federal judge ruled on Saturday that Kari Lake's leadership of the US Agency for Global Media (USAGM) for much of last year violated federal law, invalidating a sweeping series of actions she took to cut staff and end many operations at its Voice of America (VOA) unit. In another blow to the Donald Trump administration's attempts to diminish various government agencies, US District Judge Royce Lamberth granted a summary judgment in favour of plaintiffs – including VOA journalists and a...

- [Hong Kong police seek domestic helper accused of HK\\$100,000 theft from employer](#) (2026-03-08 04:11)

Hong Kong police are searching for a domestic helper accused of stealing jewellery and cash worth more than HK\$100,000 (US\$12,780) from her elderly employer. The force said a 74-year-old woman, surnamed Lam, reported on Saturday night that the valuables had been taken from her flat in Hong Ching House, Kai Ching Estate, Ngau Tau Kok. An initial investigation found that the missing items included HK\$57,000 in cash and jewellery – such as necklaces and bracelets – worth about HK\$59,000. Police...

- [Hong Kong firms rethink global operations amid Middle East turmoil](#) (2026-03-08 04:00)

Hong Kong entrepreneurs with operations in the Middle East are recalibrating their global footprints to hedge against mounting geopolitical instability and losses resulting from the widening conflict in Iran. The shift in business strategy followed the outbreak of the US-Israel war with Iran last week, prompting firms to draw up contingency plans by pivoting to Europe or Southeast Asia to de-risk their portfolios and ensure supply chain continuity. The war escalated with Iran's retaliation,...

- [Middle East crisis, global memory crunch dim AI smartphone buzz at MWC 2026](#) (2026-03-08 04:00)

The mobile industry buzzed with excitement over the artificial intelligence revolution showcased at MWC Barcelona 2026, but the optimism was overshadowed by the Middle East crisis and a memory crunch that could reshape the global smartphone supply chain. The AI showcase drew a large crowd, including King Felipe VI of Spain, to the booth of Chinese smartphone maker Honor, which displayed its “Robot Phone” with a built-in camera gimbal designed to become a companion to users. “This brings a...

- [From oil to saffron: how US-Iran conflict is rattling Chinese investors](#) (2026-03-08 03:30)

The supply of oil and other essential commodities may be grabbing the headlines as the US-Iran conflict escalates, but the ripple effects are being felt far beyond energy markets – all the way to the global supply of the saffron used in footbath packs and heat patches. Chinese retail investors have been peppering listed companies with questions about how disruptions tied to the conflict could affect everything from fertiliser imports to the pharmaceutical products containing the prized...

- [80 years on, gender gap persists in Japanese politics](#) (2026-03-08 03:00)

Gender equality in politics remains far from achieved across Japan's 47 prefectures, research by a group of experts has shown as it released local index scores on International Women's Day. While nearly 80 years have passed since women in Japan first exercised their right to vote, the politics index fell in eight prefectures, including Kanagawa near Tokyo, from the 2024 figures, while many other prefectures also saw little change. With a score of 1 representing full equality, Tokyo scored 0.386,...

- [Lebanon says at least 4 killed in Israeli strike on Beirut hotel](#) (2026-03-08 02:45)

Lebanon's health ministry on Sunday said an Israeli strike on a hotel in central Beirut killed at least four people, with Israel saying it had targeted commanders from Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war on Monday, when Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah attacked Israel in response to the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during US-Israeli strikes. Israel, which has kept up strikes targeting Hezbollah despite a 2024 ceasefire, launched...

- [Iran war oil shock accelerates Southeast Asia's EV revolution](#) (2026-03-08 02:00)

A man in a Mercedes drives up to a Bangkok forecourt, cash in hand, ready to buy an electric vehicle he hadn't planned on owning. Southeast Asia's EV revolution has found a new accelerant. "He was afraid he wouldn't be able to fill up his car any more," said Samart Prakotkancharna, managing director of Ratchapruek P Car Centre in Thailand's capital, describing the scene that played out on his forecourt. Cash buyers had been streaming in all week, spooked by rising diesel prices and hunting for...

- [Trump's trip, Iran, G2, Japan, Taiwan: Beijing lays out its views on world order – as it happened](#) (2026-03-08 01:45)

This live blog is freely available to our registered users. Please log in or create an account below. For full coverage of the 15th five-year plan, including policy and economic shifts plus Trump's visit, subscribe with our China Super March offer now. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi faced the media on Sunday morning to outline Beijing's foreign policy direction in one of the most-watched events during the annual "two sessions". The press conference was held as China carefully manages its...

- [Kuwait airport, Saudi Arabia targeted as Iran vows to continue Gulf strikes](#) (2026-03-08 01:45)

Gulf nations reported missile and drone attacks on Sunday, while Iran vowed to press on with strikes against neighbouring countries as the regional war entered its second week. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait all reported new attacks, after loud explosions were heard in Dubai and Bahrain's Manama a day earlier. Kuwait's national oil company announced a "precautionary" cut to its crude production, as the country's military said on Sunday it had responded "to a wave of hostile drones that..."

- [Why Hong Kong must make mental health an immediate economic priority](#) (2026-03-08 01:30)

Hong Kong's new budget is positioned to foster high-quality, inclusive growth through innovation and finance. Ahead of projections, a surplus of HK\$2.9 billion (US\$370.8 million) is now expected, largely due to the stronger-than-expected stock market and tax receipts. Reflecting a sound fiscal approach and forward thinking, the 2026-27 budget will maintain an operating surplus and allocate about 60 per cent of recurrent spending to vital sectors such as health, social welfare and education. The...

- [Wife of China director Zhang Yimou, who is 31 years his junior, remains largely unknown to public](#) (2026-03-08 01:22)

Chinese film director Zhang Yimou may be a household name who is celebrated as the country's "national master" but his wife Chen Ting is little known and dedicates herself to their family. The woman behind China's No 1 director recently attracted attention for appearing at the Beijing premiere of Zhang's latest movie Scare Out in mid-February. Pictures

of Chen, 44, dressed casually, went viral on mainland social media as internet users were impressed by her slim physique and relatively young...

- [‘Keep the change’ no more: Hong Kong taxi drivers prepare for shift to e-payments](#) (2026-03-08 00:30)

Hong Kong cabbies are counting down to the end of the “keep the change” tradition as the industry prepares for a mandatory shift from cash-only payments to electronic settlements. In the weeks leading up to April 1, taxi drivers are racing to install e-payment tools, while service providers say 90 per cent of the cabbies have already adopted such solutions. Chau Kwok-keung, chairman of the Hong Kong Taxi and Public Light Bus Association, said the transition to digital payments meant cabbies...

- [China’s shoppers head for suburban outlets, a bright spot in retail property](#) (2026-03-08 00:30)

For Steven Zhou, a 40-year-old Beijing office worker, suburban outlet stores offer a better shopping experience than urban malls, allowing him to escape the city, park his car without frustration and, most importantly, find good deals. “Outlets offer a wide selection of brands, with attractive discounts, especially on sportswear,” Zhou said. Across the mainland, outlets are expanding while traditional and luxury malls face high vacancy rates. Offering well-known brands at discounted prices,...

- [Singapore’s workers brace for AI disruption: ‘it’s inevitable’](#) (2026-03-08 00:00)

When Joshua Tan turned up to Chinese New Year dinner last month, he hadn’t expected to spend the evening defending his career. He was 27 and freshly employed as a junior software engineer in Singapore. The questions from relatives were pointed: is your job safe? Can’t the computer just do it? It was an awkward conversation, equal parts interrogation and familial concern. But Tan knew the anxiety behind the questions was real. Not so long ago, he and his classmates had been so sought-after by...

- [Trump says he’s told Kurds not to join Iran fight: ‘war is complicated enough’](#) (2026-03-07 23:03)

US President Donald Trump said he has told Kurdish forces not to enter the Iran war as the US and Israel continue launching strikes against Tehran. “The war is complicated enough without having – getting the Kurds involved,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Saturday on his way back to Florida after attending a military service for six fallen US soldiers. “We’re very friendly with the Kurds, as you know, but we don’t want to make the war any more complex than it already is. I have...

- [As US universities retreat from China partnerships, who is filling the academic void?](#) (2026-03-07 22:00)

Nearly five decades ago, in 1978, a dozen or so professors from Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) were on a mission to visit their American counterparts as well as research institutes and factories across the United States. The visit, said to be personally approved by then Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, was designed to forge academic ties and led to sister-school agreements with four prestigious US universities, including the University of Michigan (UM). It was a pivotal moment in academic...

- [Paul Chan must deliver the fiscal discipline Hong Kong needs](#) (2026-03-07 21:30)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po delivered his latest budget on February 25. Over the past decade, under his stewardship, Hong Kong has weathered multiple economic shocks and recently returned to a respectable growth rate of 3.5 per cent. Yet the tasks ahead are formidable: addressing a structural fiscal deficit in the city's capital account while ensuring sufficient resources for future growth, all against an increasingly volatile and dangerous global backdrop. Article 107 of Hong Kong's...

- [Israel hits Iran oil facility, as PM Netanyahu warns of 'many surprises'](#) (2026-03-07 21:22)

The Iran war exploded further late Saturday as pillars of flame rose above an oil storage facility in Tehran and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised "many surprises" for the next phase of the week-old conflict. Iranian state media confirmed the strike as video footage showed the horizon glowing against the night sky. Israel's military confirmed new strikes that shook neighbourhoods in Tehran's east and south but did not immediately comment on targets. It appeared to be the first...

- [Iran vows more attacks in Gulf despite president's apology](#) (2026-03-07 20:55)

Gulf nations on Saturday reported new missile and drone attacks, while Iran vowed to press on with its strikes against neighbouring countries. Loud explosions were heard in Dubai, the Qatari capital Doha and Bahrain, while attacks were later reported in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait, where the national oil company announced a "precautionary" cut to production. The attacks came despite Iran's president earlier apologising to Gulf countries for prior strikes, saying they would no longer...

- [Timothée Chalamet faces the music for saying 'no one cares' about opera and ballet](#) (2026-03-07 18:45)

Oscar nominee Timothée Chalamet is the front runner to take home the golden statuette for *Marty Supreme* – but he definitely has not won fans in the ballet and opera worlds. In a town hall discussion late last month with Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey hosted by CNN and Variety, the 30-year-old Chalamet was discussing the future of movie theatres and whether the advent of streaming will spell doom for cinemas. "If people want to see it – like Barbie, like *Oppenheimer* – they're going to go see it..."

- [Trump offers Latin American leaders US missile strikes to hit drug cartels](#) (2026-03-07 17:46)

US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged Latin American nations to use military power against the “cancer” of drug cartels and offered to support them with US missile strikes targeting narco kingpins. Trump, currently waging a war with Iran, laid out a muscular position for advancing Washington’s interests in the western hemisphere, pronouncing that communist-led Cuba was “in its last moments of life” and advocating tough action by allies against organised crime blighting the region. He...

- [Iran war: what we know about Ali Khamenei’s killing one week on](#) (2026-03-07 15:48)

With further negotiations pencilled in with the US and perhaps assuming that any assassination attempt would take place at night, Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei was at his complex in Tehran last Saturday morning. It would be his last. An air strike obliterated the compound in Tehran where a gathering of key decision-makers was taking place, killing Khamenei, his wife and other top officials. As the US and Israel have pounded Iran with thousands of attacks over the last week, some details...

- [Will the US attack on Iran push North Korea even closer to Russia and China?](#) (2026-03-07 15:00)

Washington’s decapitation operation in Iran would push Pyongyang to feel “vindicated” in developing nuclear weapons for its own security and move closer to China and Russia to bolster its deterrence capabilities, according to analysts. On Wednesday, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected the test firing of what the country’s state media called a “strategic cruise missile” from the new 5,000-tonne naval destroyer Choe Hyon before the vessel’s official commissioning. Kim hailed the warship as a...

- [Amina Bokhary found dead at Hong Kong home: source](#) (2026-03-07 14:53)

A Hong Kong woman who made tabloid headlines for her repeated brushes with the law and prominent family name has been found dead in her home, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source told SCMP on Saturday that a 90-year-old woman surnamed Bokhary had reported to police the day before that her daughter had lost consciousness at home. The younger woman, believed to be in her forties, was certified dead at the scene. The insider identified her as Amina Mariam Bokhary. “Police checks on...

- [4 US bombers land in UK as Iran war continues](#) (2026-03-07 14:43)

More United States bombers have landed in Britain after a week of strikes on Iran by the US and Israel. A first 146ft B-1 Lancer arrived at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire on Friday evening and three more followed on Saturday morning. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has granted permission for “defensive” US action against Iranian missile sites from UK bases. The huge plane, capable of carrying 24 cruise missiles, weighs 86 metric tons and is the fastest bomber in the US Air Force, according...

- [UK child killer Ian Huntley dies after prison attack](#) (2026-03-07 14:01)

One of Britain's most notorious child killers, Ian Huntley, has died following an attack in prison where he was serving a life sentence, police said. Huntley murdered 10-year-old girls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in eastern England in 2002, in a case that horrified the country. Fifty-two-year-old Huntley suffered serious injuries when he was assaulted at Frankland maximum security prison in the north-eastern city of Durham on February 26. He "died in hospital this morning", a spokesperson...

- [Xi Jinping's zero-fail mission for China's military: total loyalty, no corruption](#) (2026-03-07 14:00)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has again sought to shore up the military's ideological defences, demanding absolute loyalty to the Communist Party from all ranks, just weeks after the country's top general came under investigation for corruption. "There must be no room within the military for those harbouring disloyalty towards the party, nor any shelter for corrupt individuals," Xi told a meeting of military and armed police lawmakers on the sidelines of the National People's Congress (NPC) on...

- [Hong Kong growth on track to hit target despite Middle East war: finance chief](#) (2026-03-07 13:45)

Hong Kong's economic growth forecast of between 2.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent for the year will not be affected by the Middle East war, which will hurt the trading sector but benefit the financial market, according to the city's financial chief. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also said on Saturday that the city would remain vigilant over the impacts of Sino-US relations, while consolidating its traditional American and European markets and developing new ones in Asia. His remarks came ahead...

- [LIV Golf Hong Kong starts to tick boxes, with bumper crowd set for 3-way fight on last day](#) (2026-03-07 13:16)

A large crowd spent much of Saturday following Jon Rahm around Fanling as he made his way up the leaderboard at LIV Golf Hong Kong – further evidence, if any were needed, that the tournament is quickly establishing itself as an important part of the city's social and sporting calendar. And while attendance figures will not be announced until the tournament has finished, officials said a large number had made the trip from mainland China and overseas, with many paying thousands of dollars for...

- [CK Hutchison subsidiary seeks US\\$2 billion for Panama's takeover of canal ports](#) (2026-03-07 13:14)

A subsidiary of Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison Holdings is seeking US\$2 billion in damages from the Panamanian government over what it described as the "illegal takeover" of the operations of two ports at either end of the strategic canal. In a statement issued on

Friday, the Panama Ports Company (PPC) said it had submitted the claim for arbitration against the country under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce, vowing it would not “relent” or seek “token relief” for the...

- [Chinese scientists use AI model to crack mystery of moon’s far side](#) (2026-03-07 13:00)

Chinese scientists have used AI to determine the chemical make-up of the moon’s far side, offering new insights into one of lunar science’s enduring mysteries. Nearly half the moon’s surface – the far side which permanently faces away from the Earth – had long remained chemically unmapped. But samples from China’s Chang’e-6 mission, combined with advanced technologies, have enabled a team led by the Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics (SITP) to crack the lunar chemical code. Researchers from...

- [In the emerging world order, Europe and China’s interests align](#) (2026-03-07 12:30)

The Iran war has declared the death of the old global order. Europe wasn’t even consulted before Washington struck Iran alongside Israel – proof the continent is trapped between moral outrage and geopolitical irrelevance. If Europe wants to matter, it must shift its gaze eastwards, redefining China not as a binary adversary but as a balancing power. This is the path from Atlantic dependence to Eurasian relevance. For China, too, this moment is pivotal. US President Donald Trump has launched wars...

- [Hong Kong urged to review fuel prices amid ‘unfair’ cost increase accusations](#) (2026-03-07 12:28)

Hong Kong authorities have been urged to review the pricing mechanism for local fuel supplies after petrol retailers were accused of swiftly raising prices as conflict erupted in the Middle East, even though the city had not yet exhausted its weeks-long stockpile. Global fuel prices have soared since the US-Israel war with Iran broke out, disrupting traffic along the Strait of Hormuz – the key waterway that handles about 20 per cent of the world’s oil shipments. The price of Brent crude, the...

- [Health authorities probe possible food poisoning cluster at police college](#) (2026-03-07 12:12)

Authorities have launched an investigation into a potential food poisoning cluster that has affected 53 trainees understood to be from the Hong Kong Police College. The Department of Health said on Saturday that 48 male and five female trainees, aged 20 to 40, had developed symptoms of abdominal pain, diarrhoea, vomiting and fever since Thursday evening. It did not name the police college in its statement, only referring to the location as a training institute. A source confirmed to the South...

- [8 dead in Kenya floods, with motorists stranded, flights disrupted](#) (2026-03-07 12:04)

Eight people died, flights were disrupted and the military was deployed as motorists in the Kenyan capital were stranded for hours on Saturday after roads were flooded following heavy

rains overnight. George Seda, the police boss in Nairobi, said on Saturday that six people drowned and two others were electrocuted, warning that the death toll may rise as search and rescue operations continue. Seda also said that more than 100 vehicles were damaged, with some overturning on the roadside and in...

- [Top envoy urges China-Russia border infrastructure as sanctions stymie transport](#)

(2026-03-07 12:00)

China's top envoy to Russia has urged more transport infrastructure along the countries' shared border to cut logistics costs and address challenges. Zhang Hanhui, Beijing's ambassador to Moscow, said on Thursday that the two countries could explore cross-border transport corridors as major maritime logistics had been affected by sanctions. "I have suggested to the Russian side that more convenient crossings should be built along the China-Russia border, such as cross-river bridges," Zhang said...

- [Singapore's ban on caged lorries revives debate over migrant worker transport](#)

(2026-03-07 11:00)

Singapore is moving to ban caged lorries used to transport migrant workers in a bid to reduce safety risks in emergencies, but activists say the change does not address the wider dangers of ferrying workers in such vehicles. Senior Minister of State for Transport Sun Xueling said that caged lorry decks posed "additional safety risks" to passengers sitting in the rear. "For example, if a lorry with a caged door that is locked or latched from the outside is involved in an accident or a fire,...

- [Hong Kong police step up security at consulates of nations in Middle East conflict](#)

(2026-03-07 10:53)

Hong Kong police have stepped up security around the consulates and officials of countries involved in the Middle East conflict, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source said officers had increased patrols at the consulates as a precaution since the outbreak of the conflict. The United States and Israel launched a massive attack on Tehran last Saturday, killing its supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, along with his wife and senior Iranian officials. The move prompted Iranian...

- [Iran defies US demands for surrender but apologises for strikes on neighbours](#)

(2026-03-07 10:18)

Iran's president said on Saturday that a demand by the United States for an unconditional surrender is a "dream that they should take to their grave". President Masoud Pezeshkian made the statement in a pre-recorded address aired by state television. He also apologised for Iran's attacks on regional countries, saying that Tehran would halt them and suggesting they were caused by miscommunication in the ranks. He blamed the killing of the country's supreme leader and other top officials for what...

- [Hong Kong authorities propose ferry fare adjustments to keep operators afloat](#) (2026-03-07 10:18)

Hong Kong transport authorities have proposed adjusting single-journey fares for six ferry routes from April 1, the first revision in nearly three years, with some journeys to rise by 12.5 per cent, while certain high-speed trips will become cheaper. In a document submitted to the Islands District Council, the Transport Department said its fare adjustment proposal struck a balance between residents' travel needs and the ferries' financial viability. Under the proposal, fares for one-way trips...

- [‘I can’ t sleep’ : Iranian in Hong Kong gripped by fear as war intensifies](#) (2026-03-07 10:10)

Behzad Mirzaei, who has lived in Hong Kong for three decades, is losing sleep as tensions involving Iran escalate, worried about his elderly mother in Tehran. The founder of the Persian Club is among Hong Kong' s small Iranian community who are watching the war with mounting anxiety, waiting for daily updates and fearing for loved ones thousands of kilometres away.

“Every night before I go to sleep, I have this nightmare – that anxiety – about what will happen,” the 57-year-old said. “On a few...

- [Rising star chip scientist Jiang Jianfeng leaves MIT for China’ s Peking University](#) (2026-03-07 10:00)

Most academics take eight to 10 years after earning a PhD to become doctoral supervisors. But semiconductor scientist Jiang Jianfeng has done it in just 18 months. The 30-year-old only earned his PhD in June 2024. After briefly serving as a postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he has now returned to Peking University to serve as a principal investigator, associate professor and PhD supervisor. Jiang' s research focuses on two-dimensional indium selenide...

- [China women living together for years spark discussions on female cohabitation and support](#) (2026-03-07 10:00)

Two women in southern China who have lived together for 13 years have gone viral and sparked an online discussion about female cohabitation. Liang Shichun, 59, and her best friend Li Yan, 51, bought a house together in Nanning, Guangxi province, and share everything from household chores to the mortgage. Both women had unhappy marriages and chose not to remarry, instead opting to live together and support each other. Their friendship, which has lasted more than two decades, included Li being...

- [‘46,800 jobs’ : Xinjiang official says textile industry is growing despite US sanctions](#) (2026-03-07 09:42)

Despite US-led sanctions, Xinjiang' s textile industry expanded last year to create tens of thousands of jobs, a senior official said, pledging stronger support for companies affected by the restrictions. Wang Kuiran, secretary general of the far western Xinjiang Uygur autonomous

region government, said yarn output rose more than 20 per cent in 2025. According to Wang, fabric production increased 36 per cent year on year and the sector – a key target of Western sanctions – created 46,800 new jobs...

- [At least 7 killed in Ukraine as Russian missile hits Kharkiv apartment building](#) (2026-03-07 09:19)

At least seven people were killed and 10 others, including three children, were wounded on Saturday by a Russian missile that hit a five-storey residential building in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, officials said. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the attack and called for an international response. He said that Russia struck Ukraine overnight with 29 missiles and 480 drones, targeting energy facilities in Kyiv and other central regions, with damage reported in at least seven...

- [Nepal election: rapper-turned-politician Balen Shah poised to become next prime minister](#) (2026-03-07 09:18)

A 35-year-old rapper and engineer who entered politics just four years ago holds an unassailable lead over a former prime minister in Nepal's crucial parliamentary election, in a contest widely seen as a referendum on a generational shift in leadership after last year's youth uprising. Balendra Shah – the former Kathmandu mayor widely known as Balen – has surged ahead of 74-year-old communist leader K.P. Sharma Oli in a race for a seat in Nepal's House of Representatives in the eastern district...

- [The cause of the next global market crash is hiding in plain sight](#) (2026-03-07 08:30)

If financial markets can survive the United States' war on Iran and Russia's war against Ukraine, does this mean that financial crashes have become a thing of the past? Or have markets just not grasped the true nature of the current threats to the financial system? The latter is almost certainly the case, as former Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein suggested when he said in a recent Financial Times interview that people had “got more complacent” about financial risks since the 2008 crisis. It is...

- [Beyond beef: China and Uruguay team up on science to target cancer, pests and robotics](#) (2026-03-07 08:02)

China and Uruguay have forged a new scientific alliance by signing more than 20 cooperation agreements, targeting critical fields from cancer treatment and water management to fighting crop-destroying pests. The development signals a step forward in ties, moving beyond a decade mainly defined by trade in products like wood pulp, soybeans and beef. “China is a good partner for us, especially in basic sciences,” Alvaro Brunini, president of Uruguay's National Agency of Research and Innovation...

- [Da Nang, South Korean province? Why this coastal city is a hit with East Asian tourists](#) (2026-03-07 08:00)

At the bustling Han Market in central Da Nang, two Vietnamese vendors tease a middle-aged South Korean tourist by calling him harabeoji, or “grandfather” in Korean. “I’m offended!” he jokes. The women grab his arms and laugh. “It’s OK, it’s OK.” The man had returned to their stall after buying 200,000 dong (US\$7.60) worth of macadamia nuts the day before. It is a small moment of banter, repeated dozens of times a day in a city that many people from South Korea jokingly call their own unofficial...

- [Trump’s ‘feeling’ -driven Iran war cops criticism for ‘arrogant’ messaging](#) (2026-03-07 07:42)

President Donald Trump has plunged the United States into its most significant conflict in decades over a “feeling”. It is not his political opponents saying this, but the White House itself. Throughout the first week of the war with Iran, the US president has prioritised impulse and emotion over explanations and reasoning. “I hope you’re impressed,” Trump, a former reality TV host, told an ABC News reporter on Thursday. “How do you like the performance?” Official government accounts are posting...

- [ZTE’s computing revenue jumps 150% amid AI boom, but profits fall 33%](#) (2026-03-07 07:36)

China’s telecom and computing equipment maker ZTE on Friday reported revenue of 134 billion yuan (US\$19 billion) in 2025, up 10.4 per cent, with its computing business surging 150 per cent year on year to account for 24.6 per cent of total sales amid the computing boom. However, net profit attributable to shareholders fell 33.3 per cent to 5.62 billion yuan, while net profit excluding non-recurring items dropped 45.5 per cent to 3.37 billion yuan, according to a post-trading earnings filing....

- [South Korean missile shield vs Iranian barrage: the fight to protect UAE’s skies](#) (2026-03-07 07:15)

The United Arab Emirates has asked South Korea to accelerate deliveries of Cheongung-II surface-to-air missile batteries to help intercept incoming attacks, officials familiar with the matter said. The request comes as Iranian forces have launched retaliatory strikes across the Middle East following continued attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel. The system, sold to the UAE in recent years as part of Seoul’s expanding defence exports, has been integrated into the country’s broader air...

- [CUHK professor suspended for posing as schoolboy to take photos of pupils in Australia](#) (2026-03-07 06:40)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has suspended an academic who reportedly pleaded guilty to posing as a schoolboy to photograph pupils at an elite boys’ school in Australia. Australian media reported that Johnny Li Siu-hang, a professor at CUHK’s business school, was arrested on Tuesday after allegedly dressing in the uniform of the Sydney institution to mingle with pupils and take photos of them. A CUHK spokeswoman said on Friday

evening that the university was aware of the incident...

- [From rivals to partners, China and Europe are retooling ties, adviser says](#) (2026-03-07 06:00)

China's international clout and economic stability are rebalancing Beijing's relations with Europe, putting more focus on cooperation and less on rivalry, according to a former Chinese envoy. "With European leaders coming to China one after another, they are coming with their own considerations: hoping to strengthen bilateral relations in the new context and find ways to benefit from China's continued development," said Wu Ken, China's ambassador to Germany from 2019 to 2024. On the sidelines of...

- [Pakistan imperils its IMF rescue as Afghanistan border violence rages](#) (2026-03-07 06:00)

Pakistan can ill afford to go to war. Neither can Afghanistan. Yet here they are, trading blows across one of South Asia's most combustible borders – just as a team of International Monetary Fund inspectors arrived in Islamabad to decide on the country's next financial lifeline. The inspectors had come for a third-round review of Pakistan's economic recovery programme: the kind of visit that, if it went well, would unlock the next tranche of rescue funding and steady the nerves of skittish...

- [Foreigners flock to Chinese malatang eateries, host birthdays, believe rich soup is healthy](#) (2026-03-07 06:00)

A growing global craze has seen foreigners flock to malatang restaurants to celebrate birthdays and go on dates. The trend has sparked widespread online sharing and lively discussions on mainland social media. Malatang, which literally means "numbing, spicy and hot", is a popular Chinese street food originating from Sichuan province in southwestern China. It consists of various self-selected meats, vegetables and noodles boiled in a broth. Often described as a "personal hotpot", diners choose...

- [Man robbed of HK\\$6 million in crypto and silver in Hong Kong, probe under way](#) (2026-03-07 05:21)

Hong Kong police are investigating an attack and robbery in which a man lost about HK\$6 million (US\$767,070) in cryptocurrency and silver. The force said it received a report at 3.52am on Saturday that a 25-year-old mainland Chinese man was attacked by three men and a woman at a hotel near Man Lok Street in Hung Hom and robbed of cryptocurrency worth HK\$5 million from his account. The suspects later took the victim to another unit in an industrial building, where they seized silver items worth...

- [As Iran war closes Middle East skies, how high can Cathay Pacific fares fly?](#) (2026-03-07 05:03)

Travellers are paying double the usual airfare on Cathay Pacific Airways flights from more than 50 cities to Hong Kong as the Iran war drives up demand for routes that avoid the conflict zone,

with London, Madrid and Chennai seeing the steepest surges, the South China Morning Post has found. The US-Israeli attacks on Iran and subsequent retaliatory strikes that spilled over into neighbouring Gulf states over the course of a week have forced much of the Middle East' s airspace to remain closed,...

- [Canada' s Carney wants Andrew removed from UK line of succession over Epstein ties](#) (2026-03-07 05:00)

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has called for former British prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor to be removed from the royal line of succession over his “deplorable” links to Jeffrey Epstein. The former duke was arrested in February on suspicion of misconduct in public office following allegations he shared sensitive information with the paedophile financier while serving as the UK' s trade envoy. Speaking to reporters in Tokyo, Carney said: “I certainly think his actions are deplorable and...

- [Taiwan starts review of defence bill as competing proposals expose divisions](#) (2026-03-07 04:00)

Taiwan' s legislature has agreed to begin reviewing a long-stalled special defence budget, but competing opposition proposals are set to complicate passage of the government' s NT\$1.25 trillion (US\$40 billion) plan despite mounting pressure from the United States. Lawmakers began scrutinising the bill on Friday, as three rival proposals from the island' s main political parties exposed deep divisions over how much Taiwan should spend on defence and what mix of foreign weapons and home-grown...

- [Woman flees Hong Kong flat blaze after alleged knife attack by husband](#) (2026-03-07 03:55)

A woman fled a burning flat in Yuen Long on Saturday, claiming her husband had attacked her with a knife before he was found to have fallen from a height nearby. Police said a woman in her thirties called for help at 9.43am, saying she had been knifed by her husband, who is around the same age, in a flat at 88 Fung Cheung Road before managing to flee. Officers arriving at the scene found that the flat in question was on fire, prompting residents to evacuate. The victim' s husband was later found...

- [Americans recall desperate, self-organised escapes from Middle East: ‘you’ re on your own’](#) (2026-03-07 03:35)

Alyssa Ramos' evacuation from Kuwait took 48 hours and carried her across four continents. The US government did not help with any part of it, the travel blogger said. “They keep going on the news and saying they’ re doing everything they can to get Americans out,” Ramos said after landing in Miami on Thursday. “I know for a fact they’ re not.” She said she repeatedly messaged the US embassy in Kuwait before being directed to the consular section, which told her it could not help her leave the...

- [Indonesia' s US trade deal faces a sovereignty reckoning at home](#) (2026-03-07 03:00)

Indonesia went to Washington to negotiate a trade deal and came home with more than 200 obligations to America's nine. A day after the signing, the US Supreme Court struck down the legal basis for the tariff threat that had driven the whole exercise – for a time, at least. Detractors have likened this “agreement on reciprocal trade” to a blank cheque and a surrender of Indonesia's sovereignty. The government, for its part, calls it a win-win. The deal was signed by President Prabowo Subianto on...

- [As the world's wealthy relocate, rewriting the property map, will Hong Kong win out?](#) (2026-03-07 03:00)

From Sydney to Hong Kong, wealth migration is reshaping the global super-luxury property market as activity picks up after two subdued years – though the dominance of relative newcomer Dubai is now being tested by the war in the Middle East. In Sydney, Peter Li, general manager at Plus Agency, said commission revenues on super-luxury homes had risen about 20 per cent from a year earlier. The firm, which handles more than US\$300 million in annual sales, has hired six new staff members since...

- [Chinese start-up DeepSeek teams with Tencent, HKU on AI tool to sharpen 3D design](#) (2026-03-07 03:00)

Chinese artificial intelligence start-up DeepSeek has collaborated with researchers from Tencent Holdings and the University of Hong Kong (HKU) on a new AI-based method that can improve the accuracy of three-dimensional design. The team proposed Pointer-CAD, a framework built on Alibaba Group Holding's Qwen 2.5 model, which helps designers select edges or faces of a 3D object, increasing the accuracy and efficiency in computer-aided design (CAD), a tool widely used in engineering, manufacturing...

- [‘Deliver more practical outcomes,’ Chinese vice-premier tells Hong Kong Legco](#) (2026-03-07 02:37)

Chinese Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang has urged Hong Kong's legislature to deliver more “practical outcomes” that align with the city's actual conditions and meet Beijing's expectations under the executive-led governance system. Emphasising the importance of the executive-led system for the second day in a row, the state leader reiterated on Saturday that its implementation was not solely the responsibility of the city leader or the government, as he outlined his expectations for the Legislative...

- [‘Two sessions’ 2026: China's zero corruption, financial superpower push](#) (2026-03-07 02:32)
- [US says Russian intelligence for Iran ‘not making any difference’ in war](#) (2026-03-07 02:05)

Russia has provided Iran with information that could help Tehran strike American warships, aircraft and other assets in the region, according to two officials familiar with US intelligence on the matter. The officials, who were not authorised to comment publicly on the sensitive matter

and spoke on the condition of anonymity, cautioned that US intelligence has not uncovered that Russia is directing Iran on what to do with the information as the US and Israel continue their bombardment and Iran...

- [Prime ministers of Singapore, South Korea to attend this month's Boao Forum for Asia](#) (2026-03-07 02:00)

The prime ministers of South Korea and Singapore will be among the world leaders attending this month's Boao Forum for Asia, three sources said, adding to a growing string of leaders from developed economies who have visited China this year. The annual conference is scheduled to be held in Boao, Hainan province, from March 24 to 27, its organiser announced earlier. Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong Shyun Tsai's most recent trip to China was in June, when he met President Xi Jinping and...

- [In China, some of us are keeping elderly care in the family – for now](#) (2026-03-07 01:30)

My grandma, now in her 90s, has long held together an extended family including four children and six grandchildren. As a Chinese saying goes, “Having an elder in the family is like having a treasure.” While my aunt, father and two uncles all live near her in the same city in northern China, my generation has ventured out to different places. Yet no matter where we have settled, no trip home is complete without a visit to Grandma. When I first moved to Beijing, I had to travel about five hours...

- [Ancient China had food delivery services; during Song dynasty, emperors ordered meals via eunuchs](#) (2026-03-07 01:00)

Today, we can order food from apps and enjoy it at home, thanks to smartphones and e-payments. But long before modern vehicles and technology, ancient China had already developed a rough version of food delivery services. Historical records say that during the Han dynasty (206BC-220), an emperor once asked his officials about the living conditions of ordinary people. To conceal the fact that famine had struck the city, one official deliberately bought a bowl of meat soup from a market,...

- [Angry at your boss? A Hong Kong business lets you rage against machines](#) (2026-03-07 00:30)

Destroying a fridge with a baseball bat or smashing glass bottles against a wall would normally be considered signs of hooliganism or problematic anger issues in Hong Kong. But tucked away in an industrial building in Kowloon Bay district, Smashroom HK is providing residents with exactly that opportunity, and the founders have said it is a way for people to deal with the stress of their daily lives. “I believe the pressure on Hongkongers is much greater here [than elsewhere],” said Leung Ka-lok,...

- [Singapore developers feel the heat as China's property woes continue](#) (2026-03-07 00:00)

Singapore's developers are taking hits as China's property downturn drags into another year, with declining rents, emptier buildings and falling values weighing on their results. But analysts say Beijing's huge market and recent policy support mean most investors are unlikely to pull back entirely, instead becoming far more selective about where they invest. Recent earnings from several Singapore developers show the pressure building across their China portfolios, even as investors watch for...

- [US tariff refund system to be ready in 45 days, after Trump duties struck down](#) (2026-03-06 21:52)

The US customs agency is readying a system within 45 days to process refunds on President Donald Trump's tariffs that were struck down as illegal, a customs official said in a court filing on Friday. The declaration by Customs and Border Protection official Brandon Lord came just before government lawyers met with a federal trade judge to try to hammer out a broad settlement process for returning US\$166 billion in tariff payments to around 330,000 importers. Last month, the US Supreme Court...

- [Why Melania Trump's UN speech is an affront to decency](#) (2026-03-06 21:30)

I am a sucker for all kinds of humour, including tasteless jokes. But I draw the line at sick jokes being reported as serious news. As far as those jokes go, the Monday appearance of US first lady Melania Trump as chair of a United Nations Security Council meeting takes the cake. The topic of her speech? Children, technology and education in conflict. She declared that the US "stands with all of the children throughout the world". Seriously, you can't make this stuff up. The cynicism and...

- [US sheds 92,000 jobs in warning sign for Trump's economy](#) (2026-03-06 21:09)

The US unexpectedly lost jobs in February while unemployment edged up, government data showed Friday, piling pressure on President Donald Trump's economic agenda as key midterm elections approach. The world's biggest economy shed 92,000 jobs last month, in a sharp reversal from the job growth of 126,000 in January, the Labour Department said. The unemployment rate, meanwhile, crept up to 4.4 per cent from 4.3 per cent. White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett insisted Friday that the US...

- [Australia complains to China after encounter between military helicopters](#) (2026-03-06 18:27)

Australia has raised concerns with China following an "unsafe and unprofessional" encounter between two military helicopters, the defence department said on Friday. An Australian military helicopter was flying over international waters in the Yellow Sea when it was intercepted by a Chinese helicopter on Wednesday, a statement said. The Chinese helicopter matched the Australian aircraft's altitude before "closing in to an unsafe distance", increasing speed and then rolling towards it,...

- [Trump says Cuba is going to ‘fall pretty soon’](#) (2026-03-06 17:22)

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that “Cuba is gonna fall pretty soon” in a renewed threat to the communist-ruled island already facing a US energy blockade. “They want to make a deal so badly,” Trump told CNN in an interview a day after suggesting that he would turn to an unspecified project for Cuba after the war against Iran. “We’ve got plenty of time, but Cuba’s ready – after 50 years,” Trump said, explaining that Secretary of State Marco Rubio would be his point man on Cuba. Both...

- [Hong Kong women’s football team happy to be home after anxious wait in Dubai](#) (2026-03-06 16:26)

The Hong Kong women’s football team made it home safely on Friday night after several anxious days stranded in Dubai following the US-Israel attacks on Iran, with members expressing relief at their return but disappointment about having to withdraw from a tournament. Twenty-seven players and staff landed in Hong Kong via Bangkok, where they had transited earlier in the week. One player flew from the Thai capital to Boston in the United States, while another is scheduled to leave Dubai for...

- [Wild boar bites hiker, tumbles to its death down flight of stairs in village](#) (2026-03-06 14:55)

A wild boar bit a hiker in Hong Kong before it fell down a flight of stairs and died, according to police. A police spokesman said the victim, 57, had arrived at a public toilet at Boon Kin Village in Tseung Kwan O on Friday morning while hiking with her husband, also 57, and a friend, when the boar suddenly emerged and chased her. Shocked, the woman fell, hitting her head – resulting in swelling on her forehead – and scratching her limbs, police said. Some witnesses reportedly said nearby...

- [50 Israeli fighter jets ‘destroy’ Iran leaders’ underground command centre in Tehran](#) (2026-03-06 14:49)

Israel’s military said on Friday it had struck and destroyed the underground military bunker intended for use by Iran’s slain supreme leader Ali Khamenei. The underground complex is located beneath Iranian government buildings in central Tehran, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement. Spokesman Effie Defrin described the destruction of the bunker as another blow to Iran’s hardline Islamic leadership. Khamenei was killed last Saturday during the opening salvo of Israeli and US air...

- [Beijing vows to expand imports amid ‘China shock’ fears](#) (2026-03-06 14:10)

Beijing has pledged to expand imports and use its vast market to help other countries boost exports to the world’s second-largest economy – a move that could help balance global trade at a time when China’s export machine faces growing scrutiny. Beijing also planned to diversify markets and nurture new trade drivers such as artificial intelligence, seeking to stabilise trade as global supply chains come under mounting pressure from geopolitical conflicts, officials said. Commerce Minister Wang...

- [China’ s eastern and southern economic powerhouses vie for innovation leadership](#) (2026-03-06 13:41)

China’ s most powerful economic regions – the Yangtze River Delta and the Greater Bay Area – are racing to meet President Xi Jinping’ s call for breakthroughs in core technologies including artificial intelligence, as Beijing maps out priorities for the coming 15th five-year plan during the “two sessions” . As part of the annual meeting on Friday, provincial and municipal leaders of Zhejiang province outlined an ambitious strategy to become a key area of AI development and cement the province’ s...

- [Hong Kong authorities rule out chartering Cathay Pacific flights to Middle East](#) (2026-03-06 13:34)

The Hong Kong government has ruled out chartering Cathay Pacific Airways flights to bring home residents stranded in the Middle East, given the potential danger of navigating partially reopened airspaces and challenges in securing take-off slots at foreign airports, sources have said. The South China Morning Post learned that officials had also weighed the option of repatriation flights from Oman, but the absence of direct Cathay services made the route “impractical” because obtaining aviation...

- [Inside China’ s 15th 5-year plan: AI, fusion and defence drive next frontier](#) (2026-03-06 13:27)

China on Thursday unveiled a draft blueprint of key projects for the 2026-2030 period, aimed at overcoming chokepoints to gain a steadier footing in the global tech race and its rivalry with the United States. The 15th five-year plan was released as China’ s top legislature and political advisory body convened in Beijing for the annual “two sessions” meetings, a time when major economic priorities and policy directions are formally set. Here are the major takeaways from Beijing’ s sweeping plan to...

- [Israel’ s strikes on Lebanon need urgent legal probe, says UN, as hundreds of thousands flee](#) (2026-03-06 13:06)

The United Nations on Friday demanded swift investigations into fatal Israeli strikes across Lebanon to decide if they followed international law. “The devastating impact of this renewed conflict is already before our eyes, with civilians paying a painfully heavy price,” UN rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva. “We urge the parties to step back from the brink of a major escalation of this conflict in Lebanon.” Her comments came as fresh Israeli strikes battered...

- [China pledges full support for tech sector with broad range of new policies](#) (2026-03-06 13:05)

China has outlined a basket of measures to support its technology sector, from creating a more flexible and inclusive fundraising ecosystem to boosting demand for hi-tech products. During a

high-profile press conference in Beijing, the country's top economic officials laid out plans to deepen reforms to ChiNext – China's board for start-ups – and make it easier and quicker for companies to refinance. “Technological innovation requires high investment, long cycles, and carries significant risks,” ...

- [Indonesia to ban under-16s from ‘high-risk’ social media platforms](#) (2026-03-06 13:00)

Indonesia will begin restricting access to some social media platforms for users under 16 from March 28, marking one of the region's toughest moves yet to curb children's exposure to harmful online content. Communications and Digital Affairs Minister Meutya Hafid announced the measure on Friday, saying the government had signed a regulation that would gradually stop children under 16 from holding accounts on platforms deemed “high risk”. Hafid said the rule would apply to platforms such as...

- [Iran's uncertain future poses a strategic test for China](#) (2026-03-06 12:30)

China has responded to the escalating conflict in Iran with familiar language: calls for restraint, condemnation of military escalation and appeals for dialogue. But beneath the carefully calibrated diplomacy lies a harder strategic reality. What happens in Iran carries significant implications for Beijing's energy security, regional positioning and global rivalry with the United States. For China, Iran is not an ideological ally in the way Russia appears to be. The relationship is rooted in...

- [DNA confirms mutilated remains found on Bali beach belong to kidnapped Ukrainian](#) (2026-03-06 12:24)

Mutilated human remains, including a severed head, that were discovered on a Bali beach last month have been identified through DNA testing as those of a Ukrainian tourist who police say was kidnapped earlier in the resort island's south, according to Indonesian authorities. Bali police said forensic analysis had confirmed that body parts found near Ketewel Beach in Gianyar Regency belonged to Ihor Komarov, a 28-year-old Ukrainian national who had been reported abducted in mid-February. The...

- [China fires back at currency-depreciation claims, denies using weak yuan to boost exports](#) (2026-03-06 12:00)

Beijing has stressed that it does not intend to rely on a weaker yuan for trade gains, amid a recent rally in the currency and mounting pressure from trade partners to allow it to strengthen. “China has neither the need nor the intention to gain competitive advantages in trade through currency depreciation,” said Pan Gongsheng, governor of the central bank, at a press conference of the country's top economic officials on Friday. The comments came ahead of a new round of trade talks between China...

- [Why China wants stronger policing of disputed waters under new 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-06 12:00)

China has pledged to strengthen maritime law enforcement and bolster legal and institutional mechanisms to defend its claims in disputed waters. Outlined in Beijing's latest five-year policy blueprint, the resolution reflects its effort to strengthen China's position in increasingly contested waters. China's 15th five-year plan, which covers the 2026-2030 period, also signals a push by policymakers to expand China's influence in shaping global maritime governance and rule-making. Unlike the...

- [Sacking of teacher for anti-police remarks reasonable, appeal court rules](#) (2026-03-06 11:45)

The Hong Kong government has won an appeal against a court ruling that found a veteran teacher's dismissal for anti-police remarks was unlawful. The Court of Appeal on Friday ruled that the secretary for the civil service was entitled to sack 27-year veteran Toffee Tam Yuk-fun and strip her of all retirement benefits for serious misconduct during the 2019 anti-government protests. Tam, who taught at the Jockey Club Government Secondary School in Kowloon Tong, previously won a judicial review...

- [2 tankers carrying India's Reliance fuel ditch Europe, divert to Singapore, Southeast Asia](#) (2026-03-06 11:18)

Two tankers loaded with fuel from Reliance Industries in India that were headed to Europe made U-turns and are now bound for Asia, according to two trade sources and ship-tracking data, as the refiner capitalises on firm Asian margins with the Iran war squeezing supply. The Advantage Life, which loaded around 100,000 metric tons (745,000 barrels) of diesel at Reliance's Jamnagar refinery on February 28, is currently bound for Singapore, according to Kpler, LSEG data and two trade...

- [3 workers arrested over theft at Tai Po fire block, HK\\$90,000 in jewellery seized](#) (2026-03-06 11:18)

Hong Kong police have arrested three construction workers on suspicion of theft at Tai Po's Wang Fuk Court, seizing HK\$90,000 (US\$11,510) worth of gold jewellery, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source confirmed that police arrested three workers responsible for structural reinforcement work at the estate, destroyed in a blaze last year, for suspected theft on Thursday afternoon. During the investigation, officers seized HK\$90,000 worth of gold jewellery from the three labourers, who...

- [China's securities regulator vows tougher oversight to shore up stock-market confidence](#) (2026-03-06 11:00)

China's top securities regulator outlined a plan on Friday to strengthen corporate governance, boost investor returns and cultivate globally competitive companies, as Beijing seeks to reinforce confidence in the country's capital markets. "On the basis of continuously strengthening the authenticity of listed companies, we will further enhance their investability," said Wu Qing, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), at a press

conference on the sidelines of China’ s annual...

- [8 takeaways from the economic briefing at China’ s ‘two sessions’](#) (2026-03-06 10:57)

China’ s top economic officials held a press conference on the sidelines of the “two sessions” – the annual meetings of China’ s top legislature and advisory body – in Beijing on Friday. The briefing, which came a day after Beijing unveiled its economic goals for 2026 and a draft outline for its 15th five-year plan, offered fresh insights into China’ s agenda for trade, investment and technological development. Here are the main takeaways from the meeting: Exchange rate Pan Gongsheng, governor of...

- [Sri Lanka takes control of Iranian ship, brings crew to shore](#) (2026-03-06 10:35)

Sri Lanka began transferring more than 200 sailors from an Iranian vessel to shore on Friday after the ship sought help while anchored outside the country’ s waters, as tensions mounted in the Indian Ocean following the sinking of an Iranian warship by a US submarine. Sri Lanka navy spokesman Commander Buddhika Sampath said the sailors of the IRIS Bushehr were being brought first to the port of Colombo and the ship will later be moved to an eastern port on the island. “The disembarkation is in...

- [Hong Kong police arrest 3 linked to HK\\$10 million knifepoint robbery](#) (2026-03-06 10:27)

Hong Kong police have arrested three men in connection with a HK\$10 million (US\$1.28 million) knifepoint robbery in Sheung Wan, the latest in a string of such cases targeting people exchanging foreign currency. Superintendent Lo Ka-chun said on Friday that officers had earlier received a tip-off that a criminal syndicate would attempt a robbery, prompting police to set up an ambush at about 9am that day. “This morning, the two victims had taken about HK\$10 million in foreign currency to a...

- [China to pursue commercial health insurance to ease public strain, support drug innovation](#) (2026-03-06 10:12)

China has for the first time included commercial health insurance in its 2026 government work report, signalling efforts to strengthen the country’ s social safety net and support the growth of innovative drugs and medical devices. On Thursday, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said the government would “work faster to develop commercial health insurance” and promote the “high-quality development of innovative drugs and medical devices” to better meet people’ s diverse needs. Behind the unusual emphasis...

- [Chinese man adopted by Canadian family reunites with birth father after being abandoned](#) (2026-03-06 10:00)

A Chinese man who got lost at a railway station at the age of four and was adopted by a Canadian couple who abandoned him has been reunited with his biological father. Zhang Yunpeng, 28, hugged his father Zhang Jiucheng and both of them burst into tears at the reunion event in Huinan county, Jilin province, northeastern China, on March 2. “After more than 20

years, I saw you finally,” Zhang senior said, Jimu News reported. The son replied with his rusty Chinese: “Dad, I love you.” Zhang junior...

- [Could Iran war confirm China’s prediction on US military’s hypersonic nightmare?](#) (2026-03-06 09:56)

On the same day the US and Israel launched air strikes against Iran, a research team led by Liao Longwen with the Northwest Institute of Nuclear Technology published a paper in the Chinese journal Tactical Missile Technology on the ability of US missile defence systems to intercept hypersonic weapons. The US systems were dangerously outmatched by these threats, the researchers concluded in the paper released on Saturday. “Existing US missile defences can theoretically intercept some hypersonic...

- [China’s last CMC general urges more ‘political rectification’ in PLA centenary countdown](#) (2026-03-06 09:52)

The last uniformed man standing on China’s top military body has called for further “political rectification” of the armed forces, following a wave of high-profile corruption investigations. At a panel discussion in Beijing on Thursday as part of the country’s annual “two sessions”, Zhang Shengmin, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), said this year was “crucial for fulfilling the goal for the centenary” of the People’s Liberation Army. “We must deepen political rectification,...

- [Qatar’s LNG halt exposes Asia’s energy vulnerability](#) (2026-03-06 09:30)

Asia is bracing itself for another energy shock after a disruption to Qatar’s liquefied natural gas (LNG) output sent regional gas prices to their highest level in about three years, exposing what observers say is a dangerous reliance on Middle Eastern fuel supplies. The increase follows Iran’s drone strikes on Qatar in retaliation for Israeli and US attacks in a widening conflict, alongside a blockade of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz – a key artery for global oil and gas trade. Spot LNG...

- [CK Hutchison escalates legal action over Panama ports seizure](#) (2026-03-06 09:15)

Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison Holdings has stepped up legal action in response to what it called Panamanian authorities’ unlawful takeover of the operations of two ports at either end of the strategic canal. The group, led by the family of Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing, said on Friday it had submitted a supplement to its earlier petition against the Panamanian state for international arbitration. The supplement alleged that Panama continued to ignore the firm’s requests for communication...

- [UK police arrest 4 on suspicion of spying for Iran](#) (2026-03-06 09:14)

Four men were arrested in Britain on Friday on suspicion of assisting Iran’s intelligence service by spying on locations and people linked to London’s Jewish community, police said. The men – one Iranian national and three dual British-Iranians – were arrested by

counterterrorism police at three separate addresses in the UK capital, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. The force's head of counterterrorism policing, Helen Flanagan, said the arrests were "part of a long-running..."

- [China's AI focus, growth target cut, US-China trade talks](#) (2026-03-06 09:00)

SCMP.com will carry a live blog of the foreign ministry's "two sessions" press conference on Sunday morning (Beijing time). Foreign Minister Wang Yi is likely to speak at the event. China is sharpening its focus on artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced manufacturing as it seeks to bolster the economy and achieve technological self-reliance. The digital economy will grow to 12.5 per cent of gross domestic product by 2030, from 10.5 per cent last year, under the 15th five-year plan being...

- [Malaysian FA disappointed with CAS ruling to partially uphold player sanctions](#) (2026-03-06 08:41)

Malaysia's football association said on Friday it was disappointed by a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruling to partially uphold sanctions on seven footballers who played for the national team using falsified naturalisation documents. Deportivo Alaves' Facundo Garcés was among seven players banned for a year by Fifa in September after it found that doctored documentation had been used so that they could play in an Asian Cup qualifier for Malaysia against Vietnam last year. The other...

- [China's energy transition proves a boon in the Iran crisis](#) (2026-03-06 08:30)

As the world's largest oil and gas importer, China undoubtedly faces a significant disruption, what with the US-Israeli war on Iran and its cascading impact across the Gulf. But it could have been worse. Beijing has worked unstintingly for well over a decade to build energy self-reliance and reduce the role of fossil fuels in powering the country's manufacturing economy. For leaders gathered in Beijing for the annual parliamentary "two sessions" meetings, which will endorse China's 15th...

- [Indonesia faces fiscal squeeze as Iran war drives up oil prices](#) (2026-03-06 08:03)

Indonesia could face a sharp fiscal squeeze if the US-Israel war on Iran pushes oil prices higher, analysts warn, as this risks inflating the country's fuel subsidy bill at a time when global ratings agencies and investors are already scrutinising Jakarta's budgetary discipline. A prolonged war could force policymakers into a difficult choice: maintain fuel subsidies and risk breaching the legal deficit ceiling – potentially unsettling investors further – or cut funding to keep the budget within...

- [China-Iran relations](#) (2026-03-06 08:00)

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- [Measurable goals in China's new five-year plan](#) (2026-03-06 07:34)

China's 15th five-year plan lays out a comprehensive set of quantitative socio-economic development targets, ranging from innovation to food and energy security. To navigate external volatility and sluggish domestic demand, Beijing has built in flexibility by allowing specific economic and innovation metrics to be determined on certain conditions.

- [Malaysian mother fined US\\$379 after underage son's car crash claims 3 lives](#)

(2026-03-06 07:06)

A Malaysian mother who allowed her underage son to drive her car, which later got into an accident claiming three lives, was fined 1,500 ringgit (US\$379) by the Magistrate's Court in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan state. Magistrate Nurul Azuin Mohd Talhah also ordered 40-year-old Nur Farahidayah A Rahman to be jailed for three months in the event she was unable to pay the fine. "After considering the guilty plea by the accused, mitigating factors and submissions by parties and the aggravating...

- [Hitting inflation target is key to China's other economic goals, adviser says](#)

(2026-03-06 07:00)

Achieving this year's inflation target would be one of China's top economic tasks, a prominent economist and government adviser said, as it was pivotal to accomplishing other government priorities such as boosting consumption, raising incomes and achieving the required headline growth figures. "The inflation target corresponds to a state of relative equilibrium between supply and demand," Zhang Bin, deputy director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social...

- [How far could the war with Iran spread beyond the Middle East?](#)

(2026-03-06 07:00)

What began as a US-Israeli assault on Iran is rapidly evolving into a conflict with the potential to spread far beyond the Middle East. Iranian missiles and drones have already struck or reached Turkey and Azerbaijan, while European powers are rushing additional warships, fighter jets and air defences to the eastern Mediterranean and Gulf to contain the fallout. Analysts warn the longer the war continues, the greater the risk that long-simmering regional fault lines – from Kurdish militancy to...

- [China vows support for tech, trade rebalance and capital market reforms - as it happened](#)

(2026-03-06 06:55)

This live blog is freely available to our registered users. Please log in or create an account below. For full coverage of the 15th five-year plan, including policy and economic shifts plus Trump's visit, subscribe with our China Super March offer now. China's top economic officials held a press conference on Friday as part of the "two sessions", the country's annual policymaking meetings. The leaders of the National Development and Reform Commission – Beijing's top economic planner – the...

- [Hong Kong domestic helper jailed for 27 months over fatal runaway car accident](#)

(2026-03-06 06:16)

A domestic helper has been jailed for 27 months for failing to secure her car on a slope in a Hong Kong nightlife district, killing a French woman and injuring seven others. Deputy District Judge Timothy Harry Casewell found Reshielle Lagurin Magsino, 48, guilty of causing death by dangerous driving and serious bodily harm. The court heard that Magsino, who came to Hong Kong in 2009 and obtained a driving licence four years later, had worked for the same employer since her arrival and was...

- [Hong Kong cancer patient dies 3 weeks after incorrect opening in abdomen](#)

(2026-03-06 06:05)

A Hong Kong hospital has launched an investigation after an elderly patient with colon cancer died three weeks after surgeons carried out a medical procedure on the wrong organ. Tseung Kwan O Hospital said on Friday the 85-year-old patient died on Tuesday after undergoing stoma surgery on February 7. The procedure involved creating a surgical opening on the abdomen, known as a stoma, to alleviate an intestinal obstruction. In the time between the operation and her death, the patient was...

- [Middle powers Canada, South Korea set Arctic course between China-Russia and US](#)

(2026-03-06 06:00)

Canada's defence agreement with South Korea signals the two countries' "middle-power answer" to increasing cooperation between Beijing and Moscow in the Arctic region and Washington's pressure on its allies for defence burden sharing, analysts said. The agreement, signed on February 25 as part of a 2+2 foreign and defence ministerial meeting, followed the Security and Defence Cooperation Partnership (SDCP) established by the two countries in October. According to a joint statement issued after...

- [Dozens of pet corpses found on China highway, likely caused by unsafe transport by owners](#)

(2026-03-06 06:00)

An internet user in China has exposed on social media that he found 62 pet corpses on a 300-kilometre stretch of expressway after their owners tied them to the outside vehicles during the Chinese New Year travel rush. In his viral video released on February 25, the blogger Wu Jiayou said he encountered the corpses on the road while he was driving from Leshan in Sichuan province to Chongqing, southwestern China, according to a report by the Yangcheng Evening News. About eight of the animals were...

- [Philippines battles US-Iran war fuel crisis with air con limits, flexible work plan](#)

(2026-03-06 05:43)

The Philippines is looking at ways to save on energy as tensions in the Middle East push global fuel costs higher, with the government suggesting people use their air conditioners less and shy away from non-essential travel. The Southeast Asian nation imports nearly all of its oil

requirements and the war in Iran could spur inflation that already hit a 13-month high in February. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's administration this week ordered government offices to set their air conditioners to...

- [South Korea uneasy as US weighs moving air defences to Middle East](#) (2026-03-06 05:37)

Reports that Washington could redirect some US military assets from South Korea to the Middle East have stirred unease in Seoul, reviving concerns that a crisis elsewhere could thin deterrence on the Korean peninsula. Analysts said a redeployment of missile-defence systems could leave South Korea feeling vulnerable to North Korean “adventurism” and signal Washington's “shifting priorities and lack of seriousness” towards its Indo-Pacific allies. Citing a South Korean government official, the...

- [The European leader defying Trump and his attacks on Iran](#) (2026-03-06 05:23)

Spain's Pedro Sanchez has once again emerged as Europe's most consistently vocal critic of US President Donald Trump, drawing his ire for refusing to allow the American military to stage operations for its attacks on Iran from Spanish military bases. Trump lashed out at the Spanish prime minister on Tuesday, saying he would “cut off all trade with Spain” in retaliation for the affront. The spat intensified the next day when Spain's foreign minister contradicted a claim by the White House press...

- [China pivots to ‘investing in people’ strategy as growth engine switches gears](#) (2026-03-06 05:00)

China will allocate more of its fiscal spending this year towards human capital and social safety nets, as Beijing seeks to boost domestic demand and unlock new growth through “investing in people”. “Efforts must be sustained to optimise the expenditure structure, with greater emphasis on supporting the boosting of consumption, investing in people, and safeguarding people's livelihoods,” Premier Li Qiang said in his annual work report, delivered during the opening session of the National...

- [Hong Kong grants HK\\$6.15 million to family of firefighter killed in Tai Po blaze](#) (2026-03-06 04:54)

The family of deceased firefighter Ho Wai-ho, who died while battling Hong Kong's deadliest blaze in seven decades, will receive HK\$6.15 million (US\$831,246) in financial assistance in recognition of his courage and selflessness. The government on Friday announced a grant approved by the body responsible for providing financial support to families of individuals who died while saving others. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han, who also chairs the committee, paid tribute to Ho's...

- [London risks becoming a ‘childless city’ as families flee record costs](#) (2026-03-06 04:31)

London's child population is collapsing faster than anywhere in Britain as unaffordable housing and childcare costs drive young families away, a report by the London Assembly found.

In the decade through 2023 the number of residents under ten years of age fell by 99,100 as families moved out and fertility rates crashed - even while the capital's overall population increased by 506,000. Falling pupil numbers have prompted 100 of London's 2,500 schools to close since 2018; mostly in inner London....

- [China's US\\$24 billion seaport push; war on Iran as 'wake-up call' : SCMP's 7 highlights](#) (2026-03-06 04:12)

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. 'We couldn't reach them' : Chinese firms' Iran business in limbo after strikes Rising tensions in the Middle East following attacks on Iran are having an impact on the trade corridors and investment plans of Chinese exporters and...

- ['1,000-year source' : China plans to fire up world-first accelerator-driven nuclear reactor](#) (2026-03-06 03:59)

China will soon power up an ultra-efficient, nuclear waste-burning reactor with a groundbreaking technology that it projects will safely meet humanity's energy needs for the next 1,000 years. Accelerator-driven subcritical systems (ADS) are advanced nuclear reactors that can both generate energy and transmute long-lived radioactive waste into shorter-lived and less hazardous isotopes. Designed by researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) along with state nuclear enterprises, the China...

- [US government releases Epstein files that include uncorroborated claim about Trump](#) (2026-03-06 03:43)

The US Justice Department on Thursday released additional Jeffrey Epstein files involving uncorroborated accusations made by a woman against US President Donald Trump that the department said had been mistakenly withheld during an earlier review. The department said last week that it was working to determine if any records were improperly withheld after several news organisations reported that the massive tranche of records that had been made public did not include some files documenting a...

- [Jimmy Lai will not appeal 20-year sentence after national security trial: source](#) (2026-03-06 03:41)

Former Hong Kong media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying has decided not to appeal against his conviction and 20-year jail sentence imposed in a landmark national security trial, the South China Morning Post has learned. A member of Lai's Hong Kong legal team, who asked not to be named, confirmed to the SCMP on Friday that Lai would not file an application to the Court of Appeal before the usual 28-day deadline for lodging an appeal in criminal proceedings expires on Monday. "We can confirm we have clear...

- [Hong Kong court upholds limits on journalists’ instant access to car registry](#) (2026-03-06 03:23)

The Hong Kong Journalists Association has lost its judicial challenge against the government’s decision to restrict reporters’ access to its vehicle registry, despite a ruling by the city’s top court that journalism is a valid reason for use. The High Court on Friday ruled against the press union over the policy introduced in early 2024, following the Court of Final Appeal’s decision that a freelance producer was entitled to access Transport Department records while making a documentary critical...

- [China’s BYD looks to make electric vehicle charging as fast as filling up with petrol](#) (2026-03-06 03:15)

Leading Chinese electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer BYD has unveiled a new-generation battery featuring charging speeds that the company says can rival a refill at a petrol station. BYD’s Blade Battery 2.0, launched on Thursday, can be charged from 10 per cent to 70 per cent in five minutes, and to 97 per cent in nine minutes, which the company said was the world’s fastest charging speed for a mass-manufactured unit. Even in extreme weather, with temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees Celsius...

- [China’s new 5-year plan targets tax reform as local governments face fiscal strain](#) (2026-03-06 03:00)

With local governments in China struggling to replenish their treasuries while facing growing public service obligations, Beijing is setting its sights on securing more tax revenue as a major reform goal for 2026 and the four years beyond. Compared with the previous five-year plan period’s emphasis on “tax and fee cuts”, the language in the draft of the full 15th five-year plan – released on Thursday – emphasised “maintaining a reasonable macro tax burden”. The document also pledged to...

- [Japan’s manga industry faces a ‘#MeToo moment’ after Shogakukan scandal](#) (2026-03-06 03:00)

One of Japan’s largest manga publishers is facing mounting backlash after it emerged that a writer convicted of sexually assaulting a minor had continued producing work for the company under a different name. The controversy has prompted some observers to ask whether Japan’s manga industry is experiencing a belated “#MeToo moment”, as prominent creators pull their works from the publisher’s Manga One digital platform in protest. Tokyo-based Shogakukan said on Tuesday it would set up a...

- [US seen as likely responsible for Iran school strike that killed scores of children](#) (2026-03-06 02:32)

US military investigators believe it is likely that US forces were responsible for an apparent strike on an Iranian girls’ school that killed scores of children on Saturday but have not yet reached a final conclusion or completed their investigation, two US officials told Reuters.

Reuters was unable to determine more details about the investigation, including what evidence contributed to the tentative assessment, what type of munition was used, who was responsible or why the US might have...

- [US-Israel war on Iran: will Malaysia's tourism thrive amid Mideast crisis?](#) (2026-03-06 02:30)

With the escalating tensions in the Middle East, there have been flight cancellations, closures of several airports and an increasing fear of flying abroad. Malaysia's tourism industry, however, is confident the country's diversified visitor base will help cushion any potential impact on the Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign. The conflict has disrupted thousands of flights, prompting travellers to adopt a "wait-and-see" approach, said Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents president Nigel...

- [Chinese vice-premier stresses shared duty in Hong Kong's executive-led governance](#) (2026-03-06 02:21)

Chinese Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang has acknowledged it is no "easy task" to truly implement Hong Kong's executive-led governance system, stressing that it must be a "shared responsibility" of the legislative and judicial branches and society as a whole. But Ding, the head of the Central Leading Group on Hong Kong and Macau Affairs, said an executive-led governance system was "important and essential" for the city to align with China's 15th five-year plan and advance its integration with the...

- [China's 'two sessions': adviser urges end to forced marriages of mentally ill rural women](#) (2026-03-06 02:12)

A top Chinese political adviser has sounded the alarm on forced marriages of women with mental disabilities in rural areas, calling for a prevention mechanism and a nationwide investigation campaign. Jiang Shengnan, a writer and member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, warned that tackling the issue presented multiple challenges. There was a lack of support for such women when it came to marriage-related decision-making, Jiang...

- [Japan weighs military upgrade on Iwo Jima amid growing Chinese presence in Pacific](#) (2026-03-06 02:00)

Japan is considering a significant expansion of its military presence on Iwoto – the island south of Tokyo better known as Iwo Jima and the site of one of World War II's fiercest battles – as it responds to growing Chinese activity in the Pacific Ocean. The Asahi newspaper reported on Wednesday that the defence ministry planned to strengthen its presence on the volcanic island, about 1,207km south of the Japanese capital. Analysts say the aim is to bolster the economic and military security of...

- [Let the achievements of Eileen Gu and Alysa Liu speak for themselves](#) (2026-03-06 01:30)

Athletes of Asian heritage have come to the fore at this month's Winter Olympics. They broke records, reshaped perceptions and inspired millions worldwide. Yet in the United States, the conversation around two of the most successful athletes, Eileen Gu, the freestyle skier representing China, and Team USA figure skater Alysa Liu, has too often drifted from their incredible achievements to questions of identity, loyalty and partisan point-scoring. This speaks volumes about the anxieties of a...

- [Iran damage report: who and what has been targeted in US-Israel strikes?](#) (2026-03-06 01:25)

The US and Israel are striking a much wider array of targets in Iran than they did during 12 days of war last summer, when their focus was on the country's nuclear enrichment sites. Now, the aim appears to be destroying Iran's military and weakening the grip of its theocratic rulers, experts say. US Central Command alone says it has hit more than 2,000 targets in less than a week, a far heavier barrage than any American bombing campaign in the Middle East in more than a decade, according to...

- [Albanese says Australian troops were on board US submarine that sank Iranian ship](#) (2026-03-06 01:11)

Three Australian military personnel were on board an American submarine that sank an Iranian navy ship off Sri Lanka this week, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Friday. Speaking to Sky News, Albanese said: "I can confirm that there were three Australian personnel on board that vessel". The personnel were on board the submarine as part of training arrangements under Aukus, a multidecade defence pact with Britain and the United States, Albanese said. "These are long-standing third country...

- [Chinese man discovers gold particles in duck's stomach, weighing 10 grams, worth US\\$1,800](#) (2026-03-06 01:00)

A man from central China discovered gold while slaughtering a duck, an unusual find that echoes ancient gold rush practices. In February, a villager surnamed Liu from Longhui county, Hunan province, discovered the gold particles in a duck's stomach. After a burning test, the particles were confirmed to be genuine gold, weighing around 10g and valued at nearly 12,000 yuan (US\$1,800), the mainland media outlet Xinwenfang reported. Liu's father saw it as a sign of good luck for the year ahead. Liu...

- ['More dim sum, more often' : Hongkongers cash in as war triggers gold rush](#) (2026-03-06 00:30)

Rising gold prices amid the Middle East war have boosted trade in the precious metal in Hong Kong, with residents lining up to sell valuables for cash and retailers reporting that twice as many people are buying bars and pellets. Spot gold stood at US\$5,165 per ounce on Thursday, below January's peak of US\$5,594.82, but still near historic high levels as US-Israel strikes in Iran stoked safe-haven demand. The conflict has spread rapidly across the Middle East, drawing

in Iranian-backed militias...

- [Japan is eyeing a ‘China-free’ supply chain for defence equipment. Is it feasible?](#) (2026-03-06 00:00)

Japan could build a “China-free” supply chain for defence equipment, but doing so would be costly and could take years as Tokyo tries to reduce its reliance on a strategic rival, analysts have said. The debate gained urgency after Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi last week said Tokyo should consider creating a “China-free” supply chain for defence equipment, following Beijing’s ban on exports of dual-use items to Japan. Speaking during a Lower House Budget Committee session, Koizumi said...

- [Trump sued in bid to undo approval of TikTok’s US sale](#) (2026-03-05 23:48)

Donald Trump and his attorney general were sued on Thursday by retail investors in two social media rivals of TikTok seeking to reverse the US president’s approval of a deal by the company’s Chinese owner ByteDance to form a majority American-owned joint venture. The lawsuit, the first legal challenge to the deal, argues that Trump’s approval last year violated requirements set out in a 2024 divestiture law. Two California residents who hold shares in Alphabet and Meta Platforms sued, backed by...

- [Lean harder into Hong Kong-mainland China market ties, ‘two sessions’ delegates urge](#) (2026-03-05 23:30)

Hong Kong can reinforce its role as an international financial centre by deepening integration with mainland capital markets and expanding cross-border investment channels, financial industry leaders said on Thursday during China’s annual “two sessions”. Stronger collaboration between Hong Kong and mainland exchanges would enhance the resilience of the mainland’s financial system while supporting the internationalisation of the yuan, said Tan Yueheng, permanent honorary president of the Chinese...

- [Crypto billionaire Justin Sun settles US fraud case for US\\$10 million](#) (2026-03-05 22:54)

Chinese cryptocurrency entrepreneur Justin Sun has reached a US\$10 million settlement to resolve a US Securities and Exchange Commission civil fraud case over his trading activity. Thursday’s settlement requires court approval, with the payment made by one of Sun’s companies. It came as US President Donald Trump pushes to make the United States a global hub for the cryptocurrency industry. Sun and his companies did not admit or deny wrongdoing, the SEC said in a letter to US District Judge...

- [Insilico Medicine advances Middle East push with UAE AI drug discovery deal](#) (2026-03-05 22:30)

Hong Kong-listed Insilico Medicine has signed a cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates’ drug regulator to advance the use of its artificial intelligence tools in drug discovery across the region, even as geopolitical tensions escalate in the Middle East. Shares of Insilico

rose as much as 12.8 per cent in morning trading on Thursday before paring gains to close 8.6per cent higher at HK\$56.10. The advance outpaced the benchmark Hang Seng Index, which edged up 0.3 per cent. The...

- [24 US states sue to stop Trump’ s latest global tariffs, including New York, California](#) (2026-03-05 19:27)

A group of 24 US states sued President Donald Trump’ s administration on Thursday in the first legal challenge to his newly imposed 10 per cent global tariffs, alleging that the president cannot sidestep a recent US Supreme Court ruling that invalidated most of his previous tariffs on imported goods by citing new legal authority, according to the states. The Democratic-led states, including New York, California and Oregon, argued that the new tariffs, which Trump announced immediately after the...

- [Trump ousts Kristi Noem as Homeland Security chief amid immigration uproar](#) (2026-03-05 19:04)

One of the top officials overseeing Donald Trump’ s immigration crackdown, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, will leave her role, the US president said on Thursday, a major staffing move that raises questions about the direction of the Republican president’ s immigration agenda. “I am pleased to announce that the Highly Respected United States Senator from the Great State of Oklahoma, Markwayne Mullin, will become the United States Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS), effective March 31,...

- [US asking Ukraine for help against Iran’ s drones in Middle East, Zelensky says](#) (2026-03-05 18:47)

The US has asked Ukraine for help fending off Iranian drone attacks in the Middle East, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday, adding that he had ordered expert support to be given. During Russia’ s four-year invasion, Kyiv has developed a range of cheap and effective drone interceptors – aerial craft designed to hit incoming attack drones mid-air – that it says are world-leading. Zelensky on Tuesday offered US allies in the Middle East a swap of some of their air defence...

- [US won’ t let India become rival like China, Trump official says](#) (2026-03-05 18:18)

The US will not give India the same kind of economic advantages it gave China, which allowed that country to emerge as a major competitor, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said on Thursday, signalling Washington’ s cautiousness in negotiations over a trade deal. While the US wants to work with India to unlock its “limitless potential,” India should understand that “we are not going to make the same mistakes with India that we made with China 20 years ago” , Landau said at the Raisina...

- [Trump says he must be involved in picking Iran’ s new leader, Khamenei’ s son ‘unacceptable’](#) (2026-03-05 17:14)

US President Donald Trump on Thursday insisted he should have a role in picking Iran's next supreme leader after the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose son he said he found unacceptable. "Khamenei's son is a lightweight. I have to be involved in the appointment, like with Delcy," Trump told Axios in an interview, drawing a comparison to Venezuela, where interim president Delcy Rodriguez has cooperated with him under threat of violence after the US ousted her boss, Nicolas Maduro. Trump...

- [Hong Kong strengthens its role as an international education hub and gateway to the GBA, expanding cross-border learning and research](#) (2026-03-05 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Hong Kong takes decisive initiative amid a shifting global higher education landscape as student mobility diversifies beyond traditional destinations and universities forge practice-oriented partnerships and programmes that build cross-border competencies for a fluid global talent market. The city has amplified the "Study in Hong Kong" brand, expanded institutional collaboration, and aligned policy with institutional...

- [Court of Arbitration for Sport cuts sanctions on Malaysia players to official-match bans](#) (2026-03-05 15:30)

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Thursday eased sanctions on seven footballers who played for Malaysia using falsified naturalisation documents, ruling they will serve a 12-month suspension from official matches only. Deportivo Alaves' Facundo Garces was among seven players banned for a year by Fifa in September, after football's governing body found that doctored documentation had been used so that they could play in an Asian Cup qualifier for Malaysia against Vietnam. The other...

- [China's 5-year plan emphasises 'orderly' AI development amid global tech volatility](#) (2026-03-05 15:30)

Beijing has emphasised the safe and orderly development of artificial intelligence amid growing global anxiety about the disruptive impact of the rapidly advancing technology, as the country's leaders put the final stamp of approval on China's next five-year plan at this year's "two sessions". The 15th five-year plan elevates China's AI Plus initiative as a top national priority, according to a draft version of the document submitted for review to the National People's Congress, China's top...

- [China targets lowest growth range since 1991 in realistic move as pressures rise](#) (2026-03-05 14:30)

Beijing has set a relatively cautious yet pragmatic economic growth target for 2026 amid persistent domestic headwinds and escalating external pressures. A 4.5 to 5 per cent GDP growth target – the lowest since 1991 – was announced by Premier Li Qiang on Thursday at the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature. In delivering his annual government work report, Li reaffirmed Beijing's aim for stronger

economic growth where conditions allowed. He emphasised...

- [JD.com posts first quarterly loss in nearly four years as delivery battle takes toll](#) (2026-03-05 14:01)

Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com reported a 2.7 billion yuan (US\$392 million) loss in the fourth quarter and a halving of annual profit amid an ongoing food delivery battle it ignited last year. The fourth-quarter loss contrasted with a profit of 9.9 billion yuan a year earlier, marking the company's first quarterly loss since the start of 2022, according to its earnings results on Thursday. Profit for last year dropped nearly 53 per cent to 19.6 billion yuan. However, by non-generally accepted...

- [Xi Jinping calls for China's provincial powerhouses to lead on tech at 'two sessions'](#) (2026-03-05 13:22)

President Xi Jinping urged China's major provincial economies to take the lead in technological innovation and strengthen their resilience to external shocks over the next five years, as part of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC) – the country's top legislature – which began in Beijing on Thursday. Addressing deputies from the eastern province of Jiangsu, Xi said the region should be at the forefront of developing “new quality productive forces” – the emerging industries...

- [China keeps defence budget growth steady as modernisation deadline looms](#) (2026-03-05 13:00)

China has earmarked a 7 per cent increase in defence spending this year, keeping the growth rate largely stable even as the White House aims to ramp up expenditure for the military. In a budget released on Thursday at the start of the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), Beijing said it would allocate 1.91 trillion yuan (US\$277 billion) for defence. The 7 per cent is a shade down from the 7.2 per cent rise last year but still above the 4.5 to 5 per cent GDP growth target set...

- [Tung Wah College to undergo review in April on bid to gain university status](#) (2026-03-05 12:53)

Tung Wah College, a tertiary institution in Hong Kong known for its nursing care and allied health programmes, will undergo a combined review next month on its application to become both a private university and a university of applied sciences (UAS) and is “very confident”, its head has said. Professor Sally Chan Wai-chi, president of the 16-year-old Ho Man Tin-based college, said on Thursday that it planned to adopt the name “Hong Kong Tung Wah University” if its application was approved. At a...

- [Hong Kong truck driver arrested after crash kills cabby and passenger](#) (2026-03-05 12:48)

Hong Kong police have arrested a driver after his truck collided head-on with a taxi, fatally injuring the driver and passenger. The force said on Thursday the truck driver, a 35-year-old

man surnamed He, was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving causing death and detained for questioning. The taxi was travelling along Fan Kam Road near the Fanling golf course towards Sheung Shui and the medium goods vehicle was heading to Yuen Long on the same road when they collided at 11.25am. The taxi...

- [Warning over screen time and chatbots as number of depressed hits record high](#)

(2026-03-05 12:45)

One in three Hong Kong adults have moderate to severe symptoms of depression, almost triple the rate from 2012, with Generation Z respondents who spent a lot of time on screens affected the most, a survey has found. The biennial study, conducted by the Mental Health Association NGO and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), also found that 22 per cent of the 2,700 adult respondents turned to AI chatbots to manage their stress, which experts on Thursday described as “risky” as this could...

- [China’s ‘two sessions’ show plans for resilience in a stormy world](#) (2026-03-05 12:30)

China’s “two sessions” this year presents less of a story of an economic miracle than of transition: from high-speed to high-quality growth, and from dependence on external demand to a more resilient, innovation-driven economy. Against a backdrop of global tensions and fragmenting supply chains, Beijing is using this political moment to signal that it sees opportunity in adversity and is prepared to recalibrate its development model rather than cling to the habits of the boom years. For China,...

- [Philippines advances Sara Duterte impeachment case, but ‘this is not a cakewalk’](#)

(2026-03-05 12:25)

Philippine lawmakers have moved two impeachment complaints against Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio a step closer to formal proceedings, advancing a case that could ultimately threaten her political future as a potential contender for the presidency in 2028. The drawn-out process also carries political risks for both camps, with some lawmakers arguing that a failed Senate conviction could ultimately strengthen Duterte-Carpio ahead of the 2028 race. The House of Representatives’ justice...

- [16 Hongkongers sued for refusing to vacate homes in HK\\$15 billion URA project](#)

(2026-03-05 12:15)

The Hong Kong government has lodged civil lawsuits against 16 residents who allegedly refused to vacate homes in a neighbourhood known for its Thai and Chiu Chow heritage, earmarked for a HK\$15 billion (US\$1.91 billion) redevelopment project. The secretary for justice, on behalf of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), initiated proceedings at the District Court on Wednesday seeking eviction orders and damages against the 16 residents in Kowloon City. Court documents seen by the South China Morning...

- [China boosts diplomatic budget by 9.3% as US leaves ‘fiscal void’](#) (2026-03-05 12:11)

China is expanding its diplomatic budget by 9.3 per cent, the highest increase in three years, signalling Beijing's plans to consolidate its geopolitical clout as instability mounts around the globe, according to analysts. The Ministry of Finance on Thursday proposed that 70.975 billion yuan (US\$10.28 billion) be allocated for Beijing's diplomatic spending in 2026, up 9.3 per cent from the previous year. It is the fifth consecutive year that China has increased its foreign affairs...

- [Azerbaijan vows to respond after Iranian drones injure 4](#) (2026-03-05 11:46)

Azerbaijan warned on Thursday that it was preparing unspecified response measures after a pair of Iranian drones flew across its border and injured four people in the Nakhchivan exclave, raising concern about further spillover of the conflict in the Middle East. "These attacks will not remain unanswered," the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said in a statement. It added that it was investigating the types of drones used in the attack, and "preparing the necessary response measures to protect the..."

- [Italy to send aid to Gulf states and Cyprus after Iranian strikes](#) (2026-03-05 11:33)

Italy is planning to send air defence aid to Gulf countries and naval assets to Cyprus after Iranian air strikes, the government said on Thursday, amid concern for the safety of citizens and troops in the region as well as for energy security. As the US-Iran war entered its sixth day, the conflict has widened beyond Gulf states and into Asia, convulsing global markets and prompting thousands of stranded tourists and residents to try to flee the Middle East. Right-wing Prime Minister Giorgia...

- [Customs seizes record HK\\$230 million in gold and silver hidden in air cargo](#) (2026-03-05 11:20)

Hong Kong customs officers have discovered HK\$230 million (US\$29.4 million) worth of gold and silver hidden in two air cargo shipments of household cleaning machines destined for Japan, making the largest seizure of precious metals on record. Senior Investigator Ho Ting-chun of the Customs and Excise Department's syndicate crimes investigation bureau said on Thursday officers intercepted 168kg (370lbs) of suspected gold foil and 285kg of suspected silver foil worth HK\$230 million in an operation...

- [Hong Kong lawmaker Judy Chan charged over driving against traffic in Wan Chai](#) (2026-03-05 11:14)

A Hong Kong lawmaker has been charged with a traffic offence after she was filmed driving on the wrong side of a road in Wan Chai more than a month ago. A police source said on Thursday that the force had earlier served a summons to prosecute a local female driver for careless driving, after she allegedly drove in the wrong direction of traffic on Jaffe Road on January 23. It was understood that the driver was New People's Party lawmaker Judy Chan Kapui, who represents the Hong Kong Island West...

- [China pledges ‘iron discipline’ to tackle debt risks as US borrowing under Trump surges](#) (2026-03-05 11:00)

As the United States grapples with mounting debt, China is doubling down on efforts to clean up its own balance sheet, vowing to tackle risks with “iron discipline”. The pledge came as the world’s second-largest economy weathers a years-long real estate slump and cooling domestic demand. Beijing faces growing pressure to balance short-term growth targets with longer-term deleveraging, as it seeks to transition to a more sustainable economy. In the government work report delivered on Thursday to...

- [What does Marco Rubio’s ‘unleash Chiang’ threat against Iran actually mean?](#) (2026-03-05 11:00)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has stirred unexpected debate in Taiwan after invoking the phrase “unleash Chiang” while warning that Washington would intensify its strikes against Iran. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday about the escalating Middle East conflict, Rubio said the world would soon see a change in the scope and intensity of the attacks. “We’re going to unleash Chiang on these people in the next few hours and days,” he said. The remark, made in the context of US efforts to dismantle...

- [China and Hong Kong should relax biotech listing rules, venture capitalist says](#) (2026-03-05 10:59)

Mainland China and Hong Kong should ease listing rules for biotechnology companies and lower takeover thresholds for listed firms to capitalise on renewed foreign interest in the healthcare sector, venture capitalist Nisa Leung said. “Besides artificial intelligence, Premier Li Qiang also highlighted biomedicine in the ‘two sessions’ annual government work report,” said Leung, a managing partner at Aulis Capital, speaking in a sideline interview during China’s annual meetings of the National...

- [Iran thanks Chinese public after US-Israeli air strikes prompt online wave of sympathy](#) (2026-03-05 10:42)

The deadly US-Israeli military strikes on Iran have triggered an outpouring of public sympathy and support in China, with many social media users condemning the attacks and discussing ways to help. The Iranian embassy in China thanked the “righteous” Chinese public on Thursday for their support, but said it was not accepting financial help from Chinese individuals and organisations for now. “The embassy would like to express its sincere gratitude to the civilised and righteous Chinese people,” ...

- [China is world’s billionaire capital again as Hurun Rich List swells on stock surge](#) (2026-03-05 10:30)

More of the world’s billionaires live in China than anywhere else, after stock market gains and artificial intelligence generated a record number of billionaires globally, according to the latest Hurun Global Rich List. China overtook the United States to recapture bragging rights on the

annual report released by Hurun Group on Thursday, with 1,110 billionaires out of 4,020 globally. China added 287 billionaires since the previous edition of the report, more than recouping its losses over the...

- [Hong Kong Baptist University may issue bonds to finance development](#) (2026-03-05 10:07)

Hong Kong Baptist University is “actively considering” issuing bonds to finance its future development, including campus redevelopment and its new Chinese medicine hospital, according to its president. But Professor Alexander Wai Ping-kong also told the South China Morning Post on Thursday that the public institution would be cautious with bond issuance to avoid creating pressure on the future management. “Our university needs funding in many aspects, such as our Chinese medicine hospital and...

- [Does China’s science budget boost confirm it is listening to everything Elon Musk says?](#) (2026-03-05 10:03)

The priorities outlined in drafts of China’s 2026 budget and next five-year plan overlap heavily with the ambitious projects championed by Elon Musk, including the Starlink constellation, electric vehicles, Neuralink interfaces and artificial intelligence. With Beijing allocating 426.42 billion yuan (US\$61.7 billion) for the sector, it is positioning frontiers such as future energy, brain-computer interfaces and satellite internet as China’s future industries, with the nation doubling down on...

- [US sinking of Iranian warship near Sri Lanka sparks regional anxiety, pressure on India](#) (2026-03-05 10:00)

The sinking of an Iranian warship by a US submarine off Sri Lanka’s coast has raised concerns across South and Southeast Asia that the Middle East conflict may be expanding into the Indian Ocean, while also intensifying political pressure in India for a stronger response. Analysts said the strike’s location near key sea lanes linking Asia with the Gulf had heightened fears the conflict could spill into waters vital to regional trade while also raising doubts in New Delhi over its cautious...

- [Taiwan actress, 58, praised for ‘youthful’ looks advocates against ‘female competition’](#) (2026-03-05 10:00)

Famous Taiwan singer and actress Annie Yi has called for an end to “female competition”, saying that “being 58 years old is nothing to be ashamed of”. The comments have won her widespread praise online. On February 26, Yi, 58, posted a message calling on women to “stop female competition”, sparking lively online discussion. She said that after attending events, she often sees comments comparing women as if their appearance and age are the only things that matter. However, she rarely sees the...

- [Sky-high jump in airfares from Hong Kong to Europe, Americas – even Asian cities](#) (2026-03-05 09:49)

Airfares from Hong Kong to European, South American and even some Asian destinations have surged amid the latest geopolitical tensions, according to industry insiders, especially on routes that typically transit through Middle Eastern aviation hubs. A check by the South China Morning Post found that airfares to such destinations had roughly tripled from Tuesday, days after the United States and Israel launched joint military strikes against Iran, triggering retaliatory action from the...

- [China' s growth target cut reflects pragmatism amid challenges](#) (2026-03-05 09:45)

China set the lowest economic growth target since 1991 as the country contends with global trade tensions, weak domestic demand and rising debt from white elephant investments. A target range for growth of 4.5 to 5 per cent, “while striving for better in practice” was announced by Premier Li Qiang as he delivered the annual government work report on the opening day of the National People’ s Congress (NPC), the annual legislative gathering. That marks a reduction from “around 5 per cent” in each...

- [Berlin jails man for 13 years over stabbing at Holocaust memorial](#) (2026-03-05 09:32)

A Berlin court on Thursday jailed a Syrian man for 13 years for a jihadist-inspired knife attack on a Spanish tourist at the German capital’ s Holocaust memorial. The 20-year-old suspect, named only as Wassim Al M., was convicted of attempted murder, grievous bodily harm and attempted membership of a terrorist organisation, the court said. The stabbing in February 2025 inflamed an already heated debate on migration just a few days before a general election in Germany. Presiding judge Doris Husch...

- [Top chip leaders urge national drive to ‘build China’ s ASML’ amid US curbs](#) (2026-03-05 09:32)

China’ s top semiconductor executives have called for a nationwide push to build a domestic alternative to Dutch chip-equipment giant ASML, urging the industry to “abandon illusions and prepare for struggle” amid US sanctions. The current industry was too “small, fragmented and weak” , which was “dispersing numerous public resources” , according to an article co-authored by the co-founder of Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC) and leaders of Empyrean, Yangtze Memory...

- [Hong Kong man freed after court finds pastor forced confession in poisoning case](#) (2026-03-05 09:04)

A Hong Kong man jailed for allegedly poisoning a pastor’ s daughter he was infatuated with was freed on Thursday after a judge overturned his conviction, ruling that his recorded confession had been coerced under threat. The High Court found that Ye Wen-fei, 29, admitted to poisoning the woman with sodium nitrate in 2024 only after her father, a pastor at the NGO Agapeministry, intimidated him into admitting the alleged crime. Ye was released immediately after the judge overturned his conviction...

- [Iran war's impact on China limited, Mideast scholar Pan Guang says](#) (2026-03-05 08:37)

Professor Pan Guang has spent decades focused on Jewish studies, the Middle East and its ties with China. Among his many roles, Pan is founding director of a research centre on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. This interview first appeared in SCMP Plus. For other interviews in the Open Questions series, [click here](#). Amid recent events in Iran, how do you assess the impact on China? Will China's "petroyuan" settlement encounter problems, and what of the risks to the Belt and Road...

- [Iran war shows markets can't ignore every geopolitical shock](#) (2026-03-05 08:30)

For sheer escalatory potential, look no further than the speed at which the six-day-old war in Iran has drawn in countries across the Middle East, causing the biggest energy shock since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. While the long-term consequences of military action by the United States and Israel against Iran are unpredictable, worst-case scenarios for the global economy and markets have begun to unfold. Although the least important thing about any war is how it affects...

- [Hong Kong man denies intent to kill girlfriend, says 'she was an alien'](#) (2026-03-05 06:57)

A Hong Kong man on trial for allegedly murdering his live-in girlfriend four years ago has said he thought she was an alien because she did not bear his child. A High Court jury of four men and three women heard on Thursday that Tang Lung-fai, 56, admitted causing the death of Fok Sin-yee, 38, during a scuffle at their home in Mui Tsz Lam village, Ma On Shan, on or about April 14, 2022. But the defendant, who ran a private campsite near his home, denied intending to kill his partner or cause her...

- [Singapore police seize yacht, cars, properties worth US\\$390 million in Prince Group probe](#) (2026-03-05 06:48)

Singapore police have announced arrests of three Singaporeans as part of investigations into alleged transnational scam syndicate Prince Group and its founder and chairman, Chen Zhi, who is in Chinese detention. Police said the three men were arrested between November 2025 and January for their suspected involvement in money laundering and fraud offences in relation to the case. Each offence is punishable by imprisonment of up to 10 years, a fine or both. Assets frozen include three properties,...

- ['Will I ever get home'? Stranded Hongkongers in Middle East scrambling for flights](#) (2026-03-05 06:32)

Hongkongers stranded in the Middle East are exhausting all options to secure flights back to the city amid the escalating regional conflict, with some resorting to booking multiple tickets in the hope that one will be confirmed before claiming refunds for the rest. An aviation expert also cautioned on Thursday that it remained uncertain when regular air traffic would resume between Hong Kong and the Middle East, as he explained that the first flight from the region

was made possible through the...

- [Is looming Xi-Trump summit behind the PLA's break in air sorties near Taiwan?](#)  
(2026-03-05 06:07)

Over six consecutive days since Friday, for the first time in at least three years, Beijing dispatched no warplanes near Taiwan, a pause which analysts say reflects deliberate caution ahead of this month's Xi-Trump summit. The absence of People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft near the self-ruled island from Friday through to Wednesday is the longest such pause in the past three years, according to Taiwanese defence ministry data compiled by the South China Morning Post. The number of PLA naval...

- [Alibaba sets up new task force, led by CEO Eddie Wu, to focus on AI model development](#)  
(2026-03-05 06:00)

Alibaba Group Holding is forming a dedicated internal task force headed by CEO Eddie Wu Yongming in a bid to funnel greater resources into its foundational AI model development efforts. On Thursday, Wu said in a letter to members of the company's artificial intelligence research lab Tongyi that the task force would "jointly coordinate group-wide resources to accelerate foundational model development". "In technology, standing still means falling behind," Wu said in the letter, which was provided...

- ['War can be so close': China newlyweds separated by US strikes on Iran during Doha honeymoon](#) (2026-03-05 06:00)

A honeymooning Chinese couple have been separated by the US-Israel strikes on Iran, which caused airspace closures across the Middle East and reportedly affected more than a million passengers. The newlywed couple, from eastern China's Zhejiang province, travelled to the Middle East on February 19 to enjoy its beautiful sunset scenery. Doha was the last stop of their trip. They exchanged their airline credits for business class tickets from Doha to Sydney as the husband, surnamed Yu, works in...

- [Kim tests missile from new destroyer as North Korea draws lessons from Iran conflict](#)  
(2026-03-05 05:56)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected a newly built destroyer and oversaw a test launch of what state media called a "strategic cruise missile" this week, casting the navy's build-up as a key part of Pyongyang's evolving nuclear deterrent, analysts said. The two-day visit to the 5,000-ton destroyer Choe Hyon came as North Korea was closely watching recent US military actions against Iran and ahead of US-South Korea joint military exercises due to start on March 9. Kim called the warship a...

- [China to step up tech, energy and decarbonisation efforts in next 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-05 05:54)

China will set priorities for technological innovation, economic security, public well-being and carbon reduction over the next five years, vowing to lay a solid foundation for its 2035 target of doubling per capita gross domestic product from 2020 levels. The world's second-largest economy will release 20 growth targets, including both binding and non-binding ones, in areas covering the economy, technology, healthcare and economic security, Premier Li Qiang said when outlining the broad strokes...

- [Beijing tasks Hong Kong with fast-tracking Northern Metropolis, boosting integration](#) (2026-03-05 05:23)

Hong Kong should speed up the construction of the Northern Metropolis megaproject near the border with the mainland and the development of a commodity trading ecosystem, according to the draft outline of China's 15th five-year plan. Other priorities included stronger integration with national development on the economic, technological and social fronts, especially deepening cross-border connections of financial markets. The draft, which sets China's economic and social development targets for...

- [Asian airlines emerge on top as travellers fight for flights out of Middle East](#) (2026-03-05 05:15)

Asian carriers like Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines (SIA) are among the best positioned airlines to weather the war in the Middle East as travellers scramble for flights – and pay huge premiums – to escape the conflict. Asian airlines have emerged as one of the go-to choices for people leaving the Middle East in the wake of US and Israeli strikes on Iran. Extensive airspace closures mean carriers like Emirates and Qatar Airways have essentially ground to a halt, creating opportunities for...

- [Texan James Talarico: is this the face of Democrats' 2026 US midterm hopes?](#) (2026-03-05 04:48)

James Talarico barely mentioned Donald Trump when he finally got to give his victory speech on Wednesday night as Democrats' nominee for US Senate in Texas. But the 36-year-old state lawmaker is now a frontman for the left's opposition to Trump, not just in his own state but around the country. With his victory over US congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, the state lawmaker from Austin will test whether a smiling message of unity and change is enough to answer voters' frustrations amid discord at...

- [China's economic development draft report 2026](#) (2026-03-05 04:36)

China's National Development and Reform Commission unveiled its 2026 draft report focused on domestic demand, industrial upgrading and tech self-reliance. Key funding projects include: 250 billion yuan from ultra-long-term special treasury bonds to support consumer goods trade-in programmes 200 billion yuan from ultra-long-term special treasury bonds to support large-scale equipment upgrades 100-billion-yuan special fiscal-financial coordination fund to boost domestic consumption NDRC...

- [Malaysia’ s Arm chip deal probe turns political as ex-aide says: ‘I am not Jho Low 2.0’](#) (2026-03-05 04:34)

Malaysia’ s anti-corruption investigation into a flagship chip-design deal with Britain’ s Arm Holdings took a more combustible turn on Thursday after a former government aide declared: “I am not Jho Low 2.0.” The remark – invoking the fugitive financier at the centre of Malaysia’ s 1MDB scandal – came as the country’ s anti-corruption agency pushed back against his claims and allies of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim warned the investigation risked appearing heavy handed. The dispute has dragged one...

- [DR Congo says least 200 dead in coltan mine collapse, but rebels dispute toll](#) (2026-03-05 04:21)

A mine collapse on Tuesday at a major coltan mining site in eastern Congo left at least 200 dead, according to Congolese authorities, a number disputed by the rebel group that controls the mine. The collapse took place Tuesday at the Rubaya mines, which are controlled by the M23 rebels, according to a press release from the Ministry of Mines on Wednesday. Fanny Kaj, a senior official in the M23 rebel group, which controls the mines, disputed the figure and said that the collapse was caused by...

- [China draft budget report 2026](#) (2026-03-05 03:55)

China’ s Ministry of Finance released its draft 2026 budget report, including plans for a more proactive fiscal policy to support the domestic market, advanced technology and public welfare. Major central government expenditures: National defence: 1.91 trillion yuan, up 7 per cent Debt interest payments: 874 billion yuan, up 6.7 per cent Science and technology: 426 billion yuan, up 10 per cent Public security: 258 billion yuan, up 5.9 per cent Education: 192 billion yuan, up 5 per...

- [Why #SEAbings became Southeast Asia’ s symbol of digital solidarity](#) (2026-03-05 03:30)

#SEAbings – short for “Southeast Asian siblings” – has increasingly been used by young Southeast Asians to signal regional solidarity, be it over a controversial concert or a political event. Whether such moments are fleeting or have the potential to morph into a sustainable movement is a subject of debate. The hashtag’ s latest surge followed a dispute over camera rules at a K-pop rock concert in Kuala Lumpur, which escalated into a much wider online clash. For some sociologists, the question...

- [Takeaways from Chinese Premier Li Qiang’ s government work report](#) (2026-03-05 03:22)

Beijing laid out a list of priorities for the economy, innovation and the military for this year at the opening session of the National People’ s Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People on Thursday. Here are the major takeaways from this year’ s government work report and budget report: Major targets for 2026 Gross domestic product growth of 4.5-5 per cent A consumer price index increase of around 2 per cent A fiscal budget deficit of around 4 per cent of GDP

Addition of 12 million...

- [Failure to launch: Japan's Space One aborts Kairos flight after lift-off](#) (2026-03-05 03:01)

Japan's Space One said its Kairos rocket terminated its flight after lift-off on Thursday, failing to achieve the country's first entirely commercial satellite launch on its third attempt in a row. The setback dealt a fresh blow to Japan's efforts to establish a domestic launch industry and reduce its reliance on foreign rockets amid rising space-security needs to counter China. Kairos "terminated the flight after judging that the achievement of its mission would be difficult," the company said...

- [Iran's navy in crosshairs as warship sinking by US submarine ups game](#) (2026-03-05 02:46)

The Iranian warship IRIS Dena was in the Indian Ocean when a Los Angeles-class US attack submarine fired an MK-48 torpedo, setting off a massive explosion that lifted the ship's stern out of the water before sinking the vessel. The US Defence Department highlighted the attack - releasing black-and-white video footage that showed the USS Charlotte's strike - to draw attention to a key element of its campaign against Iran: eliminating the country's navy to keep the country from impeding the flow...

- [Leverage unique strengths and global role, Beijing's No 2 tells Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-05 02:32)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang has called on Hong Kong to leverage its "unique strengths" and pivotal role in connecting with the world, with backing from the mainland. In the government work report he delivered at the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on Thursday, the country's No 2 official also stressed the need to transform the Greater Bay Area into an international innovation and technology (I&T) hub, urging the city to enhance governance efficiency. "[We should]...

- [A guide to how the Iran war has ricocheted across the Middle East and beyond](#) (2026-03-05 02:01)

The unfolding Iran war has ricocheted across the region and beyond, with nearly every country in the Middle East sustaining damage from missile hits, drone strikes or shrapnel, many reporting casualties, and key embassies, economic engines and passageways closing down. Off the coast of Sri Lanka, a US submarine sank an Iranian warship as the war intensified and its footprint grew. Foreign governments have for days urged their citizens to leave Middle East countries on any available commercial...

- [Hong Kong unveils incentives to attract gold refiners and boost global hub plan](#) (2026-03-05 02:00)

Hong Kong will roll out targeted measures to attract precious metals companies as part of broader efforts to establish itself as a premier global gold trading hub, according to the city's

agency tasked with attracting foreign direct investment. InvestHK will assist companies setting up headquarters in Hong Kong with site selection and applications for overseas certifications to enhance refining operations, Benjamin Wong Kwok-fan, the agency's head of transport, logistics and industries, said in...

- [Why AI cannot – and should not – replace human judges](#) (2026-03-05 01:30)

Every few months, another headline announces that artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to “disrupt” the legal profession. Lawyers, we are told, will soon be replaced by algorithms. Judges, apparently, are next, with some recent research suggesting that machines are more “accurate” in following established legal principles than human judges. While disruption will surely come, suggesting total replacement is imminent misconstrues what AI systems do and what our legal system and courts exist to...

- [China waits and watches as the US fights all its tigers at once](#) (2026-03-05 01:30)

The bombs falling on Iran have extinguished any remaining doubt. The US-Israeli military campaign has ignited a major regional war. This explosion of violence is the ultimate rebuke to a central promise of US President Donald Trump's second term: that America could disengage from distant quagmires to focus on confronting China. Over a year into this administration, the strategic picture affirms the conclusion I reached last summer: America's hoped-for single-minded containment of China lies in...

- [US pulls diplomatic staff from Karachi, Lahore amid pro-Iran protests in Pakistan](#) (2026-03-05 01:13)

The United States has ordered non-emergency staff at two Pakistani consulates to leave the country and granted permission for staff to leave missions in Saudi Arabia, Cyprus and Oman as Iran retaliates over US-Israeli raids. The State Department ordered non-emergency US government employees and their family members at the consulates in Lahore and Karachi to leave Pakistan due to “safety risks”, the US embassy in Islamabad said in a statement on Wednesday. It said there was no change to the...

- [China hospital calls in manicurist to remove woman's fake nails before emergency treatment](#) (2026-03-05 01:00)

A Chinese woman who suffered a heart attack almost missed out on life-saving treatment because of her gel nails. The case has shocked mainland social media and become a wake-up call about the risk of manicures. The 28-year-old woman in central China's Hunan province, who uses the pseudonym Lili, had a sudden heart attack on February 5. Emergency medical staff at the People's Hospital of Hunan Province immediately came to her rescue. However, when they tried to fit a fingertip pulse oximeter, a...

- [China evacuates hundreds of citizens from Iran as war worsens](#) (2026-03-05 00:30)

Beijing says more than 470 Chinese nationals have been safely evacuated from Iran as the conflict with the US and Israel escalates. The Chinese embassy is helping citizens leave via designated land routes and border crossings. Meanwhile, Chinese officials are urging all remaining citizens in Iran to step up safety precautions, register with the embassy and leave the country “as soon as possible” .

- [Taiwan, trade war, PLA and AI: Li Qiang lays out 2026 priorities at ‘two sessions’ – as it happened](#) (2026-03-05 00:12)

This live blog is freely available to our registered users. Please log in or create an account below. For full coverage of the 15th five-year plan, including policy and economic shifts plus Trump’ s visit, subscribe with our China Super March offer now. Premier Li Qiang presented the government’ s annual work report at the opening ceremony of China’ s top legislature, the National People’ s Congress (NPC) in Beijing on Thursday. This year’ s annual meetings of the top legislature and the top advisory...

- [Smart meters available to Hong Kong subdivided flats meeting new living standards](#) (2026-03-05 00:00)

Landlords or operators of subdivided flats in Hong Kong that meet new government living standards can apply to CLP Power for smart meter installation. The smart meters, which now cover 90 per cent of residential households supplied by CLP Power, are open for application following the Basic Housing Units Ordinance taking effect on March 1. Equipped with advanced communication systems, the meters can automatically send usage data to help customers monitor their electricity consumption. This...

- [How Southeast Asia’ s coffee chains are brewing cross-border success](#) (2026-03-05 00:00)

In Singapore’ s famous Takashimaya shopping centre, those looking for a quick caffeine fix are spoiled for choice. There is, of course, the ubiquitous Starbucks, as well as an outlet of China’ s rapidly expanding Luckin Coffee franchise. But it’ s a third option, Kenangan Coffee – an upstart brand from Indonesia that opened its first branch in Singapore in 2023 – that most appeals to 27-year-old shopper Sarah Shah. “I really like Kenangan’ s range of drinks, especially how they balance classic...

- [US Senate rejects bid to curb Trump’ s Iran war powers as Pentagon set to increase attacks](#) (2026-03-04 23:42)

A bipartisan resolution that would block US President Donald Trump from launching further strikes on Iran failed to pass the Senate floor on Wednesday, as the Pentagon pledged to “accelerate” its actions in a war that’ s “just getting started” . In a 52-47 procedural vote on Wednesday, the Republican-controlled Senate blocked a war powers resolution aimed at curbing Trump’ s ability to escalate military action against Iran, preventing the measure from reaching the floor for debate. The resolution...

- [US lawmakers vote to subpoena Pam Bondi over Epstein files](#) (2026-03-04 23:40)

The House Oversight Committee voted on Wednesday to subpoena US Attorney General Pam Bondi to answer questions over the Justice Department's handling of files regarding the Jeffrey Epstein sex-trafficking investigation. Five Republicans joined Democrats to support the subpoena proposed by Republican congresswoman Nancy Mace in a sign of continued frustration among conservatives with the department's review and release of a tranche of documents related to the disgraced financier. The move...

- [Panama out, but study says China investing US\\$23.9 billion in world's seaports](#) (2026-03-04 23:00)

A Hong Kong operator has lost control of the Panama Canal, one of the world's most pivotal waterways for merchant ships, but university researchers said this week that Chinese state institutions have funded hundreds of other seaports around the world. Specifically, they have invested a total of US\$23.9 billion over the past quarter century in 363 ports and related activities abroad, according to AidData, a research lab at William & Mary University in the United States. AidData called the...

- [US agency proposes English proficiency requirement for foreign call centres](#) (2026-03-04 22:54)

The head of the Federal Communications Commission is taking aim at foreign-based call centres with a proposed English proficiency requirement for overseas employees and limits on the volume of calls they can handle. FCC Chairman Brendan Carr said on Wednesday the proposed rules will encourage communications providers regulated by the agency to bring call centre jobs back to the US and place guard rails on the operations that remain abroad.

“Americans get frustrated when they call a US business...

- [Why China's anti-corruption drive in academia is vital to its science and tech ambitions](#) (2026-03-04 22:00)

In the run-up to this year's 'two sessions' – the annual meetings of China's top legislature and political advisory body – high-level policymakers have stressed the need to defuse financial risks and root out political corruption, two of President Xi Jinping's long-term priorities. As part of a series, Dannie Peng looks at the fight against corruption in academia. As science and technology become national priorities in China, Beijing has turned its sweeping corruption crackdown on academia,...

- [Merz's China visit shows pragmatic diplomacy still matters](#) (2026-03-04 21:30)

When German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arrived in Beijing for his first visit to China last week, it came at a moment of heightened geopolitical attention. With US President Donald Trump expected to visit Beijing in late March or early April, European leaders are watching closely for possible shifts in transatlantic relations and trade policy. Against this anxious backdrop, Merz's meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang in Beijing offered something

the global stage has been deeply...

- [Russia may halt gas supplies to Europe amid Iran energy spike, Putin warns](#) (2026-03-04 20:44)

Russia could halt gas supplies to Europe right now amid a spike in energy prices triggered by the Iran crisis, President Vladimir Putin warned on Wednesday, linking the possible decision to the European Union wanting to ban purchases of Russian gas and liquefied natural gas. Oil and gas prices have soared following the US and Israeli attack on Iran and Tehran's strikes on Gulf Arab neighbours. The conflict has paralysed shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and forced the shutdown of Qatar's...

- [Africa emerges as new arena in US-China competition over artificial intelligence](#) (2026-03-04 20:10)

As China and the United States compete to shape the future of artificial intelligence, Africa's rapidly expanding digital landscape is emerging as a new arena for their rivalry, far from the technology hubs of Silicon Valley or Shenzhen. With a growing population, expanding internet access and linguistic diversity, Africa is increasingly seen as a critical region for AI development, according to analysts. Early infrastructure and platform decisions can shape the future of emerging technology...

- [Google's Gemini AI chatbot accused of coaching US man to suicide](#) (2026-03-04 19:16)

Google is facing a lawsuit from the family of a 36-year-old Florida man who allegedly considered carrying out a "mass casualty attack" and ultimately killed himself under the influence of the company's Gemini chatbot. According to a suit filed on Wednesday in federal court in San Jose, California, Jonathan Gavalas began using Gemini for ordinary purposes like help with his writing. But two months of interactions sent him into a dangerous spiral, during which he scoped out a possible violent...

- [Trump's 15% global tariffs likely to start this week, US Treasury chief says](#) (2026-03-04 17:14)

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that President Donald Trump's plan to increase a broad 10 per cent tariff rate to 15 per cent is likely to be implemented this week. "That's likely sometime this week," Bessent said on Wednesday on CNBC in response to a question about when the increase to 15 per cent would be made. Bessent's comments offer the clearest indication yet regarding when the US will follow through on Trump's pledge to raise tariffs. The president last month imposed a 10 per...

- [Relief, joy as first flight back from Dubai brings stranded Hongkongers home](#) (2026-03-04 16:53)

Hong Kong travellers rejoiced on Wednesday evening after arriving home safely on the first flight from Dubai to the city since US-Israeli strikes on Iran disrupted global air links. Emirates

flight EK380 was the first to arrive after Dubai's two airports resumed "limited" operation two days ago, landing at around 9.50pm. Dubai International Airport and Al Maktoum International Airport were both closed on Saturday after the conflict broke out, with Iran retaliating by targeting US military bases...

- [Beyond the conference — how APAIE 2026 turned international delegates into storytellers](#) (2026-03-04 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Hong Kong stands at the crossroads of global learning and vibrant local culture, offering overseas delegates a compact, layered introduction to what makes the city an enduring magnet for international students. As the lead host of APAIE 2026, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) curated an immersive programme that moved beyond panel sessions and meetings to reveal the city's living character. The itinerary stitched...

- [‘Two sessions’, two paths: China prioritises AI integration amid US tech rivalry](#) (2026-03-04 15:55)

Artificial intelligence will be a focal point of the scientific agenda at Beijing's annual legislative meeting and coming five-year plan, as China and the US pursue divergent AI paths putting their tech ecosystems at odds. Just over a year ago, Chinese start-up DeepSeek released an open-source AI model that changed how the world viewed the country's AI capabilities and ambitions. Chinese companies have embraced an open-source approach to AI development, which has rapidly scaled usage of their...

- [Hong Kong woman, 30, arrested over illegal sale of slimming injection](#) (2026-03-04 15:17)

Hong Kong authorities have arrested a 30-year-old woman on suspicion of illegally selling poisons and unregistered pharmaceutical products, after an undercover operation found her offering weight-loss injections online. The Department of Health said on Wednesday that it acted on a tip-off and obtained the anti-obesity medicine through a transaction on an instant messaging app. The product bore a Japanese label and indicated that it contained tirzepatide. According to a photo released by the...

- [Iran delays funeral of supreme leader over crowd concerns](#) (2026-03-04 15:00)

Iran postponed the funeral of late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in a US-Israeli airstrike last weekend, citing expectations of large crowds. The three-day ceremony had been scheduled to start at 10pm local time at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla, a mosque in Tehran, the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported on Wednesday. State television later said the proceedings were being delayed "due to the expected unprecedented presence of mourners", and a new time would be...

- [Is the US in decline? After Iran strikes, maybe not, Chinese analysts say](#) (2026-03-04 15:00)

The US' decapitation of Iran's leaders highlights America's superior military strength and runs counter to the popular view in China that the United States is in decline, according to international relations specialists. The weekend operation, conducted with Israel, killed Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and dozens of senior commanders within the country's armed forces, just weeks after a US Special Forces team abducted Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro. Those two incidents –...

- [Man arrested after 14 endangered reptiles found in Kwai Chung industrial site](#) (2026-03-04 14:58)

Hong Kong authorities arrested a man after the discovery of 14 endangered reptiles, including a crocodile and two pythons, at an industrial site in Kwai Chung. A spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said on Wednesday evening that officers arrested the man in a blitz operation the previous night. “The AFCD will remain vigilant and continue to monitor and collect intelligence through various channels and proactively take enforcement action to combat offences...

- [Turkey says missile launched from Iran destroyed by Nato](#) (2026-03-04 14:52)

A ballistic missile launched from Iran and heading towards Turkish airspace via Iraq and Syria was destroyed by Nato air defence systems, Turkish officials said on Wednesday. The defence ministry said it had been “engaged and neutralised by Nato air-and-missile defence assets deployed in the eastern Mediterranean”. It did not specify the missile's intended target. A Turkish official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the missile had been “aimed at a base in Greek Cyprus but veered...

- [Alibaba recruits Google DeepMind contributor to join Qwen AI team, sources say](#) (2026-03-04 14:36)

Alibaba Group Holding has recruited a research scientist from Google DeepMind to bolster development efforts for its Qwen artificial intelligence models, in an internal restructuring that has seen the departure of previous technical lead Lin Junyang. While no successor to Lin was announced, former Google senior staff research scientist Zhou Hao was joining Alibaba as head of post-training research, replacing Yu Bowen, who also departed this week, two sources said. Zhou, who holds a PhD from the...

- [Pakistan's forever war and the politics of exhaustion](#) (2026-03-04 14:30)

The latest exchange of air strikes and border clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan has once again pushed the region to the brink, reviving a dread among those who have lived through this cycle before, the continuation of a war that never truly ended. The so-called war on terror has been waged for over two decades, with no end in sight. Since 2001, the war has claimed more than 33,000 civilian and security forces lives in Pakistan and displaced millions internally. Yet a fundamental question...

- [Hong Kong tycoons say Middle East outlook remains promising despite conflict](#)

(2026-03-04 14:11)

Hong Kong tycoons have expressed confidence in the Middle East's economic outlook amid continued strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks, stressing that the city's economy is unlikely to be affected. Speaking to the media in Beijing on the sidelines of the "two sessions" – the nation's annual parliamentary meetings – on Wednesday, Adrian Cheng Chi-kong, former heir apparent to Hong Kong property giant New World Development, said the Middle East's economic...

- [Khamenei's fall exposes China's military AI lag versus US, Beijing adviser warns](#)

(2026-03-04 14:00)

China must speed up military applications of AI and deepen civil-military fusion to narrow its strategic gap with the United States, a leading Chinese political scientist and adviser to Beijing has said. Citing US-Israeli precision strikes that eliminated Iran's supreme leader, Zheng Yongnian warned that China risked repeating historical mistakes if it limited artificial intelligence (AI) mostly to civilian or entertainment uses and failed to convert frontier technologies into decisive hard...

- [China team's space laser breakthrough takes communication speeds to high orbit](#)

(2026-03-04 13:30)

Chinese scientists have reported a milestone in space laser communications, sustaining a high-speed, hours-long laser link with a satellite more than 40,000km (25,000 miles) above the Earth. The capability is seen as critical to future deep-space networks. According to the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Optics and Electronics, which led the project, researchers used a 1.8-metre (6-foot) aperture telescope in Yunnan province to lock onto a geostationary satellite within four...

- [China in the crosshairs as EU launches sweeping plans to save its industrial future](#)

(2026-03-04 13:28)

The European Union unveiled a sweeping raft of policies on Wednesday aimed at kick-starting its sluggish industry and protecting its critical infrastructure. A common thread through each is that the screws will be turned ever tighter on Chinese firms in Europe. Combined, the proposals reveal anxiety over the bloc's ability to compete with cut-price and increasingly high-quality Chinese products, the heightened security fears connected to Chinese investments, and a new-found urgency to do...

- [Pakistan aims to walk tightrope between Saudi Arabia and Iran as war flares in region](#)

(2026-03-04 13:22)

Iran's nuclear-armed neighbour Pakistan has invoked its mutual defence pact with Saudi Arabia in response to Tehran's missile and drone attacks on the kingdom, in what analysts have described as a key test of Islamabad's emerging role in the Middle East's security

architecture. A gently worded warning to the Islamic Republic, delivered by Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has established Islamabad as a go-between to manage the escalation. Briefing the Senate on...

- [China, Trump's visit and the priority for this year's 'two sessions'](#) (2026-03-04 13:03)

China will focus on economic resilience as lawmakers gather in Beijing for the country's annual legislative session – just days before US President Donald Trump touches down in the Chinese capital. Lou Qinjian, spokesman for the National People's Congress, outlined the NPC's agenda on Wednesday, taking the opportunity to also stress that China will not compromise on core principles in dealing with the United States. The NPC will run for eight days from Thursday, and during the gathering, China's...

- [3 arrested in UK on suspicion of spying for China, including lawmaker's husband](#) (2026-03-04 12:59)

Three men suspected of spying for China were arrested on Wednesday, London police said. One of the three men is the husband of a lawmaker from the governing Labour Party. The three allegedly assisted a foreign intelligence service in violation of the National Security Act of 2023, Metropolitan Police said. Police did not name the suspects because they have not been charged. But they said one was a 39-year-old arrested in London, another was a 68-year-old arrested in Powys, Wales, and the third,...

- [Air freight costs for China shippers tipped to rise 30% as Middle East airspace shuts down](#) (2026-03-04 12:54)

Air freight costs for China-reliant shippers may rise by up to 30 per cent due to the suspension of Middle East air routes triggered by US and Israeli strikes on Iran, a Hong Kong-based logistics association said. The Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding & Logistics made the estimate based on “market feedback” since the strikes began on Saturday, the trade group told the South China Morning Post in an emailed statement. Most of the group's 303 corporate members operate in mainland...

- [Germany's Merz lacked 'solidarity' amid silence during Trump attacks: Spain](#) (2026-03-04 12:42)

Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares on Wednesday accused German Chancellor Friedrich Merz of failing to show “solidarity” with Madrid in the face of criticism from US President Donald Trump. Albares told broadcaster RTVE that he has communicated his “surprise” over Merz's response to Trump's tirade against Spain in a White House meeting on Tuesday. “When you share a currency, a common trade policy and a common market with another country, you expect the same solidarity that Spain showed...”

- [More Hongkongers leave money in MPF pension plan to capitalise on market rally](#) (2026-03-04 12:30)

Fewer Hongkongers withdrew funds from the city's mandatory pension plan in the fourth quarter of last year, as a stock market rally prompted more members to leave their investments in place even when they stopped working or left the city, according to analysts. The number of people taking their money out of the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) because they were leaving Hong Kong permanently fell 39 per cent in the final three months of 2025 from the previous quarter, to 4,200 cases, according to...

- [Philippines arrests Filipino nationals suspected of spying for China](#) (2026-03-04 12:02)

The Philippine government said on Wednesday it had apprehended some of its citizens on suspicion of spying for China in a “serious national security matter” that underscores the need for stricter laws against espionage and foreign interference. Authorities did not provide details about the case, including how many people had been apprehended or whether charges had been filed. “The operations of these individuals acting on the behest of Chinese intelligence have been addressed and terminated,” ...

- [Why China is staying on the sidelines of the US-Iran conflict](#) (2026-03-04 12:00)

As happened during America's special operation in Venezuela in January, China offered no security support to its strategic partner Iran when Tehran was attacked by the US and Israel. The decision was based on a consideration of Beijing's own interests, its ties with the US and other countries, and minimising military and financial risks to China, according to analysts. Since the large-scale attacks against Iran began over the weekend, Beijing has limited its response to diplomatic statements,...

- [Iran's Unesco-listed Golestan Palace damaged as US and Israel ramp up air war](#) (2026-03-04 11:56)

The US military has said that it has hit nearly 2,000 targets inside Iran since Saturday. Nearly 800 people have been killed, including some whom US President Donald Trump said he had considered as possible future leaders of the country. While numerous government and military sites have been targeted - including the facility where Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed on the first day of the operation - the intensity of the bombardment has damaged at least one Unesco-listed...

- [China caught between Iran and Gulf states as Tehran strikes across Middle East](#) (2026-03-04 11:19)

As missiles fly throughout the Middle East, China is walking a diplomatic tightrope between strategic partner Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council states, with whom it has deep economic ties. All six GCC members have been struck as Tehran has widened its retaliation for US and Israeli attacks that killed its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and senior officials. Its strikes have also expanded beyond United States' assets to include landmark buildings and airports, causing death and...

- [Singapore’ s ‘ageless’ photographer Chuando Tan turns 60 and fans still cannot believe it](#) (2026-03-04 11:10)

Singaporean fashion photographer and former model Chuando Tan has turned 60, and his birthday photos are once again fuelling disbelief online over the youthful appearance that first made him a social media sensation nearly a decade ago. Tan shared a reflective message alongside photos posted to Instagram on Tuesday to mark the milestone, quickly attracting hundreds of thousands of likes and a wave of comments from followers marvelling at how little he appears to have aged. “Today, on my 60th...

- [Song Ping, veteran Chinese Communist, dies aged 108 after career that spanned decades](#) (2026-03-04 10:56)

Song Ping, a veteran Chinese revolutionary who lived through five generations of Communist Party leaders, has died at the age of 108. He died at 3.36pm in Beijing on Wednesday, state news agency Xinhua reported, describing him as a loyal communist fighter, and an outstanding state and party leader. Song’ s career began in the 1930s before the founding of the People’ s Republic including a spell as political secretary to the future premier Zhou Enlai. Song held many important positions during the...

- [Middle East exhibitors at Hong Kong jewellery fair rue poorer sales, attendance](#) (2026-03-04 10:55)

Middle Eastern exhibitors at the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show expect poorer business due to disruptions brought on by the US-Israel war against Iran, while organisers have reported “a small number” of participants being affected by flight cancellations and delays. The event, which opened on Wednesday at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, is being held alongside the Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem & Pearl Show at AsiaWorld-Expo. The two shows feature about 4,000...

- [Hong Kong launches 3-year action plan to help residents fight the flab](#) (2026-03-04 10:48)

Hong Kong has launched its first action plan on weight management, aiming to reduce the proportion of people who are overweight or obese to less than half the population in three years from the current 51.3 per cent of adults. On Wednesday, World Obesity Day, the Department of Health announced more than 40 measures, ranging from installing more weighing scales in government venues to exploring the inclusion of novel weight-loss injections in the drug formulary, in a bid to reverse the rising...

- [What a historical smash hit tells us about China’ s strategic focus](#) (2026-03-04 10:41)

As the world watches in horror at death raining from the skies in the Middle East, millions of Chinese are glued to the television watching a turbulent drama that unfolded in their own country, albeit some eleven centuries ago. Swords into Ploughshares, a historical TV drama set during the chaotic Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period, has emerged as an unexpected smash hit coming into China’ s festive season. Yet it is more than just a television

phenomenon. In some ways, it sheds light on the...

- [Trump's Iran attack sparks calls in Russia to abandon Ukraine talks](#) (2026-03-04 10:37)

When US President Donald Trump returned to the White House last year, some Russian hardliners were cautiously optimistic, hoping his unpredictability and transactional nature might benefit Moscow on Ukraine. But his attack on Iran means many now see him as a growing threat to Russia itself and are questioning if Trump is the pragmatic, potentially pro-Moscow strongman ready to deal in realpolitik that they thought he was. Some hawks are publicly demanding that Moscow abandon US-brokered peace...

- [China's EV battery leader CATL to step up use of AI in R&D; founder and chairman says](#) (2026-03-04 10:33)

The founder and chairman of Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd (CATL) said his company plans to ramp up the use of artificial intelligence in research and take Chinese battery technology and standards further overseas, as the battery giant maps the next phase of growth. The world's largest maker of electric vehicle (EV) batteries would step up research and development (R&D) spending and apply more AI methods to strengthen its technological edge, said billionaire Robin Zeng Yuqun at a briefing...

- [Outrage in Philippines over lawmaker's 'sexist' remarks in defence of VP Sara Duterte](#) (2026-03-04 10:31)

A Philippine lawmaker has provoked outrage for what critics said were misogynistic remarks about one of the country's most famous celebrities while attempting to defend Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio at a hearing deliberating her impeachment charges. The remarks, made during deliberations of the House of Representatives' Committee on Justice on Tuesday, prompted objections from female lawmakers, calls for his statement to be removed from the record and warnings from officials that such...

- [South Korea jails doctors for killing baby delivered at 36 weeks](#) (2026-03-04 10:10)

A South Korean court jailed two doctors on Wednesday for murdering a baby they delivered at 36 weeks of pregnancy and left to die in a freezer. South Korea has decriminalised abortion but political deadlock has prevented successive governments from passing new laws to regulate the practice. The infant's mother, surnamed Kwon, sparked public outrage in 2024 when she posted a YouTube video claiming she had undergone an abortion at 36 weeks, a stage when most babies can survive outside the...

- [Mideast oil crisis revives stagflation spectre, haunting China's deflation battle](#) (2026-03-04 10:00)

Rising energy costs driven by Middle Eastern geopolitical tensions may provide some relief to China's years-long struggle with weak prices, but analysts warn that a spike in oil prices could spark a scenario in which stagnant economic growth collides with rising inflation, hindering the

nation's economic recovery. "Rising oil prices [could] lead to stagflation, which helps increase the inflation rate but also leads to a decline in economic growth and an increase in unemployment," said Su Jian,...

- [China actress, 75, triggers debate by playing teenage girl in mini-drama, kissing young man](#) (2026-03-04 10:00)

A 75-year-old Chinese actress has ignited a nationwide debate over age representation after portraying a teenage girl and sharing a kiss with a much younger male co-star in a mini-drama. Liu Xiaoqing, a cherished figure in Chinese cinema with over 10 million social media followers, has long been celebrated for her youthful energy and commitment to her craft, earning her the title of China's "ageless goddess." In the mini-drama *Splendid Tranquility*, which aired in February, Liu plays Su Wanqing,...

- [What's the one big thing missing from Beijing's Taiwan deterrence strategy?](#) (2026-03-04 10:00)

Beijing has built military capacity and strengthened political resolve but needs to project a more credible deterrence as it steps up unification with Taiwan over the next five years, according to a mainland Chinese policy adviser. Li Yihu, dean of the Taiwan Research Institute at Peking University, said the reunification process would enter an "accelerated phase" in the next five years and the mainland needed to do more to communicate an understanding of what he said was the inevitability of...

- [Sri Lanka recovers 'a few bodies' after Iran warship sinking](#) (2026-03-04 09:50)

Sri Lanka's navy has recovered "a few bodies" of Iranian sailors on board a frigate that sank off the island's southern coast after what crew members reported as an explosion, a spokesman said on Wednesday. "We have found a few bodies from the area where the ship had gone down," local navy spokesman Buddhika Sampath told reporters in Colombo, adding that the search for others was continuing. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath told parliament earlier on Wednesday that 180 people were...

- [China biotech outlicensing tops US\\$52 billion in first 2 months after global deal surge](#) (2026-03-04 09:30)

The pace and size of outlicensing deals between Chinese drug makers and global partners have accelerated this year, highlighted by two agreements announced this week, each worth more than US\$1 billion. The string of deals shows how China is becoming a sought-after source of drug candidates for multinational pharmaceutical companies, which are increasingly looking for long-term partnerships rather than one-off arrangements, analysts said. The latest deals, Sino Biopharmaceutical's agreement with...

- [Iran war leaves China in foreign policy divide](#) (2026-03-04 09:16)

Chinese and US trade officials will meet in Paris at the end of next week, laying the groundwork for President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Beijing. Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will lead discussions on trade and investment deals, the South China Morning Post reported, citing unidentified sources. Trump is due to arrive in Beijing on March 31, for a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Tariffs, investments, soybeans and rare earths will all be...

- [Hong Kong's retail sales rise 5.5% in January as tourists loosen purse strings](#) (2026-03-04 09:07)

Hong Kong's retail sales rose 5.5 per cent year on year in January, with authorities crediting inbound tourism for supporting the sector. Provisional figures released by the Census and Statistics Department on Wednesday showed sales reached HK\$37.3 billion (US\$4.77 billion) in January, marking the ninth straight month of growth since May 2025, after 14 consecutive months of decline. The increase ended a four-month streak of growth above 6 per cent, but the government cautioned that the slower...

- [South Korean drink-spike killer quizzed ChatGPT for lethal doses, police say](#) (2026-03-04 09:01)

A South Korean woman arrested for killing men in motel rooms by spiking their drinks met the clinical criteria necessary to be considered a psychopath, police said on Wednesday. The 22-year-old suspect, identified only by her surname Kim, had scored high marks on the "revised psychopathy checklist", investigators told The Korea Herald. The test, which measures 20 traits such as callousness, impulsivity, lack of empathy and irresponsibility, has a maximum score of 40. Anyone who scores 25 and...

- [Malaysia's Anwar under pressure after parliamentary setback complicates reform push](#) (2026-03-04 09:00)

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim may face growing difficulty pushing through major reforms as Malaysia edges closer to its next general election, analysts have said, after a parliamentary setback exposed strains within his broad but fragile ruling coalition. The warning signs emerged when lawmakers failed to pass a constitutional amendment to limit the prime minister's tenure to two terms – a reform widely expected to succeed given the government's commanding majority. Anwar's administration fell...

- [Singapore and China have 'common interests' in safeguarding global order, says ambassador](#) (2026-03-04 09:00)

Singapore and China share "common interests" in safeguarding international order amid profound changes in the global landscape and uncertainties from trade wars, according to the city state's top envoy to Beijing. The world has faced increased challenges, with huge pressure on multilateralism, free trade, and openness since the beginning of last year, Peter Tan Hai Chuan, Singapore's ambassador to China, warned at an event at Renmin University in Beijing

on Tuesday. “But Singapore and China have...

- [Ex-Hong Kong lawmaker Chim Pui-chung granted HK\\$5 million bail in fraud appeal](#) (2026-03-04 08:47)

Former Hong Kong lawmaker Chim Pui-chung has been granted HK\$5 million (US\$640,000) bail pending an appeal against his conviction for conspiring with his son and others to defraud a listed company and the city’s stock exchange more than a decade ago. Chim, 79, applied for bail before a High Court judge for the second time on Wednesday, having been remanded in custody since his conviction in December 2024. Mr Justice Keith Yeung Kar-hung ordered Chim to remain in Hong Kong, surrender all travel...

- [Beijing to roll out more measures for Hong Kong as John Lee praised for work](#) (2026-03-04 08:42)

Beijing will roll out further favourable measures for Hong Kong while the coming 15th five-year plan will also step up support for the city in leveraging its unique strengths, a spokesman for the nation’s legislature has said. National People’s Congress (NPC) spokesman Lou Qinjian said on Wednesday that the central government would make further arrangements in the 15th five-year plan to support Hong Kong in “leveraging its unique strengths and to perform a significant role” . “More beneficial...

- [Singapore offices cost the most to outfit, Asia-Pacific survey says](#) (2026-03-04 08:30)

Singapore is the most expensive city in the Asia-Pacific region to outfit an office, driven by increased labour costs, a shortage of contractors and strict building standards, according to real estate consultancy Knight Frank. The city had the highest average fit-out cost at US\$2,029 per square metre – ahead of Tokyo (US\$1,994) and Taipei (US\$1,593) – in the firm’s survey of 23 cities across Australasia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and India. It was also the most expensive place to set up an...

- [Fatigue is rewriting the US-China soft power contest, starting in Asean](#) (2026-03-04 08:30)

For years, debates about US-China competition have defaulted to the obvious categories: ships, chips, tariffs and security pacts. Soft power was often treated as America’s home turf, the domain of Hollywood, top universities, global brands and a political ideal that still attracts even when it disappoints. That assumption is getting riskier. The world has entered a new emotional weather pattern: fatigue. It’s a structural condition shaped by overlapping shocks: pandemic after-effects, inflation...

- [10% rise in costs expected as shipping firms halt Middle East bookings, add risk charges](#) (2026-03-04 08:18)

The conflict in Iran could raise cargo transport costs from Asia to Europe by at least 10 per cent, according to Hong Kong sector representatives, as major shipping companies suspended bookings to and from the Middle East or imposed significant war-risk surcharges. Lawmaker

Tommy Chung Ki-fung, who represents the import and export constituency, explained on Wednesday that rising fuel prices and longer voyages, among other factors, would lead to higher shipping costs. “I’d be more conservative in...

- [China’s sovereign debt is becoming a strategic alternative to US Treasuries: economist](#) (2026-03-04 08:00)

China’s sovereign debt is emerging as a strategic alternative to US Treasuries as global investors look for geopolitical hedges, though greater market liquidity and deeper yuan internationalisation are still needed to cement its status as a global safe haven, an economist at a Chinese government think tank has said. “[These bonds] circumvent the restrictions of the non-convertibility of the renminbi,” said Xu Qiyuan, deputy director of the American Studies Institute at the Chinese Academy of...

- [North Korea’s hostage strategy packs more bite in post-Iran US shake-up](#) (2026-03-04 07:39)

For decades, North Korea’s most potent insurance policy has been the threat it poses to Seoul, guaranteeing that any US move against Kim Jong-un’s regime would first exact an unbearable toll on the South. Now, a new Pentagon blueprint may have just offered that survival strategy Washington’s seal of approval. The new National Defence Strategy, presented to a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Tuesday, calls on Seoul to take “primary” responsibility for deterring North Korea, with...

- [Low-cost models surpass Tesla in China; Geely makes bets amid price wars: 7 EV reads](#) (2026-03-04 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. Low-cost models dominate China EV sales, surpassing Tesla and BYD Amid intensifying competition among Chinese electric-vehicle (EV) makers last year, relatively inexpensive models from Geely Auto and Wuling Motor Holdings topped the sales chart, surpassing cars from BYD and Tesla. 2....

- [Philippines’ Duterte-Carpio ordered to answer impeachment charges over wealth, threats](#) (2026-03-04 07:26)

Philippine lawmakers ordered Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio on Wednesday to respond to impeachment complaints against her after finding substance to allegations involving unexplained wealth, the misuse of public funds and making public threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jnr. The daughter of former president Rodrigo Duterte is seen as a front runner for the 2028 presidential election, and has said she will run for the top post. She survived a similar impeachment bid last year, which...

- [Israel says next leader of Iran also a ‘target for elimination’](#) (2026-03-04 07:05)

Israel's defence minister on Wednesday threatened whoever Iran picks to be the country's next supreme leader, saying he will be "a target for elimination". Israel Katz made the statement on X. "Every leader appointed by the Iranian terror regime to continue and lead the plan to destroy Israel, to threaten the United States and the free world and the countries of the region, and to suppress the Iranian people - will be a target for elimination," he wrote. One of Khamenei's potential successors is...

- [How Persian Gulf turmoil is reshaping Europe-Asia aviation landscape](#) (2026-03-04 07:00)

With major Persian Gulf aviation hubs largely paralysed by airspace closures amid the escalating conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran, travellers have flocked to direct Asia-Europe routes, driving a sharp surge in airfares. This week, economy class on most direct one-way Beijing-Paris flights is fully booked, with a small number of economy seats – plus premium economy and business class seats – remaining. Economy seats on an Air China flight on Sunday are already booked out, with a one-way...

- [Thailand's PTT to freeze pump prices as Iran attacks spur panic buying in Mekong area](#) (2026-03-04 06:43)

Thailand's state-backed energy giant PTT will freeze pump prices for 15 days as war in the Middle East disrupts oil and gas shipments through the crucial Strait of Hormuz, spurring panic buying and some fuel rationing across parts of the Mekong region. Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar are heavily reliant on Middle Eastern oil and gas, whose flows have been choked since the weekend after the US and Israel attacked Iran. Tehran retaliated by striking tankers and energy facilities across the...

- [All eyes on Texas as first elections of the 2026 midterm campaigns begin](#) (2026-03-04 06:27)

US Senator John Cornyn and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will square off in a high-stakes run-off for the state's Republican nomination for Senate, pitting a long-time member of the party's establishment against an insurgent hardliner as the midterm elections kicked off on Tuesday. Neither man was able to exceed the 50 per cent threshold necessary to win outright in Tuesday's voting, ensuring that the most expensive Senate primary in history will extend another 12 weeks into May. The...

- [Why ancient Chinese folk custom involved cutting thigh flesh to feed sick relatives](#) (2026-03-04 06:10)

In a bizarre and gruesome blend of medical belief and extreme filial devotion, many people throughout Chinese history cut flesh from their own thighs to heal sick relatives. The custom later evolved into a government-endorsed trend, turning the practice into a path to social mobility and marital success. Ge gu liao qin, which literally means "cutting one's own flesh to heal a parent", refers to an ancient practice in which a child would cut flesh from their own thigh to use as medicine to treat...

- [75% cost-cut: China unveils world's first fixed-wing drone made of bamboo fibre](#) (2026-03-04 06:00)

Chinese researchers said they have developed a drone with wings made from bamboo, making it 20 per cent lighter and considerably cheaper than a carbon fibre device, according to state news agency Xinhua. The bamboo-based unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which completed its maiden flight in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin last month, costs about a quarter of the price of carbon fibre cloth, it said. The savings meant that the overall structural costs of a drone made with the new material could...

- [US and Kurds discuss potential Iran military operation: sources](#) (2026-03-04 04:33)

Iranian Kurdish militias have consulted with the United States in recent days about whether, and how, to attack Iran's security forces in the western part of the country, according to three sources with knowledge of the matter. The Iranian Kurdish coalition of groups based on the Iran-Iraq border in the semi-autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan has been training to mount such an attack in hopes of weakening the country's military, as the United States and Israel pound Iranian targets with...

- [Muslim community in Japan shaken by suspected arson attacks: 'everyone is scared'](#) (2026-03-04 04:00)

Muslims in a small town in northern Japan have been rattled by several suspected arson attacks, following months of online agitation targeting the community over purported construction violations. Three fires in just over two weeks have damaged Pakistani-owned businesses and the Ebetsu Masjid, a mosque in Ebetsu, central Hokkaido, prompting police investigations and deepening anxiety among the city's roughly 700 Muslim residents. "We have women and children in the community, and I can tell you..."

- [Manufacturing talent boom? Why China's smartest students are factory-bound](#) (2026-03-04 04:00)

New Tsinghua University data this week reveals a nearly 20 per cent rise in graduates joining the manufacturing and energy sectors, signalling a major shift in career pursuits in China. The sharp rise seen in Tsinghua's class of 2025 indicates a renewed interest in traditional industrial sectors among top-tier talent as well as the pull of national strategic priorities. As some of China's brightest minds enter these fields, the country is poised to intensify its competitive challenge to Western...

- [Jack Ma, Alibaba executives meet teachers to discuss how education should adapt in AI era](#) (2026-03-04 03:37)

Chinese billionaire Jack Ma and the core leadership of Alibaba Group Holding and Ant Group spent over an hour with teachers in Hangzhou on Tuesday, discussing the profound challenges and opportunities brought about by artificial intelligence. Ma told the group that the impact of

AI was “immense” , but so were the “opportunities” and that teenagers held the greatest hope and opportunity for adapting to and enabling transformation in the AI era, according to a statement issued by Hangzhou Yungu...

- [Unification Church faces liquidation after Japanese court backs dissolution order](#)  
(2026-03-04 03:32)

A Japanese high court on Wednesday upheld a dissolution order for the Unification Church as requested by the central government on the grounds that it unlawfully solicited financially ruinous donations from its members. While the group can still appeal to the Supreme Court, the order by the Tokyo High Court will take immediate effect, with the controversial organisation losing its status as a religious corporation with its associated tax advantages and liquidation procedures to begin. Under...

- [Hong Kong’ s Ocean Park to open new conservation centre featuring whale skeleton](#)  
(2026-03-04 03:28)

Hong Kong’ s Ocean Park will transform its North Pole Encounter zone into a new marine mammal conservation centre, set to showcase the skeleton of the Bryde’ s whale that washed ashore in Sai Kung in 2023. The new exhibit, slated for the first quarter of 2027, will highlight the park’ s marine mammal research and rescue efforts. Visitors can explore other exhibits and animals, such as seals and sea lions, at Pacific Pier, an attraction located in the Marine World section, the theme park said. The...

- [Singapore court reduces oil tycoon OK Lim’ s prison sentence to 13½ years on appeal](#)  
(2026-03-04 03:10)

The founder of failed oil trading firm Hin Leong Trading, 84-year-old Lim Oon Kuin, had his jail term cut by four years after a partially successful appeal against his conviction and sentence in a criminal case. Singapore’ s High Court on Wednesday rejected his appeal against conviction but allowed his appeal against his sentence of 17½ years. Justice Hoo Sheau Peng said this sentence, when considering his age and the fact he was unlikely to reoffend, was crushing, even with remission. She...

- [Seoul shares award-winning AI sex crime detection tool for free across South Korea](#)  
(2026-03-04 02:30)

Seoul will offer its patented artificial intelligence system, which automatically detects and reports sexually exploitative content online, free of charge to institutions across South Korea. The technology, first introduced in 2023, uses 24-hour real-time monitoring to automatically identify unlawful sexual images and videos on illicit websites and social media, request their removal and block re-uploads, according to the Seoul Metropolitan Government on Tuesday. City officials say the first...

- [‘Do we have to wait until someone gets hurt?’ : Hongkongers stuck in Dubai face travel chaos](#) (2026-03-04 02:26)

Some Hong Kong residents stranded in the Middle East amid the US-Israeli attack on Iran have voiced frustration over repeated flight cancellations, rising hotel costs and dwindling phone data as they navigate rapidly changing emergency policies. As of Tuesday, at least 585 stranded Hong Kong residents had filed inquiries, including requests for information about itineraries and flight schedules, according to the Immigration Department. Four have since left the region. Data from aviation...

- [China and US to hold high-level trade talks in Paris before Trump’ s Beijing visit](#) (2026-03-04 02:25)

China and the United States will hold a new round of high-level trade talks in Paris at the end of next week, according to sources from both sides, as preparations press on for US President Donald Trump’ s visit to China. Led by Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and US Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, the two delegations will meet in the French capital to discuss trade and investment deals – including on tariffs, investment, soybeans and rare earths – that would be presented as deliverables...

- [Japanese gang leader’ s house on sale for US\\$330,000 or more – will anyone bite?](#) (2026-03-04 02:00)

A walled mansion in one of Kobe’ s most desirable suburbs is heading for a court-ordered auction, but its murky past as a target of gang attacks may put off buyers. The two-storey house, long the home of Kunio Inoue, head of the Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi – a breakaway faction of Japan’ s largest yakuza syndicate – is being forcibly sold after judges held him responsible for the crimes involving one of his subordinates, in a rare test of Japan’ s anti-organised crime laws. The ruling came from the Osaka...

- [Australia’ s best-paid jobs are twice as likely to go to men as to women](#) (2026-03-04 01:36)

Men are almost twice as likely as women to be employed in the best-paid jobs in Australia, according to the country’ s latest government gender gap report. Male employees account for 64 per cent of roles in the nation’ s upper quartile of compensation, jobs that have a total average annual pay of A\$221,320 (US\$155,000), the Workplace Gender Equality Agency said in a report on Tuesday. Though female representation in the top category has increased slightly, women remain 1.4 times more likely than...

- [The quiet revolution in animal rights in China](#) (2026-03-04 01:30)

Public awareness of animal welfare on the Chinese mainland is at an all-time high. The country now has the world’ s second-largest pet population, estimated at 430 million in 2024 and growing strongly. The cultural shift was on full display last year when the justice ministry solicited public feedback on its legislative plans. In a massive show of support, an online survey pushing for anti-cruelty legislation attracted over 4.2 million votes, with 96 per cent voting in

favour. Yet despite rising...

- [Thousands of passengers ‘stuck’ in Indonesia’ s Bali after war grounds planes](#) (2026-03-04 01:08)

Passengers stranded on the Indonesian resort island of Bali clamoured for flight news on Tuesday as the outbreak of war in the Middle East grounded planes and turned a tropical holiday dream into an ordeal for many. Hundreds were crowded at Ngurah Rai International Airport, many dressed in shorts, flip-flops and summer dresses, their expressions dour. Many sat on the floor, exhausted, and one man repeatedly hit a wall in frustration. “I just kind of want to see my family ... right now it’ s a bit...

- [China ‘storm hot springs’ simulate squalls with mild electric shocks for unique experience](#) (2026-03-04 01:03)

A new trend known as the “Storm Bath Spa” is gaining traction in major cities across China, uniquely merging wellness and innovation by creatively simulating storms and incorporating mild electric shocks. This experience offers both emotional and psychological healing, attracting an increasing number of enthusiasts. Chinese bathhouses boast a rich history spanning thousands of years. Beyond serving basic hygiene needs, they have long functioned as spaces for social connection, allowing people to...

- [Duterte allies use Iran war threat to attack Philippines’ US ties](#) (2026-03-04 01:00)

Supporters of former president Rodrigo Duterte have amplified viral claims that Iran could target the Philippines in retaliation for US actions in the Middle East, a narrative analysts say is being used to portray the country’ s defence ties with Washington as a threat to national security. The rumours spread widely enough online that the Armed Forces of the Philippines felt compelled to issue a public rebuttal. On Tuesday, armed forces spokeswoman Colonel Fancel Margareth Padilla said there was...

- [Healthcare investors keeping an eye on ‘two sessions’ for clarity on drug pricing](#) (2026-03-04 00:44)

Ahead of China’ s annual legislative meetings – typically a window into Beijing’ s top-level policy agenda – this is the eighth entry in a series examining the complex economic recalibration driving China’ s growth philosophy and its wide-ranging implications for local governments, financial investors and private enterprises. Investors are watching Beijing’ s annual “two sessions” this week for signs that the country will address drug pricing and shore up its drug payment system, as a new form of...

- [Hong Kong inflation risks grow as war in Middle East escalates, experts warn](#) (2026-03-04 00:30)

Hongkongers may begin to feel the impact of the escalating war in the Middle East in the coming months, as rising global oil prices are expected to push up energy bills and dining costs,

according to experts. Analysts said the attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel, and subsequent retaliation across the region, were also likely to slow the pace of US interest rate cuts and curb the rise in Hong Kong housing prices. As military operations in the Middle East entered their fourth day,...

- [Japan's under-20s are getting high like never before: 'social morals are dying'](#)

(2026-03-04 00:00)

A record number of people under the age of 20 in Japan were arrested for cannabis offences last year, with experts on social norms attributing the sharp rise to growing despair about the future and the influence of celebrities known to use drugs. According to the National Police Agency (NPA), 1,373 people under the age of 20 were arrested for cannabis offences in Japan in 2025, an increase of more than a fifth from the previous year. The figure is the highest since age-specific drug offence data...

- [Investors watch China's 'two sessions' for clues on property overhaul](#)

(2026-03-03 23:30)

Ahead of China's annual legislative meetings – typically a window into Beijing's top-level policy agenda – this is the seventh entry in a series examining the complex economic recalibration driving China's growth philosophy and its wide-ranging implications for local governments, financial investors and private enterprises. Investors and policy watchers will be looking to this week's meetings of China's national legislature and top political advisory body – also known as the “two sessions” – for...

- [Iran war: Macron orders France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to the Mediterranean](#)

(2026-03-03 23:02)

French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday ordered France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to move from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean to help protect allied assets during the war in the Middle East. Macron said the Charles de Gaulle carrier will be escorted by frigates and its air wing. In a pre-recorded speech on French television, Macron added that Rafale fighter jets, air-defence systems and airborne radar systems have been deployed over the past few hours in the Middle East. “And we...

- [China should up education spending to help population adapt to AI era: economist](#)

(2026-03-03 23:00)

Beijing should increase investment in early childhood education and lifelong learning as AI reshapes the world's largest labour market, a prominent Chinese economist has said. The real policy test for China is whether it can shift decisively from investing in capital to investing in people, while policy and regulation must steer artificial intelligence (AI) towards empowering rather than replacing workers, according to Cai Fang, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences focusing...

- [Trump, in abrupt reversal, to continue fight against Big Law firms](#) (2026-03-03 22:42)

The Trump administration has changed its mind on its decision to walk away from appealing against its loss in lawsuits over executive orders targeted at four Big Law firms. The US Justice Department on Tuesday afternoon moved to withdraw its motion to voluntarily dismiss the appeals of its cases against Perkins Coie, WilmerHale, Susman Godfrey and Jenner & Block. The motion comes after the Justice Department on Tuesday sent an email to the four law firms signalling it would file the motion to...

- [US investors drive record outlay in Taiwan's equities market on the back of AI boom](#) (2026-03-03 22:30)

The Taiwan Stock Exchange has become increasingly tied to American capital, as the global artificial intelligence boom drew a record amount of US investments into the island's semiconductor-heavy equity market. US investors currently hold a record US\$668 billion worth of Taiwan equities – about 23 per cent of the exchange's total market capitalisation – after funnelling roughly US\$12 billion into the market in 2025, according to BNP Paribas, citing data from Treasury International Capital – a...

- [China's war on corruption – is this just the end of the beginning?](#) (2026-03-03 22:00)

In the run-up to this year's 'two sessions' – the annual meetings of China's top legislature and political advisory body – high-level policymakers have stressed the need to defuse financial risks and root out political corruption, two of President Xi Jinping's long-term priorities. As part of a series, Yuanyue Dang and William Zheng look at why the fight against graft is the new normal. As early as the start of President Xi Jinping's second term in 2018, the Chinese leadership declared an...

- [Under Trump, the US has unleashed its own wolf warriors](#) (2026-03-03 21:30)

A suspected CIA-funded publication in Asia recently asked where all the Chinese wolf warriors have gone. It was referring to those supposedly rude envoys who harangued the governments of their host countries and foreign ministry spokespeople who confronted foreign reporters at news conferences. Well, Beijing reined them in long ago. But US President Donald Trump has unleashed his own. Open hostility towards host countries and their peoples seems to be a job requirement in Washington for a US...

- [Trump slams European allies, praises China and continues to justify Iran attack](#) (2026-03-03 20:25)

US President Donald Trump used a White House meeting with the German Chancellor on Tuesday to blast European allies, praise China, waffle on tariffs and argue that the attack he launched against Iran prevented a nuclear war. Attended by Vice-President J.D. Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the White House, Trump told reporters during a meeting with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz that his order to attack Iran even as negotiations were under way was justified. "If we didn't do what...

- [US and China trade chiefs to meet mid-March before Trump-Xi summit](#) (2026-03-03 18:35)

US and Chinese trade negotiators are slated to meet in mid-March, according to people familiar with the matter, signalling that a planned summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping is pushing ahead despite American strikes against Iran. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and China's Vice-Premier He Lifeng are expected to convene in Paris at the end of next week to discuss business deals that could stem from the leaders' meeting, said the people who...

- [China urges Israel to end war in Iran as regional tensions escalate](#) (2026-03-03 18:08)

Top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi urged his Israeli counterpart to help bring about an immediate end to the war in Iran during a call on Tuesday, reportedly held at Israel's request. The call came three days after Israel and the United States launched a massive attack on Tehran, killing its Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, his wife and senior Iranian officials, prompting largely ineffective Iranian counter-attacks across the Middle East to date. "China opposes any military strikes launched by...

- [Iran will not 'automatically' fall after Khamenei's death, shah's widow says](#) (2026-03-03 18:07)

Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei's death is "historically significant" but will not "automatically" lead to the fall of the Iranian system, the widow of the country's last shah said in an interview on Tuesday. "The passing of a man – however central he may be to the architecture of power – does not automatically mean the end of a system," said Farah Pahlavi, three days after US-Israeli strikes on Iran killed Khamenei. The attacks on Iran have thrown the Middle East into turmoil and raised...

- [Dad who gave gun to US school shooting suspect found guilty of second-degree murder](#) (2026-03-03 17:26)

A US man who gave his teenage son the gun he is accused of using to kill two students and two teachers at a Georgia high school was convicted of second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter on Tuesday. Jurors took less than two hours to find Colin Gray guilty of all charges in the September 2024 shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, northeast of Atlanta. Gray is one of a number of parents prosecuted after their children were accused in fatal shootings across the country. Colin Gray...

- [More than 1 million Philippine overseas workers at risk amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-03-03 15:34)

Philippine carers have described racing to bomb shelters in Israel as the US-Israeli war in Iran sends missiles across the Middle East. More than 1.1 million overseas workers from the Philippines are based in the region, with over 96 per cent concentrated in five countries closely tied to the fighting, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain. One Philippine

carer has already been killed during an air strike.

- [Hong Kong court convicts British woman of blackmailing banker over false rape claim](#)  
(2026-03-03 15:04)

A British woman has been convicted of blackmailing a compatriot for a £100,000 (US\$134,030) payout after accusing him of rape and threatening to report him to Hong Kong police. Isabel Anonia Barbra Eudora Rose, 25, turned from an alleged rape victim into a defendant standing trial at the District Court in Wan Chai for blackmailing the man, a banker she met during a trip to Thailand, and for making a false police report about the alleged rape, which she claimed took place on the night of January...

- [Global sell-off in stocks slams Wall Street as oil prices leap even higher on war woes](#)  
(2026-03-03 15:02)

A worldwide sell-off for stocks is slamming onto Wall Street on Tuesday, and oil prices are leaping even higher as worries rise that the war with Iran is widening and may do more sustained damage to the global economy than feared. The S&P 500 dropped by 1.8 per cent in early trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 907 points, or 1.9 per cent, as of 9.35am Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 2.1 per cent lower. It was just a day ago that US stocks opened with sharp losses, only...

- [How will China adjust Israel ties as US-led strikes on Iran reshape Middle East?](#)  
(2026-03-03 15:00)

China is expected to rebalance its ties with Israel as US-Israeli air strikes on Iran reshape the region's security landscape, but analysts say it is unlikely to abandon its long-standing "balanced diplomacy" in the Middle East. The strikes began on Saturday after nuclear talks between Washington and Tehran reached a stalemate and tensions spiralled. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 86-year-old cleric who had dominated the Islamic Republic's political system for nearly four...

- [Hong Kong boy, 14, held over online videos, photos depicting abuse of cats](#) (2026-03-03 14:24)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 14-year-old boy on suspicion of animal cruelty in connection with graphic images and videos circulating online that depicted degrading acts, including sexual abuse, against cats, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source said police arrested the boy on Tuesday, after authorities in mainland China conducted an investigation into the online images. Mainland police launched the probe after a series of animal abuse videos and photos were posted online in...

- [Hong Kong government says golf course flats study has 'no legal effect' in appeal](#)  
(2026-03-03 14:13)

A government lawyer has said that an environmental study on the impact of building 12,000 public flats on part of Hong Kong's oldest golf course holds "no legal effect", as authorities appeal a court ruling that may send the project back to the consultation stage. The Court of Appeal began hearing oral arguments on Tuesday over an environmental impact assessment report for the public housing project on 9.5 of 32 hectares (23.5 acres) that the government reclaimed from the 172-hectare golf course...

- [Iran war could 'significantly disrupt' China's methanol imports: analysts](#) (2026-03-03 14:00)

China could potentially face shortages of methanol – a vital input for several industries – if the Iran war drags on and causes lengthy disruptions to shipping traffic along the Strait of Hormuz, analysts said. Methanol, also known as methyl alcohol, is a chemical compound that is widely used by Chinese producers. It is both a biofuel and a key raw material for a range of products – from paint and formaldehyde to plastics and synthetic fabrics. The growing conflict in the Middle East could be a...

- [EU strips AI, chips and quantum from industrial plan aimed at countering China](#) (2026-03-03 13:51)

The European Union's ambitious industrial policy to challenge China has been gutted, removing AI, semiconductors and quantum computing from a list of strategic technologies that must be "made in Europe" to tap billions in government funds. Biotechnology and robotics are other cutting-edge sectors to be cut from the Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA) ahead of the proposal's formal unveiling by the European Commission on Wednesday, a leaked draft showed. Plans to exclude non-EU-based producers from...

- [China's AI red-packet battle burns through US\\$1 billion – but will users stick around?](#) (2026-03-03 13:00)

In an unprecedented Chinese New Year marketing blitz, Alibaba Group Holding, Baidu, ByteDance and Tencent Holdings spent an estimated 8 billion yuan (US\$1.1 billion) to turn their artificial intelligence assistants into household names, according to Morgan Stanley. Now the dust is settling. A week after the holiday ended, early data offers a first glimpse into how China's AI landscape is evolving and which players gained lasting traction from the spending spree. Morgan Stanley said all platforms...

- [Will the Iran crisis feature in foreign policy talks at China's 'two sessions'?](#) (2026-03-03 13:00)

Iran is unlikely to dominate the agenda at this year's national legislative sessions but it is likely to feature in policy discussions, according to observers. Analysts said the Middle East turmoil could prompt a broader rethink in some policy areas in Beijing, including a reassessment of its Middle East strategy and how it can safeguard its expanding overseas interests. The "two sessions", the annual meetings of China's top legislature and political advisory body, get

under way this week, with...

- [China and France agree to help de-escalate US-Israeli conflict with Iran](#) (2026-03-03 12:36)

China has called on European powers to help uphold the UN's authority following the US and Israeli military strikes on Iran. In talks with his French counterpart Jean-Noel Barrot on Monday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged Paris to work with Beijing to promote de-escalation and safeguard “the basic norms of international relations”, according to China's foreign ministry. “The international community must resist any violation of international law and reject double standards,” Wang said,...

- [Chinese AI drug researcher XtalPi expects to turn first annual profit on 193% revenue jump](#) (2026-03-03 12:33)

Chinese artificial intelligence-powered drug researcher XtalPi Holdings said it expects to turn its first annual profit on the back of strong revenue growth, according to a corporate filing. The Shenzhen-based company projected a swing to a net profit of at least 100 million yuan (US\$14.5 million) in 2025 from a net loss of around 1.5 billion yuan in 2024, notching its first full-year profit, according to a filing with the Hong Kong stock exchange on Tuesday. XtalPi attributed the earnings boost...

- [US war on Iran isn't likely to go as planned](#) (2026-03-03 12:30)

Many American wars begin with the assumption that brute force will lead to a swift and decisive victory. While the US military is highly effective at conventional deterrence, it has consistently struggled to defeat adversaries employing asymmetric tactics. In conflicts such as Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen, Washington repeatedly underestimated its adversaries by assessing their strength based on their ability to fight conventionally. Iran represents the most dangerous iteration of...

- [As US-Iran war threatens global energy markets, will China speed up its green transition?](#) (2026-03-03 12:00)

From Venezuela to Iran, a wave of military interventions by the United States threatens to disrupt China's oil supplies – and could accelerate Beijing's transition away from fossil fuels, according to analysts. “Geopolitical tensions often serve as a reminder that heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels represents a structural vulnerability,” said Shen Xinyi, a researcher at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. The current turmoil could reinforce Beijing's growing emphasis on...

- [Hong Kong convention centre to host more medical, tech, finance, education events](#) (2026-03-03 11:56)

Hong Kong's flagship exhibition venue is ramping up its line-up of medical, technology, finance and education events this year, including hosting the LEAP East technology exhibition that will be held outside the Middle East for the first time this summer. The Hong Kong

Convention and Exhibition Centre said events linked to the four sectors would account for 43 per cent of activities held at the venue this year, with the number rising by about 10 per cent year on year. Monica Lee-Muller, the...

- [Quick-thinking villagers in Malaysia’ s Sabah stop runaway train with rail trolley](#) (2026-03-03 11:40)

A group of quick-thinking villagers swooped to the rescue of a runaway train in the East Malaysian state of Sabah on Tuesday, sacrificing a vital motorised rail trolley to force the carriage to stop. The incident unfolded at about 7.30am as the train was carrying passengers – including teachers and families with young children – on their regular morning commute from Tenom to the Pangi subdistrict in southwest Sabah, on the island of Borneo. The train suffered a brake failure, according to local...

- [Why some Singaporeans are saying no to having children amid ‘existential’ fertility crisis](#) (2026-03-03 11:00)

Even if market researcher Joey Lau were a millionaire and could devote all her time to her family, she still would not want children. The 34-year-old Singaporean said the risks facing young people today – from social media-driven mental health pressures to climate change – were too high to justify bringing a child into the world. “I feel like the only reason that I would want to have a child is because it’ s cute, it would give shape to my life and my parents would be very happy because they want...

- [US patrol flights over South China Sea drop 30% as focus shifts to Middle East](#) (2026-03-03 11:00)

US land-based reconnaissance aircraft sorties over the South China Sea decreased by around 30 per cent month on month in February, according to a Beijing-based think tank, as the US deploys assets to the Middle East. The South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative (SCSPI) said on Monday that only 72 US reconnaissance aircraft sorties were detected over the South China Sea in February. By contrast, 102 US reconnaissance aircraft sorties were observed over the waters in both January and...

- [Will Apple’ s budget-priced iPhone 17e make a splash in China’ s tough smartphone market?](#) (2026-03-03 11:00)

The iPhone 17e, the entry-level addition to Apple’ s latest iPhone 17 series, faces an uphill battle in China’ s highly competitive smartphone market, according to analysts, as presales for the new handset start on Wednesday. The new budget-priced iPhone “lacks competitiveness” , said IDC China research manager Guo Tianxiang, who pointed out that the handset “still uses outdated moulds, with the chip being the only major upgrade” . “The shortcomings in imaging and display persist, making its overall...

- [Hong Kong logs warmest winter on record, averaging 2 degrees Celsius above normal](#) (2026-03-03 10:46)

Hong Kong experienced its warmest winter on record between December and February, according to the city's forecaster, with a mean temperature of 19.3 degrees Celsius (67 Fahrenheit) – two degrees above normal. The Hong Kong Observatory on Tuesday also attributed the unseasonably warm February to a weaker-than-normal northeast monsoon over southern China for most of the month, resulting in a mean temperature of 20.1 degrees, three degrees above normal. “Together with the well-above-normal...

- [South Korea to finally get fully functioning Google Maps](#) (2026-03-03 10:44)

South Korea will soon no longer be one of the few countries where Google Maps does not work properly, after its security-conscious government reversed a two-decade stance to approve the export of high-precision map data to overseas servers. The approval was made “on the condition that strict security requirements are met”, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said in a statement. Those conditions include blurring military and other sensitive security-related facilities, as well as...

- [HSBC chairman floats ‘IPO connect’ for Hong Kong, Shenzhen ahead of China’s ‘two sessions’](#) (2026-03-03 10:30)

Beijing should create a “connect” scheme for initial public offerings (IPOs) in the Greater Bay Area to allow mainland Chinese and Hong Kong investors to buy into new listings across the border, HSBC Asia-Pacific chairman Peter Wong Tung-shun said on the eve of China's annual “two sessions” meetings. “If investors in both Shenzhen and Hong Kong are further allowed to participate simultaneously in IPOs in both markets – achieving a more comprehensive IPO connect mechanism for the Greater Bay Area...

- [Trump’s tariff wars reshaped US-China trade – at what cost to American firms?](#) (2026-03-03 10:00)

China would have bought nearly 60 per cent more goods from the United States in 2025 if not for US President Donald Trump's trade wars, according to a former chief economist at the US State Department. That shortfall would have reached about US\$90 billion for the year, wrote Chad Bown in an article published on Tuesday by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, where he is a senior fellow. His comments came as US goods exports to China declined sharply by 25.8 per cent in 2025 from a...

- [China youth share struggles instead of flaunting wealth, embrace ‘comparing misery’](#) (2026-03-03 10:00)

An increasing number of young people in China have, in recent years, begun to reject the previous generation's tendency to flaunt wealth and success. Instead, they are embracing a new trend known as “reverse comparison” concerning income and struggles. Rather than pursuing branded or high-end products, Generation Z, who were born around the year 2000,

are opting for affordable items and competing with their peers over who can achieve the highest cost-effectiveness with their purchases. Two years...

- [What Hong Kong travellers stuck in the Middle East need to do as war spirals](#) (2026-03-03 10:00)

More than 400 Hongkongers have reported being stranded in the Middle East after major airspace closures triggered by the US-Israeli war on Iran disrupted dozens of flights between the city and the region. There are no signs yet of when they might return home, even as major transit hubs including Dubai airports resumed limited operations. US President Donald Trump has said military operations could last for weeks amid retaliation from Iran. The Security Bureau maintained a “red” warning for Iran...

- [Indonesia’ s US-Iran peace broker bid faces long odds: ‘we are nothing to them’](#) (2026-03-03 09:55)

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto has wasted no time positioning himself as a diplomatic broker in the Middle East, offering to mediate between Iran and the United States even as the bombs are still falling. The problem, critics say, is that Indonesia stopped being neutral the moment it joined US President Donald Trump’ s “Board of Peace” . Jakarta’ s offer came on Saturday, hours after US and Israeli strikes began hitting Iran. Prabowo was willing to travel to Tehran in person if all parties...

- [Ex-Apple Daily executive first to appeal sentence in landmark Hong Kong trial](#) (2026-03-03 09:42)

A former Apple Daily senior executive jailed for national security offences in Hong Kong has lodged an appeal against his 10-year term, the first in a landmark trial that saw the founder of the now-defunct tabloid-style newspaper sentenced to 20 years in prison. Court documents reviewed by the South China Morning Post on Tuesday showed that Fung Wai-kong, former managing editor of Apple Daily’ s English edition, had filed his appeal with the city’ s High Court on Monday. Fung was sentenced to 10...

- [Trump-Xi trade detente weathers US strikes on Iran](#) (2026-03-03 09:02)

China and the United States are looking for ways to revive reciprocal investments, even as conflict in the Middle East casts a shadow over an upcoming presidential summit. Joint ventures, licensing arrangements and so-called intellectual-property-light models designed to withstand political and regulatory scrutiny are among the forms of cooperation under discussion, an unnamed source told the South China Morning Post. The potential scope and structure of investments remain undefined. An...

- [‘Change typhoon intensity and path’ : China team mulls hitting cyclones with space beam](#) (2026-03-03 09:00)

China should accelerate development of a space-based solar power station, as the technology could one day do far more than beam clean energy to Earth, it might even help tame typhoons, according to a senior Chinese engineer. Duan Baoyan, the lead scientist behind the ambitious “Zhuri” project – which aims to hold a megawatt-class demonstration in the Earth’s orbit by 2030 – said microwave beams generated by such a station to transmit electricity back to Earth could potentially be directed to...

- [How the US ceded the robotics economy to China](#) (2026-03-03 08:30)

On the eve of the Chinese New Year, the Spring Festival Gala, one of the world’s most-watched television broadcasts, delivered more than just festive entertainment. It served as a high-definition manifesto of China’s “embodied AI” supremacy. International observers, from Reuters to El Pais, watched as humanoid robots from start-ups such as Unitree performed complex martial arts, backflips and synchronised dances. As Beijing-based tech analyst Poe Zhao noted, these humanoids represent the...

- [Gulf states take the fight to Iran as missiles target oil, gas and trade](#) (2026-03-03 07:47)

Since Iran came under US and Israeli attack on Saturday, its retaliatory missile and drone barrages have struck Saudi oil refineries, the world’s largest LNG plant in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates’ trade and transit infrastructure. Now the Gulf is signalling it has had enough of just absorbing the hits. None of the six Arab monarchies of the Gulf Cooperation Council wanted this war, analysts say. They had spent months trying to mediate a way out of the confrontation, warning of precisely...

- [More than 1,000 personnel, volunteers stage emergency drill at Hong Kong airport](#) (2026-03-03 07:38)

Hong Kong International Airport has staged a large-scale emergency drill to test its ability to respond to a major aircraft accident, with more than 1,000 personnel and hundreds of volunteers taking part. The annual aircraft crash and rescue exercise was held on the airport’s centre runway in the early hours of Tuesday, starting at 2.15am and concluding around four hours later. It simulated a departing flight forced to abort take-off after smoke was reported from a passenger’s power bank. In the...

- [What’s behind China’s careful response to its ally Iran after US-Israel strikes?](#) (2026-03-03 07:36)

The joint US-Israel strikes on Iran, which have plunged the Middle East into deeper turmoil, have received qualified support from some countries and condemnation from others. China – which confirmed the death of one Chinese national in Iran and the evacuation of its 3,000 citizens from the country – partnered with Russia on Saturday to hold an emergency session of the UN Security Council and condemned the military action. In a call on Monday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, China’s s...

- [Malaysian student charged with desecrating Koran in viral video](#) (2026-03-03 07:30)

A Malaysian student has pleaded not guilty to desecrating the Koran and posting offensive content online, in a case that has stirred widespread anger in the Muslim-majority country during the holy month of Ramadan. Vikneswaran K. Selvanathan, 21, appeared before the Sessions Court in Kuantan, Pahang, on Tuesday to face two charges: defiling a sacred object and transmitting “grossly offensive” material on social media in violation of Malaysia’s communications law. He is accused of stepping on a...

- [Malaysian, Filipino killed in helicopter crash southeast of Manila](#) (2026-03-03 06:51)

A Malaysian national and a Filipino were killed on Tuesday when a helicopter crashed in a vacant lot about two hours southeast of Manila. The Bell 505 helicopter carrying five people, including two Malaysians, took off from the capital and was en route to Quezon province, more than 400km (248 miles) southeast of the capital, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines and other officials said. It was not immediately clear what caused the forced landing in clear weather in a grassy area of...

- [Starry Lee to propose boosting Hong Kong’s role as offshore yuan hub at ‘two sessions’](#) (2026-03-03 06:41)

Hong Kong must strengthen its role as an offshore yuan hub and expand its bond market to attract global capital during turbulent times, the city’s sole delegate to the nation’s top legislative body has said, citing the escalating war in the Middle East. Starry Lee Wai-king, Hong Kong’s sole delegate to the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee and president of the Legislative Council, said this was one of the proposals she planned to make at the “two sessions” as political leaders,...

- [Mentally ill Hongkonger admits killing mother he mistook for ‘monster lizard’](#) (2026-03-03 06:40)

A Hong Kong man has admitted killing his mother in a public rental flat four years ago under the delusion that she was a “monster lizard” who had pretended to be his family. Wong Chun-kit, 28, on Tuesday pleaded guilty to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility, after prosecutors acknowledged he had suffered a relapse of schizoaffective disorder that substantially reduced his culpability in what was originally classified as a murder case. The High Court heard that Wong, who was...

- [Thailand issues arrest warrants for South African couple in US\\$30 million fraud case](#) (2026-03-03 06:04)

A Thai court issued arrest warrants for a foreign businessman and his wife accused of investment fraud and money laundering, with one victim allegedly conned out of more than US\$30 million, police said. Thailand’s Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) accused Ben Smith, also identified in news reports as South African Benjamin Mauerberger, and his wife, Cattaliya Beevor, of “cross-border investment fraud” dating back to 2016, according to a statement

from the bureau on Monday. Media reports have...

- [Europe counts the cost as Iran war disrupts energy shipments](#) (2026-03-03 06:00)

Europe woke to a fresh surge in energy prices on Monday as the escalating war in the Middle East disrupted oil shipments and natural gas production in one of the world's most critical energy-producing regions. The continent's benchmark natural gas price, the Dutch TTF, rose by more than 40 per cent at one point amid mounting reports of supply disruptions following American and Israeli attacks on Iran and Iranian retaliation against regional targets. Qatar's state-owned QatarEnergy said it had...

- [Allies of Philippines' Duterte step up online attacks as drug war trial looms](#) (2026-03-03 06:00)

As judges in The Hague consider whether former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's crimes against humanity case should proceed to trial, a parallel battle over the narrative has taken hold online. Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) have accused Duterte of overseeing a campaign of extrajudicial killings linked to his signature "war on drugs". Rights groups say the campaign left thousands dead during his 2016-2022 presidency, allegations he has repeatedly denied. Analysts...

- [Chinese man earns US\\$23,000 in holiday week through cat-feeding services](#) (2026-03-03 06:00)

A young Chinese man who offered cat-feeding services during the Chinese New Year reported earning 160,000 yuan (US\$23,000) over the holiday. The sizeable earnings generated by the feline feeding enterprise have highlighted that there is significant demand for such services. Huan Cong, born in 1991, and based in Shanghai, is a professional in the pet-care industry who has specialised in door-to-door cat feeding services for nine years. During this year's Spring Festival, he and four employees...

- [She married 2 men at once in Thailand – and her mother is fine with it](#) (2026-03-03 05:45)

When Dujduan Ketsaro wed two men in a single ceremony in northeastern Thailand on Saturday, she was ready for the attention. "Marry one and the world won't remember," the 37-year-old former singer-songwriter quipped to a guest. "Marry two at once and they will." The three-way wedding, reported by Thai newspaper Khaosod, brought together Dujduan and two Austrian partners: Roman, a retired police officer she had lived with for five years and Macky, a police officer and Roman's best friend who had...

- [Iran's cheap threat: US\\$20,000 drones vs US\\$4 million interceptors](#) (2026-03-03 05:27)

Just several days into the conflict, the Iran war has become attritional. Waves of drone attacks by the Islamic Republic are putting pressure on the defences of the US and its partners from Bahrain to the United Arab Emirates, depleting weapons stockpiles. The outcome of the fight may depend on which side runs out of munitions first. Shahed-136 one-way attack drones,

small, rudimentary cruise missiles, continued to pound targets across the Middle East on Monday. The drones have in recent days...

- [Hong Kong police alerted after man seen repeatedly hitting baby's foot in train](#) (2026-03-03 05:17)

Hong Kong police have been alerted to a suspected child abuse case after a video was posted online showing a man on an MTR train repeatedly slapping a baby's foot for resting on their stroller bar. The commuter who filmed the video, a woman who identified herself as Asumi, told the South China Morning Post on Tuesday that she witnessed the man slapping the infant's foot more than 20 times on a light rail train in Tin Shui Wai. "Whenever he spotted the baby putting its foot on the stroller's s...

- ['Blood moon' set to rise over Hong Kong but clouds, rain may get in the way](#) (2026-03-03 05:07)

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 set to witness a rare total lunar eclipse on Tuesday night, but the weather forecaster warns that thick clouds and possible rain may block the view. The Hong Kong Observatory also said temperatures were expected to drop gradually from 20 degrees Celsius (68 Fahrenheit) at noon on Tuesday to around 16 degrees in the evening. The astronomical event...

- [Generals stripped of CPPCC roles as China's corruption clean-up continues](#) (2026-03-03 05:00)

China has revoked the political advisory seats of three generals, including two who previously held key positions in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) ground force, as the anti-corruption drive continues within the top brass and defence industry. Han Weiguo, Gao Jin and Liu Lei were removed from membership of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and their respective roles in its Standing Committee and relevant special committees, the political advisory body said on...

- [New satellite photos show apparent attack on Iran nuclear site: report](#) (2026-03-03 04:50)

Commercial satellite imagery has captured what appears to be the first known strikes on an Iranian nuclear site since the start of the US-Israeli air operation, an independent policy institute said on Monday. The Institute for Science and International Security said imagery produced by Colorado-based Vantor showed two strikes on access points to the underground uranium enrichment plant at Natanz, which was hit by the US last June. David Albright, a former UN nuclear inspector and founder of the...

- [India's 100GW nuclear push was missing one thing. Canada just provided it](#) (2026-03-03 04:14)

India wants 100 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by mid-century. It currently has roughly 8GW. Getting there will require not just capital, technology and political will, but a reliable fuel supply that domestic production alone cannot provide. The 10-year uranium agreement signed on Monday when Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney met his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in New Delhi is designed to address exactly that constraint. Analysts say it is a structural commitment – one intended to meet...

- [Outlook for Iran leadership, Philippines investigates Epstein ties: 7 Asia highlights](#)  
(2026-03-03 04:00)

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. Will Iran collapse without Khamenei or can its regime endure? 2. Why US strikes on Iran just made North Korea less likely to play ball 3. Viral video of child being shoved at Tokyo's iconic Shibuya Crossing stokes anger 4. Indonesia is getting an aircraft carrier. The...

- [‘We couldn't reach them’: Chinese firms' Iran business in limbo after strikes](#)  
(2026-03-03 04:00)

Rising tensions in the Middle East following attacks on Iran are having an impact on the trade corridors and investment plans of Chinese exporters and investors, who had seen Iran and the broader region as crucial growth markets. Joint strikes on Iran by the United States and Israel since Saturday have left shipments stalled, payments delayed and clients unreachable, Chinese businesspeople said. For many of them, the disruption has been direct and immediate. David Xie, an executive at a...

- [Filipinos in Middle East war zones torn between life and livelihood: ‘we have families’](#)  
(2026-03-03 03:44)

Filipina carer Charlot David made the run back and forth to the bomb shelter several times before deciding it was better to simply stay there. The 44-year-old mother of four, who has lived through “several wars” since moving to Israel in 2008, knew exactly what to do when the ear-splitting alert on her mobile phone first woke her on Saturday. “Our flat is three minutes away from the bomb shelter, so we really have to run fast,” she said in a video interview from her employer's home in Rehovot, a...

- [6 new fairs, galleries and pop-ups making Hong Kong art week bigger and bolder](#)  
(2026-03-03 03:15)

If the last two years were about saying “we are back”, this year's Hong Kong “art week” has a more exploratory vibe, as a wave of new initiatives brings fresh ways to appreciate art and design. Here is a list of the bold first-timers creating a buzz on the fringes of Art Basel Hong Kong, the city's flagship art fair that starts on March 25. 1. Central Yards Edible Art Fair This is where art is a full-sensory experience. Hong Kong's first Central Yards Edible Art Fair will

occupy a 20,000 sq ft...

- [US-Israel war on Iran disrupts 54 Hong Kong-Mideast flights as airspace remains closed](#) (2026-03-03 03:00)

The number of flights between Hong Kong and the Middle East disrupted by the US-Israeli strikes on Iran has risen to 54, as ongoing airspace closures force Gulf tour suspensions until at least next week. About 13,000 of roughly 32,000 flights scheduled to operate into and out of the Middle East have been cancelled since last Saturday, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium. A check by the South China Morning Post on Tuesday found that flights between Hong Kong and Dubai in the United Arab...

- [Japanese massage parlour operator denies forcing Thai girl, 12, into sex work](#) (2026-03-03 02:35)

A Japanese man accused of conspiring with a woman to force a then 12-year-old Thai girl into sex work at a Tokyo massage parlour he operated has denied the charges. “I did not know she was underage,” Masayuki Hosono, 52, told the Tokyo District Court during the first hearing of his criminal trial on Monday. His defence counsel also argued that he had been deceived about the girl’s age by the woman, Punsiripanya Phakhaphon, 38, a Thai national who managed the private-room massage parlour in...

- [Panama anger, China-linked crime, ousted Peru president: 7 Latin America relations reads](#) (2026-03-03 02:15)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering Latin America relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. China becomes Brazil’s biggest vehicle exporter in January, surpassing Argentina China surpassed Argentina in February to become Brazil’s largest exporter of vehicles, solidifying Chinese brands’ dominance in the region’s biggest car market and undercutting a long-standing Argentine...

- [‘We want to go home’ : Hongkongers trapped in Mideast call for more official help](#) (2026-03-03 02:00)

Some Hongkongers stranded in the Middle East amid a joint US-Israeli attack on Iran have called for greater help from the Chinese embassy and Hong Kong government, as others considered travelling by road to another city to fly back home. As of Monday, at least 432 residents were stranded in the region, according to immigration authorities. On social media, some residents wrote they had been unable to contact the Chinese embassy in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by phone and had to pass...

- [Unification Church faces uphill task in Japan to fight court’s liquidation ruling](#) (2026-03-03 02:00)

Representatives of the Unification Church, the controversial South Korea-founded religious group that became a political flashpoint in Japan after the 2022 assassination of former prime minister Shinzo Abe, are set to return to court on Wednesday as judges consider whether to strip it of its legal status. The Tokyo High Court is widely expected to uphold a lower court's dissolution order against the group, officially known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, in a case that...

- [US, China discuss investment revival ahead of Trump's trip: sources](#) (2026-03-03 02:00)

Beijing and Washington have begun discussing ways to revive reciprocal investment – a move that could be one of the few deliverables during an upcoming China visit by US President Donald Trump, according to multiple sources. The investment issue was touched upon as working-level officials prepared for Trump's trip, which is scheduled to take place between March 31 and April 2. However, the potential scope and structure of such investments remain undefined, sources said. One source said both...

- [Tourism, once New Zealand's top overseas earner, lags behind dairy post-pandemic](#) (2026-03-03 01:31)

New Zealand's tourism industry still needs to do more if it is to regain its title as the nation's biggest earner of overseas revenue. While foreign visitor spending gained 7 per cent to a record NZ\$18.1 billion (US\$11 billion) in the 12 months through March 2025, it still lags behind the dairy industry's NZ\$23.1 billion of exports in the same period, according to government data released on Tuesday in Wellington. Tourism overtook dairy as the nation's top overseas earner in 2016 and remained...

- [Kim Jong-un's daughter may well become North Korea's first female leader](#) (2026-03-03 01:30)

A recent report by South Korea's National Intelligence Service suggests Kim Jong-un has selected his daughter, Ju-ae (or possibly Ju-hae), to succeed him as North Korea's supreme leader. This is not the first time analysts have had to consider if North Korea, supposedly the most traditionalist of communist states, could have a female leader, but it is the most definitive. In 2020, Kim spent three weeks out of the spotlight, including missing the April 15 birth celebration of his grandfather, Kim...

- [Language as a weapon? PLA academics push for training overhaul, cite Ukraine war](#) (2026-03-03 01:00)

Chinese military academics have stepped up calls to overhaul defence language training, arguing that linguistic proficiency has become as critical as firepower in modern warfare – a lesson starkly underscored by the Ukraine war. Among them is Lu Danyun, a professor at the military-affiliated National University of Defence Technology and a representative on China's top lawmaking body, the National People's Congress. In a report published in the official People's Liberation Army (PLA) newspaper,...

- [Chinese man drives 900km for marriage proposal, hangs banner asking fellow drivers to make way](#) (2026-03-03 01:00)

A man's journey across China's congested highways to propose marriage has captured the internet's attention after he posted a simple red banner in the back window of his car urging fellow drivers to give way. In February, many netizens shared a heartwarming scene they witnessed while driving. Videos posted online showed the banner which read: "Brothers, let me go first. I am heading to Guizhou to propose to the love of my life." The vehicle's owner, surnamed Tan, 26, from Jiangxi province in...

- [Pakistan cities under curfew after 23 die in pro-Iran protests over Khamenei killing](#) (2026-03-03 00:53)

Pakistani authorities deployed troops and imposed a three-day curfew before dawn on Monday in the northern cities of Gilgit and Skardu after several people died and tens were injured in violent protests following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes, officials said. Thousands of Shiite demonstrators on Sunday attacked the offices of the UN Military Observer Group, which monitors the ceasefire along the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, and the UN...

- [‘Two sessions’ to ‘focus on Hong Kong’ s financial role, Northern Metropolis’](#) (2026-03-03 00:30)

Hundreds of Hong Kong politicians and business leaders head to Beijing on Tuesday for the nation's annual "two sessions", with observers expecting discussions to focus on the city's role as an international financial centre and the Northern Metropolis megaproject. The annual session of the country's top political advisory body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), will commence on Wednesday, followed by the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's legislature,...

- [Hong Kong' s strategy for HKIC to prop up city' s office market seen as challenging](#) (2026-03-03 00:30)

Hong Kong's government-backed investment fund is being redeployed to support the city's sluggish commercial property sector, signaling authorities' growing willingness to use public funds as a policy tool to steady office valuations and align real estate investment with the city's industrial ambitions. Attracting foreign institutions, however, might prove challenging. The city's elevated vacancy rates, looming new completions and uncertain rental recovery have kept global funds on the sidelines,...

- [Young Nepalis hope post-uprising election candidates shun ‘same old patterns’](#) (2026-03-03 00:00)

Sangharsh Bhusal returned to the spot outside Nepal's parliament building where police shot him last year. The 28-year-old still bears scars on his head, hand and abdomen from the

violence that engulfed Kathmandu during Nepal's Gen Z uprising, when thousands took to the streets demanding good governance and an end to corruption. It was here, in front of the seat of power, where many young protesters believed their voices should have been heard when gunfire rang out. At least 77 people –...

- [US considers capping Nvidia H200 sales at 75,000 per Chinese customer](#) (2026-03-02 23:45)

US officials are considering caps on the number of AI accelerators Nvidia can export to any one Chinese company, which would further constrain the chipmaker's re-entry into a crucial market. The Trump administration has talked about limiting Chinese firms to buying 75,000 of Nvidia's H200 chips each, according to people familiar with the matter. Shipments of Advanced Micro Devices' MI325 chips, which have similar capabilities, would also count towards a customer's cap, the people said. These...

- [Investors lock onto NPC as markets seek policy lift amid AI jitters](#) (2026-03-02 23:30)

Ahead of China's annual legislative meetings – typically a window into Beijing's top-level policy agenda – this is the sixth entry in a series examining the complex economic recalibration driving China's growth philosophy and its wide-ranging implications for local governments, financial investors and private enterprises. Stock investors will zero in on China's annual parliamentary gathering this week for signals it could revive equity momentum, as fears of artificial intelligence-driven...

- [US advisory panel warns China is gaining in undersea warfare](#) (2026-03-02 23:13)

A key congressional advisory panel issued a warning on Monday about China's rapidly advancing maritime capabilities and urged the Pentagon to maintain its undersea "superiority", underscoring growing friction in US-China relations weeks ahead of a high-stakes summit next month. China has invested heavily in submarines, undersea cables and sea-floor mining, potentially undercutting the US lead in undersea warfare, commissioners and witnesses said at a hearing of the US-China Economic and Security...

- [US House panel releases video of Clintons' Epstein depositions](#) (2026-03-02 22:32)

A US congressional committee investigating convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein released videos on Monday of the depositions of Bill and Hillary Clinton. The former US president and former US secretary of state appeared before the House Oversight Committee last week to testify about their connections to Epstein. Hillary Clinton told the panel that she did not know Epstein, and Bill Clinton said he broke ties with him before the financier's sex crimes came to light in 2008. In statements to the...

- [Can China's roaring trade engine power the yuan's challenge to the US dollar?](#) (2026-03-02 22:00)

In the run-up to this year's 'two sessions' – the annual meetings of China's top legislature and political advisory body – high-level policymakers have reiterated the need to defuse financial risks and root out political corruption, two of President Xi Jinping's long-term priorities. In this series, we take stock of how those efforts have progressed, and what remains to be done. The iron ore trade between Australian miners and Chinese buyers has long followed a familiar, bruising pattern. Tense...

- [Nipah and mpox expose Asia's urgent need for stronger disease surveillance](#)  
(2026-03-02 21:30)

In a year already brimming with threats of war and unrest, 2026 has brought some health scares for Asia. In January, two cases of the deadly Nipah virus emerged among healthcare workers, both nurses, in West Bengal, India. One of the two nurses has since died. The Nipah virus has one of the highest fatality rates of any known viral disease, typically ranging from 40 to 75 per cent, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Since 1998, when the first outbreak of the disease was recorded...

- [French court reduces prison terms for 3 people involved in 2020 teacher beheading](#)  
(2026-03-02 21:14)

A French court on Monday reduced on appeal the prison sentences of three men convicted over the 2020 jihadist beheading of a teacher who showed a class cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. Samuel Paty, 47, was murdered in October 2020 by Abdoullakh Anzorov, an 18-year-old radical Islamist of Chechen origin, in an act that horrified France. Anzorov was killed in a shoot-out with police. Two friends of Anzorov, French national Naim Boudaoud and Azim Epsirkhanov, a Russian of Chechen origin, had their...

- [Trump's 2026 trade agenda sharpens push for 'managed' US-China ties](#) (2026-03-02 20:45)

US President Donald Trump's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda sharpens and, in some ways, reshapes Washington's approach to Beijing, blending enforcement with a new emphasis on "managed" trade between the world's two largest economies. United States Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer delivered the 2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 Annual Report to Congress on Monday, highlighting a significant shift in the US-China trade relationship. Managing trade with China for "reciprocity and balance" is one...

- [US\\$2.68 billion class action claims UK PlayStation users are overcharged for games](#)  
(2026-03-02 20:08)

A £2 billion (US\$2.68 billion) class action will claim that millions of PlayStation users in the UK are overcharged for games on the console in the latest legal challenge against technology firms' market dominance. The case, brought by consumer champion Alex Neill on behalf of an estimated 12.2 million gamers, accuses Sony of levying "excessive and unfair" charges on downloads from its PlayStation Store. The antitrust claim is set to be heard by the Competition

Appeal Tribunal in London from...

- [Europe reacts to Macron' s offer to deploy atomic weapons to France' s allies](#) (2026-03-02 19:40)

President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that France could deploy nuclear-armed aircraft to allied countries for the first time as he invited eight European countries to take part in exercises with French deterrent forces. Announcing a new doctrine of “forward deterrence” , Macron said the plans involving partners including Germany, Britain and Poland would “complicate the calculations of our adversaries” . “We must strengthen our nuclear deterrent in the face of multiple threats, and we must...

- [US appeal court denies Trump bid to delay tariff refund lawsuits](#) (2026-03-02 19:17)

A federal appeal court on Monday rejected US President Donald Trump' s push to delay legal proceedings linked to refunds of his tariffs, allowing the battle to proceed in a lower court. The Supreme Court last month delivered a stinging rebuke of Trump' s signature economic policy by striking down many of his global tariffs, opening the door to a complicated legal fight as companies sue for their money back. The tariffs ruled illegal by the high court had generated more than US\$130 billion for the...

- [Europe divided and on edge as US-Israeli attacks on Iran ripple across the continent](#) (2026-03-02 19:10)

The simmering war in the Middle East fractured Europe on Monday, as allies clashed, tempers flared and the shock waves from the US and Israeli bombing of Iran threatened to reverberate through the continent. The crisis exposed a familiar European fault line: while leaders insist they are the last guardians of the rules-based international order, they remain split over how to respond when allies bend or break those rules. With oil price spikes threatening to compound the European economic...

- [Triceratops skeleton ‘Trey’ to hit the auction block as dinosaur market soars](#) (2026-03-02 18:02)

A triceratops skeleton that stood in a Wyoming museum for decades will be auctioned off, a rare instance of a museum-exhibited dinosaur going to the auction block just as the market for the prehistoric giants has hit record highs. The fossil, dubbed “Trey” , will be open for bidding from March 17 to 31 on Joopiter, an online auction platform founded by Grammy-winning artist and producer Pharrell Williams. It has a pre-auction estimate of US\$4.5 million to US\$5.5 million. Dating back more than 66...

- [Iran Strikes Day 3: Trump says Iran operation will continue for up to 5 weeks](#) (2026-03-02 17:29)

US President Donald Trump said his troops will continue with “ferocious, unyielding resolve” the mission to “eliminate the intolerable threat posed by this sick and sinister regime” in

Iran. “We projected for four to five weeks, but we have the capability to go longer than that,” Trump said, while also saying, “we’ re already substantially ahead of our time projection.” In a speech on Monday during a ceremony in the White House, Trump seemed to respond to his critics by outlining the objectives...

- [US Treasury says it is stopping use of Anthropic’ s tech, including its Claude platform](#) (2026-03-02 17:15)

The US Treasury Department said on Monday it is ending use of all Anthropic products, following US President Donald Trump’ s government-wide ban on the AI start-up after it rejected the Pentagon’ s demands. The US Treasury “is terminating all use of Anthropic products, including the use of its Claude platform, within our department” , said Secretary Scott Bessent in a social media statement. The decision comes at the direction of Trump, he added. “Under President Trump no private company will ever...

- [Will Iran attack derail Trump’ s high-stakes China visit to meet Xi Jinping?](#) (2026-03-02 15:06)

The massive American military strikes on Iran could add a new layer of uncertainty to US President Donald Trump’ s high-stakes trip to China at the end of the month, observers warn. They said that while the visit was expected to go ahead as planned, the escalating conflict in the Middle East could fuel fresh concerns in Beijing over Washington’ s global assertiveness and ambitions. Large-scale US and Israeli strikes on Iran since Saturday have killed senior Iranian figures including the supreme...

- [Iran conflict spreads to neighbouring countries](#) (2026-03-02 15:03)

The situation in Iran continues to worsen, with countries throughout the region getting hit by missiles and drones. Eyewitness footage from across the Middle East shows the scene on the ground.

- [El Nino may return in 2026, making the planet even hotter](#) (2026-03-02 14:43)

The warming El Niño weather phenomenon could form later this year, potentially pushing global temperatures to record heights. There is a 50-60 per cent chance of El Niño developing during the July-September period and beyond, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The World Meteorological Organization will issue an update on El Niño on Tuesday. Here’ s what you need to know about El Niño and its cooler sister, La Niña. Why the name? El Niño and La Niña are two...

- [US strike on Iran fuels Taiwan’ s air defence debate and energy supply fears](#) (2026-03-02 14:00)

Taiwan has reacted to the US strike on Iran with surprise, strategic calculation and renewed debate over the island’ s air defence readiness. While some observers were struck by what they saw as overwhelming US military dominance, others said the conflict underscored the

urgency of accelerating plans to build a more integrated, layered air defence network amid mounting pressure from Beijing. On Monday, the island's cabinet said relevant ministries were "closely monitoring developments in the..."

- [AI-assisted US strikes in Iran to intensify China drive for tech self-reliance: analysts](#) (2026-03-02 14:00)

Artificial intelligence has become a stronger force on the battlefield, with the US military's use of AI-assisted strikes on Iran underscoring what analysts say is the "urgency" for China to accelerate its push for tech self-reliance. The US Department of Defence deployed Anthropic's systems in the Iran campaign even after their deal collapsed, according to reports by The Wall Street Journal and Reuters. The technology was used for intelligence assessments, target identification and battle...

- [Trump's Iran attack, EU 'too slow', China-India relations: 7 global relations reads](#) (2026-03-02 14:00)

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 strikes: Trump threatens more hits, Khamenei dead, Israel mounts new attacks On the final day of February, the US and Israel launched a shock military strike on Iran, killing hundreds – including the nation's supreme leader, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In response, Iran launched attacks...

- [996 comes to America, Hasan Piker's 'Chinese thoughts': 7 US-China relations reads](#) (2026-03-02 14:00)

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. Born in China, raised in the US: adoptees explore their identity at Lunar New Year The Lunar New Year is a time for Chinese people to come together to celebrate family. But for those who were born in China and adopted by US couples, the holiday period can bring up complicated feelings about...

- [What weapons were used in US and Iran strikes, and which are also deployed near China?](#) (2026-03-02 13:49)

The joint US-Israel attack on Iran and Tehran's own retaliatory strikes on a handful of cities in the region have showcased advanced weapons from both sides, some deployed for the first time. Tomahawk Land-Attack Missiles Footage released by the US military confirmed the use of the Tomahawk Land-Attack Missiles. According to the US Navy, the missiles were launched by Arleigh Burke-class destroyers on February 28, in the strikes against Iran. The Tomahawk cruise missile is a long-range missile...

- [Long Iran war could hurt Ukraine's fight against Russia, says Zelensky](#) (2026-03-02 13:47)

A protracted war in the Middle East could reduce the availability of air defences for Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelensky said, acknowledging potential ripple effects from the US-led bombing campaign in Iran. Washington has all but stopped providing military aid to Kyiv since President Donald Trump returned to the White House last year, but the US continues to sell weapons financed by Ukraine's allies, mainly from Europe. Zelensky said that he had discussed military assistance with German...

- [Asia's oil dependence leaves it exposed after US-Israel strikes on Iran: Morgan Stanley](#) (2026-03-02 13:30)

Asian countries are heavily reliant on imported oil and gas and could suffer serious economic fallout after the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran, Morgan Stanley said. The manufacturing-intensive, export-reliant region was “more sensitive” to oil price volatility than Europe or the US, the New York-based investment bank said in a research note on Sunday. Asia's oil and gas trade deficit stood at 2.1 per cent of gross domestic product, it calculated. Every sustained US\$10...

- [Philippines promotes coastguard officer in 'deliberate signal' on South China Sea dispute](#) (2026-03-02 13:17)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's decision to promote coastguard officer Jay Tarriela – despite Beijing's calls for him to be sanctioned – is being read by analysts as a calibrated signal of how the Philippines intends to manage its maritime dispute with China. Rather than a routine personnel move, they say, the elevation of one of the government's most outspoken maritime voices suggests Marcos is doubling down on a strategy that pairs public exposure of Beijing's actions in the South China Sea...

- [Iran war disrupts Chinese tech firms' Middle East operations](#) (2026-03-02 13:00)

Chinese technology companies that have rapidly expanded across the Middle East face a sudden test amid Iran's response to the US-Israel attack, as mounting hostilities disrupt their operations. Several firms that accelerated investment in the region over the past year have temporarily suspended services, shifted staff to remote work and reviewed contingency plans as security risks mount in the short term. Baidu, which began operating its Apollo robotaxi service in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the...

- [HKUST may reserve 20% of first medical school intake for non-locals](#) (2026-03-02 12:33)

About 20 per cent of the 50 places in the inaugural intake of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's (HKUST) new graduate medical school in 2028-29 may be reserved for non-local students, with most expected to come from mainland China, according to the institution. Applicants for the four-year graduate entry-level medicine programme must pass an international admission test, with the university preferring those with a background in biotechnology. According to HKUST, the tuition fee...

- [Attack on Iran normalises global descent into the ‘law of the jungle’](#) (2026-03-02 12:30)

The smoke rising from Iran on Saturday signalled more than just a localised escalation in the Middle East. Coming on the heels of the United States’ military invasion of Venezuela earlier this year, the joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran represent a watershed moment for the 21st century. We are witnessing the systematic dismantling of the post-1945 legal order, replaced by the unvarnished “law of the jungle” where strategic interests supersede legality, and the UN Charter is treated as a relic of...

- [Millions of Asian migrant workers in Gulf in danger as war with Iran rages on](#) (2026-03-02 12:25)

Millions of migrant workers, who support some of the Middle East’ s most crucial sectors, are in the line of fire as Iran retaliates against the US-Israeli strikes that killed the Islamic Republic’ s supreme leader. Southeast and South Asian nations supply a large share of the labour in the Gulf, including medical practitioners, construction workers and household help that make up a migrant workforce the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates at over 24 million. The Philippines,...

- [Hong Kong man gets 4 years for fatal fight over bicycle payment](#) (2026-03-02 12:14)

A Hong Kong man has been sentenced to four years in prison for fatally assaulting a construction worker who refused to pay HK\$800 (US\$102) for a bicycle from the defendant. The High Court on Monday sentenced Wong Koon-ming for manslaughter after a seven-member jury earlier this year cleared him of murder but convicted him of the lesser charge following a week-long trial. The court heard that Wong, 50 and unemployed, was involved in a street fight with 58-year-old Lo Chun-shing at Tin Yan Estate...

- [Middle East conflict to drive up airfares for Hong Kong travellers: analysts](#) (2026-03-02 12:00)

The escalating conflict in the Middle East is set to drive up travel costs for Hong Kong passengers as many are forced to opt for more expensive direct routes to Europe, according to analysts. They said on Monday that the suspension of major transit hubs in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Doha in Qatar had left travellers scrambling for seats on direct flights or “conflict-free” paths to Europe, with surging demand set to trigger a spike in airfares. Global air travel has been...

- [Iran conflict will accelerate China’ s push to become an ‘energy powerhouse’ , analysts say](#) (2026-03-02 12:00)

The escalating conflict in the Middle East – which is sending oil prices soaring and disrupting shipping traffic along the Strait of Hormuz – should not pose an immediate threat to China’ s crude supply, but will add urgency to the country’ s energy security drive, analysts said. Since the United States and Israel launched strikes against Iran over the weekend, commercial traffic has largely come to a standstill along the Strait of Hormuz – a waterway linking the Persian Gulf

with the Indian Ocean...

- [Why wait? China should skip a step in self-driving cars, Xpeng founder and CEO says](#) (2026-03-02 11:33)

The head of Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker Xpeng said the country should accelerate the development of autonomous driving technology amid slowing sales growth in the sector. He Xiaopeng, founder and CEO of the Guangzhou-based company, said on Monday that the country should skip an intermediate step and move directly to a more advanced version of autonomous capabilities, adding that Beijing should adjust regulations and policies faster to make this happen. He said he would submit this...

- [Mainland Chinese firm to build Northern Metropolis supercomputing centre](#) (2026-03-02 11:03)

A mainland Chinese firm has secured the tender to build a supercomputing centre in Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis as the sole bidder, agreeing to pay a premium of HK\$581 million (US\$74.25 million) and boost the city's computing power 36-fold. Unveiling details of the plan on Monday, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong said the winning bidder was Range Intelligent Computing Technology, whose parent company, Shenzhen-listed Runze Technology Group, specialises in developing...

- [Singapore strives to remain equidistant amid US-China rivalry: 'same-same but different'](#) (2026-03-02 11:00)

Singapore's long-standing effort to stay equidistant between the United States and China is entering a more volatile phase, with recent comments by officials reflecting their awareness of the mounting strain, analysts have said. Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan on Friday told parliament that Singapore would not act as a proxy for any major power, stressing that the city state must be prepared to "courteously stand up and say no". Observers say his remarks come at a time when geopolitical...

- [South China Sea expert warns 2026 code of conduct is 'simply not achievable'](#) (2026-03-02 11:00)

A veteran South China Sea expert has cast doubt on the prospects of finalising a code of conduct for the contested waters this year, even as ties between rival claimants Beijing and Manila show signs of improvement. Wu Shicun, founding president of the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, said it was "100 per cent not likely" that the document would be signed this year as the Philippines takes over the rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). "I believe it...

- [India, Canada forge deals on uranium, renewable energy](#) (2026-03-02 10:58)

India and Canada on Monday reached a string of agreements, including on critical mineral cooperation and a "landmark" uranium supply deal for nuclear power, the countries'

leaders said in New Delhi. The pacts, which also covered technology and promoting the use of renewable energy, were announced after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney hailed a fresh start in the relationship between their nations. “Our ties have seen a new energy, mutual trust and...

- [Hong Kong, Shanghai sign pact on digital trade finance, cross-border data link](#) (2026-03-02 10:55)

Hong Kong and Shanghai have signed an accord deepening their collaboration in promoting digitised cargo trade finance and strengthening mainland China’s connection to the global data ecosystem. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Shanghai Data Bureau and the National Technology Innovation Centre for Blockchain, according to a statement from Hong Kong’s de facto central bank. “This marks an important milestone in the collaboration...

- [Middle East tensions highlight Hong Kong’s stability, opportunities: labour minister](#) (2026-03-02 10:32)

Conflicts in the Middle East highlight Hong Kong’s attractiveness as a talent hub promising safety and stability, the city’s labour chief has said. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han on Monday said that while Hong Kong already drew global talent because of its status as an international city, its safety and security were “equally important” factors that the escalating tensions in the Middle East had thrown into relief. The joint United States-Israel strikes on Iran entered a...

- [US-Israel war on Iran: everything you need to know from China’s reaction to what’s next](#) (2026-03-02 10:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage of US and Israel’s war on Iran. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. 5 takeaways from the first 2 days of US-Israel war against Iran Amid escalating US-Israeli strikes and Iranian retaliation, casualties emerge, oil spikes and global geopolitics face major shocks. 2. Why China’s ties with Iran will endure despite death of Khamenei China has strongly condemned the killing of the Iranian supreme leader,...

- [Eager China parents use apps to find partners for adult children, turn pairing into transactions](#) (2026-03-02 10:00)

Anxious Chinese parents are increasingly turning to “find a daughter-in-law” or “find a son-in-law” platforms online, turning partner seeking into direct negotiations between parents. During the Chinese New Year, as young people fend off probing questions about marriage and relationships from relatives at the dinner table, sharp-eyed businesses have already shifted their strategies. Instead of trying to persuade single young adults who resist matchmaking, they are now directly targeting a...

- [Asia’ s travel sector rattled by Iran attacks, fears of ‘domino effect’ slowdown](#) (2026-03-02 09:53)

Airspace closures across the Middle East have left tens of thousands of travellers stranded and forced airlines to divert routes, threatening to derail the fragile recovery in Asia’ s tourism and aviation sectors, as the conflict involving the US and Israel against Iran continues to escalate. Major transit hubs, including Dubai and Doha, remain shut or are operating at reduced capacity for a third straight day, upending Europe–Asia connections that depend heavily on Gulf airspace. Airlines are...

- [Taliban’ s only hope for peace with Pakistan is renouncing terrorism](#) (2026-03-02 09:30)

The fragile ceasefire between the Taliban and Pakistan has broken, and there is now open war in South Asia. This week has seen a dangerous escalation between the former allies, starting when Pakistan carried out a series of air strikes on what it says were terror “camps and hideouts” in Afghanistan’ s border provinces. Pakistan claims it killed 80 militants, whereas the Taliban says villages were hit and 17 civilians were killed. The two have since engaged in a deadly tit-for-tat of ground and...

- [US officials sceptical of Iran regime change after Khamenei killing, sources say](#) (2026-03-02 09:25)

Following the killing of Iran’ s Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday, many senior US officials remain sceptical that the US and Israeli military operation against the Islamic Republic would lead to a regime change in the near term. Before and after the start of the attack, US officials, including US President Donald Trump, had suggested that toppling the nation’ s repressive governing system was one of several US goals, in addition to crippling Iran’ s ballistic missile and nuclear...

- [China faces oil squeeze after US-Israel strikes on Iran](#) (2026-03-02 09:03)

Oil prices rose by the most in four years amid the US-Israeli war on Iran and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane for global crude supplies. Brent crude, the global benchmark, surged as much as 14 per cent to more than US\$82 per barrel, the highest since January 2025, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Shipowners and traders are largely avoiding the Strait of Hormuz that links the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean, which usually handles about 20 per cent of...

- [China supply chain expo set to welcome more US firms in June, launch AI section](#) (2026-03-02 09:00)

More major US companies are set to join Beijing’ s premier supply chain expo this summer, including its first artificial intelligence (AI) section, as business ties between the two superpowers enter a state of fragile stabilisation. A fresh wave of leading United States enterprises, alongside prominent figures from American academia and politics, will attend the China International Supply Chain Expo in Beijing in June, its organiser, the China Council for the

Promotion of International Trade,...

- [Iran conflict puts India’ s cherished Middle East neutrality to the test](#) (2026-03-02 09:00)

For years, India has prided itself on a foreign policy doctrine of “dehyphenation” : maintaining productive, parallel relations with conflicting countries such as Israel, Iran and the Arab Gulf states without letting any one bilateral tie poison the others. That doctrine is now being tested to the limit. The killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei by US-Israeli strikes within days of Narendra Modi returning from a high-profile visit to Tel Aviv provided instant ammunition for the...

- [Hong Kong exporters and exhibitors face fallout from US-Israel strikes on Iran](#) (2026-03-02 08:57)

Adverse economic impacts from the US-Israel strikes on Iran unfolded on Monday, disrupting supply chains, driving up oil prices and leaving many Middle East business leaders at a major trade fair in Hong Kong in an awkward position. As the strikes entered a third day, oil prices surged by 13 per cent – the biggest rise in four years – briefly climbing above US\$80 a barrel. Freight costs also jumped due to risks of potential damage to vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow passage...

- [Myanmar convicts charged as ‘terrorists’ by junta freed in mass amnesty](#) (2026-03-02 08:53)

Myanmar’ s military junta granted amnesty on Monday to more than 7,000 prisoners convicted of financing or sheltering a “terrorist group” , a designation it has used to outlaw pro-democracy factions opposing its rule. Thousands of dissenting civilians have been swept into jails since Myanmar’ s military snatched power in a 2021 coup, ending a decade-long experiment with democracy and detaining elected figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi. Pro-democracy activists backing Suu Kyi and armed groups challenging...

- [Iran attack seen as ‘wake-up call’ for China on electronic warfare and intelligence](#) (2026-03-02 08:42)

The US and Israel’ s air strikes against Iran, accompanied by electronic and cyber capabilities, were a “wake-up call” for China’ s intelligence strategy and how its military will use advanced technologies in modern warfare, analysts say. During the weekend air strikes against Iran – dubbed Operation Epic Fury – that killed its supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the US unleashed an array of weaponry against more than 1,000 Iranian targets, including Tomahawk cruise missiles, stealth fighters...

- [Hong Kong to expand tax exemptions for family offices, AIIB and pension fund investment](#) (2026-03-02 08:21)

Hong Kong will expand its tax exemptions for operators of family offices and funds set up by international organisations, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), in line with

efforts to promote the city as a wealth management hub, a minister told lawmakers on Monday. In a financial affairs panel meeting, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Christopher Hui Ching-yu, said the government would submit a bill to the Legislative Council within the first half of this...

- [Gaza' s recovery was making progress. It risks being overshadowed by another war](#)

(2026-03-02 08:10)

Some Palestinians say they fear the widening war sparked by US and Israeli attacks against Iran could overshadow the fragile situation in Gaza, just over a week after US President Donald Trump rallied billions of dollars in pledges for the territory' s reconstruction and tried to nudge a ceasefire forward. Residents said they were scared of neglect and deprivation, with Israel in the wake of the weekend strikes closing all crossings into their shattered territory of over 2 million people. COGAT,...

- [Top Chinese officials, industry leaders may discuss capping EV output at 'two sessions'](#)

(2026-03-02 08:00)

Ahead of China' s annual legislative meetings – typically a window into Beijing' s top-level policy agenda – this is the fifth entry in a series examining the complex economic recalibration driving China' s growth philosophy and its wide-ranging implications for local governments, financial investors and private enterprises. Chinese government and industry officials are likely to discuss plans to control domestic electric-vehicle (EV) makers' output, while encouraging them to prioritise...

- [Thailand' s workers in Israel hunker down as Iran strikes targets across Gulf](#) (2026-03-02 07:16)

With memories still raw from the deaths of scores of its nationals during the Gaza war, Thailand has issued an alert to its estimated 110,000 citizens working across the Middle East as the US-Israeli conflict with Iran rages across the region. Around 60,000 Thais are working in Israel' s fields, factories and shops, drawn by “danger money” wages higher than those available at home or in competing markets. Thai authorities have said an additional 250 Thais are believed to still be in Iran, while...

- [China' s AI power play: Beijing banks on clean-energy boom to triumph over US](#)

(2026-03-02 07:00)

China' s rapid push into artificial intelligence and its simultaneous energy transition are central to overtaking the United States in technological supremacy, according to a former finance vice-minister. Competition in the field of AI has shifted from purely a technological sprint to a broader contest over application scenarios and regulatory frameworks, led by the world' s two largest economies, Zhu Guangyao explained. “China' s leading position in energy transition has laid a solid foundation...

- [Rainy Tuesday expected in Hong Kong, with temperatures dipping to 16 degrees Celsius](#)  
(2026-03-02 06:58)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hongkongers should brace for cooler and rainy weather on Tuesday as temperatures are expected to drop progressively to as low as 16 degrees Celsius (61 Fahrenheit) as a cold front approaches, according to the city's weather forecaster. The Observatory said on Monday a cold front over inland Guangdong province was moving southwards and was expected to reach...

- [Hong Kong's new cash-for-residency scheme draws US\\$12 billion in first 2 years](#)  
(2026-03-02 06:44)

Hong Kong's cash-for-residency scheme has attracted about HK\$95 billion (US\$12 billion) from more than 1,700 investors over the past two years, with around two-thirds of the approved capital channelled into authorised funds and equities, the latest figures from InvestHK show. The government's investment promotion arm on Monday released the figures for the New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (New CIES), designed to encourage high-net-worth individuals to invest in Hong Kong, bringing both...

- [Where will Fukushima's nuclear waste go? Japanese governors reject tainted soil](#)  
(2026-03-02 06:27)

None of Japan's prefectural governors are willing to accept soil collected in decontamination work near the disaster-stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex without further safety information and support from the central government, according to a Kyodo News survey. A search for final disposal sites for 14 million cubic metres (500 million cubic feet) of removed soil and other waste in Fukushima after the March 2011 nuclear disaster is a key part of the government's reconstruction efforts in...

- [Asia faces oil shock as US-Iran war chokes Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-02 06:03)

Oil prices surged by the most in four years on Monday as the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei amid a widening conflict between the United States, Israel and Iran brought tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to a near standstill. Freight costs climbed sharply alongside crude, as traders swiftly priced in the war, which analysts say will have far-reaching consequences for Asia's heavily import-dependent economies. Benchmark Brent crude jumped 13 per cent to a high...

- [How much for foreign prestige? China says no to some Western science journal fees](#)  
(2026-03-02 06:00)

China's top research body has banned its scientists from using government funds to publish in some pricey Western journals, as the country rethinks how much it will pay for foreign prestige. A number of employees of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the world's largest research institution said they were notified of changes to publication and reimbursement rules

just before the Chinese New Year break. “For high-fee journals such as Cell Reports, NatureCommunications and Science Advances,...

- [China growing trend among couples has them calling each other ‘teammate’ or ‘roommate’](#) (2026-03-02 06:00)

Married couples in China are referring to each other as “teammate” and “roommate” to avoid being too schmaltzy, but single people are shunning the trend, branding it confusing and “pretentious”. The special titles married people invent for their partners recently triggered a heated debate on mainland social media. Some people, especially women, preferred to call their spouses “teammate” or “roommate”. They said they found traditional titles such as ai ren, or “lover” in English, and lao...

- [China AI boosts cancer screening, rare disease diagnosis](#) (2026-03-02 05:00)

Chinese companies are leading the way in personalised medicine, the development of healthcare treatments tailored for individual patients. MGI Tech last year unveiled the world’s fastest gene sequencing machine, while BGI Genomics has become the world’s biggest generator of data about human genes. Chinese biomedicine companies also have a world-leading pipeline of novel targeted therapies used in personalised or precision medicine (see previous China Future Tech). New technology, including...

- [6 injured in vessel explosion at Hong Kong’s Stonecutters Island](#) (2026-03-02 04:41)

Six men have been injured in an explosion involving a vessel moored at Stonecutters Island in Hong Kong. According to police, the incident occurred at about 10.35am on Monday. Emergency personnel arrived at the scene, where all six people were taken from the vessel to Princess Margaret Hospital, sources said. The insiders added that the vessel’s engine was suspected to be behind the blast.

- [Iran strikes day 3: markets open with sharp sell-off in futures and Asian shares](#) (2026-03-02 04:39)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’s journalism by subscribing. US Dow futures dropped 400-570 points overnight, S&P 500 futures were down 1 per cent, while Nasdaq futures were down more than 1 per cent as the United States and Israel’s military campaign against Iran continued on Monday. Asian markets also opened lower amid fears of a broader Middle East escalation disrupting global supply chains and energy. China’s stock...

- [Iran ties after Khamenei, China’s Myanmar dilemma: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-03-02 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 China’s ties with Iran will endure despite death of Khamenei 2. Why

China's Myanmar dilemma still persists, 5 years and 1 election later 3. Cathay Pacific suspends all Middle East operations after US-Israeli attack on Iran 4. Indonesia is getting an aircraft carrier. The Philippines isn't....

- [Viral clip of Malaysian man clinging to ex-wife's moving car leads to arrest in Johor](#) (2026-03-02 04:19)

A man has been arrested in Johor after an 11-second viral clip showed him clinging to the front of his ex-wife's moving car before tumbling onto the road in full view of onlookers. Police said the suspect had clung to the car for around 2km (1.2 miles) and that he had tested positive for ketamine. The incident unfolded at about 3.30pm on Saturday outside a supermarket in Bandar Seri Alam, a township in Johor, the southern Malaysian state bordering Singapore, after an argument between the pair...

- [In US strikes on Iran, North Korea sees nuclear vindication](#) (2026-03-02 04:07)

Kim Jong-un will have seen the footage. A supreme leader of nearly 37 years, killed alongside members of his own family. Citizens celebrating in the streets. Rivals already angling for a role in the political transition. If the US-Israeli strike that killed Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei on Saturday was intended to send a message to the world, analysts say North Korea almost certainly received it. Though the lesson likely learned – do not negotiate with the US and never be in Iran's position...

- [US using AI, B-2 bombers and suicide drones in Iran strikes](#) (2026-03-02 03:51)

The United States unleashed an array of weaponry against Iranian targets on Saturday, including Tomahawk cruise missiles, stealth fighters, and for the first time in combat, low-cost one-way attack drones modelled after Iranian designs. US Central Command released photographs showing Tomahawk missiles, F-18 and F-35 fighter jets alongside details of the strikes on Iran as part of Operation Epic Fury. Artificial intelligence The Pentagon used artificial intelligence services from Anthropic,...

- [Fake Tiffany Young-Byun Yo-han wedding photos highlight concern over hyperrealistic AI](#) (2026-03-02 03:50)

Images claiming to be from the wedding shoot of South Korean Girls' Generation group member Tiffany Young and actor Byun Yo-han spread rapidly online – before being confirmed as artificial intelligence-generated fakes. Soon after Young, 36, and Byun, 39, announced they had registered their marriage, photos reportedly of couple began circulating across social media and online communities under the title “Tiffany-Byun Yo-han wedding photos”. The images depicted Young in a pink-toned wedding dress...

- [US shipbuilding revival looks dead in the water, China's Li Yanqing says](#) (2026-03-02 03:15)

Li Yanqing, executive vice-president and secretary general of the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry (Cansi), discusses the impact of US trade policies, global market cycles and China's strategic pivot towards high-quality manufacturing. As a shipbuilding veteran who also serves as chairman of the ISO/TC 8 ships and marine technology committee, which oversees international standardisation for shipbuilding and marine operations, Li is a prominent voice for China's industry on...

- [What's on the wish list for China's private sector ahead of the 'two sessions' ?](#) (2026-03-02 03:00)

Ahead of China's annual legislative meetings – typically a window into Beijing's top-level policy agenda – this is the fourth entry in a series examining the complex economic recalibration driving China's growth philosophy and its wide-ranging implications for local governments, financial investors and private enterprises. China's private businesses, many still facing cash flow problems amid a prolonged property slump, want treasury bonds and legal obligations on state-owned enterprises and...

- [Cathay Pacific halts Dubai flights until Thursday amid US-Israeli attack on Iran](#) (2026-03-02 02:41)

US-Israeli strikes on Iran have grounded at least 37 flights between Hong Kong and the Middle East, with flag carrier Cathay Pacific suspending its Dubai services until Thursday. Cathay also announced on Monday that it would suspend its Riyadh flights until Tuesday amid the developing situation in the region. The carrier said customers booked to travel between Hong Kong and Dubai or Riyadh would be offered more flexibility to rebook, divert, or refund their tickets, with usual fees waived until...

- [Australia mulls forcing app stores, search engines to axe unsafe AI services](#) (2026-03-02 02:07)

Australia's internet regulator said it might push search engines and app stores to block artificial intelligence services that failed to verify user ages after a review found more than half had not made public any steps to comply by a deadline next week. The warning reflects one of the most aggressive efforts globally to rein in AI companies, which face a growing number of lawsuits for failing to stop – and even encouraging – self-harm or violence, while researchers caution that such platforms...

- [Hong Kong can't raise its birth rate without easing education stress](#) (2026-03-02 01:30)

Hong Kong hit a record low in births last year despite a range of government incentives, including a HK\$20,000 (US\$2,560) baby cash bonus for new parents launched in 2023. Just 31,714 babies were born last year. This might have come as a surprise for the authorities, which had projected a rise to 39,000 births. So was the baby bonus worth the try? Yes, if we can draw insight from the experience. To be fair, it wasn't the only thing the government had done to encourage babies. It rolled out tax...

- [10 killed in Karachi as pro-Iran protests erupt across Pakistan, India](#) (2026-03-02 01:12)

At least 10 pro-Iranian protesters were killed in clashes with police as they tried to storm the gates of the US consulate in Pakistan's main port city of Karachi on Sunday. Security forces opened fire at the consulate, resulting in the deaths of 10 protesters, with 34 injured, said Sukhdew Assardas Hamnani, a spokesman for the Sindh government. "The police reached the site and took the situation into control," he said. Faisal Edhi, who runs Edhi Foundation, a rescue service, said several of...

- [Fines, penalties and forfeitures pump HK\\$2.1 billion into government coffers](#) (2026-03-02 01:00)

Fines worth HK\$2.1 billion (US\$268.39 million) flowed into Hong Kong's coffers in 2025-26, nearly 26 per cent more than initially forecast, following an increase in cigarette penalties and a surge in forfeitures. According to budget estimates analysed by the South China Morning Post, the HK\$2.1 billion income amounted to 0.3 per cent of the government's total revenue. The funds were primarily from court fines and forfeiture orders, statute penalties, forfeitures from breaches of contracts and...

- [China boy defends aunt who faces pressure to marry, says she 'only wants a man with 8-pack abs'](#) (2026-03-02 01:00)

A woman in southern China who was being pressured by her family to marry has been defended by her nephew, leaving relatives speechless. On February 19, the 26-year-old woman from Zhanjiang, Guangdong province, known online as "I Have a Nephew (Boasting Edition)", shared a viral video. The clip showed a family gathering during Chinese New Year, where she was introduced to a man in his 30s and urged to marry. Caught off guard, the woman was immediately defended by her six-year-old...

- [Hong Kong luxury real estate: how a European agent won US\\$30.45 million penthouse listing](#) (2026-03-02 00:30)

Minna Honkanen could not have anticipated the seismic events that would grip Hong Kong after she decided to try her luck there in early 2019. Two months after she arrived, unprecedented social unrest engulfed the city, followed immediately by the coronavirus pandemic, which shut borders and restricted travel for more than two years. Least of all did the Finnish national imagine she would become a luxury property agent in one of the world's most expensive real estate markets, securing exclusive...

- [5 takeaways from the first 2 days of US-Israel war against Iran](#) (2026-03-02 00:25)

The United States and Israel's military campaign against Iran entered a more volatile phase on Sunday, with Washington reporting its first casualties, Tehran widening retaliatory strikes across the region, and energy markets bracing for shock after the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The conflict – triggered by US-Israeli strikes that killed Iran's supreme leader and senior officials –

is rapidly reshaping regional security calculations and global economic outlooks. Here are fivekey...

- [Asia' s Gen Z go sober as alcohol producers and bars revamp business model](#) (2026-03-02 00:00)

For her New Year' s resolution, Cheryl Tan decided that she would drink less alcohol on nights out. The 26-year-old Singaporean finance professional said she was starting to find it increasingly difficult to shed the effects of hangovers, rendering her immobile long into the next day. "It seemed like recovery after a night out was taking too long, and I started to scale back so I would be more productive," she said. Cutting back has also saved her money. A cocktail at a speakeasy in Singapore...

## Source: The Diplomat China

- [A Partnership of Convenience: Why China Isn' t Intervening On Iran' s Behalf](#) (2026-03-05 14:20)

The intense U.S. bombing of Iran reveals the limits of Beijing' s relationship with Tehran and the pragmatism of China' s Middle Eastern strategy

- [How Taiwan Views the US War With Iran](#) (2026-03-04 13:41)

The Lai administration immediately sought to align itself with the United States, while debate in Taiwan rages over what the strikes mean for cross-strait dynamics.

- [Why the US Strikes on Iran Won' t Derail the Trump-Xi Summit](#) (2026-03-03 16:02)

The institutional machinery driving the Beijing summit is already too far advanced to reverse, and the Iran crisis has made holding it more urgent, not less.

- [China' s February 26 Military Purge: The Domino Effect](#) (2026-03-02 13:50)

In the latest sign of continuing purges in China's military, 10 PLA officers were stripped of their roles as delegates to the National People' s Congress.

## Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [Trump' s Strike on Iran](#) (2026-03-06 14:00)

The post Trump' s Strike on Iran appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Peace as a Technology of War: Taiwan and the Politics of Threat](#) (2026-03-05 21:14)

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- [Threat and Opportunity: Chinese Public Views on the United States](#) (2026-03-04 22:39)

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- [Chinese Public Ambivalent on Use of Force Against Taiwan](#) (2026-03-03 20:40)

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- [Europe Has No China Plan w/ Maximillian Mayer](#) (2026-03-03 02:45)

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- [Is Now the “Best Window” for Military Unification with Taiwan?](#) (2026-03-02 22:58)

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