

HONG KONG SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 26, 2026 - November 02, 2026

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

Executive Summary

Hong Kong's security landscape from October 26 to November 02, 2026, was primarily characterized by intensified efforts in cybersecurity resilience and counter-terrorism awareness. A major three-day Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill successfully concluded, involving both public and private sectors, aimed at bolstering digital defenses against evolving threats. Concurrently, the city grappled with a significant cybersecurity breach affecting Cathay Pacific, highlighting the persistent and global nature of cyber risks. Amidst these internal security focuses, Hong Kong hosted and prepared for high-profile international financial summits, necessitating extensive security deployments and underscoring the city's role as a critical global financial hub despite ongoing geopolitical considerations. Law enforcement also maintained vigilance against traditional threats, with notable successes in maritime smuggling and drug trafficking interdictions.

Key Security Developments

- Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026 Concludes

The Hong Kong Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026, a rigorous 60-hour exercise, successfully concluded on October 31, 2026, after commencing on October 29. Spearheaded by the Digital Policy Office (DPO), it involved 51 defending "Blue Teams" from 28 government departments, 23 public organizations, and newly included private enterprises, against 23 "Red Teams" of cybersecurity professionals from Hong Kong and mainland China. The drill aimed to identify system vulnerabilities and enhance defense mechanisms and incident response capabilities through practical combat scenarios. This expanded scale and cross-sector collaboration underscore Hong Kong's commitment to strengthening its overall cybersecurity protection and resilience.

- Cathay Pacific Suffers Data Breach

On October 30, 2026, Hong Kong's flag carrier, Cathay Pacific, disclosed a cybersecurity breach at an external supplier that compromised approximately 53,000 flight booking records. This incident was part of a broader "Black October" wave of severe cyberattacks that impacted global institutions, including significant financial losses in the cryptocurrency sector and exposure of personal information worldwide. The breach highlights the pervasive nature of supply chain vulnerabilities and the ongoing threat to critical infrastructure and personal data.

• Urgent Alerts on Critical PHP Vulnerabilities

The Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT) issued an urgent reminder to businesses and organizations to apply emergency security updates for two critical PHP vulnerabilities, collectively known as "PHP2Shell" (CVE-2026-109618 and CVE-2026-109619). These vulnerabilities could allow remote attackers to execute unauthorized code on affected PHP systems, necessitating immediate patching. This alert emphasizes the continuous need for vigilance and timely patching in the face of newly discovered software flaws.

• Warnings Against Fraudulent Financial Activities

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) alerted the public to various fraudulent activities, including deceptive websites, internet banking login screens, and phishing emails. Hong Kong Interbank Clearing Limited (HKICL) also issued an alert regarding a fraudulent website on October 20, 2026. These ongoing warnings highlight the persistent threat of financial scams targeting individuals and institutions within the digital realm.

• Counter-Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition Launched

On October 24, 2026, the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), co-organized by the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force, launched a Counter Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui. The exhibition, which runs until March 1, 2027, aims to enhance public awareness of terrorism, the global counter-terrorism landscape, and Hong Kong's strategies, encouraging citizens to adopt a "greater vigilance means lower risk" mindset.

• Extensive Security for APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting

Although held just prior to the reporting period (October 20-21, 2026), the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting in Hong Kong necessitated an extensive land, sea, and air defense deployment around the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. This included a temporary restricted flying zone extending 3km from the venue to prohibit unauthorized small unmanned aircraft. The security measures underscore the high-level threat assessment and preparedness for major international events hosted in the city.

• Significant Maritime Smuggling Cases Interdicted

Hong Kong Customs detected two suspected smuggling cases involving ocean-going vessels in October, seizing goods with a total estimated market value of about $26 million. The smuggled items included over 8,000 electronic and household products, and more than 7,000 used computers, destined for Australia and India. These operations highlight Customs' ongoing efforts to combat sea smuggling through intelligence analysis and risk assessment.

- Drug Trafficking Arrest at Hong Kong International Airport

On October 31, 2026, Hong Kong Customs arrested a 22-year-old Filipino female passenger arriving from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, at Hong Kong International Airport. Officers seized approximately 6 kilograms of suspected cocaine, with an estimated market value of about $3.6 million, found inside her check-in suitcase. This arrest demonstrates continued vigilance against international drug trafficking routes utilizing Hong Kong as a transit point.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Hong Kong's recent developments are intricately linked to broader geopolitical currents and regional dynamics, particularly its role as an international financial and trade hub. The hosting of the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting (October 20-21, 2026) and the upcoming Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit (November 2-3, 2026) served as crucial platforms for Hong Kong to assert its economic resilience and "super-connector" status amidst global uncertainties. These events provided opportunities for dialogue on macroeconomic outlooks, digital infrastructure financing, and financial inclusion, with Hong Kong leveraging its unique advantages under the "one country, two systems" principle to connect capital, technology, and projects across the region.

The consensus reached between China and the United States on strategic stability in early October 2026 is viewed as a significant anchor for Hong Kong's economic future. This stability is expected to dispel anxiety among international investors and narrow the window for external actors to disrupt Hong Kong's development by interfering in its internal affairs. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po emphasized that geopolitical restructuring is not a threat but a catalyst for Hong Kong's evolution, enhancing its value as a "super-connector" as global supply chains become more regionalized.

While no direct military or defense policy shifts for Hong Kong were reported, the broader regional context, including PRC military activities in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, continues to shape the strategic environment. Hong Kong's focus remains on maintaining internal stability and economic openness, positioning itself as a reliable partner in regional trade and finance. The upcoming Hong Kong Maritime Week (November 15-21, 2026) will also address maritime corridor security and supply chain resilience, further highlighting the city's engagement with regional security concerns from an economic perspective.

Military and Defense Analysis

Hong Kong, as a Special Administrative Region of China, does not possess its own independent military forces. Its defense is the responsibility of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Garrison in Hong Kong, while internal security is managed by the Hong Kong Police Force and other law enforcement agencies like Customs. Therefore, a traditional military analysis focusing on force posture, modernization programs, or defense spending trends for Hong Kong itself is not applicable.

Instead, the period from October 26 to November 02, 2026, showcased the capabilities and focus of Hong Kong's internal security apparatus. The successful conclusion of the Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026 demonstrated a significant investment in enhancing digital resilience across government and critical private sectors. This large-scale exercise, involving both local and mainland Chinese cybersecurity professionals, indicates a strategic emphasis on developing robust cyber defense mechanisms and incident response capabilities. The drill's practical combat scenarios and expanded participation underscore a proactive approach to modern security threats.

Furthermore, the extensive security deployments by the Police and Fire Services for the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting, including land, sea, and air measures and drone restrictions, highlight the high level of preparedness and coordination among law enforcement agencies for major international events. The launch of the Counter Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition also reflects a continued focus on public engagement and preparedness against potential terrorist threats, emphasizing prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. These initiatives, coupled with ongoing efforts by Hong Kong Customs against smuggling and drug trafficking, demonstrate a comprehensive approach to internal security, adapting to both conventional and evolving threats in the digital and physical domains.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): Hong Kong is expected to maintain a heightened focus on cybersecurity resilience and counter-terrorism preparedness. The successful conclusion of the Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill will likely lead to further implementation of identified improvements and continued collaboration between public and private sectors in digital defense. The ongoing Counter Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition will continue to raise public awareness and reinforce the "greater vigilance means lower risk" message. The city will also be preparing for and hosting other significant international events, such as the Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit (November 2-3, 2026) and Hong Kong FinTech Week (November 2-6, 2026), which will necessitate sustained high-level security measures.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The primary flashpoints remain in the cyber domain, as evidenced by the Cathay Pacific data breach and persistent warnings about critical vulnerabilities and fraudulent activities. The increasing sophistication of AI-related attacks and supply chain risks, as highlighted in the "Hong Kong Cybersecurity Outlook 2026" earlier in the year, will continue to pose significant challenges. While no immediate military threats to Hong Kong were reported, regional geopolitical tensions, particularly concerning the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, could indirectly impact Hong Kong's economic stability and international standing. The ongoing efforts against maritime smuggling and drug trafficking indicate persistent challenges in border and maritime security.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and impact of reported cyberattacks and data breaches, the effectiveness of implemented cybersecurity patches and defense mechanisms, and public engagement with counter-terrorism initiatives. The outcomes and discussions from international financial summits will provide insights into global investor confidence and Hong Kong's perceived stability amidst geopolitical shifts. Furthermore, any changes in regional military postures or diplomatic rhetoric concerning China and its neighbors will be crucial to observe for potential indirect impacts on Hong Kong's strategic environment.

Strategic recommendations: Hong Kong should continue to invest heavily in advanced cybersecurity infrastructure and talent development, fostering deeper public-private partnerships to share threat intelligence and best practices. Proactive and adaptive counter-terrorism strategies, including community engagement and inter-agency drills, are essential. Leveraging its unique position as a "super-connector," Hong Kong should continue to promote regional economic cooperation and stability, thereby mitigating the impact of broader geopolitical frictions. Enhancing maritime and border surveillance technologies and intelligence-sharing capabilities will also be vital in combating illicit activities.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: HK Free Press

• Tourism Board axes controversial Peak lighting project following backlash (2026-11-02 04:37)

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) has scrapped a controversial lighting project on The Peak following complaints from residents and trail users that it would ruin the natural environment. In a paper submitted to the Central and Western District Council, the HKTB said it had met with district councillors and conducted site visits with lawmakers […]

• Pushed not jumped: What a 19th-century shipwreck reveals about Hong Kong’s political casualties (2026-11-02 01:10)

From an anthropological point of view, the government reaction to the Wang Fuk Court fire inquiry report makes for interesting reading. It criticised four arms of the government, after 168 people were killed in last November’s blaze in Tai Po. Also, after a major catastrophe, one might question the future of the Chief Executive. However, […]

• Technopole to University Towns: Why Hong Kong’s Northern Metropolis shifted focus from hi-tech to higher ed (2026-11-01 23:45)

Government ministers, academics, and business leaders gathered at a Hong Kong auditorium for a two-day summit last week to discuss an ambitious project: building three universities towns in a sprawling area near the city’s border with mainland China. Hong Kong is betting on the multibillion-dollar Northern Metropolis project, which is set to transform about 300 […]

• China state TV does not air first La Liga games since Mbappe furore (2026-11-01 03:56)

Chinese state television did not air on Saturday the first La Liga games since Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappe caused anger with a joke about the country’s former leader Mao Zedong. It was not immediately clear whether state broadcaster CCTV had scheduled screenings of the matches and then cancelled them, or whether they were not […]

• Zhang Shengmin, Xi’s lone ‘hatchet man’ at the top of China’s military (2026-11-01 03:45)

Zhang Shengmin, the last general remaining in the highest echelon of China’s military, has received an unexpected promotion to the Politburo, the rarefied group of about 20 Communist Party officials who run the country. It is a significant milestone for the 68-year-old, who has risen from his modest upbringing to become a quiet architect of […]

• ‘Groundless speculation’: China denies spying on Nvidia’s Jensen Huang (2026-10-31 04:25)

Beijing dismissed as “groundless speculation” on Friday a report that said Jensen Huang, head of US chip giant Nvidia, was the target of a Chinese spy plot. The article by The New York Times, published Thursday, said that US intelligence officials concluded that a Chinese executive linked to a Singapore-based data centre company had been […]

• US imprisons two Chinese nationals who tried to recruit military service members to spy for Beijing (2026-10-31 04:13)

Two Chinese men who admitted trying to recruit US military service members to spy for Beijing were imprisoned in California on Friday. Liren Lai and Yuance Chen were ordered to serve 30 months in a federal lockup and to undergo three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to acting on the orders of China’s […]

• ‘I am not important’: Security chief defends staying in post following Wang Fuk Court fire inquiry (2026-10-31 00:00)

Hong Kong’s security chief has said that his duty to society, the city, and the country outweighs his personal interests, after facing questions over his political accountability for last year’s fatal Tai Po fire. Secretary for Security Chris Tang offered an apology to the public on Friday over last November’s blaze at Wang Fuk Court, […]

• China ruling party says ‘eliminated dangers’ after expelling record 33 top officials (2026-10-30 11:04)

China has eradicated “serious hidden dangers” in its Communist Party and military under President Xi Jinping’s leadership, a senior official said on Friday, a day after authorities confirmed the expulsion of a record 33 figures. In more than a decade in charge, Xi has cracked down hard on graft, ensnaring thousands of officials and purging […]

• Tai Po fire: 300 civil servants from disgraced inspection unit to be transferred to new regulatory body (2026-10-30 11:02)

Around 300 civil servants at a government inspection unit will be transferred to a new regulatory body set up to replace the unit, authorities have said, after an independent investigation blamed it for regulatory failures leading to last year’s deadly fire in Tai Po. Authorities announced plans on Thursday to axe the Housing Bureau’s Independent […]

• ‘Following captain’s orders’: Asked about resigning over Tai Po fire, development chief likens self to crew under John Lee (2026-10-30 08:12)

Hong Kong’s development chief has likened herself to a sailor who must put her captain’s orders over her “personal wishes,” when asked by a reporter about calls for her to resign over the deadly Tai Po fire that killed 168 people last year. Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn’s comments, made during a press conference on […]

• Evidence insufficient to link district councillor Peggy Wong to Wang Fuk Court bid-rigging, inquiry report says (2026-10-30 06:36)

Evidence presented to an independent committee investigating last year's deadly Wang Fuk Court fire has shown insufficient proof that a local politician was involved in bid-rigging at the Tai Po housing estate, the inquiry's final report has concluded. The report, submitted to the government last week ahead of a Thursday press conference where Chief Executive [⋯]

• Event: 'The Last Two Cannibals on Cannibal Island' – new theatre production at The Hive Studios (2026-10-30 05:49)

[Sponsored] Experimental theatre at The Hive Studios, Kennedy Town, this November. Tickets available now. The Last Two Cannibals on Cannibal Island is not an allegory for a failing marriage, or anything so high-minded. It is, in fact, about the last two cannibals left on a small, forgotten island on the day they discover each other's [⋯]

• Some Wang Fuk Court survivors say top officials' apology nearly one year since fatal fire lacked 'sincerity' (2026-10-30 05:04)

Former residents of the fire-hit Wang Fuk Court housing estate have criticised Hong Kong leader John Lee and top officials for their apology, saying the gesture — coming nearly a year after a blaze claimed 168 lives and left thousands homeless — lacked "sincerity." Lee led senior officials in bowing in apology during a press [⋯]

• Hello Kitty firm apologises, scraps Japan TV tie-up after China anger (2026-10-30 04:10)

Sanrio, the Japanese company behind the popular character Hello Kitty, apologised on Thursday over its tie-up with a TV spy drama criticised as anti-China, cancelling a merchandise collaboration with the show. It comes days after Chinese sponsors dropped football superstar Kylian Mbappe over comments calling communist leader Mao Zedong a "dictator", for which the Real [⋯]

• Hong Kong catches nearly 110,000 live rats in first nine months of 2026 (2026-10-29 23:45)

The Hong Kong government has caught nearly 110,000 live rats and collected over 20,000 dead ones in the first nine months of this year as the city steps up efforts to combat rodent infestation. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department told local media in a written response that from January to September, staff caught 109,087 [⋯]

• Tai Po fire: Housing Bureau to replace inspection unit criticised for multiple failings, 'slack' attitude (2026-10-29 10:40)

The Housing Bureau will replace an independent inspection unit following heavy criticism over policy and operational failures and a "slack" work attitude in the lead-up to last year's massive Tai Po fire. Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said on Thursday that a major shake-up will see the Housing Bureau's Independent Checking Unit (ICU) replaced [⋯]

• Tai Po fire: Hong Kong gov't to set up company to assist owners with building renovations, criminalise bid-rigging (2026-10-29 10:30)

The Hong Kong government will set up a company to provide property owners with building renovations support, authorities have said, as part of reforms announced following the release of an investigation report on the deadly Tai Po fire. Leading a press conference with the city's top officials on Thursday, Chief Executive John Lee said authorities [⋯]

• 70% of Hong Kong subdivided flats register for grace period under new regulatory system (2026-10-29 09:49)

Some 70 per cent of Hong Kong's subdivided flats have been registered under a grace period system that will give landlords three years to ensure their properties meet minimum living standards laid out by a new law implemented eight months ago. Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho told the city's legislature on Wednesday that around 75,000 [⋯]

• Taiwan says Pakistan briefly closed airspace to Taiwanese flights, citing Beijing's 'One China policy' (2026-10-29 08:42)

Pakistan briefly closed its airspace to Taiwanese cargo and passenger flights, Taiwan said on Thursday, suspecting China of being behind the unprecedented move. "We suspect definitely China was behind this," Deputy Foreign Minister Chen Ming-chi told AFP after confirming that Pakistan had closed and reopened its airspace to Taiwanese airlines. China Airlines and EVA Air, [⋯]

• HK officials bow in apology almost a year after Tai Po blaze killed 168, housing chief steps down (2026-10-29 06:56)

Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee and other top officials bowed in apology at a Thursday press conference where Lee announced that housing chief Winnie Ho would step down over the Wang Fuk Court fire, almost a year after the tragedy killed 168 people. Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong, who currently leads the government's task [⋯]

• Australian defence chief says China military buildup creating 'pressure' in SE Asia (2026-10-29 02:32)

Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said Thursday that China's military build-up was creating a "condition of pressure" in Southeast Asia, and urged allies and partners to deepen cooperation. Beijing deploys hundreds of coast guard, navy and other vessels to patrol disputed areas of the South China Sea, which it claims almost entirely despite an international [⋯]

• Hong Kong to distribute 'Security Bear' national security picture books to 900 kindergartens (2026-10-29 01:30)

The Security Bureau held a launch ceremony for its Andy and Security Bear: Young Citizens Safeguarding National Security educational picture books on Tuesday. The three-volume set of titles includes new stories and national security-themed children's songs. They will be

distributed to 900 kindergartens and public libraries by the end of the year. According to a […]

• Samsung to exit Hong Kong's home appliance market – report (2026-10-29 01:24)

South Korean tech giant Samsung is reportedly withdrawing from Hong Kong's large home appliance sector, months after exiting the mainland Chinese market. Korea Economic TV reported on Wednesday that Samsung's smartphone, TV and computer monitor operations in Hong Kong will be unaffected. However, air conditioners, vacuum cleaners and fridges are among the products already marked […]

• Officers lack power to order identity proof under police ordinance, court hears as Ronson Chan seeks top court appeal (2026-10-28 23:30)

The police ordinance does not empower officers to demand identity proof, a lawyer for Ronson Chan has argued as the former head of Hong Kong's largest press union applied to challenge his conviction for obstructing police at the Court of Final Appeal. Ronson Chan, who helmed the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) from 2021 to […]

• Tech and AI leaders expand China's 2026 rich list as DeepSeek founder makes debut (2026-10-28 12:14)

The number of mega-wealthy people in China reached an all-time high this year, with tech tycoons including the founder of DeepSeek joining a closely watched rich list as the country expands its AI reach. The number of people worth more than 5 billion yuan ($750 million) rose to a record 1,529, according to the annual Hurun China […]

• Hong Kong independent bookstore Luck Win to shut Mong Kok branch by year end after half a century (2026-10-28 11:00)

Hong Kong's decades-old bookstore Luck Win has announced the shutdown of its Mong Kok branch by the end of the year, becoming the city's latest independent bookstore to close. Luck Win announced on Tuesday that its Mong Kok bookshop would close by December 31 at the latest. It did not cite any reasons. "Operating for […]

• Rumours that design defect caused waste plant fire 'groundless and entirely fictitious,' gov't says (2026-10-28 09:12)

Hong Kong's environmental authorities have addressed "false rumours" that a fire that broke out at a waste incineration plant was caused by design defects and a collapsed incineration module. The fire that broke out at the I·PARK1 waste management facility in Shek Kwu Chau, south of Lantau Island, on Monday is suspected to have originated […]

• China says it takes Mbappe apology 'seriously' after Mao remark (2026-10-28 08:52)

China said Wednesday it took "seriously" an apology from Real Madrid superstar Kylian Mbappe after comments he made poking fun at Mao Zedong sparked a social media storm and saw Spanish football yanked off state TV. Mocking former leader Mao — blamed by historians

for millions of deaths — is taboo in China and the […]

• Data breach at Hong Kong Airlines, YOHO, and Broadway affects 1,600 customers (2026-10-28 07:54)

Hong Kong's privacy watchdog is investigating reported data breaches affecting 1,600 customers of Hong Kong Airlines, YOHO, and Broadway Photo Supply. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Privacy (PCPD) said in a Monday press release that it had received a report on October 5 that personal data belonging to 790 customers of online electronics […]

• 'Physical hell': Hong Kong hosts gruelling underwater hockey tournament (2026-10-28 07:20)

Swimmers brandishing short, curved sticks held their breath as they somersaulted and dove towards a weighted puck at the bottom of a Hong Kong swimming pool, vying for first place in a sport likened to voluntary drowning. The annual underwater hockey tournament, ominously advertised as "physical hell", nevertheless drew a roster of hardcore enthusiasts from […]

• Proposed twin high-rises along Hung Hom harbourfront will not block iconic Lion Rock ridgeline, gov't says (2026-10-28 06:05)

A proposed twin-tower project to be built along the Hung Hom harbourfront will not block the view of the city's Lion Rock ridgeline, a senior official has said. Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) said on an RTHK radio programme on Wednesday morning that the iconic ridgeline will not be blocked by the proposed […]

• Hong Kong lawmakers' monthly pay tops HK$110K after unannounced 1.6% salary rise (2026-10-27 23:45)

Hong Kong lawmakers have been given a pay rise retroactive to October 1 after a one-year pay freeze, bringing their monthly basic salary to more than HK$110,000. Sing Tao Daily reported on Tuesday morning that legislators had received an unannounced 1.6 per cent pay rise, although the Legislative Council updated figures on its website. Following […]

• Commentator charged with disclosing nat. security probe says unaware investigation was underway (2026-10-27 11:22)

A Hong Kong political commentator charged with revealing details of a national security probe has testified that he did not believe an investigation was underway. Wong Kwok-ngon, known by his pen name Wong On-yin, continued his testimony at the District Court on Tuesday. The 72-year-old, who is representing himself, was arrested last December after publishing […]

• Hong Kong privacy watchdog issues guidance on AI 'smart glasses' to curb covert surveillance (2026-10-27 09:39)

Hong Kong's privacy watchdog has issued guidelines on using AI-powered "smart glasses" in a "privacy-respecting manner," in an effort to prevent covert collection of personal data.

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on Tuesday published the “Smart Glasses: Tips on Protecting Personal Data Privacy” guidance note, warning that misuse of the camera-fitted […]

• Civil servants file lawsuit against colleague accused of pocketing HK$33m Mark Six group jackpot (2026-10-27 05:57)

Fourteen people, including 12 civil servants currently working at the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), have filed a lawsuit against a colleague over an office lottery dispute involving a HK$33 million Mark Six jackpot. Ling Chun-ting, an FEHD health inspector, is accused of pocketing all the Mark Six winnings after he and 14 coworkers […]

• Gov’t demands report within week following blaze at Shek Kwu Chau waste facility (2026-10-27 04:32)

Hong Kong environmental authorities have instructed the works contractor for a waste incineration plant where a fire broke out on Monday to submit an incident report within seven days, after close to 1,000 people were evacuated, with one sent to hospital. The statement came hours after the blaze at the I·PARK1 waste management facility, rated […]

• Mbappe dropped by Chinese brands for ‘offending national sentiments’ after alleged Mao joke (2026-10-27 04:01)

Kylian Mbappe was dropped Tuesday by two major brands in China after a video circulated online in which the French football star apparently joked about former leader Mao Zedong. In China jokes about Mao, the country’s founding leader who died in 1976, are considered disrespectful and remain a social taboo. “Our company firmly opposes and has […]

• Hong Kong police officer stabbed during 2020 protest seeks at least HK$220K in damages (2026-10-26 23:45)

A Hong Kong police officer has sought at least HK$220,000 in damages from a man who stabbed him during a protest in 2020. Lui Chun-kit addressed the courtroom at the District Court on Monday, testifying that he sustained multiple muscle tears and required surgery. The officer was knifed in the shoulder and left elbow on […]

• China condemns US designation of Confucius Institutes as threat (2026-10-26 10:34)

China accused the United States on Monday of “targeted smearing” over Washington’s designation of Beijing-funded Confucius Institute cultural centres as national security threats. Washington considers the centres on American university campuses as propaganda tools of the Chinese Communist Party and has imposed funding restrictions on the institutes since 2025. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said […]

• Lawmaker questions whether proposed HK$100,000 fines for private hospitals will deter hidden fees (2026-10-26 10:00)

A Hong Kong lawmaker has questioned whether fines under a government proposal to increase price transparency among the city’s private healthcare providers are too low to serve as an effective deterrent. Under the proposed bill introduced to the Legislative Council by health minister Lo Chung-mau on Friday, private healthcare providers will be required to provide […]

• Close to 1,000 evacuated after No. 3 alarm fire hits Shek Kwu Chau waste incineration facility (2026-10-26 09:17)

Close to 1,000 people have been evacuated from a waste incineration plant off Hong Kong’s Shek Kwu Chau island after a No. 3 alarm fire broke out at the facility on Monday. The Fire Services Department said it received reports at 12.42pm on Monday that a fire had broken out at the I·PARK1 waste management […]

• Hong Kong police arrest man allegedly caught lacing cat food with rat poison (2026-10-26 06:28)

Police have arrested a 34-year-old man on suspicion of animal cruelty after animal welfare volunteers caught him lacing bowls of food left out for stray cats with rat poison. In a Saturday statement, police said that a report was received at around 3.37am that day alleging that the man, surnamed Ho, had spiked bowls of […]

• Hong Kong athletes bag 41 medals at Asian Para Games with historic boccia run (2026-10-26 04:10)

Hong Kong athletes have brought home 41 medals from the Asian Para Games, winning three golds and achieving the city’s historic best in boccia. The delegation returned on Sunday after the week-long games in Nagoya and the wider Aichi Prefecture in Japan, which began on October 18. Eighty athletes from the city competed in 10 […]

• China’s Communist Party elite gather for closed-door governance talks (2026-10-26 02:20)

China’s President Xi Jinping and other top leaders meet in Beijing on Monday at a key gathering watched closely for clues as to the country’s direction and future leadership. Roughly 300 members of the ruling Communist Party’s Central Committee in attendance at the meeting, called the fifth plenum, will be looking to tighten discipline within […]

Source: RTHK English News

• HKMA eyes next level for Fintech 2030 with AI push (2026-11-02 04:14)

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority has set out the next phase of its Fintech 2030 strategy, which will pair new technology initiatives with a renewed emphasis on governance and risk management. Speaking at Hong Kong Fintech Week on Monday, authority chief executive Eddie Yue said the HKMA is launching Project Sage to examine the application and governance of "

agentic finance" – artificial intelligence systems that can execute tasks on behalf of users. " Themain purpose of the Sage project is to hope that, under agentic finance, we can both promoteapplication and pay attention to governance," he said. Yue said a cross-sector expert panelwould bring together finance, payments, professional services, technology and academicrepresentatives to explore use cases, sandbox testing, interoperability standards andgovernance safeguards. The HKMA is also issuing a discussion paper on banks' use of agenticAI, seeking views on governance models, responsibility arrangements and a possible centralregister of trusted agents. Yue said the aim is to set rules that allow innovation while managingrisks. He also said the authority would launch a post-quantum cryptography toolbox with theHong Kong University of Science and Technology to help banks prepare for the challengesstemming from breakthroughs in quantum computing. On tokenisation, Yue said the HKMA isintroducing tokenised central bank money to enable 24/7 settlement of interbank tokeniseddeposits and would expand the number of participating banks to support cross-lender transfersaround the clock. "The benefit is that, for example, quite a number of enterprises with globalliquidity to manage can, if round-the-clock tokenised deposit transfers are achieved, makepayments at any time and anywhere, across different accounts and even cross-border," he said. "And for retail investors, if in the future they want to invest in different retail tokenised financialproducts, they can also more flexibly do their investments 24/7, strengthening the flexibility andsecurity of their asset allocation." Yue said the HKMA would further pilot tokenised ExchangeFund Bills in the secondary market and explore whether regulated stablecoins could serve as apayment channel. He stressed that innovation must be matched by governance and riskmanagement so it can go further, land better and benefit more people. Edited by Tony Sabine

- HK 'an ideal home for international private law body' (2026-11-02 03:54)

Chief Executive John Lee on Monday said Hong Kong strives to attract global organisations and promote international legal cooperation. He made the remarks in an opening ceremony by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law – also known as Institut International Pour L'unification du Droit Prive (Unidroit) – of its Asia-Pacific liaison office in the city. At the ceremony, which also marks the beginning of this year's Hong Kong Legal Week, Lee said the establishment of the office would deepen collaboration, facilitating the implementation of private law. "It is a decision of profound significance – for Unidroit, for Hong Kong and for the entire Asia-Pacific region," he said. "The liaison office will serve as a focal point for enhanced engagement with member states and stakeholders in the region. And it will play a crucial role in the legislative and institutional work of Unidroit. "Hong Kong, strategically located at the heart of Asia, is an ideal home for the Asia-Pacific liaison office." Lee said the establishment of the liaison office would strengthen the collaborative relationship between Hong Kong and the institute. The office would also be able to benefit from cooperation with other legal organisations in the city, he added. Hong Kong, Lee pointed out, is a renowned international legal, trade and financial hub and serves as a host to many international organisations. The city's laws and dispute resolution framework also align with international standards and have

been recognised globally, he stressed. The nation's 15th Five-Year Plan supports Hong Kong’ sdevelopment as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, Lee said, while thecity’ s own five-year blueprint sets out a series of measures for leveraging the strengths of theSAR’ s common law system. Edited by Tony Sabine

• John Lee says HK offers businesses long-term certainty (2026-11-02 03:11)

Chief Executive John Lee said Hong Kong offers businesses the "certainty" they need to innovate, invest and flourish over the long term, even as global uncertainty persists. That assurance came in opening remarks that he made on the first day of the region's annual flagship finance and technology event, Hong Kong Fintech Week and StartmeupHK, on Monday. The conference brings together some 1,000 government leaders and fintech, finance and technology professionals from more than 100 countries and economies, along with around 800 exhibitors and startups and more than 30 delegations from the mainland and abroad. Lee framed the event against a fast-changing global backdrop, saying technology is advancing at a remarkable speed, with artificial intelligence transforming industries and forcing businesses worldwide to adjust to shifting market conditions and unprecedented technological changes. "In such an ever-changing, all-encompassing environment, one quality is becoming even more valuable — I'm talking about certainty," he said. "Certainty about direction, certainty about opportunities, certainty about where businesses can invest, innovate and flourish in the long term." Lee pointed to Hong Kong’ s first-ever five-year plan, saying the strategic blueprint reinforces the city’ s status as an international financial, maritime and trade centre and aviation hub, while accelerating its development as an international innovation and technology centre and a hub for high-calibre talent. He also cited Hong Kong’ s ranking as the world’ s freest economy, its more than 1,400 fintech companies and InvestHK’ s support for more than 550 overseas and mainland companies in the first nine months of the year, generating about US$9 billion in foreign direct investment and some 11,100 jobs. He also pointed to the Northern Metropolis as a long-term source of opportunity, saying the mega project would create an innovation "through-train" that connects talent and research with commercialisation, capital and global markets. Lee expressed confidence that Hong Kong’ s future would be one for everyone – in business, finance, technology and beyond. "If you believe that technology will define the future, if you believe that Asia will continue to drive global economic growth, and if you believe in the transformation taking place across China, then you must believe in Hong Kong's pivotal place in making it happen," he said. "After all, it's in Hong Kong that you access global capital while remaining close to one of the world's most dynamic engines of innovation and growth." He added that Hong Kong is a place where ideas can move from research to commercialisation and then into global markets – an East-meets-West city built on multilateralism, free trade and mutual opportunity. Edited by Tony Sabine

• ICAC charges two ex-cleaning firm executives (2026-11-02 03:04)

Two former senior executives of a cleaning company have been charged by the ICAC for allegedly accepting bribes totalling more than HK$75 million in connection with the

procurement of cleaning vehicles and maintenance services, with the case expected to bementioned at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts on Monday. William Fung, 54, former director ofJohnson Cleaning Services Company Limited and chief executive officer of its parent company,and Jimmy Lee, 57, former general manager of Johnson, were both charged on October 30 withone count of conspiracy for an agent to accept advantages under the Prevention of BriberyOrdinance and the Crimes Ordinance. At the time of the alleged offences, Fung oversawJohnson's business including subcontracts, purchase orders and the release of payments. Leewas under his direct supervision. Between November 2024 and January 2026, Johnson procuredmultiple fleets of cleaning vehicles from a supplier and regularly used the supplier's vehiclemaintenance services, with total expenses exceeding HK$160 million. The charge alleges thatFung and Lee conspired to accept bribes totalling over HK$75 million from individuals includingthe supplier's proprietor, as a reward for showing favour to the supplier in the company'sbusiness dealings. The ICAC said Johnson had rendered full assistance during its investigation.As the corruption investigation is ongoing, the commission said it would not rule out furtherprosecution. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Evening News on TV32 - Nov 1 (2026-11-01 12:22)

Top stories for Sunday, Nov 1, 2026 - The justice secretary says "bad actors" are going to be driven out of the building maintenance sector. - Thousands join the first ever Northern Metropolis Marathon. - Hong Kong has its warmest October on record.

- Hong Kong records warmest October since records begin (2026-11-01 10:27)

The Observatory on Sunday said Hong Kong recorded its warmest October since records began in 1884. The forecaster said the average temperature last month stood at 27.6 degrees Celsius. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures also set records, at 30.5 degrees and 25.8 degrees respectively. The Observatory attributed the unusually warm conditions to the ongoing El Niño and a weak northeast monsoon, while noting that climate change also played a role. A fresh to strong northeast monsoon is expected to reach the city in the coming days, bringing a slight drop in temperatures early next week. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Bar Association backs criminalising bid-rigging (2026-11-01 09:45)

The Bar Association on Sunday said it supports the criminalisation of bid-rigging activities through amendments to the Competition Ordinance. This came as its task force on law review proposed about 50 legislative amendments following the deadly Wang Fuk Court fire. It covered bid-rigging, tender specifications, declaration of interests, as well as project safety and risks. Jose-Antonio Maurellet, chairman of the association, expressed support of criminalising bid-rigging in parallel to the existing civil regime. “The existence of the dual-track system, of course, does not mean that civil and criminal proceedings would be taken forward at the same time for the same case – this would contravene the principle against double jeopardy,” he said. “The enforcement authorities concerned will therefore need to coordinate with one another and to decide whether a case is to be dealt with by civil enforcement or by criminal

prosecution.” He went on to say that under the new criminal offence, the elements of crime,such as the definition of bid-rigging and the burden of proof, must be clearly defined. Theassociation also proposed to amend the Building Management Ordinance, saying if a projectexceeds a certain value, tenders must be submitted in “two envelopes” – one for thetechnical proposal and the other for price. The price proposal may only be opened after thetechnical proposal has met a minimum score specified in the evaluation to encourage a focuson quality, it said. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Lan Kwai Fong welcomes record 105k Halloween revellers (2026-11-01 09:35)

Lan Kwai Fong Group on Sunday said it welcomed a record 105,000 revellers on Halloween, up from 80,000 a year earlier, as bars and restaurants saw business nearly double. The group's chairman, Allan Zeman said the size of the crowd on Saturday – also the final day of Hong Kong's inaugural month-long programme for the spooky festival – was the busiest Halloween the entertainment district had ever seen. "The first Saturday that it came out, it was busy, the second Saturday, more people came, and then the third Saturday was really quite busy but not as busy as last Saturday night," he said. “It was a record because last year we had 80,000 people and never expected to break the record.” He lauded the Tourism Board’s Halloween Month, saying it was a draw for visitors from across Hong Kong, the mainland and overseas. " The beauty was there was people from all over," Zeman said. Locals made up roughly 50 to 60 percent of the crowd and mainland visitors stood at about 20 to 30 percent, with Zeman saying there were more tourists from around the world as well. "In the past we never had so many international people," he said, adding that visitors told him they had come from Canada and the United States specifically to experience Lan Kwai Fong. Zeman also said bars and restaurants did 90 to 100 percent more business than on a normal Saturday, while other businesses reported gains of 40 to 50 percent. "It was just the best Halloween that Lan Kwai Fong has ever seen," he said. The Lan Kwai Fong Group chairman also said the opening of the round-the-clock Huanggang Port and extended clearance hours at Shenzhen Bay control point made a difference. It’s a "game changer for Hong Kong – not just for Halloween", he said, citing facial recognition that can clear travellers in about two minutes. Edited by Aaron Tam

• HK Q3 growth set to beat forecasts: FS (2026-11-01 08:18)

Hong Kong’s economy is expected to grow faster than market forecasts in Q3, extending its positive growth streak to 15 consecutive quarters, according to Financial Secretary Paul Chan. In his weekly blog on Sunday, Chan said the government will release advance estimates for third-quarter GDP on Tuesday. Preliminary indications suggest that faster export growth and solid domestic demand will push year-on-year growth above market expectations and accelerate from the second quarter. "For the first three quarters combined, real GDP growth year-on-year will be the highest for the same period in five years," he said. "With the economy maintaining good momentum, the full-year economic growth forecast is expected to be revised upward again." Chan attributed part of the growth to technological innovation, noting that the global artificial intelligence investment boom continues to drive strong demand for high-end

electronic components and AI-related goods. "The value of Hong Kong’ s merchandise exportssurged by 64.9 percent year-on-year in September, recording double-digit growth for the 20thconsecutive month, with the monthly increase hitting a more than 40-year high," he said. "Among these, exports of 'office machines and automatic data processing machines' soared by183.7 percent." Private investment expenditure has also grown by double digits for threestraight quarters and maintained that momentum into the third quarter, Chan said, reflectingcorporate confidence in the outlook. Service exports have benefited from continued growth ininbound tourism, buoyant cross-boundary transport and an active financial market. Chan saidupcoming retail and catering receipts figures are expected to continue showing moderategrowth. He also noted that two major international financial events – Hong Kong Fintech Weekand the Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit – will begin on Monday. Fintech industryplayers and investors from more than 100 economies, as well as heads of top internationalfinancial institutions, will gather in Hong Kong to discuss key issues in global financial marketsand technological development and to identify and create new investment opportunitiesthrough high-level exchanges. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Runners unfazed by heat in first-ever NM marathon (2026-11-01 08:06)

Around 15,000 people took part in the inaugural Northern Metropolis Marathon on Sunday morning, with the organiser saying it will try to hold future races in cooler months and extend the route to Shenzhen. At the sound of the horn, eager runners began their 42.1km journey at 6:30am in Shek Mun, where the Heung Yee Kuk – which organised the event – is headquartered. Full marathoners then headed north via the Science Park, Tolo Highway, Lam Tsuen River in Tai Po and the Lung Shan Tunnel before crossing the line at the recently commissioned Fanling Bypass. Half-marathon runners had a similar route, starting at the Science Park and finishing in Fanling. Most participants said the arrangements were smooth. But depending on their luck, some might have had to briefly stop at the traffic lights at a crossing to let cars pass. A certain section of the route also saw runners sharing a bike path with cyclists. Lai, a marathon finisher, said he was not pleased with his time of three hours and 11 minutes. "I kind of expected it, because of the heat," he said. "To me the route didn't matter. Running in 28 degrees [Celsius] was really tough, and there was a lack of water stations. There should be one station every 2.5 kilometres, compared to every three to four kilometres right now." Former SAR representative Chan Ka-ho, meanwhile, came fourth overall in the men's marathon. "There aren't that many full marathon courses in Hong Kong, perhaps only three or four. So this new course offers a fresh experience," he said. "If you ask me if the route is fast, I would say no. But for recreational runners who wish to step onto the Fanling Bypass and Lung Shan Tunnel, then it's quite nice." To promote local produce and delicacies, each finisher was given a hydroponic cabbage as well as pastries. Heung Yee Kuk chairman Kenneth Lau said he was surprised by the turnout. He hoped that the route allowed participants to experience the charm of the New Territories, and thanked authorities for providing help to overcome various challenges. "Many people have asked, if they can run all the way to Shenzhen... We can see that infrastructure development in Yuen Long and the rest of the Northern Metropolis is in full swing, with numerous construction

sites and projects under way," he said. "I believe that in the future, the route will surely extendto San Tin, the Lok Ma Chau Loop, or even all the way into the Shenzhen area." Lau admitted theday's temperature of 25 degrees Celsius or so was not the most ideal for running, and hoped tohold future races in December if possible. Edited by Aaron Tam

- 'Revolutionary change aimed for building maintenance' (2026-11-01 05:15)

Secretary for Justice Paul Lam on Sunday said the government’s efforts to amend the law following the deadly Wang Fuk Court inferno aim to make a "revolutionary change" to the entire building maintenance ecosystem in Hong Kong. His remarks came as authorities plan to submit legislative amendments to the Legislative Council within this year to reform the building maintenance and renovation system, as well as combat bid-rigging activities. Speaking on a Commercial Radio programme, Lam said dishonest contractors should be driven out of the market. “In today’s large-scale building maintenance, there is an objective fact – an unfortunate and unacceptable fact – that the 'fat of the meat' is too rich, and the market was almost monopolised by bad actors,” he said. "A friend of mine in law enforcement put it very well: bad money drives out good. Genuinely decent maintenance workers and professionals were not willing to take part in the market. People have no choice – it’s all bad actors. "So the first step is to drive the bad actors out of the market, so that the highly professional and honest people will be willing to re-enter the market." Lam said authorities should also assist home owners in finding suitable contractors and professionals, and ensure that construction works are carried out in a safe and lawful manner. Speaking on the same show, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau said bid-rigging involves complex issues including price-fixing and market sharing. He believes criminalising such activities would enable greater powers to combat bid-rigging, expressing hope that the amendments could be passed by April next year. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 31 (2026-10-31 12:47)

Top stories for Saturday, Oct 31, 2026 - Finance chief Paul Chan says Hong Kong could record its strongest full-year economic growth in five years. - Police arrest 58 people, including minors, in an anti-triad operation. - Halloween celebrations are in full swing, here and around the world.

- Vaccination calls as flu season 'not over' (2026-10-31 10:30)

A seven-year-old girl with an underlying illness is critically ill with influenza A as authorities urge vaccination. The girl developed a runny nose, diarrhoea and abdominal pain on Thursday, followed by fever and convulsions on Friday, according to the Department of Health. She was admitted to Tuen Mun Hospital. She was transferred to the hospital’s paediatric intensive care unit after her condition deteriorated and remains there for further treatment. Health authorities warn that the city’s flu season is not over. Hong Kong's current flu season has already dragged on for four months after beginning in late June, according to health officials. Dr. Edwin Tsui, Controller of the Centre for Health Protection, noted that while the latest surveillance data shows signs of decline, overall influenza activity "remained above the baseline

level." "A cumulative total of 28 cases of severe paediatric influenza infection have beenrecorded in the current influenza season. Among these cases, 20 patients have recovered andbeen discharged from hospital, two are in stable condition, four are in critical condition and twohave passed away," Tsui said. The CHP has urged residents to get vaccinated to reduce the riskof potential illness. Its analysis of the previous year’s data showed that unvaccinated childrenwho contracted flu had approximately five times the rate of severe complications or deathcompared with vaccinated children. Edited by Azam Khan

- 58 arrested in triad crackdown as youth crimes spike (2026-10-31 09:28)

Police on Saturday arrested 58 people in a city-wide, anti-triad operation, disrupting gang networks exploiting the youth. The suspects rounded up include core gang members as well as those aged below 18. They are alleged to have committed a series of offenses, including claiming to be triad members, inviting another person to become a triad member, false imprisonment and money laundering. Chief inspector Chan Pak-ki said the arrests came after undercover officers infiltrated two triad groups amid a rise in youth crimes early this year. “We found that these triad groups would obtain the youths' trust first. They might carry out simple initiation ceremonies," she said. "After obtaining their trust, they lured them, through false promises that there was quick money to be made, into carrying out a lot of illegal acts.” The force also busted a number of illegal gambling and drug dens. Chan did not rule out further arrests, adding that the operation was still ongoing. Edited by Azam Khan

- Lan Kwai Fong expects monster finish to Halloween (2026-10-31 08:38)

Hong Kong's premier nightlife and party district Lan Kwai Fong is expecting business to jump about 50 percent this Halloween. Turnover is already up at least 30 to 40 percent over the past two weekends, according to Anthea Cheung, Lan Kwai Fong Association director. She credited this growth to the Tourism Board's inaugural Hong Kong Halloween Month, which generated significant festive buzz ahead of this weekend's finale and attracted higher-than-expected interest. Cheung said locals still made up around 70 percent of visitors to the district around which Halloween celebrations traditionally centre, with the rest coming from overseas and the mainland. The number of arrivals from the Greater Bay Area have spiked with cross-boundary travel made easier, she added, with many of them dressing up for a night out. Bars and restaurants, she pointed out, have kept some seats in reserve for walk-in customers since bookings for tables are already full. “We expect about a 50 percent increase tonight – it’s Halloween proper, and it’s a weekend too," Cheung said. "Our merchants are ready, they’ve stocked enough drinks and food for tonight’s celebrations.” Looking ahead, the association wants more hotel, dining and transport package deals to draw visitors into staying longer and spending more. As Lan Kwai Fong gears up to cope with crowds of revellers, immigration officers inspected Huanggang Port and Shenzhen Bay Control Point ahead of an expected late-night outbound peak on Saturday and Sunday by mainlanders here for Halloween night. The Immigration Department urged travellers seeking a quicker crossing to avoid peak hours where possible, adding that it is coordinating with public transport operators to step up their

service frequency. Edited by Azam Khan

• More experts 'applying to join building-repairs lists' (2026-10-31 07:33)

Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn said government has received an encouraging response from consultants and contractors seeking inclusion in three pre-qualified lists under a new council that will soon be offering full-cycle building repairs. The non-statutory Building Maintenance Support and Services Council – to be established by year-end – will gradually take over the Urban Renewal Authority's building-upkeep subsidy schemes under its Smart Tender system. Taking to the airwaves on Saturday, Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn said the government had received about 150 applications from inspection and supervision consultants as well as 350 applications from contractors. "Why do I say it's encouraging? Because the URA's Smart Tender platform also had a pre-qualified list – now it has been taken down as we have this new one," she said. "The number of applications this time, compared to the one that was taken down, saw an increase of two to three times. "This means that there are more consultants and contractors who did not participate in the past. I took it as a vote of confidence in the future system." While the council will prioritise around 1,800 maintenance projects that are already in the Smart Tender system, Linn said it would first focus on the 600 or so projects that had yet to undergo building inspections. "As inspections have not been carried out on these buildings, we can – when the new service is rolled out – deploy an inspection consultant for them," she said. Most of the remaining buildings, she pointed out, have already recruited supervision consultants. Initially, the government had been planning to put the URA or its subsidiaries in charge of the new support service. However, Linn said, following through on that plan would have significantly increased the URA's burden as it was already handling many building maintenance-related works as well as redevelopment projects. As for the new Public Housing Building Control Section that will replace the Housing Bureau's Independent Checking Unit within a month, Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong said he was confident that it would bring about more fundamental changes. About 300 staff from the unit, which has been found by an independent inquiry to be primarily responsible for failed supervision of major renovations at Wang Fuk Court in the runup to the fire, will move to the new section. "We have held more than 10 training classes [for staff] so as to raise vigilance and awareness," said Wong, who is also acting secretary for housing. A dedicated team will oversee each major maintenance project, while a project liaison officer will handle all enquiries from owners' corporations, he added. Edited by Azam Khan

• HK may see strongest growth in five years: Paul Chan (2026-10-31 06:54)

Hong Kong could record its strongest full-year economic growth figure in five years in 2026, according to Financial Secretary Paul Chan. Speaking on a radio programme on Saturday, he said the economy grew by 5.1 percent in the first half of the year and that strong export performance and investment growth continued into the third quarter. "What I'm most pleased to see is that in terms of investment, the growth momentum in the first half of the year carried through into the third quarter," Chan said. "Visitor numbers to Hong Kong are high, the streets

are busy, and we're holding many mega events – such as the Wine and Dine Festival – plusmany other big events and concerts. "We have FinTech Week coming up. There's a chance that2026 will be the strongest full-year economic growth in the past five years." On next year’ sbudget, Chan said any relief measures would depend on economic performance. He said thegovernment would do its best but substantial infrastructure spending ahead meant authoritieswould need to manage public finances closely. He also flagged external risks. If geopoliticaltensions and the Middle East conflict persist, oil prices could rise and feed into inflationarypressures, Chan stressed. He expects interest rates to stay relatively high next year, which couldaffect the property market and the wider economy, and said the authorities would remain alertto financial risks. Edited by Azam Khan

- Buildings-repair body 'to operate on user-pays basis' (2026-10-31 04:21)

The new Building Maintenance Support and Services Council will operate on a non-profit basis but must recover costs on a user-pays basis, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said on Saturday, as the government moves to set it up in response to the independent committee report on the Wang Fuk Court fire. The council will guide owners through the full cycle of building repairs – handling tendering and evaluation on their behalf – for a fee. Chan told a Commercial Radio programme that the non-statutory company, wholly owned by Financial Secretary Incorporated, must recover costs, as owners are responsible for maintaining private residential properties. He said the fees would depend on the scope of the works and would cost roughly several thousand dollars per flat. "We understand that Hong Kong has many old districts, and some buildings are quite old," Chan said. "Many elderly people live there, and they may not be able to fully afford the fees. So in these areas, the government can provide some subsidies." For better-off owners, professional guidance matters more than cash subsidies, so a one-size-fits-all subsidy ratio would not be appropriate, Chan pointed out. He said a pre-screened list of professionals and contractors would be published for owners to choose from, describing it as government-checked to give owners greater peace of mind. The government has earmarked HK$300 million for the plan, including HK$100 million as start-up capital and HK$200 million to subsidise owners. The new body is expected to start operating by the end of the year, with recruitment for a chief executive already underway. Edited by Robert Kemp

- HKEAA reports international exam data leak (2026-10-31 02:17)

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority said on Friday that the personal data of 16,900 mainland residents applying for two international exams had been leaked. The data included names, dates of birth, and email addresses. The authority said it had discovered the incident on Thursday and reported it to the police and to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. It said there was so far no evidence that DSE or other exams had been affected. The authority apologised and said it would take all feasible measures to mitigate the incident's impact. It said relevant examination organisers had been notified, and it was following up on arrangements to notify those affected. Edited by Robert Kemp

- HK$160k worth of sculptures stolen at City Hall (2026-10-30 13:17)

Police said a batch of sculptures was believed to be stolen from the City Hall in Central ahead of the opening of an arts festival there. Officers said they were alerted at around 2.30pm that the sculptures worth about HK$160,000 went missing. The case has been classified as theft. The Central district's criminal investigation team is following up on the case. The opening of the Microwave International New Media Arts Festival was scheduled for Friday evening. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Nominations of 1,115 EC poll candidates deemed valid (2026-10-30 12:47)

The Registration and Electoral Affairs said on Friday that the nominations of 1,115 candidates running for the Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections next month are deemed valid. Of those, 856 will compete for 723 seats across 31 subsectors. The remaining 259 candidates are returned uncontested in five other subsectors. The Electoral Affairs Commission will hold a briefing session for candidates on Tuesday to familiarise them with the electoral arrangements and various regulations. On the day of the polls on November 22, five ordinary polling stations will open from 9am to 6pm. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 30 (2026-10-30 12:31)

Top stories for Friday, Oct 30, 2026 - A new council will be launched to help homeowners with building repairs. - Supervision of building renovation is to be tightened up after the Wang Fuk Court blaze. - Movie lovers are mourning the death of British actor Patrick Stewart.

- Eight applicants in race for ride-hailing licences (2026-10-30 10:18)

The Transport Department said eight applications had been lodged for ride-hailing service licences by the deadline at noon on Friday. The department said the number of applications reflected a positive response from the sector. Representatives from the Transport and Logistics Bureau, the Digital Policy Office and the Transport Department will assess the applications and make recommendations to the transport commissioner, with the aim of announcing the qualified platforms before the year ends. “We will carefully assess each application to ensure that licensed platforms have the necessary operational and financial capabilities to provide safe, reliable and efficient ride-hailing services sustainably,” a spokesman said. The department, he added, will unveil details for vehicle-driving as well as vehicle permits in due course. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Race to make bid-rigging criminal offence by April (2026-10-30 09:38)

Officials said on Friday they aim to criminalise bid-rigging by April as well as enhance enforcement through the establishment of an inter-departmental task force. Competition Commission chief executive Rasul Butt said the watchdog would be consulting lawmakers over the proposed amendments “very soon” before seeking opinions from stakeholders. “The government and, of course, the relevant authorities like the Competition Commission... will need to engage with some stakeholders,” he said. “In terms of going to Legco to seek Legco's approval to pass the new amendments, the aim right now is April next year.” The task force –

comprised of representatives from the commission, the police force and the IndependentCommission Against Corruption – will be led by Secretary for Security Chris Tang. Tang said thefight against bid-rigging, currently only a civil offence, would be efficient and enhanced throughthe sharing of intelligence and databases by the task force. “In fact in the past, our threedifferent departments, namely police, ICAC and Competition Commission, we are all separately,vigorously investigating bid-rigging-related offences,” he said. “But now we have a joint taskforce – we can share our intelligence, we can conduct more precise joint operations, and we canhave more proactive elements in cracking bid-rigging activities.” While Tang did not reveal howmany members there would be in the task force, he stressed that setting it up would notrequire any additional resources. He noted that under the coordination of the Home AffairsDepartment, task force members would attend owners' corporations meetings at high-riskbuildings – meaning those with high project costs and a significant number of flats involved – tolook for indications that bid-rigging might be involved. However, Tang warned, the task forcewill also rely on intelligence, undercover operations and informers to crack down onmalpractices. Edited by Edmond Fong

- 'Huanggang port ready for increased traffic flows' (2026-10-30 08:01)

The Transport Department has warned that traffic around the Huanggang control point and San Tin Road will be very heavy on Friday night and over the next two nights, as Halloween celebrations and other events in Hong Kong and Kowloon are expected to end around midnight. In a post on its social media page, the department said the Huanggang checkpoint provides dedicated public transport lanes, allowing franchised buses, cross-boundary coaches and green minibuses to travel via San Sham Road directly to the port. It said road markings have been strengthened and the dedicated lanes extended to improve effectiveness. During peak traffic periods, four franchised bus routes heading to the Huanggang port via the San Tin Public Transport Interchange will enter the interchange directly from a junction of the San Tin section of Castle Peak Road helping to divert traffic away from the busy San Tin roundabout. The department said it has instructed public transport operators to reserve sufficient vehicles and manpower, and to increase service frequency according to passenger flow. Its Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre will monitor traffic conditions around the clock and take appropriate measures as needed, it said. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Tip-offs 'helping stub out construction-site smoking' (2026-10-30 07:41)

Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun called on the public on Friday to continue to provide information to help enforce the full smoking ban on construction sites and buildings undergoing major renovations. The call came as he revealed that citizen tip-offs had led to a disproportionately high number of successful prosecutions since the new rules took effect three months ago. Sun said the Labour Department has issued 87 fixed-penalty notices since the ban was introduced, of which 27 – about one third – were based on information provided by citizens. There are currently, he pointed out, four contractor cases involving five summonses going through prosecution proceedings. The department has conducted more than 6,900

inspections over the past three months, he said, of which about 430 were triggered bycomplaints or tip-offs. "The proportion of inspections is certainly not large, but the success rateis very high, because you see, among our fixed-penalty notices, approximately one third ofthem were issued because some citizens kindly provided us with photos, videos andinformation, enabling us to conduct inspections promptly," said Sun. He also apologised againover the deadly Wang Fuk Court fire, whose independent report was released by thegovernment on Thursday. Sun pointed out that he had to, as a politically appointed official,support the chief executive and be accountable to him. The chief executive, he said, had madeclear his requirements and he would follow them, stay on the job and strive to implement thegovernment's reform agenda. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Major renovations to get dedicated checks by new unit (2026-10-30 06:20)

A Housing Bureau unit found to have been primarily responsible for failed supervision of major renovations at Wang Fuk Court in the runup to the fire will be replaced within about a month by a new body, Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong said on Friday. About 300 staff at the bureau's Independent Checking Unit will move over to the new Public Housing Building Control Unit, which will have a project-based workflow. Making the announcement, Wong, the acting secretary for housing, said under the new workflow system, each major maintenance job would get a dedicated team and a project liaison officer as a one-stop contact for owners' corporations, instead of splitting inspection, structural checks, minor works and site monitoring across different desks. A directorate-grade officer, he added, would shortly be seconded from the Buildings Department to the new unit to guide day-to-day work and keep enforcement standards aligned. "We believe there are several things that will bring a substantial improvement in the quality of our future services," Wong said. "First, we're changing our basic regulatory model to a project-based approach. "Also, communication with the Buildings Department – which was originally set at once every 12 months – has recently been changed to once a quarter." Wong added the authorities would, through training, make relevant personnel more vigilant and give them a deeper understanding of the relevant guidelines. He said he believes this can help greatly improve the quality of future work. Edited by Altis Wong

- New council to take over URA's role in building upkeep (2026-10-30 05:34)

Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn on Friday said the government would set up a new council by the end of the year to help homeowners through the full cycle of building repairs – offering a paid service to handle tendering and evaluation on their behalf. Her announcement came after the independent committee investigating the Wang Fuk Court fire called, in its report, for enhanced support services that would be run by a new operator with a clearer, more interventionist mandate. Speaking a day after the report's release, Linn said the new Building Maintenance Support and Services Council would be a non-statutory body and take over, in phases, building-upkeep subsidy schemes presently being run by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). Unlike the URA's Smart Tender platform, which helps owners solicit bids but does not assess them, the council will arrange for tenders and evaluate them for owners and

recommend up to three suitable bids. Owners using government maintenance subsidies mustchoose from those recommended bids. The council will also assign pre-engaged inspectionconsultants instead of requiring a fresh tender for each inspection, help appoint supervisionconsultants and contractors, monitor the supervision consultant during works, and give ownersindependent advice if contractors propose major scope or cost changes. Linn said the fullerservice could cost several thousand dollars per flat, versus the few hundred being chargedunder the Smart Tender platform. Commenting on the charges for the fuller service, Linnpointed out that the new council would provide a paid service to help owners meet their duty toinspect and maintain private property. Owners, she stressed, remain responsible for majorrepairs and the government is only stepping in because many of them lack the technicalknow-how. Linn was also asked whether the council should take responsibility if trouble cameup. "Now that we have a new council recommending the consultants and contractors, it also hasa role overseeing their performance. In case the council is being lax in its monitoring duty, thenthe council will have liability," she said. "Likewise, if turn of events show that the council hasoverlooked some important matters when recommending certain consultants or contractors,then I'm sure the council will also have to take on civil liabilities under the service contract theyhave signed with the owners." The council is expected to operate on a self-financing basis. Thegovernment has reserved HK$300 million, Linn said, adding that the figure is made up ofHK$100 million in seed funding and HK$200 million to ease fees for needy owners. She said thecouncil's priority would be the around 1,800 maintenance projects already in the Smart Tendersystem that had yet to appoint a contractor and were waiting for the new service. At the newsconference, Linn was also asked whether she had considered resigning over the fire. She saidshe had thought about it but added that the decision was not simply down to her personalpreference; as a senior member of the administration, she also had a duty to continue in herjob to carry out the chief executive's directions. Edited by Tony Sabine

- 'Wang Fuk recommendations will be carried out swiftly' (2026-10-30 01:41)

Most of the 120 recommendations from the independent committee report on the deadly Wang Fuk Court fire could be implemented within a few months, Chief Secretary Eric Chan said on Friday. "To implement the 120 recommendations as soon as possible, I believe, will help to quickly reduce the possibility of similar problems occurring again in the future. This is very important," he said during an RTHK programme. Chan said the recommendations are very comprehensive and the government must draw lessons from the incident to reform and improve existing systems. The chief secretary will lead a steering committee to review each of the 120 proposals, and drive and monitor the implementation of measures. Chan said the committee would meet soon and assign each recommendation to the relevant departments. Where a recommendation involves multiple departments, he said, the lead department responsible for overseeing implementation would be identified. Each department would be required to submit a report to him on how the recommendation would be implemented or improved, and he would oversee the timeline for implementation "There are several principles. First, it must be done very rigorously; second, it must be done very promptly; third, it must be

effective — effectively achieving the goal," he said. The chief secretary said somerecommendations are already being rolled out. He expressed hope that six bills, includingamendments to the Fire Services Ordinance and the Competition Ordinance, could besubmitted to the Legislative Council within the year. Once enacted, he said, these laws wouldgive enforcement and regulatory bodies sufficient powers to carry out their work. On theproposal to set up a central database to share information, such as underperformingcontractors, among government departments, Chan said preparation work may take a fewmonths due to the need for data conversion and platform design. He expects the system couldbe initially launched around May or June next year, and that the government would then beable to better serve the public. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Shenzhen Bay port to open longer on Fri and Sat (2026-10-29 14:22)

The Shenzhen Bay control point will extend its opening hours on Friday and Saturday to help facilitate cross-boundary traffic. Clearance time at the crossing will be extended to 2am from midnight, as the number of travellers is expected to surge due to a series of events staged in Hong Kong including Halloween festivities, the Wine and Dine Festival and mega concerts. The government said on Thursday that it reached a consensus with Shenzhen authorities for the arrangement, so as to alleviate the expected surge in passenger and vehicular flows at the round-the-clock Huanggang port and San Tin Highway. SAR authorities have also coordinated with cross-boundary coach operators to extend their service hours serving Shenzhen Bay. Franchised bus operators, for their part, will arrange two special overnight bus routes to ply between the port and Yuen Long/Tin Shui Wai and Tuen Mun respectively. “The implementation of the special arrangement to extend the clearance hours at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point helps divert late-night cross-boundary passenger and vehicular flows and facilitates travel for residents of both places and visitors,” a government spokesman said. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Govt not proceeding with Peak lighting show (2026-10-29 13:52)

The government said on Thursday it won't proceed with a lighting project on the Peak that drew opposition from residents. The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) will remove the installations as soon as possible and restore the site to its original condition, according to a paper submitted by the board and the Tourism Commission to the Central and Western District Council. “As we have just started moving forward, we have only carried out part of the work. We haven’t started operating or doing maintenance and repair work. So the resources we have used are limited," tourism minister Rosanna Law told reporters. "These are resources that were allocated to the Tourism Board a long time ago.” Law also said the light fittings that are to be removed could be useful for other HKTB projects. According to the document, the project had been planned for the area around Lugard and Harlech roads on the Peak, where there would be small-scale lighting installations at designated spots along a walking trail. Upon learning the concerns from the public, the government and HKTB arranged site visits with both lawmakers and district councillors, and looked into various enhancement measures. For instance, the

board considered reducing the number of scenic spots along the trail from 10 to seven andshortening the project’s duration from one year to the end of February. It also planned toslash the number of trees used for hanging light fittings by more than half to 24. Still, thegovernment noted that the proposed amendments might not be able to fully ease concerns ofresidents and trail users. “On the other hand, following a significant reduction in theproject’s scale, even with efforts to retain the most distinctive design elements, we are warythat it could be difficult to fully realise the original design concept and lighting effect,” thedocument read. This would compromise the overall experience and appeal of the project, itadded, and might not meet its expected results of encouraging travellers to revisit the SAR andstay longer through infusing traditional attractions with new elements. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 29 (2026-10-29 12:44)

Top stories for Thursday, Oct 29, 2026 - John Lee bows in apology and one of his ministers resigns over last year's Wang Fuk Court disaster. - Various reforms are announced to address shortcomings flagged up by the inquiry into the fire. - Spain begins three days of mourning after one of Europe's deadliest train crash in decades.

- Winnie Ho 'willing to take political responsibility' (2026-10-29 11:18)

Winnie Ho, who resigned as secretary for housing over the Wang Fuk Court fire, said she was willing to bear political responsibility for the deadly blaze. In a statement, Ho said she met with Chief Executive John Lee on Wednesday and tendered her resignation, which Lee accepted. Ho also said the government's reform measures, based on the independent committee's report, demonstrate a strong determination to confront the complex and longstanding problems exposed by the fire. "Since July 1, 2022, I have fought side by side with the Housing Bureau team, working hard to reverse the longstanding housing problems that have plagued Hong Kong for years," she said. Ho also listed achievements during her tenure, including the rapid construction of light public housing, shortening waiting times for public housing, tackling substandard subdivided units and clamping down on public housing abuse. She said she felt deeply honoured to have served Hong Kong over the past four years, and expressed gratitude to the central government, the chief executive and the entire government team for their trust and support. Ho also said she hopes those who were killed in the blaze can rest in peace and their families can move forward and recover from their grief. Edited by Edmond Fong

- 100 govt officers to be interviewed in Wang Fuk probe (2026-10-29 10:41)

Public Service Commission chairwoman Maisie Cheng said on Thursday that an inquiry team examining civil servants' accountability over the Wang Fuk Court fire will interview about 100 government officers across four departments, with 40 to 50 likely to be investigation targets. She was speaking after Chief Executive John Lee announced the two-tier administrative-accountability investigation covering the Housing Department's Independent Checking Unit, Buildings Department, Fire Services Department and Labour Department. Cheng

said although the investigation will be challenging, the team will race against time and go all outto complete the work within three months as the CE requires. She said preparatory work hasbeen underway since August. The team will use the independent committee report andpublished materials as its starting point, then dig into shortfalls by individual civil servants –including possible breaches of the Civil Service Code – by seeking files and interviewing officers,she added. "This team has already put all their effort to familiarise themselves with theinformation, especially those abundant information, made public by the independentcommittee," she said. "With all this preparatory work and also the preparatory work done bythe two members and myself in the past few months, we are very confident that although theinvestigation team and the support office will be officially set up today, we can commence theinvestigation immediately." Civil Service Secretary Ingrid Yeung said after the probe, the teamwill decide which civil servants bear administrative responsibility and how serious it is – thenrecommend to the government whether to take disciplinary action or impose administrativesanctions. She said the government will study the recommendations quickly. Yeung added thatfor disciplinary cases, hearings will be held – and if charges are proven, the government candismiss the officer, order compulsory retirement, demote, issue a reprimand or impose a fine.Edited by Aaron Tam

- Govt officers overseeing Wang Fuk works to be probed (2026-10-29 09:20)

Chief Executive John Lee said government officers who oversaw renovation works at Wang Fuk Court before the fire will be investigated under a new accountability system, with results to be announced in three months. A report submitted by an independent committee tasked with probing the deadly inferno was released on Thursday. The report identified "deficiencies and failings" by four government bodies in relation to the oversight of fire risks associated with renovation works at the Tai Po estate. They are the Buildings Department, the Housing Bureau's Independent Checking Unit, the Fire Services Department, and the Labour Department. Lee said these departments will now be investigated under the second tier of the Heads of Department Accountability System. Under the system, a Tier II investigation is carried out "if a serious problem occurs in a department or the problem is widespread or a repetitive, systemic one", or " there are indications that the head of department concerned is implicated in the problem". The investigation will be commissioned by the Public Service Commission (PSC), an independent statutory advisory body which advises the chief executive on civil service appointments, promotions and discipline. "The investigation will gather evidence regarding the individual responsibilities of officers involved, and assess whether there has been any dereliction of duty, violations of departmental regulations, or breaches of the Civil Service Code and other relevant civil service management provisions," Lee said. "Based on the evidence and facts gathered, the investigation will provide recommendations on appropriate disciplinary actions and administrative sanctions to be considered against the individuals responsible for these shortcomings or deficiencies." Lee added he expected "40 to 50 officers" to be investigated, and with even more witnesses to summon, he believed the PSC would be under great pressure to complete the probe in three months. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Seven areas of reforms introduced after Wang Fuk blaze (2026-10-29 08:27)

Chief Executive John Lee said the government will roll out comprehensive reforms to address shortcomings exposed by the Wang Fuk Court fire. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Lee said the reforms will cover seven areas. "The reforms that we roll out now are comprehensive reforms. We are restructuring departments so that they will enforce both inspection and also take legal action seriously," he said. "And we see in this case a series of events that happened resulting in this tragedy, and the things that we are rolling out now address each and every one of them." First, authorities will crack down on bid-rigging activities in building maintenance projects by establishing specific criminal offences and incorporating them into the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance. "This will empower law enforcement agencies to exercise statutory authority against suspects, including summoning individuals for questioning, demanding the submission of documents or materials, freezing assets, and confiscating proceeds of crime," he said. The government will amend the law to empower the Competition Commission to combat bid-rigging through a mix of criminal and civil enforcement measures. The commission will also team up with police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in the formation of an inter-departmental task force. The agencies will conduct joint investigations, strengthen intelligence gathering and information exchange. To assist homeowners, an authority will be established to provide independent, reliable, and professional advice on building maintenance. It will take up all related services currently provided by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). Authorities will also review and reform the regulatory frameworks for building maintenance projects to better clarify roles and responsibilities, and to strengthen regulation of professionals and contractors by introducing stiffer penalties. The Buildings Department will be restructured to strengthen its leadership and supervisory roles, while improving collaboration with the Independent Checking Unit (ICU) under the Housing Bureau. A centralised database will be established to facilitate information sharing across government departments, such as past convictions and cases of professional misconduct in relation to building maintenance work. "The government will also reform the existing complaint mechanism concerning building maintenance. The system will be integrated into the centralised database, utilising artificial intelligence to analyse and monitor the progress and outcomes... to ensure that public complaints are addressed appropriately," Lee said. Finally, a steering committee, chaired by Chief Secretary Eric Chan, will be established to ensure the independent committee's 120 recommendations on the Wang Fuk Court inferno are implemented thoroughly and effectively. _____ Last updated: 2026-10-29 HKT 16:54 Edited by Aaron Tam

• Govt departments share blame for Wang Fuk fire (2026-10-29 08:11)

An independent committee looking into the Wang Fuk Court fire on Thursday concluded that government regulators must share responsibility for the high death toll in the Wang Fuk Court fire, finding that private-sector misconduct was compounded by decades of official failure, regulatory loopholes and “slack enforcement”. The committee concluded that had officials handled residents’ complaints properly and worked with a sense of crisis about facade fires

on occupied renovation sites, private wrongdoing and site hazards “could have been rectifiedor removed before the fire.” Lax enforcement, it said, “inevitably” breeds lax private-sectorperformance. The government bodies identified “should bear part of the responsibility for thehigh casualties”. "Had the staff of the various government bodies handled the complaintsproperly and done their works seriously given the possible tragic consequences of fire in thebuilding maintenance and repair sites, there was a real possibility that the misconduct of theprivate-sector parties and the fire hazards in Wang Fuk Court could have been rectified orremoved before the fire," it said. It found the Buildings Department (BD) and the IndependentChecking Unit (ICU) primarily responsible for failed supervision of the Wang Fuk Court works.The failings were “systemic and multi-layered,” spanning policy design and day-to-dayoperations. It listed six core failures: over-reliance on the integrity of building professionals;failing to design supervision around the tragic risk of fires at building maintenance andrenovation sites; inadequate control of temporary materials such as scaffolding nets, canvas,foam boards and toe-boards; poor complaint handling; slack operational enforcement; andpoor BD-ICU coordination, including the BD’s failure to audit the ICU. Despite a contract worthmore than HK$330 million covering the external walls of eight high-rise occupied blocks, theworks were classified as “lower-risk” minor works under the Minor Works Control Systemrather than high-risk major works. The committee said the Fire Services Department (FSD) failedits supervisory duty to assess and remove fire hazards at Wang Fuk Court and to superviseshutdowns of fire service installations and the contractors who certify them. Despite 26 visits,FSD crews never inspected escape staircases and never detected access openings. Complaintsabout foam boards, smoking and blocked escapes were met with referrals and “merry-go-round” replies rather than effective action. It also identified four LabourDepartment (LD) operational failures: smoking on site; foam-board fire hazards; verifying netfire-retardancy; and access openings. After 16 visits, smoking complaints were marked “notjustified”. The committee said that finding was “simply contrary to the reality”, givenresidents’ photographs, videos and WhatsApp messages. Compared with the BD, ICU and FSD,the LD should bear “lesser” responsibility, the committee said – but still criticised a“just-following-the-books” attitude and departments that “passed the ball” until hazardsfell through the cracks. "There are already strong indications that persons with dubious or triadbackground are active in the building maintenance and repair industry. Given the probablepresence of black sheep in the industry, it is regrettable that there was practicably no control orsupervision over the actual execution of the building maintenance and repair works," the reportsays. "As a matter of good governance, the services provided by the civil servants should be 'people-centred'", the committee said. In the case that the complainant has raised a matter ofgenuine concern, they should “take an extra step to help” and should avoid saying “this isnot our responsibility and go look elsewhere”, it added. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Contractor, consultant, inspector blamed for fire (2026-10-29 07:53)

The main contractor and project consultant for Wang Fuk Court’s renovation project, and a registered inspector must bear the most significant accountability for a disastrous fire that took

168 lives nearly a year ago, an independent inquiry into the tragedy has concluded. In a 16-chapter report spanning nearly 1,200 pages submitted to the government, the committee stated that Prestige Construction & Engineering and consultancy firm Will Power Architects were fully aware of the fire risks but ignored repeated complaints and safety concerns raised by residents of the Tai Po housing estate during maintenance works. “They put the lives of all residents in Wang Fuk Court at serious risk, apparently with a view to maximising their financial gains,” the report read. The committee slammed the two firms' conduct as going far beyond oversight or negligence, noting that they used substandard building materials and unsafe working procedures, such as non-fire-retardant scaffolding nets and flammable foam boards covering building windows. The report also stated that Will Power and Prestige Construction should be held responsible for fire service installations that did not function properly on the day of the fire. The committee found that Prestige Construction and its management, including Hau Wa-kin and Gordon Ho; as well as Will Power and its management Jason Wong; alongside Wilson Ng, a registered inspector employed by Will Power to oversee the renovation project, " deserve the most severe criticisms". The committee also named other firms as culpable for the disaster to varying degrees. These include Gain Profit Shed Industry, which was aware of and took part in a plot to temporarily replace non-fire-retardant scaffolding nets with fire-retardant ones just for site inspections by authorities. The property management company for Wang Fuk Court at the time of the fire, ISS EastPoint Properties, was also slammed for allowing its staff to switch off the power supply to the fire alarm systems despite lacking the professional qualifications to do so. Meanwhile, Victory Fire Engineering, the registered fire services contractor responsible for annual inspections and related works, was criticised for being passive in dealing with fire safety issues. And the committee described China Status Development and Engineering Company as a "dummy" fire services contractor, saying the firm filed documents simply to feign compliance and satisfy regulators. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Housing chief Winnie Ho resigns over Wang Fuk fire (2026-10-29 07:06)

Chief Executive John Lee on Thursday said he accepted the resignation of Winnie Ho as secretary for housing, saying she took political responsibility for last year's Wang Fuk Court fire that killed 168 people. At a press conference on Thursday, Lee and other principal officials also apologised and bowed. "As chief executive and head of the government, I am deeply saddened. On behalf of the SAR government, I offer my apologies to the victims and the public at large," Lee said in his opening remarks. He added that while Ho committed no personal wrongdoing, she must bear political responsibility as secretary for housing. "I have considered a wide range of factors, including the official's role in the matter, the official's policy portfolio and its relation with the incident, whether the problem relates to policy or execution, the performance of the subordinates, the large amount of work the political team will have to do in the time ahead," Lee said. "Considering that the fire took place in Wang Fuk Court and it falls within the purview of the Housing Department's [Independent Checking Unit], which is under the Housing Bureau, the secretary for housing should take political accountability," he added. Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong will serve as acting secretary for housing. _____

Last updated: 2026-10-29 HKT 16:48 Edited by Aaron Tam

- Bus-only lanes 'just the ticket to cut Huanggang jams' (2026-10-29 04:06)

The chairman of the Non-Franchised Public Bus Association of Hong Kong, Eddie Choi, said on Thursday he believed that dedicated transport lanes at Huanggang checkpoint could effectively reduce traffic congestion during peak hours this weekend. Authorities announced on Wednesday that priority would be given to public transport to manage vehicular traffic peaks at the crossing between 11pm and 2am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Late-night outbound passenger flow surged last weekend as scores of visitors left the city after attending a concert in Kai Tak and Halloween festivities elsewhere. "The reason there was traffic congestion last Saturday is because many cars and taxis used the lanes before they reached the control zone," Choi told an RTHK radio programme. "With the dedicated lanes extended, I think traffic police officers need to be stationed at the scene to prevent cars or taxis at the border crossing from driving onto the lanes and creating traffic congestion on San Tin Highway. “Improvements also need to be made to the holding area for vehicles waiting to enter the new Huanggang Port.” With proper arrangements made to separate the flow of cars from that of buses, Choi said he believed the journey time for cross-border buses from urban areas to the port could be kept within 40 minutes. Legislative Council transport panel chairman Ben Chan also welcomed the government's move to give priority to public transport during vehicular traffic peaks at the crossing, saying it gives travellers an extra incentive to take buses. "I think in Hong Kong the most successful measure is public transport [prioritisation]. This time, the government will arrange more bus lines to service during peak hours, and also the police will facilitate public transport to use the [dedicated lanes] to avoid them from getting trapped on the roads. So I think people will try to use public transport this week," he said. In a Facebook post, the Transport Department said public transport operators have reserved sufficient vehicles and manpower to cope with the expected travel surge over the weekend. It said five cross-border bus routes connecting urban areas to Huanggang Port will step up their services during late-night periods on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Special cross-border buses will also head for Huanggang and Shenzhen Bay ports from Kai Tak after concerts on Friday and Saturday, and passengers are reminded to purchase bus tickets in advance. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Firefighters douse Jordan kitchen blaze (2026-10-29 03:14)

A fire broke out in the kitchen of a restaurant in Jordan on Thursday morning, with firefighters called to the scene. Police received multiple reports at around 9.30am that thick smoke was coming from a restaurant near the junction of Nathan Road and Austin Road. Customers were able to leave the premises themselves and the fire was put out later. Preliminary investigations suggest the blaze started from a kitchen exhaust hood. No injuries were reported. Edited by Aaron Tam

- HKMA warns of interest rate risks as Fed holds steady (2026-10-29 03:01)

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on Thursday reminded the public to carefully manage interest rate risks when making property, investment or borrowing decisions, after the US Federal Reserve kept its benchmark rate unchanged. The Fed's Federal Open Market Committee decided to hold the target range for the federal funds rate at 3.75 to four percent, a move in line with market expectations. "Hong Kong's monetary and financial markets have continued to operate in an orderly manner," the HKMA said in a statement. It noted that with the persistent interest rate differential between the Hong Kong and US dollars, trade activities may cause the local currency to gradually ease. However, the HKMA said the outlook for the Hong Kong dollar and interbank rates could vary depending on factors such as market risk appetite for carry trades and the supply-demand conditions for the local currency, which are in turn influenced by capital market activities and other seasonal factors. It added that US interest rate adjustments remain subject to considerable uncertainty and will depend on developments in inflation, the labour market and other economic data, which may in turn affect the interest rate environment in Hong Kong. The HKMA said it will continue to closely monitor market developments to maintain monetary and financial stability. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 28 (2026-10-28 12:33)

Top stories for Wednesday, Oct 28, 2026 - Sources say the government is about to release the findings of the Wang Fuk Court inquiry. - Officials warn Huanggang port will be very busy over the weekend. - Dozens are killed in a high-speed train collision in Spain.

- Priority given to buses at Huanggang this weekend (2026-10-28 12:14)

The government warned that private cars crossing into Shenzhen via the Huanggang checkpoint during peak hours this weekend could face waits of more than an hour, as priority would be given to those arriving by public transport. Late-night outbound passenger flow surged last weekend, with scores of visitors leaving the city after attending a concert in Kai Tak or Halloween festivities elsewhere. In a press briefing on Wednesday, Chief Secretary Eric Chan said more than 1,000 vehicles passed through Huanggang within two hours last Saturday, far exceeding its capacity of 360 vehicles per hour. With more concerts scheduled this Friday and Saturday, plus the Wine and Dine Festival at the Central Harbourfront, authorities are bracing for another hectic weekend at the port. Chan said northbound traffic at the crossing is expected to peak between 11pm and 2am from October 30 to November 1. All inspection counters and vehicle lanes will open during those times to facilitate the travel peak. Chan said priority will be given to public transport, while private cars will be diverted to a holding area when necessary, with possible waiting times of more than one hour. He also urged travellers not to patronise unauthorised ride-hailing services. "We will take law enforcement action because this is no good for the passengers. There is a risk in case of accidents – the insurance will not cover the damage," he said, adding that three arrests were made in the past two days. Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan said cross-border coach operators would ramp up services this weekend, with frequencies of up to five minutes. Secretary for Security Chris Tang said an emergency monitoring and support centre will start operating at noon on Friday to coordinate

between government departments. Chan once again appealed to travellers to consider stayingovernight. "Rather than being stuck in traffic, why not spend an extra hour at Lan Kwai Fong?"he said. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- HK's exports surge nearly 65pc in September (2026-10-28 09:02)

Hong Kong’s exports and imports both rose for September, according to data released by the Census and Statistics Department on Wednesday, with the increase in exports marking the fastest monthly year-on-year growth in more than four decades. The value of total exports of goods surged by 64.9 percent compared to a year earlier to HK$762.6 billion in September. It followed a year-on-year increase of 53 percent in August. The value of imports also went up by 57.8 percent over a year earlier to HK$808.9 billion last month. A trade deficit of HK$417.7 billion – equivalent to seven percent of the imports value – was recorded in the first nine months of the year. A government spokesman said AI-related electronic products continued to drive the city’s trade performance, and the growth in exports marked a double-digit growth for the 20th straight month. It noted that exports to all major destinations have surged remarkably. “Looking ahead, Hong Kong's merchandise trade performance will continue to benefit from the prevailing wave of robust AI-related investment and the resilient global economic growth,” the statement read. “Nonetheless, external uncertainties warrant close monitoring, including the Middle East conflict, trade protectionist measures by major economies, and risks associated with the rapid expansion of global investment in AI.” Edited by Aaron Tam

- 'Waste facility fire caused by construction materials' (2026-10-28 06:16)

The government on Wednesday said a recent fire at a Shek Kwu Chau waste treatment facility is suspected to have been sparked by construction materials on the roof, rather than the operation of the facility or stored waste. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said preliminary information indicated that Monday's blaze started on the roof of the third incineration module area, where construction works were being finalised. "The EPD will work with the police, the Fire Services Department and the Labour Department to investigate the cause of fire, and has instructed the contractor to submit an incident report on the fire within seven days from the day of the incident," according to a statement. The department said it is evaluating the damage and the impact on the facility's processing capacity, and will urge the contractor to conduct repairs as soon as possible. The facility, I.PARK1, has temporarily suspended waste reception since October 27. The department said it has extended the operating hours of the West New Territories Landfill Extension to handle the waste originally destined for I.PARK1, ensuring the normal operation of the city's overall waste management system. "The EPD will resume waste reception at I.PARK1 as soon as possible, following a comprehensive examination of the facility's structure and all critical systems, and upon confirming that it is suitable to restart the facility's safe operation," it added. It also issued a strong denial of online rumours about "design defects of the incinerator" and a "collapse of the incineration module under construction", calling them groundless and entirely fictitious. Edited

by Aaron Tam

- Major progress in HK's third medical school: HKUST (2026-10-28 05:20)

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) on Wednesday said its new medical school had entered a new stage of development. HKUST officials said that construction of its Medical Education and Research Complex — the core interim facility at the Clear Water Bay campus for its new school of medicine — is ahead of schedule. Updating the media on progress for the city's third medical school, HKUST officials said the eight-storey building topped out last week, less than six months after its groundbreaking. Dean King Li said the school had also made encouraging progress in faculty recruitment, securing candidates for various key roles. The school aims to have at least 100 professors by 2030 to maintain a 1:1 teacher-student ratio, he said. Li noted that the ratio of local to overseas professors is expected to be fairly even. " It's a process, so we want to choose the best candidates instead of where they come from. As time goes on, you will see that more and more global people will show up," he said. "In the beginning, it would seem like it's geared towards the locals, because [it's] easier [for them] to join, but the actual ratio of applicants is not skewed that much that way. It's fairly even, I would say, at this time." One of the newly recruited faculty members is Anskar Leung, a former vice-dean at the University of Hong Kong's medical faculty. HKUST President, Professor Nancy Ip, stressed that the school had not engaged in any talent-poaching from other medical schools, but noted that they have received plenty of interest. "When HKUST indicated its interest to establish the third medical school in Hong Kong, even before the selection process, we received a lot of enquiries already from interested faculty candidates, both locally and overseas," she said. "So I think they share our vision. They would very much like to participate in the founding stage to set up the new medical school." Leung, who has already assumed his new role as Senior Associate Dean of Medicine at HKUST, said he shared the school's vision and described the opportunity as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. He added that he resigned from HKU about four months ago. HKUST also said it remains confident it would meet its target in admitting the first cohort of 50 students in the 2028/2029 academic year. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Hung Hom plan will not block iconic Lion Rock view (2026-10-28 04:19)

Plans for the Hung Hom waterfront will not block the view of the iconic Lion Rock or affect the ridgeline, the Development Bureau's Permanent Secretary Doris Ho said on Wednesday, as the government announced a revised proposal for the area. The new plan features two connected buildings with an elevated viewing platform overlooking Victoria Harbour. "Our two twin-tower developments will not block the Lion Rock view, because the angles are different," Ho told an RTHK programme. Ho stressed the viewing platform will be open to the public, though a decision on whether to charge an entry fee will depend on the project's financial viability. She said authorities hope the new development will inject vitality into the older Hung Hom area. " Usually when you go to enjoy the Victoria Harbour view, you might just walk along the waterfront, a low-level view. But seeing the harbour from a high vantage point gives a rather fresh feeling," Ho said. "We believe that this can achieve the development of a landmark," she

added. Ho said the total floor area of the revised plan is similar to the earlier proposal, but thegovernment has reduced commercial space and increased residential floor area after receivingmarket feedback. About five percent of the floor area will be used for a yacht club, providingaround 200 berths. Ho said the larger club facilities would improve the project's financialfeasibility and meet market demand. Onshore supporting facilities, such as charging points, willalso be required. She said 200 berths is the maximum number, as any more could affectnavigation channels. The entire project is divided into two zones – one along the waterfront andanother closer to inland areas. Ho said the government is still studying whether to release thesite as one single area or in two phases. She said further work is needed, including townplanning procedures, but the target of handing over the first batch of land to developers by2029 remains unchanged. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Wang Fuk fire report expected on Thurs: sources (2026-10-28 04:07)

The government will release the findings and conclusions of the report submitted by the independent committee probing last November's deadly fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po as soon as Thursday, according to sources. It is believed that a steering committee – led by the chief secretary – will be set up to promote reforms and related legislative amendments. The group will review and follow up on the recommendations laid out in the report and oversee the execution and implementation of reforms to ensure a smooth implementation. Sources say the government will hold a press conference on Thursday, during which Chief Executive John Lee and other principal officials will explain the series of reforms that will need to be implemented. Authorities also plan to meet the press for two consecutive days to detail how the reforms will be carried out and how loopholes in building maintenance will be plugged. Sources say the government will introduce legislation to prohibit bid-rigging in building maintenance works, with such actions to be criminalised by law. It is understood that authorities will also promote reform in building renovation projects and step up supervision of contractors and professionals. The government will propose amendments to the Buildings Ordinance, sources say. Instead of having a culture of self-regulation in the industry, the government will take the lead to strengthen verification and inspections. It will also look into rolling out tougher penalties for violations, and enhance building and fire safety standards. The committee submitted its report – which is understood to be hundreds of pages in length with more than 10 chapters – to the CE last week. Edited by Tony Sabine

- HK home prices rise for second straight month (2026-10-28 03:50)

Government data released on Wednesday showed private home prices rose for a second straight month in September, with the official index climbing 0.19 percent month-on-month to 320.8. On a year-on-year basis, home prices were up 9.3 percent, according to the figures from the Rating and Valuation Department. For the first nine months of the year, prices accumulated a rise of more than seven percent. By unit size, prices for small and medium-sized flats rose 0.16 percent from the previous month, and were up 9.3 percent year-on-year. Larger units saw a 0.8 percent monthly increase and a 9.5 percent annual gain. The rental index hit another

record high, extending the upward streak to 11 months. The September reading stood at 212.2,up 0.47 percent from August and 6.2 percent higher than a year earlier. For the first ninemonths of the year, rents have climbed 5.8 percent. Edited by Aaron Tam

• SAR committed to driving sustainable growth: CE (2026-10-28 03:08)

Chief Executive John Lee on Wednesday said Hong Kong is committed to promoting sustainable growth across Asia and the world, and is leaning on innovation to achieve this goal. Speaking at the annual One Earth Summit, Lee said bridging the gap between green capital, innovation and governance is vital amid accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss. He noted that the city serves as a bridge between the mainland and overseas on testing and developing new green technologies. Government leadership, Lee said, will allow Hong Kong to tackle climate change better. “The Hong Kong SAR Government is setting up an inter-departmental task force to build an ‘AI City Brain’ system,” the CE said. “It will provide early warnings of risks and trend forecasts. It will improve inter-departmental collaboration on extreme weather, major incidents and public order.” Lee went on to say that the SAR has already announced various decarbonisation and environmental-protection targets in its inaugural five-year plan, such as improving air and water quality. He believes the SAR can play a part in driving sustainability by mobilising capital, technology and people. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Shau Kei Wan water supply returns after pipe burst (2026-10-27 15:18)

The government said emergency repair works conducted after a water pipe burst in Shau Kei Wan have been completed, with fresh water supply to users in the area returning to normal from 9.30pm on Tuesday. In a social media post, the Water Supplies Department said that because the incident involved a large and complex system of pipes, people living at the ends of the water supply network or at higher elevations may need to wait up to three to four hours before the water reaches them. The department said it would continue to provide water trucks and tanks until the fresh water supply fully returns to normal. It also said it is normal for the water to appear milky or slightly turbid upon supply restoration. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Evening News on TV32 - Oct 27 (2026-10-27 12:41)

Top stories for Monday, Oct 26, 2026 - Thousands are left without tap water as a pipe bursts in Shau Kei Wan. - John Lee calls on university leaders to join the development of the Northern Metropolis. - Hundreds of people are hit by two new data breaches.

• Hung Hom skybridge 'to serve as viewing platform' (2026-10-27 10:27)

The Development Bureau said on Tuesday a skybridge between two buildings to be constructed on Hung Hom waterfront would also serve as a viewing platform and a venue for public activities. The plan was revealed as the bureau revised its development proposal for sites around Hung Hom MTR station and the district's harbourfront areas following a public consultation. Permanent Secretary for Development Doris Ho told lawmakers the authorities plan to connect two mixed-use towers proposed to be constructed at the waterfront area. The

skybridge connecting the buildings would create an open space that could serve as a viewingplatform, she said at a meeting of the Legislative Council's development panel. "Our currentplan is that the space will be open to the public. But whether it will operate on a commercialbasis or be open for free is something we need to keep flexible and decide at the next stage," Ho said. "Apart from allowing people to enjoy views of Victoria Harbour, we also have an ideathat this space could be opened up for holding events." According to a document submitted tothe legislature, the entire development at Hung Hom is expected to provide more than 200,000square metres of gross floor area – an increase by three percent compared with the previousplan. This includes more than 60 percent of areas for residential use and over 30 percent forcommercial purposes. Ho said the bureau had adjusted the allocation of floor space by cuttingthe floor area for commercial use and increasing the residential areas amid lower demand forthe former. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Water pipe burst in Shau Kei Wan affects 10k homes (2026-10-27 07:14)

The Water Supplies Department on Tuesday said more than 10,000 homes in Shau Kei Wan and its nearby areas saw their fresh water supply suspended following a water pipe burst. The burst occurred at around 10.30am at a construction site along Shau Kei Wan Road. Speaking to reporters, Chief Engineer of Hong Kong and Islands Region Lin Tang-tai said the department aimed to resume water supply by midnight. He said the pipe concerned, with a diametre of 18 inches, had been in use for more than three decades. But the incident was not caused by ageing, instead it was due to external forces, he said, with the crack measuring over one metre. "The scope of the impact involved in the incident covered Shau Kei Wan and parts of Sai Wan Ho. The number of households involved exceeds 10,000," he said. "We will deploy more than 10 water trucks, 100 water tanks and tens of thousands of bottled water, as well as various supporting facilities, to provide temporary fresh water supplies for residents affected." The Highways Department, for its part, apologised for the inconvenience caused. Chief Highway Engineer Alan Chan said contractors had already carried out an inspection ahead of the construction work, adding that his department would look into the cause of the incident and see if the contractors are liable. Police said a care home resident in her 80s was hospitalised after she sustained injuries to her limbs due to the incident. A member of staff told RTHK that the victim yelled for help when one of the care home's windows cracked due to the burst pipe, shooting sand and water into one of the rooms. Meanwhile, Eastern District care teams were seen assisting the public at one of the water collection points where at least dozens of people were in the queue. A resident surnamed Law told RTHK she planned to come down twice to take sufficient water for cooking first. "Of course I am upset there is no water supply. Water is very crucial, right? Being unable to bathe after work is very uncomfortable," she said. Another resident said he was not too optimistic that fresh water supply could resume by midnight, adding his family might go out for dinner instead of cooking at home.
_____ Last updated: 2026-10-27 HKT 16:36 Edited by Tony Sabine

- Three nabbed in wounding case linked to illegal fuel (2026-10-27 06:09)

Police said they have arrested three men for allegedly conspiring to wound with intent in a case that might involve illicit fuel activity. Officers were alerted by staff at Tseung Kwan O Hospital in the early hours last Thursday that a 35-year-old light goods vehicle driver – who sought treatment at the hospital – suffered knife wounds. Speaking in a media briefing on Tuesday, inspector Fong Miu-kwan said preliminary investigations revealed that he was attacked on Chun Yat Street at Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate. Fong said authorities found 120 litres of suspected illicit fuel in his vehicle. The three suspects are aged 16 to 19 with suspected triad background. “According to the police investigation, the place where the incident occurred – Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate – has seen illicit fuel activities in the past," Fong said. "Police have not ruled out the possibility that the wounding case was linked to a dispute over illicit fuel transactions.” In a separate case, authorities found 750 litres of suspected illicit diesel in a medium goods vehicle as part of their campaign against illegal fuel activity at Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate, and a 25-year-old driver is suspected of involvement. Edited by Edmond Fong

- HSBC net profit rises in Q3 but misses forecasts (2026-10-27 05:07)

Banking giant HSBC on Tuesday said net profit in the third quarter rose a less-than-expected 45.5 percent year-on-year as the London-headquartered lender continued to restructure operations and cut costs. Profit attributable to shareholders for the three months ending in September stood at US$7 billion, from US$4.87 billion a year earlier, HSBC said in a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange. Pre-tax profit grew 32 percent to US$9.6 billion, with revenue increasing by US$0.8 billion to US$18.6 billion. "As we simplify HSBC, we are creating greater capacity to invest, grow and deliver strong returns for our shareholders," chief executive Georges Elhedery said in the filing. The banking giant also approved a third interim dividend of US$0.10 per share, and announced second US$1 billion buyback after completing one in the previous three months. HSBC said it remained "confident in achieving the targets" set out earlier this year. "We continue to target year-on-year growth in revenue from 2026 to 2028, rising to five percent growth in 2028 compared with 2027," it said. The bank also said expected credit losses tumbled 17 percent to US$800 million from the same period a year ago, thanks to a reduction in charges linked to Hong Kong's real estate sector as well as its UK and Mexican wealth businesses. The lender also said it expected net interest income of at least US$46 billion for 2025. (Agencies) Edited by Edmond Fong

- Over 1,600 affected in airline, retailer data breaches (2026-10-27 04:28)

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on Tuesday confirmed that more than 1,600 people have been affected by data breaches at Hong Kong Airlines and electronics retailer Yoho Hong Kong. The privacy watchdog said the breach at Hong Kong Airlines affected 815 passengers travelling between September 29 and October 22, involving their names, phone numbers and flight information. The Yoho Hong Kong breach affected 790 customers who placed their orders between September 29 and October 12, involving their names, phone numbers along with delivery information. The watchdog said customers received suspected scam calls stating their personal data. Additionally, the privacy commissioner received a

data-breach incident report from Broadway Photo Supply. As of Monday, it had received a totalof 23 complaints and 20 inquiries, and investigations have been launched. The office urgedpeople to consider carefully should they have any doubts about callers claiming to bemerchants, and verify their identities and authenticity of the calls through official channels.Customers should also refuse any suspicious money-transfer requests and keep records ofcommunications. Edited by Edmond Fong

- CUHK to bid for Hung Shui Kiu university town land (2026-10-27 04:17)

Chinese University of Hong Kong will bid for one of the first three sites in the Northern Metropolis University Town in Hung Shui Kiu, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dennis Lo said, but warned that the government's staggered tendering process and high construction costs pose major challenges. In an interview with Ming Pao published on Tuesday, Lo said the university town project would allow the city's eight publicly funded universities to expand their footprint and increase their impact on society. "Our campus is currently relatively small, like a boutique hotel, and I believe this Northern Metropolis University Town has given us a rare opportunity to have some land to expand our footprint," he said. He said Hong Kong universities enjoy strong international reputations and high rankings but are limited in size. Lo said scale is important for universities to produce research that can "change the world", as campus size affects the number of researchers, which in turn affects patents and publications. The university town would help break through the space constraint, he said. He noted that the university had established an InnoHub for New Quality Industries in Qianhai, near Hung Shui Kiu, in March this year, and believed there would be synergy effects. He said the university was considering collaboration with overseas institutions and industries in future at the Hung Shui Kiu university town, but could not reveal further details as it was competing with other universities. However, Lo predicted that due to limited land, the university may prefer to set up research institutes rather than full campuses in the university town. He also said the government's plan to tender the three campuses — in Hung Shui Kiu, San Tin and Ta Kwu Ling — at different times would make planning and collaboration among universities more difficult. "The three plots are being rolled out in batches. For the first ones, you dare not not bid, because each time is an opportunity," he said. On financing, Lo said CUHK would be prudent with possible future development at the Northern Metropolis. He noted that while the government has earmarked HK$10 billion for loans to support campus development at the Northern Metropolis University Town, there is a cap on borrowing and construction costs are high. He estimated that HK$10 billion would only be enough to build five buildings, and called on the government to increase funding. Edited by Tony Sabine

- CE homes in on N Metropolis vigour in call to top unis (2026-10-27 03:27)

Chief Executive John Lee has called on global university leaders to join the SAR’ s Northern Metropolis development, saying it is where the future of education, research, industry and technology lies. In an opening speech at the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit at the Convention and Exhibition Centre on Tuesday, he said Hong Kong, with a total land area

of about 1,100 square kilometres, is home to five institutions that are ranked among theworld’s top 100. The Northern Metropolis mega project lies at the core of Hong Kong’sfuture, with its main focus being the university towns that will be springing up, he said. Lee saidthe mega project's university towns of San Tin, Hung Shui Kiu and Ta Kwu Ling are positioned toattract the world’s best scholars and students and that they would each have a distinct focus. “The towns are also designed to empower industry,” he said. “We will encourage universitystaff to undertake research at companies. We will encourage industry professionals tocontribute to university teaching and research. “Our goal is to strengthen the links betweenindustry, academia and research – enabling them to complement and reinforce one another.” The government will also invite universities to establish basic research institutes and large-scaleshared research platforms at the university towns, Lee added. The two-day event in Wan Chaihas attracted more than 50 renowned university leaders from more than 20 countries andregions. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Pair rescued after working platform plunge (2026-10-26 12:29)

Two workers were left hanging mid-air outside Jardine House in Central for about two hours on Monday evening, after their gondola suddenly dropped and almost hit the ground. Police received a report shortly after 6pm that the suspended working platform had stopped operating, leaving two workers stranded on the exterior wall. Both were wearing safety harnesses. Firefighters first abseiled down to bring one worker safely to the ground at around 7.40pm. Shortly afterwards, the second worker was pulled up to the building's rooftop. One of them suffered hand injuires and was taken to Queen Mary Hospital for treatment. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 26 (2026-10-26 12:20)

Top stories for Monday, Oct 26, 2026 - China congratulates Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his election victory. - President Xi Jinping opens a key Party meeting on governance. - John Lee says Hong Kong can enhance Belt and Road connections.

- HK aviation 'key lies in cooperation with Greater Bay' (2026-10-26 08:42)

Lawmaker Kenneth Fok called on the government on Monday to enhance cooperation with the Greater Bay Area to further enhance Hong Kong’s status as an international aviation hub. The call was among recommendations proposed by the G19 bloc of Legislative Council members. Fok said the suggestions were made as total passenger throughput at Hong Kong International Airport had yet to get back to pre-pandemic levels. “Compared to our competitors around the region, for example Shenzhen and Guangzhou, we are actually behind in this number,” he said. Fok called for more collaboration between airports in the region, adding that regional collaboration had become a norm. “I think the key is to have more collaborative effort with our regional airports and especially the Greater Bay Area,” he said. “Can we join hands with them together in some kind of agreement between Hong Kong and mainland and then negotiate with our partners in Europe and elsewhere? “These are the collaborative discussions

that can only happen at the government-to-government level. This is very important. "That'swhy I say we need to have a more open mind, a more aggressive strategy in order to implementthese frameworks and strategies.” Fok added the government could be more proactive inpitching the airport to the world to attract more foreign airlines. Edited by Tony Sabine

• Athletes honoured for historic Asian Games performance (2026-10-26 08:18)

Hong Kong, China’s top-performing athletes at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games were commended by Chief Executive John Lee on Monday for their historic performances. The SAR achieved its best result to date at the Games in Japan, reaching new heights in both the gold medal count and the number of medals won overall. In total, the delegation won 54 medals, comprising 11 gold, 19 silver, and 24 bronze. Lee paid tribute to athletes during a commendation ceremony, noting that their dedication to compete through injuries and persevere when falling behind had earned everyone’s deepest respect. He also presented certificates to the top-performing athletes, including wushu star Lydia Sham, who earned the city's first gold medal at the Games. Lee stressed the government would continue to invest in sports development. “During the 2026–27 financial year, the government’s resources invested in sports development reached about HK$8.1 billion, nearly a 70 percent increase compared to a decade ago,” he said. “We allocated about HK$1 billion to the Hong Kong Sports Institute, providing comprehensive training, direct financial subsidies, and support in sports medicine and sports science. “The government will continue to support the development of sports medicine and sports science, athlete training, and their career development. In the next five years, resources allocated to sports development will cumulatively increase by 20 percent,” Lee added. Chief Secretary Eric Chan, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Rosanna Law, President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Timothy Fok, among others, also attended the ceremony. Edited by Tony Sabine

• HK gets world-first secondary tokenised funds trading (2026-10-26 07:13)

The Securities and Futures Commission has approved the world's first secondary trading of tokenised public funds on its licensed virtual asset trading platform (VATP), with around-the-clock trading of two tokenised money market funds beginning on Monday. The approval builds on a new regulatory framework it introduced in April, which sets out requirements for secondary trading of tokenised funds on licensed VATPs. The framework covers trading channel operations, fair pricing, liquidity provision and disclosure. The first batch of products involves two existing SFC-authorised tokenised money market funds, now available for secondary trading on a 24/7 basis. Looking ahead, the SFC said tokenised public funds could further leverage tokenised deposit capabilities being developed in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority under Project Ensemble. This would allow investors to sell tokenised assets around the clock and instantly transfer proceeds to other investment opportunities. Elisa Ng, the SFC's executive director of investment products, said the move "marks an important

milestone" in the city's digital asset development, adding that it adds "24/7 trading capability" toHong Kong's evolving tokenisation ecosystem. The SFC said it would monitor trading activitiesclosely and consider broadening the product scope over time, taking into account marketdevelopments and experience gained. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Fire sweeps through Shek Kwu Chau waste facility (2026-10-26 06:56)

A No. 3 alarm fire raged for about four hours at a waste-management facility on an artificial island off Shek Kwu Chau on Monday. The fire broke out at 12.43pm and was upgraded to a No. 3 alarm about 40 minutes later. Firefighters used five jets and mobilised five breathing apparatus teams to fight the blaze. One person felt unwell and received treatment at Eastern Hospital, while 930 others were evacuated. The Fire Services Department said the blaze was surrounded at 3.47pm and largely put out about an hour later. _____ Last updated: 2026-10-26 HKT 17:25 Edited by Tony Sabine

- Full MPF portability 'can help drive down fees' (2026-10-26 05:05)

Lawmakers hailed on Monday an upcoming arrangement that allows employees to transfer not only their own mandatory provident fund contributions but also their employer’s to a scheme of their choice once every calendar year. Their remarks came as phase one of the MPF Full Portability scheme – which grants employees greater autonomy by allowing them to transfer accrued mandatory contributions by their employers to a scheme of their choice – is set to begin on December 21. Speaking on a RTHK radio programme, lawmaker Chau Siu-chung said he supported the arrangement as workers would be able to choose the MPF trustee they considered to be the best for them as well as foster more competition and help drive down administrative fees. He also said that the current eMPF platform would make the transfer process simpler and easier. Chau, also a non-executive director of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, noted that many workers remained unclear about what MPF “full portability” means and that public awareness in this regard needed to be strengthened. “I think public awareness right now is indeed not ideal – about 80 percent of people are basically not very clear about what full portability means, there is definitely a need to do more,” he said. Chau also called on the public to be alert to unfair sales practices. He urged the government to take this opportunity to summarise and simplify information about different trustees so that workers could have clear, easy-to-compare information to take reference from. Speaking on RTHK’s Backchat programme, lawmaker Lam Chun-sing also welcomed the arrangement but noted that employees should avoid changing their scheme frequently as it may cause high administrative costs and may affect their returns. “MPF investment is a long-term investment for retirement [so] that we want to achieve stable growth of the MPF contributions instead of short-term returns like share investment or other investment tools,” he said. “If you frequently change your scheme or transfer your MPF contribution to different trustees, this may cause high administrative costs and may affect your return.” Lam also encouraged workers who are not investment professionals or do not have time to manage their scheme to consider using the default investment strategy, saying it automatically reduces risks and uses a

diversified investment approach to bring favourable returns. Edited by Tony Sabine

• Man bitten by dog in Yuen Long (2026-10-26 03:48)

A 26-year-old man was bitten by a dog in Yuen Long on Monday and taken to Pok Oi Hospital for treatment. The incident happened at around 8am near a warehouse on Kam Pok Road. Reports say he was chased by three dogs, one of which bit his leg. The dog has been taken away by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for examination. The incident came just over a month after a 27-year-old woman was found dead on Pok Wai South Road, with multiple animal bite wounds on her body. Edited by Tony Sabine

• HK can assist green push within the Belt and Road: CE (2026-10-26 03:20)

Chief Executive John Lee on Monday said Hong Kong could help enhance connections among Belt and Road economies and combine their strengths to advance the development of green technologies and sustainable businesses. Lee made the remarks at the Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference, which is being held in the SAR for the first time. He said Hong Kong, as a leading green and sustainable finance hub, connects green projects with global capital. “For example, a solar energy project can bring together Chinese mainland equipment suppliers, a Southeast Asian developer and Middle Eastern investors,” Lee said. “Hong Kong can help these partners raise finance, structure their investments, arrange insurance and manage cross-border risks. “Our contribution, let me add, is about more than matching capital with projects. Hong Kong’s professional services also help ensure that a project is bankable and insurable.” Lee said Hong Kong is also able to connect green technologies with the markets that need them. He said the SAR would launch a Green Technology Bridgehead Programme next year, which could help mainland and overseas green enterprises spread their ideas and take their solutions to Belt and Road markets. The city, meanwhile, could also assist firms from Belt and Road countries reach out to the wider world, he added. Lee went on to say that the SAR could provide Belt and Road partners with financing, project management and risk management services for green infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Edited by Tony Sabine

• Medical products regulator 'aims to boost innovation' (2026-10-26 01:21)

A new regulatory authority for medical products in Hong Kong aims to gain international trust and serve patients around the world, according to its controller Li Zili. The Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation, which will be established in the SAR by the end of the year, is expected to promote the “primary evaluation” of drugs and medical devices to speed up their clinical application. Speaking to reporters, Li said the centre’s mission is to protect public health and promote medical innovation. “We need to build a medical products regulatory authority with comprehensive capabilities – one that is trusted internationally,” he said. “We should leverage our unique strategic position in medical products regulation – we not only serve patients in Hong Kong, but also keep the world in mind and serve all patients around the world.” Li said the “primary evaluation” to be established in the future should complement

the existing framework and enhance the international community’ s trust in the centre througha scientific and transparent regulatory system. He added the centre would not only become asuper connector linking the mainland and the world, but also boost medical reforms andinnovations. Li went on to say that authorities would set up an interdisciplinary scientific teamthat focuses on clinical review with the aim of accelerating international cooperation.Meanwhile, Director of Health Ronald Lam said Li possesses practical experience in regulatoryaffairs and public health and is familiar with international medical products policies. Lamexpressed confidence that Li would be able to reform the system with his experience andleadership skills. Edited by Tony Sabine