



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 26, 2026 - May 03, 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.

China Security Analysis Report: April 26, 2026 - May 03, 2026

Executive Summary

During the period of April 26 to May 03, 2026, China demonstrated a robust and assertive security posture, marked by significant military activities in disputed territories and heightened cybersecurity operations. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted large-scale exercises around Taiwan and increased its presence in the South China Sea, directly responding to US-led allied drills. Diplomatically, China engaged in high-level exchanges with Russia, reinforcing their strategic partnership, while also preparing for a crucial summit with the US, signaling a complex blend of confrontation and engagement. Concurrently, China-linked cyber espionage campaigns targeted multiple Asian governments and a NATO state, underscoring persistent digital threats. These developments collectively highlight China's unwavering commitment to its territorial claims, its growing military capabilities, and its strategic efforts to reshape regional and global dynamics.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities and Exercises in the Taiwan Strait

China initiated "Joint Sword 2024B" military drills around Taiwan, focusing on sea and airspace patrols, blockading key ports, and assaulting sea and land targets. This exercise, announced by the PLA's Eastern Theater Command, serves as a "stern warning" to "Taiwan Independence" forces and is considered a legitimate operation to protect national sovereignty. Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) reported tracking seven Chinese naval vessels, three official ships, and one military aircraft, including a drone that crossed the Taiwan Strait median line in Taiwan's northern air defense identification zone, between Saturday and Sunday.

- Increased Presence in the South China Sea and Artificial Island Expansion

China deployed naval and air forces near the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea in direct response to the ongoing US-led Balikatan exercises involving the Philippines and regional allies. The PLA Navy (PLAN) also conducted two major deployments in the South China Sea and the West Pacific, likely as a countermeasure

to the Balikatan 2026 exercises. Furthermore, after a nearly ten-year pause, China has resumed its campaign to build artificial islands in the South China Sea, with construction observed on Antelope Reef. This expansion aims to strengthen Beijing's control over key sea lanes and could provide new runways, missile facilities, and surveillance infrastructure.

- US-Led Allied Military Drills in the Indo-Pacific

The United States, alongside the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, and Canada, conducted the largest-to-date Balikatan exercises from April 20 to May 8. During these drills, US Marines deployed the Nemesis anti-ship missile system on an island in the Luzon Strait, approximately 100 miles from southern Taiwan, marking the second consecutive year for Nemesis deployment in the Philippines and positioning it even closer to Taiwan. Additionally, US F-22 stealth fighters operated from Basa Air Base in the Philippines during Exercise Cope Thunder 26-1 (April 6-17), reinforcing allied air combat strategy near the South China Sea and Luzon Strait.

- Cyber Espionage Campaigns by China-Linked Actors

Cybersecurity researchers disclosed details of a new China-aligned espionage campaign, tracked as SHADOW-EARTH-053, which has been active since at least December 2024. This campaign targeted government and defense sectors across South, East, and Southeast Asia, as well as one European NATO member state, Poland. The group exploits N-day vulnerabilities in Microsoft Exchange and Internet Information Services (IIS) servers to deploy web shells and ShadowPad implants. Separately, the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity reported a cyber-espionage incident attributed to the Chinese-linked group UNC2814.

- US Investigation into PRC-Origin AI Models

The U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Select Committee on China launched a joint investigation into national security and cybersecurity risks associated with the increased use of AI models developed in China. Lawmakers are concerned that some China-based AI providers may be distilling capabilities from leading U.S. models without authorization and repackaging them into cheaper systems lacking equivalent safety controls.

- Deepening Russia-China Strategic Coordination

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged closer and stronger strategic coordination with Russia to defend their legitimate interests and safeguard the unity of Global South countries during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Beijing on April 15. Lavrov's visit underscored the intensification of Russia-China diplomatic and strategic ties, with Russian President Vladimir Putin also expected to visit China in the first half of 2026 to renew a key bilateral treaty.

- Complex US-China Diplomatic Engagements

US President Donald Trump announced plans for an April 2026 visit to Beijing to meet with President Xi Jinping, signaling a potential thaw in US-China relations, with discussions expected to focus on trade and military matters. Xi Jinping is also tentatively scheduled to visit Washington in December 2026. Despite these high-level engagements, the US 2026 National Defense Strategy formally designates China as the central focus of American military planning, highlighting underlying strategic competition.

- Taiwan's Defense Budget Stalemate

A stalemate over Taiwan's proposed NT\$1.25 trillion (US\$40 billion) special defense budget is severely undermining the country's defense capabilities, according to DPP Legislator Chen Kuan-ting. The opposition Kuomintang (KMT) reportedly intends to reduce the budget, which would eliminate funding for crucial unmanned systems.

- China's UN Security Council Presidency

China assumed the presidency of the UN Security Council for May 2026. Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong outlined priorities for the month, including a ministerial-level open debate on May 26 titled "Upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter."

- EU-China Relations and Sanctions

China expressed strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to the European Union's inclusion of Chinese companies in its latest sanctions package against Russia. EU-China relations are described as having reached an "inflection point," with the EU pursuing "de-risking" strategies to mitigate economic dependencies on China.

- China's Amended Cybersecurity Law

China's amended Cybersecurity Law (CSL) came into force on January 1, 2026. These amendments specify penalties for breaches and expand the government's power to enforce against extra-territorial activities that jeopardize China's cybersecurity, covering security related to both infrastructure within China and sensitive data collected within China, even if transferred and stored abroad.

- Counter-Terrorism Posture

While outside the immediate reporting period, it's relevant that China's 2015 counter-terrorism law allows its military to conduct overseas counter-terror operations with the agreement of the relevant country. China faces growing transnational terrorism threats, particularly in regions like Pakistan, Syria, and Afghanistan, targeting its expanding overseas interests and personnel.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's security developments during this period significantly amplify regional tensions and reshape its relationships with major global powers. The intensified military activities in the Taiwan Strait, including the "Joint Sword 2024B" drills and frequent incursions by naval vessels and aircraft, directly challenge Taiwan's sovereignty and underscore Beijing's resolve to achieve unification, by force if necessary. This aggressive posture exacerbates concerns in the Indo-Pacific, particularly among US allies like Japan and the Philippines, who view these actions as destabilizing. The US-led Balikatan exercises, featuring advanced missile deployments near the Luzon Strait, are a clear demonstration of a strengthening regional alliance aimed at deterring Chinese expansion and upholding freedom of navigation, creating a direct standoff scenario in critical maritime zones.

The resumption of artificial island expansion in the South China Sea, specifically on Antelope Reef, further solidifies China's territorial claims and enhances its military and surveillance capabilities in strategically vital sea lanes. This move is met with strong protests from claimant states like Vietnam and reinforces the perception of China's disregard for international rulings, such as the 2016 tribunal decision. The concurrent US F-22 deployments and anti-ship missile exercises in the region signal a robust counter-presence, indicating that the South China Sea remains a critical flashpoint for potential conflict and a key arena for great power competition.

China's diplomatic engagements reflect a dual strategy of strengthening its anti-Western alignment while selectively engaging with adversaries. The deepening strategic coordination with Russia, highlighted by Foreign Minister Lavrov's visit and the anticipated Putin-Xi summit, reinforces a united front against perceived Western containment efforts and contributes to a more multipolar global order. Simultaneously, the planned US-China summit, despite underlying strategic competition, suggests a pragmatic approach by both Washington and Beijing to manage economic risks and explore cooperation on international crises. However, China's strong opposition to EU sanctions against Chinese firms involved with Russia indicates persistent friction with the European Union, which is increasingly viewing China as a systemic rival and pursuing "de-risking" strategies.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military force posture during this period is characterized by an assertive and rapidly modernizing People's Liberation Army (PLA), particularly its naval and air components. The "Joint Sword 2024B" drills around Taiwan, involving various types of troops, demonstrate the PLA's growing capability to conduct complex, multi-domain operations, including blockades and precision strikes against land and sea targets. The frequent deployment of naval vessels and military aircraft, including drones crossing the Taiwan Strait median line, showcases China's "gray zone tactics" aimed

at incrementally increasing pressure on Taiwan and testing its response capabilities.

The resumption of artificial island building in the South China Sea, specifically on Antelope Reef, is a significant development in China's long-term strategy to project power and enforce its territorial claims. These fortified islands serve as forward operating bases, enhancing the PLA's reach for surveillance, missile deployment, and air/naval support across the region. The deployment of PLA Navy surface task groups in the South China Sea and West Pacific, in response to the Balikatan exercises, further highlights China's intent to challenge and counter allied military presence, demonstrating its "blue water" navy aspirations.

Defense spending trends continue to prioritize indigenous development and technological advancement. While not explicitly detailed in the current news, the US 2026 National Defense Strategy's focus on China as a central military planning concern implies a recognition of China's substantial and ongoing military modernization programs. The US investigation into PRC-origin AI models for critical infrastructure also points to China's significant advancements in AI, which are increasingly integrated into its defense industry and military capabilities, aiming for technological independence and self-reliance. The stalled defense budget in Taiwan, in contrast, underscores a potential vulnerability for Taipei in developing its asymmetric warfare capabilities, particularly in unmanned systems, which the US has been encouraging.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea are likely to remain elevated. China will probably continue its "gray zone" tactics around Taiwan, including frequent air and naval incursions, especially as Taiwan's new leadership settles in. The ongoing Balikatan exercises and the US deployment of anti-ship missiles will likely provoke further Chinese counter-demonstrations of force in the South China Sea. Diplomatic activity between the US and China will intensify with President Trump's anticipated visit to Beijing, potentially leading to limited agreements on trade or de-escalation rhetoric, but fundamental strategic competition will persist. Russia-China strategic alignment will continue to deepen, with the expected Putin visit reinforcing their united front. Cybersecurity threats from China-linked actors are expected to continue, targeting government and defense sectors globally.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint, with the risk of miscalculation or escalation due to continuous military drills and incursions. The South China Sea, particularly around disputed features like Scarborough Shoal and newly expanded artificial islands, is another high-risk area

where naval and air encounters between China and allied forces could escalate. The ongoing cyber espionage campaigns targeting critical infrastructure and government entities pose a significant, less visible, but pervasive threat. The potential for China to use economic coercion or export controls on critical resources, such as rare earth elements, remains a risk in its trade disputes with the US and EU.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and scale of PLA military exercises around Taiwan and in the South China Sea, particularly any actions that cross established unofficial boundaries or involve new weapon systems. The progress of Taiwan's defense budget approval and its acquisition of asymmetric capabilities will be crucial. Observing the outcomes of the US-China summit and any subsequent high-level dialogues will indicate the trajectory of bilateral relations. Monitoring the nature and targets of China-linked cyber attacks, as well as the EU's implementation of "de-risking" strategies and any new sanctions, will also be important. Finally, the extent of Russia-China military and economic cooperation will signal the strength of their strategic partnership.

Strategic recommendations: For regional security, it is crucial for the US and its allies to maintain a consistent and visible deterrent presence in the Indo-Pacific, coupled with robust multilateral exercises to enhance interoperability. Supporting Taiwan's self-defense capabilities, particularly in asymmetric warfare, should be prioritized. Diplomatically, a nuanced approach is needed: engaging China on areas of mutual interest (e.g., climate change, global health) while firmly pushing back on actions that undermine international law and regional stability. Strengthening cybersecurity defenses and intelligence sharing among allies is paramount to counter persistent cyber threats. Economically, diversifying supply chains and reducing critical dependencies on China, as the EU is pursuing, can mitigate risks of economic coercion.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: BBC China

- [China scraps tariffs for all but one African nation](#) (2026-05-01 00:02)

The zero-tariff regime gives China's soft power a boost, but may lead to uneven gains, say analysts.

- [Why is China banning drone sales in Beijing?](#) (2026-04-30 10:29)

The BBC's Laura Bicker looks into why China has tightened regulations on drones, with authorities citing public safety concerns.

- [China to ban drone sales in Beijing citing security concerns](#) (2026-04-30 05:45)

Drone users will also be required to register their devices and secure permits before flying them.

- [The Chinese sports brand taking on Nike and Adidas](#) (2026-04-27 07:09)

Now one of the biggest sportswear firms, Anta's rise follows a playbook adopted by many Chinese giants.

Source: China Defense Blog

- [Photos of the Day: PLAN's 155 mm Advanced Gun System Heads to Sea Trials](#) (2026-05-02 03:32)

A May Day surprise? If so, the PLAN definitely has a sense of humor. Back on February 18th, 2025, when photos first surfaced showing a new 155 mm gun mount installed on a Type 909 series test ship, it was clear that sea trials could begin at any moment. Fast forward to May 1st and sure enough, she's out at sea. The appearance of this system marks another step in the PLAN's ongoing push to modernize

- [Weighing In on the Ka-52 Rumors and the Latest Z-21 Photo](#) (2026-05-02 01:12)

Rumors have been circulating for months about a possible sale of Russian Ka-52 "Alligator" attack helicopters to China. Nothing solid has emerged, but the speculation alone has kept the conversation lively—especially now that a fresh photo of China's new Z-21 heavy attack helicopter is making the rounds. From a design standpoint, the Ka-52 has always been an interesting machine, particularly

- [Capitalism with Chinese characteristics of the day: Hawking cheap ATGM \(AFT-11E/Red Arrow 11E/GTS9\)](#) (2026-04-30 04:42)

The war in Ukraine offers many military lessons to the world, one of them being that using hard to produce, expensive weapons against, cheap, easy to deploy OpFor in a static war of attrition does not make a lot of economic sense. Norinco, being a good communist as they are, actually listen to customer demand and the ever change marketing condition now offers. They are

- [A new Type 054B frigate is now taking shape at Guangzhou's Huangpu Shipyard.](#) (2026-04-29 06:41)

Some of you will remember the classic era of China Navy watching when dedicated enthusiasts would literally camp outside the big shipyards in Dalian, Shanghai, Wuhan, and Guangzhou. Back then, blurry fence line photos were prized intel, and some of them ended up on this blog. As Chinese milblogs and satellite imagery became more accessible, the community gradually shifted from on the ground

- [Historical photo of the day: DDG 112 in San Diego.](#) (2026-04-28 02:36)

p.p1 {margin: 0.0px 0.0px 12.0px 0.0px; font: 15.0px 'Ginto Copilot Variable'; color: #26221f}span.s1 {letter-spacing: 0.1px} On March 21, 1997, the Chinese Navy's DDG 112 Ship made her first-ever visit to the continental United States. The photo showed the ship's arrival at the U.S. Navy base in San Diego, marking a historic port call on the American West Coast.

- [Good bye DDG 112 Harbin?](#) (2026-04-28 02:30)

The PLAN destroyer Harbin (DDG 112) is widely expected to be decommissioned. Since late 2025, multiple Chinese defense commentators ([link](#)) ([link](#)) and ([link](#)) have suggested that both its name and pennant number will be reassigned to the 12th Type 055 destroyer ([link](#)) now under construction at the Dalian Shipyard. Given the pace of the PLAN's modernization, retiring a 30 year old ship when

- [“Type 64” / Soviet T 72 in China](#) (2026-04-26 22:06)

p.p1 {margin: 16.0px 0.0px 6.0px 0.0px; font: 18.0px 'Ginto Copilot Variable'; color: #26221f}p.p2 {margin: 0.0px 0.0px 12.0px 0.0px; font: 15.0px 'Ginto Copilot Variable'; color: #26221f}span.s1 {letter-spacing: -0.1px}span.s2 {letter-spacing: 0.1px} During the late Cold War, the PLA made sustained efforts to obtain examples of the Soviet T 72, which it viewed as a critical threat in any potential

Source: China | The Guardian

- [‘Temu Range Rover’ : what the bestselling Jaecoo 7 says about China's electric car ascendancy](#) (2026-05-01 14:00)

Loaded with extras and produced at a cut price, the crossover SUV has overtaken rival cars from US, Japanese and Korean firms. The UK is no stranger to foreign cars. The bestseller lists in recent years have been dominated by the US' s Ford Puma, Japan' s Nissan Qashqai, Korea' s Kia Sportage and occasionally even Tesla' s Model Y. But in March the top 10 provided a shock: a Chinese car leapt into the lead. Continue reading...

- [Weather tracker: Tornadoes and giant hail in central US](#) (2026-05-01 08:05)

Strongest tornado hits Mineral Wells, Texas, where disaster was declared. Elsewhere, extreme rain inundates China. Spring is the season for severe thunderstorms across the central US, and the start of this week was a particularly active period for the region. A favourable weather pattern fuelled intense thunderstorms on Monday through Wednesday, bringing strong winds, very large hail and strong tornadoes. Eight tornadoes were reported on Monday, including an EF2 tornado that ripped through the town of Sycamore, Kansas. On Tuesday, a more widespread event tore across the mid-west, most notably as a severe hailstorm moved through Springfield, Missouri. Continue reading...

- [UK Biobank has my data, but I' m not worried. I know the benefits are too great to consider pulling out | Polly Toynbee](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

Longitudinal studies are a research jewel, shedding light on motor neurone disease, cot deaths, Alzheimer' s and more. Don' t let the security breach in China put you off joining one. One thing Britain is exceptionally good at is collecting and using health data for research, studying cohorts of people over many decades. A shudder of alarm rippled through the research world at the news this week that UK Biobank' s data had been put up for sale on China' s Alibaba site, with the science minister, Patrick Vallance, saying that more attempts to sell the data in China were expected. Some sensationalised reporting failed to make clear enough that no names, addresses, NHS numbers or other identifiers were included, nor that the Chinese government reacted fast in taking listings down and nothing was sold. But would there be a stampede of participants withdrawing from this or other research programmes? Biobank dashed to reassure its 500,000 members, and as a longtime volunteer I received a message not only explaining what had happened but listing some of the invaluable research findings and remedies that had already sprung from our data. Remarkably, a representative for Biobank told me that only about 100 people inquired about withdrawing, and after each was spoken to, only 50 actually backed out – pretty impressive. Prof Sir Rory Collins, Biobank' s chief executive, says he will personally speak to any anxious participant. Polly Toynbee is a Guardian columnist. Continue reading...

- [China warns US about Taiwan ahead of Trump' s visit to Beijing](#) (2026-05-01 01:57)

Beijing urges Washington to 'make the right choices' on Taiwan to maintain 'stability' between the two powers. China' s foreign minister on Thursday urged the US to maintain "stability" between the two powers and warned that Taiwan posed the biggest risk, weeks ahead of President Donald Trump' s scheduled visit to Beijing. In a call with the US secretary of

state, Marco Rubio, foreign minister Wang Yi said that Beijing and Washington should “safeguard the hard-won stability” in China-US relations, China’s foreign ministry said. Continue reading...

- [Jailed Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai wins free speech award in Germany](#) (2026-04-30 08:02)

Media tycoon honoured in absentia as critics decry his 20-year sentence under national security lawThe jailed media entrepreneur Jimmy Lai has been awarded Deutsche Welle’s freedom of speech award for his contribution to Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement.The German public broadcaster said on Thursday that Lai would be presented in absentia with the 12th iteration of the award on 23 June at the DW Global Media Forum in Bonn. Continue reading...

- [Taiwan accuses China of vegetable laundering via Vietnam](#) (2026-04-30 05:25)

Taiwanese officials have accused firms in China of attempting to evade import restrictions by rerouting vegetables through neighbouring VietnamTaipei has accused China of smuggling vegetables into Taiwan via Vietnam in a bid to evade import restrictions, with officials vowing to crack down on a practice they say amounts to “origin washing”.Taiwan, which bans the importation of more than 1,000 Chinese agricultural and fishery products, said firms in China were evading restrictions by rerouting vegetables like Napa cabbage and shiitake mushrooms through neighbouring Vietnam. Continue reading...

- [Student’s alleged jailing in China over Australian pro-democracy protests sparks calls for inquiry](#) (2026-04-29 23:58)

Human rights commissioner says alleged jailing highlights the ‘growing risks of transnational repression’ in AustraliaGet our breaking news email, free app or daily news podcastAustralia’s human rights commissioner has said the Chinese student who was allegedly jailed for six years by Chinese authorities for joining protests in Sydney underscores the “very real and growing risks of transnational repression affecting people in Australia – including international students”.Commissioner Lorraine Finlay told Guardian Australia that while she couldn’t comment on the circumstances of individual cases, “no one should fear punishment abroad for exercising their lawful rights to free expression and peaceful protest here”. Continue reading...

- [Reliance on Chinese green tech poses ‘serious’ risk for Europe, experts say](#) (2026-04-29 14:49)

Continent ‘sleepwalking’ into series of economic and national security problems due to over-dependenceEurope is “sleepwalking” into a series of economic and national security problems because of an over-reliance on Chinese green technology, according to experts.A report co-authored by Michael Collins, a former deputy head of national security strategy at the UK Cabinet Office, described the risks of depending on China for green tech as “serious”. Continue reading...

- [More private health records of UK Biobank volunteers appear on Chinese website](#) (2026-04-29 12:16)

Patrick Vallance says government working with Chinese officials to remove postings from Alibaba after Biobank data breach last week There have been further listings of confidential health records of UK volunteers on the Chinese website Alibaba since the breach reported last week, and the government is braced for further leaks, the science minister has said. Addressing a House of Lords debate on the attempted sale of data belonging to 500,000 UK Biobank volunteers, Patrick Vallance said the government had worked with Chinese officials to remove additional postings on the online marketplace. Continue reading...

- [Siri, where does Apple go next? – podcast](#) (2026-04-29 02:00)

Guardian US tech editor Blake Montgomery talks about the future of Apple after the resignation of its longtime CEO Tim Cook Where does Apple – perhaps the most iconic tech company on Earth – go next? Last week its CEO, Tim Cook, stood down after 15 years. As US Guardian tech editor Blake Montgomery explains, when Cook took over after the death of the charismatic Steve Jobs, there were doubts he could build on his predecessor’s success. In fact, he has overseen extraordinary growth. After a decade of building global supply chains – and charming presidents from Xi Jinping to Donald Trump – he now presides over a company worth \$4tn. Continue reading...

- [EU faces ‘China shock’ as EV imports drive Beijing’s record surplus with bloc](#) (2026-04-27 16:08)

China sold goods worth about \$148bn to EU in first quarter of year, but imported just \$65bn The EU is experiencing a prolonged “China shock” as a flood of Chinese EVs into Europe helped push Beijing to a record surplus with the bloc. New data showed China’s trade surplus – where its exports to the EU exceeded imports from the bloc – was \$83bn (£61bn) in the first three months of 2026. Continue reading...

- [China blocks \\$2bn Meta takeover of AI agent developer Manus](#) (2026-04-27 10:44)

Beijing says domestic tech companies must seek explicit government approval for accepting US investment Business live – latest updates China has blocked Meta’s \$2bn (£1.5bn) acquisition of an AI startup as it cracks down on US investments in domestic tech companies. Mark Zuckerberg’s Meta, the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, announced the acquisition of Manus, a developer of autonomous AI agents, in December. Continue reading...

- [Weather tracker: Torrential rain in southern China leads to flooding fears](#) (2026-04-27 09:29)

Heatwaves reach 45C across India as unseasonably cold weather affects parts of central Canada Widespread heavy rain is sweeping over southern China. By Wednesday, rainfall totals are expected to exceed 100mm across many parts of Guangxi, Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang,

Jiangxi and Hunan provinces, and in some areas as much as 150-200mm. As a result, the Office of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters and the Ministry of Emergency Management have been holding meetings with meteorological and hydrological departments to emphasise the importance of reinforced patrols and emergency responses to mitigate against the probable flooding that the intense rainfall is expected to bring. In particular, reservoirs with known safety concerns must remain empty during the period, as well as through the coming rainy season. Continue reading...

- [Inside China' s robotics revolution – podcast](#) (2026-04-27 04:00)

How close are we to the sci-fi vision of autonomous humanoid robots? I visited 11 companies in five Chinese cities to find out. By Chang Che. Read by Vincent Lai. Continue reading...

- [The great energy pivot: US oil and Chinese solar are the winners in Trump' s war on Iran](#) (2026-04-26 11:00)

Exposure of world' s reliance on Middle East supplies accelerates global shift towards new energy superpowers. In the open seas, an armada of empty tankers has quietly turned west. A record number of super-sized vessels are now heading to the US, where oil drillers and refineries are preparing to profit from Donald Trump' s war in the Middle East. Almost 30 of these vessels, each able to hold 2m barrels of oil, are contracted to load US crude, destined for a global market facing the biggest supply crisis in history. Continue reading...

- [The tortoise and the hare: will China beat the US in the race back to the moon?](#) (2026-04-26 06:00)

The rival superpowers are ramping up preparations for a crewed lunar landing nearly six decades after the first moon walk. The world watched earlier this month as Nasa sent four astronauts around the moon – but to actually land on the surface the US is once again in a space race, this time with China. And China may well win. Both countries plan to build inhabited lunar bases – the first settlement on another celestial body – as well as searching for rare resources and using the deep space environment to test technology for future crewed missions to Mars. Continue reading...

Source: China - Foreign Policy

- [The Deeper Pattern Behind China' s Military Purges](#) (2026-05-01 13:49)

Xi' s new commanders are the men his last generals blocked.

- [Trump' s Plan B for Tariffs Rests on Shaky Foundations](#) (2026-05-01 10:00)

The Section 301 case outlined by U.S. trade officials is neither coherent nor defensible.

- [The Taiwan Evacuation Trap](#) (2026-04-29 09:00)

Washington has no good options for evacuating Americans in a crisis.

- [China Pulls the Plug on Meta' s AI Acquisition](#) (2026-04-28 21:24)

The reversal underscores Beijing' s shifting national security concerns.

- [What Five Decades of Summits Reveal About U.S.-China Relations](#) (2026-04-27 15:33)

The real test for the Trump-Xi meeting will come afterwards.

Source: Financial Times China

- [Is China decoupling on food?](#) (2026-05-02 01:00)

If this is pursued with the same energy as industrial policy, it will upend the agricultural economy

- [Submit your questions to Alan Beattie: What will Trump' s war on Iran mean for global trade?](#) (2026-05-01 16:57)

Take part in a live Ask an Expert Q&A with our trade columnist on Thursday May 7 at 1pm (BST)

- [Elevator companies hope subsidies in China will lift their prospects](#) (2026-05-01 04:00)

Incentives to replace ageing equipment set to help compensate for still-sluggish property sector

- [Chinese spy agency warns nation' s young people against dropping out](#) (2026-05-01 00:30)

'Foreign forces' blamed for rising number of disaffected youths who are quitting their careers to 'lie flat'

- [Huawei' s AI chip sales surge as Nvidia stalls in China](#) (2026-05-01 00:15)

Chinese tech companies place large orders for the Shenzhen-based group' s latest range of AI processors

- [How the Trump-Xi threats of trade war softened into a quieter rivalry](#) (2026-04-30 12:34)

The forthcoming US-China leaders' summit will be much less fraught than the last one

- [More than 50 countries agree to work on trade measures to cut out fossil fuels](#) (2026-04-30 11:23)

Deals between buyers and suppliers of green energy or technologies among proposed climate solutions

- [UK' s Wycombe Abbey school forced to close China campus](#) (2026-04-30 04:00)

Shutdown marks setback for international education groups looking to expand in China

- [FirstFT: Goldman Sachs prevents Hong Kong bankers from using Anthropic's Claude](#) (2026-04-29 21:36)

Also in today's newsletter: oil tops \$120 and Asian chipmakers surge

- [Matthew Wong's rhapsodies in blue claim their place in art history](#) (2026-04-29 11:00)

Dreamscape paintings by an artist whose life was cut tragically short will be on dazzling display at Venice's Palazzo Tiepolo Passi

- [Chinese wind turbine maker accuses UK of 'politicisation' over product ban](#) (2026-04-29 08:45)

Ming Yang warns setback will not stop company's expansion plans in Europe

- [China's Mao-era regulator in a stand-off with Meta over AI](#) (2026-04-29 05:00)

National Development Reform Commission is becoming Beijing's chief enforcer

- [Chinese green technology poses national security problem for Europe, report warns](#) (2026-04-29 04:00)

European countries want to accelerate the shift to solar, wind and other energy sources whose supply chains are dominated by China

- [Goldman stops bankers using Anthropic's Claude in Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-28 23:01)

Employees were unable to access company's AI models as of a few weeks ago

- [Beijing's blunt message to its tech sector](#) (2026-04-28 17:21)

China's ban on Meta-Manus deal is a warning to keep AI innovations at home

- [China poised to restart exporting jet fuel, diesel and gasoline](#) (2026-04-28 14:47)

Beijing signals relaxation of export ban imposed at start of Iran conflict

- [BYD profits drop by more than half as Chinese sales slow](#) (2026-04-28 10:59)

Phasing out of electric vehicle subsidies has driven slump in domestic sales growth following years-long boom

- [Export restrictions on critical materials up fivefold since 2009, says OECD](#) (2026-04-28 09:00)

Analysis shows rise in trade curbs affecting defence, tech and green energy supply chains

- [World's biggest battery maker to raise \\$5bn in 'opportunistic' share placement](#) (2026-04-28 04:24)

China's CATL rides surge in foreign investor interest in renewable energy stocks since outbreak of war in Iran

- [Why investors are chasing US biotechs with Chinese characteristics](#) (2026-04-28 04:00)

Drugs developed in Asian nation are increasingly being used to seed US start-ups

- [After conquering nickel, Indonesia sets its sights on aluminium](#) (2026-04-28 04:00)

Analysts fear Chinese-funded build-up of smelters will lead to oversupply

- [Adrift in the South — the stark memoir of a Chinese factory labourer](#) (2026-04-28 04:00)

Xiao Hai tells a story of shattered dreams and the grim reality of conditions inside China's manufacturing sector

- [FirstFT: China orders Meta to unwind \\$2bn acquisition of AI group Manus](#) (2026-04-27 21:47)

Also in today's newsletter: Italy extradites alleged Chinese spy to US, and German chancellor says Washington being 'humiliated' by Iran

- [Meta's Chinese stumble suggests a declining tolerance for shades of grey](#) (2026-04-27 16:29)

Tech-related capital flows have benefited from decades of ambiguity, but AI changes the calculus

- [Why flying less won't do much to ease the oil crisis](#) (2026-04-27 12:23)

Crude demand weakens when not only jet fuel but other product prices rise too

- [China's minerals come with coercion but they do come cheap](#) (2026-04-27 11:31)

The US has no geoeconomic answer to Beijing controlling its trading partners via manipulating supply chains

- [China blocks Meta's \\$2bn purchase of AI group Manus](#) (2026-04-27 11:21)

Regulators had reviewed whether deal violated Beijing's investment rules

- [Italy extradites alleged Chinese hacker to US](#) (2026-04-27 09:39)

Suspect in Covid industrial espionage case handed over amid strains between Giorgia Meloni and Donald Trump

- [China warns EU over proposed 'Made in Europe' law](#) (2026-04-27 06:27)

Beijing threatens unspecified retaliation over fears that bill to strengthen bloc's industry will hurt its companies

- [Inside China's plans to fight in space](#) (2026-04-27 04:00)

From seizing satellites to striking Earth from orbit — Beijing is developing dual-use capabilities in an intensifying arms race with the US

- [An insider food tour of Hong Kong with chef Vicky Cheng](#) (2026-04-27 04:00)

The man behind the harbour city's Wing and Vea restaurants shows us where to find its best street-side eats, from roast goose and noodles to classic desserts

- [China's smartphone king takes on Elon Musk in Europe with premium EVs](#) (2026-04-26 04:00)

Xiaomi wants to expand on the continent as demand for its cars outstrips production

Source: New York Times China

- [Trump Shouldn't Expect Much From His China Trip](#) (2026-05-03 05:00)

China no longer looks to an erratic America as a model to emulate, but as a distraction to be managed.

- [Trump Administration Pushes Forward With Tariffs Based on Forced Labor Laws](#) (2026-05-01 17:25)

Nonprofit groups have applauded an investigation on trade in goods made with forced labor but say that the Trump administration should go further to enforce its own laws

- [The Tragic Decline of the American Navy](#) (2026-05-01 11:10)

A 19th-century military strategist should be required reading at the Pentagon.

- [Why Countries Are Stocking Up on Gold](#) (2026-05-01 04:00)

As risk has escalated, central banks have bought more gold to stash in reserve. A widening Middle East war could add to the urgency.

- [How Trump's Iran Blockade Is Complicating a High-Stakes Trip to China](#) (2026-04-30 16:23)

If President Trump flies to China as planned in May, the primary topic will clearly be the rippling economic effects of a war that Beijing has made clear it viewed as unnecessary.

- [Meta Deal Reversal Deepens Split Between China and Silicon Valley](#) (2026-04-29 21:08)

Beijing's insistence that Meta unwind its deal with a Chinese A.I. start-up escalates the geopolitical fight over advanced tech.

- [Paraguay Says It's Not Abandoning Taiwan. China Has Other Plans.](#) (2026-04-29 09:00)

Beijing is trying to unravel an unlikely long-distance relationship that has endured for decades. Could Paraguay be tempted to stray?

- [Treasury Issues More Sanctions on Iranian Oil Exports](#) (2026-04-28 20:12)

The measures aim to crack down on Iran's shadow banking system and Chinese purchases of Iranian oil.

- [Supreme Court Appears Skeptical of Falun Gong Lawsuit Against Cisco](#) (2026-04-28 19:05)

The court's decision could have broader implications for lawsuits seeking to hold companies liable for international human rights abuses.

- [China Will Require Meta to Unwind Acquisition of AI Start-Up Manus](#) (2026-04-27 11:27)

The impact of the ruling was not immediately clear, but it could send a chilling signal to Chinese tech founders seeking to team up with foreign companies.

- [Homeowners Fight for Control of Their Community in China](#) (2026-04-27 10:42)

They signed petitions, organized rallies and held strategy sessions over karaoke, debating how far to push the authorities in their dispute with a developer.

- [China's Economy Starts to Show Cracks From Iran War](#) (2026-04-27 10:26)

China's strategic reserves of oil and natural gas have insulated it somewhat, but its manufacturing-based economy is beginning to falter.

- [The Rising Chinese Automaker Not Named BYD](#) (2026-04-27 04:01)

Geely is challenging the giant BYD by adapting quickly to swings in demand and energy prices, seizing on interest in electric vehicles prompted by the war in Iran.

Source: South China Morning Post

- [Why Singapore wealth-tech firms are choosing Hong Kong as their first overseas market](#) (2026-05-03 06:00)

Singapore wealth-tech firms are increasingly using Hong Kong as their first major overseas expansion market, betting that the city's large pool of idle savings, deep wealth base and role as a regional financial hub will support the scaling of their retail investment platforms. The latest entrant, Chocolate Finance, launched in Hong Kong last month with a product targeting retail investors' idle cash. It offers 3.8 per cent annualised returns on the first HK\$100,000 (US\$12,763) with no minimum...

- [Bangkok's beloved street food culture at risk as vendor crackdown widens](#) (2026-05-03 05:57)

Across Bangkok, aromas of garlic, chilli and grilled meat drift from roadside stalls and carts, but tighter controls on vendors threaten livelihoods and the street food culture that defines the Thai capital. Convenient, full of flavour and popular among locals and tourists alike, Bangkok's street food is one of the city's signatures, where sizzling woks and smoky charcoal grills turn boulevards and pavements into open-air kitchens from morning until late at night. But many street sellers in the...

- [In Philippines, youth suicide crisis exposes struggle for mental health support](#) (2026-05-03 05:30)

Rising youth suicides in Manila, fuelled by emotional distress and digital triggers, have spurred calls to expand support for vulnerable Filipinos, as the deeply religious country begins to confront mental health more openly. In 2018, Macy Castaneda Lee, a 16-year-old Manila high school student, thought about ending it all after grappling with past trauma, including childhood molestation. Now a journalist and founder of the mental health advocacy group Talang Dalisay, Lee has turned that ordeal...

- [Trump's US troop removal from Germany rebuked by Republicans, Nato](#) (2026-05-03 05:13)

A new US drawdown of roughly 5,000 troops from Germany over the next year prompted strong questions from both Nato allies and Republicans in Congress. A Nato spokesperson said the defence alliance is looking for details on the US effort, which was announced on Friday, adding that Washington's move underscores the need for Europe to continue to invest more in its own defence. The alliance remains confident of its ability to provide for deterrence and defence as a shift towards a stronger Europe...

- [How Hong Kong's 91-year-old Haw Par Mansion will transform into new cultural hub](#) (2026-05-03 04:15)

Perched above the streets of Tai Hang, the 91-year-old Haw Par Mansion has stood as a watchman to Hong Kong's evolving history. The mansion and its front garden are the only remaining sections of what was once a sprawling estate and theme park built in the 1930s by the Aw family of Tiger Balm ointment fame. They are striking examples of the period's architectural hybridity, often called the Chinese Renaissance style. From 2019 to 2022, the restored mansion was used by a music school that the Aw...

- [Property management sector cites 25% guard shortage amid imported labour backlash](#) (2026-05-03 04:12)

Industry leaders from Hong Kong's property management sector have said a security staff shortfall of up to 25 per cent persists, as they defended a major housing estate's recruitment of one-third of its guards from across the border. The owners' corporation of Richland Gardens in Kowloon Bay has come under fire after announcing on social media last week that 31 guards from mainland China would be hired through a government labour scheme. The

scheme allows firms to import low-skilled workers if...

- [Why does China portray India as an elephant? Decoding the politics of animal analogy](#)
(2026-05-03 04:00)

In December 2010, on the final day of his three-day India visit, Chinese premier Wen Jiabao offered a metaphorical vision for bilateral ties, suggesting that “the dragon and the elephant should tango”. The analogy – dragon for China, elephant for India – had already circulated in Western academic and media circles as a comparative frame. With Wen’s remark, it formally entered China’s diplomatic lexicon. Over the past 15 years, through cycles of border tensions and uneasy resets, China’s s...

- [From phones to robots: China’s supply chain eyes next growth curve in humanoid](#)
(2026-05-03 04:00)

China’s smartphone and electronics supply chain is adapting its expertise to support the country’s fledgling but fast-growing humanoid robotics industry, as component suppliers seek new growth beyond a slowing mobile market. The sector received a glimpse of that crossover after Honor’s humanoid robot D1, a dark-horse entrant from the smartphone maker, won Beijing’s recent robot half-marathon, beating established Chinese robotics names such as Unitree. Honor entered the humanoid robotics sector...

- [How Thailand as transit hub feeds India’s exotic pet craze: ‘it’s organised crime’](#)
(2026-05-03 04:00)

In India, cuddly and colourful animals are paraded across Instagram, Facebook and YouTube channels, where free advice is shared on how to raise a lemur – or what to feed an iguana – in congested megacities far from forest habitats. Cuteness has become a commodity in Asia’s social media world, with Thailand’s main airport emerging as a reluctant hub for wild animal smuggling. On Wednesday, a 19-year-old passenger bound for Taipei tried to evade security at Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi airport with...

- [How China’s industrial tourism boom is creating a new generation of tech-savvy children](#)
(2026-05-03 03:00)

The eight-year-old son of Guangzhou businessman Terry Fang recently arrived at a blunt conclusion: Chinese tech is “cool”. The boy’s impression was formed not in the classroom, or even online, but through repeated exposure to real-world industrial settings. Earlier this year, Fang took his children to a local low-altitude aviation company, where they watched electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft navigate and avoid obstacles in real time. For China’s urban middle class, hi-tech...

- [Middle East states eye transport resilience with new logistics corridor to bypass Hormuz](#)
(2026-05-03 02:30)

Middle Eastern governments are dusting off decades-old proposals for overland oil and gas pipelines, and urgently drawing up plans for new rail-sea transport corridors in a belated response to the wartime disruption of major maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea. With the threats to these key shipping lanes and economic infrastructure set to linger after the multifront conflict between the US-Israel alliance and the Iran-led Axis of Resistance draws to a close, other...

- [Singapore' s safe-haven status draws more Chinese capital into property sector](#)
(2026-05-03 02:00)

China has become one of the largest sources of investment in land parcels and other properties in Singapore, as the safe-haven status of Southeast Asia' s top financial hub continues to attract global capital, according to analysts. China-linked developers and business entities have become more active in the market, said Alan Cheong, executive director for research and consultancy at Savills Singapore. “Chinese developers who have had experience in Singapore are now familiar with the rules,...

- [It' s not ecotourism if it risks damaging Hong Kong' s natural assets](#) (2026-05-03 01:30)

For decades, Hong Kong' s tourism success rested on a clear formula: shopping, dining and urban experiences. That model is losing momentum. Overnight visitor spending has fallen from around HK\$193 billion (US\$24.6 billion) in 2015 to HK\$128 billion last year. Shopping has declined sharply as spending shifts to sightseeing and experiences. Travellers are no longer coming only to consume – they seek a connection to nature, culture and place. This transition presents a clear opportunity. Hong Kong' s...

- [How unlicensed mainland Chinese tour groups cash in on Hong Kong campsites](#)
(2026-05-03 01:00)

Members of unlicensed hiking tours were among the hundreds of visitors who packed into Hong Kong' s Ham Tin Wan campsite on the second day of mainland China' s Labour Day “golden week” break. The sink at the scenic Sai Kung hotspot' s only public bathroom was left clogged by food scraps after some visitors opted for hotpot, among other options. On Saturday evening, a South China Morning Post reporter estimated there were about 500 tents at the campsite. According to the Agriculture, Fisheries and...

- [Why Japan-China ties can benefit from promoting people-to-people exchanges](#)
(2026-05-03 01:00)

Japan and China are Asian powerhouses that should collaborate responsibly for the peace and prosperity of the region. However, bilateral relations have experienced ups and downs since the start of the century and are now at their lowest point after normalisation in 1972. A major cause of this is the widening perception and information gap between the two nations that needs to be addressed through direct people-to-people contact. Some, perhaps many, misunderstand that Japan and China are always...

- [Chinese man makes history as first educator from mainland university to lead top US institute](#) (2026-05-03 01:00)

More than 40 years ago, he became the first person from his rural family to study at a university in China. Four decades on he was appointed chancellor of UC Riverside, a prestigious school in the United States. The story of S. Jack Hu, a Chinese-American who is the first individual with a bachelor's education from mainland China to head a top US institution, has trended on social media, inspiring millions of internet users. The 62-year-old Hu, whose Chinese name is Hu Shixin, hails from a...

- [Indonesia's aim to lure more K-pop concerts spurs chorus of doubts](#) (2026-05-03 00:00)

When Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto recently visited Seoul for a state visit, one of the most memorable moments was a photo that he took with a 19-year-old Indonesian K-pop idol. Nyoman Ayu Carmenita, better known as Carmen of the girl group Hearts2Hearts, symbolises Indonesia's ascendancy in the K-pop universe: no longer just a vast market for the genre's stars, with the country increasingly playing a part in the industry's global growth. Foreign Minister Sugiono said on April 22 that...

- [Trump says he's reviewing new Iran proposal to end war](#) (2026-05-02 23:02)

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he was reviewing a new Iranian proposal to end the war. "I'll let you know about it later," he said before boarding Air Force One, adding that "they're going to give me the exact wording now". Two semi-official Iranian news outlets, Tasnim and Fars, believed to be close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, said Iran has sent a 14-point proposal via Pakistan in response to a nine-point US proposal. Pakistan has hosted previous negotiations...

- [Faith, hope and ancestry: William Lai's clan village in Beijing's push for cross-strait ties](#) (2026-05-02 22:00)

As the closest mainland Chinese province to Taiwan, Fujian is a key site for Beijing's messaging towards the island. In the second of a two-part series, Xinlu Liang looks at how the ancestral home village of William Lai Ching-te has become a focus for efforts to promote closer ties based on kinship and religion. The village of Xintian in Fujian province is usually a quiet rural backwater but that changed in November when popular Taiwanese YouTuber and bodybuilder Holger Chen Chih-han descended...

- [Beyond subsidies: what's really driving China's industrial climb](#) (2026-05-02 21:30)

Driven by intensifying competition in advanced manufacturing, the world is waking up to "China shock 2.0". The first "shock", associated with China's accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, focused on low-tech manufacturing. Of course, this latest "shock" isn't framed as such by Chinese policymakers. They present it as an upgrade in export strength, often described as a shift from the "old three" of textiles, furniture and home

appliances to the “new three” of electric vehicles,...

- [US carrier Spirit Airlines shuts down, industry’ s first Iran war casualty](#) (2026-05-02 16:42)

Bankrupt discount carrier Spirit Airlines ceased operations on Saturday, the industry’ s first casualty linked to the Iran war, after failing to secure creditor support for a US government bailout plan. The collapse of the carrier following a doubling in jet fuel prices during the two-month-old Iran war will cost thousands of jobs. It is a blow to US President Donald Trump, who had proposed US\$500 million to save Spirit despite opposition from some of his closest advisers and many Republicans in...

- [Humpback whale ‘Timmy’ released in North Sea after weeks stranded off Germany](#) (2026-05-02 16:23)

A rescue team on Saturday released from a barge in the North Sea a humpback whale that had been stranded in shallow waters near Germany since March, witnesses said. Nicknamed “Timmy” by German media, the whale was spotted swimming near Germany’ s Baltic Sea coast on March 3, far from its natural habitat in the Atlantic Ocean. The mammal’ s health deteriorated as it became repeatedly stranded in shallow waters near the coastal city of Wismar, and unsuccessful efforts to coax it towards deeper seas...

- [Building scaffolding gives burglars easy access, police say after 2 arrested](#) (2026-05-02 16:16)

Hong Kong police have arrested two people on suspicion of burglary after one of them allegedly climbed maintenance work scaffolding at a residential building and prised open window grilles at two homes before stealing HK\$6,000 (US\$765) in cash. The force also warned on Saturday that it was becoming a trend for burglars to enter flats at buildings undergoing renovation to their exteriors through scaffolding, urging security guards to heighten their vigilance. Cheung Man-tik, a senior inspector...

- [Can the US Democrats beat Trump by becoming more like him? A Chinese academic weighs in](#) (2026-05-02 14:00)

The US Democrats have pursued “selective Trumpification” since losing power in 2024, but their strategy of borrowing from the president’ s agenda and mimicking his abrasive style risks undermining their branding as guardians of American institutions, according to a Chinese academic. Two years ago, the Democrats lost the presidency to Donald Trump, along with control of the Senate. That shut them out of power in Washington and left them struggling to regain momentum and political...

- [She answered an advert for a part-time helper. Then she lost HK\\$2.25 million](#) (2026-05-02 13:37)

A 25-year-old Hong Kong woman was cheated out of more than HK\$2.25 million (US\$287,190) in one month after falling prey to a job scam, prompting calls for tighter rules requiring online

employment platforms to verify employers. The victim said on Saturday at a press briefing held by the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions that she came across a posting for a “part-time helper” job offering HK\$90 an hour in January. She had quit her job as a research assistant at a local university late last...

- [Taiwan’s William Lai lands in eSwatini on trip Beijing calls a political ‘stunt’](#)

(2026-05-02 13:11)

Beijing has labelled Taiwanese leader William Lai Ching-te’s surprise visit to eSwatini, the island’s sole African ally, a political “stunt”. In a Facebook post on Saturday evening, Lai said he arrived earlier in the day. The eSwatini government also confirmed his arrival on its own Facebook page. “Hello to my fellow citizens. I arrived earlier today in our diplomatic ally eSwatini,” Lai wrote, adding that his foreign affairs and security teams had spent days securing a revised route that...

- [Iran will not accept ‘imposed’ peace, Trump not satisfied with negotiations](#) (2026-05-02 13:00)

A senior Iranian military officer said on Saturday that renewed fighting with the US was “likely”, hours after President Donald Trump said he was not satisfied with an Iranian negotiating proposal. Iran delivered the new draft to mediator Pakistan on Thursday evening, state media reported, without detailing its contents. The war, launched by the United States and Israel in late February, has been on hold since April 8, with one failed round of peace talks having taken place in Pakistan since...

- [4 winning tickets take home over HK\\$55.7 million each in record Mark Six jackpot](#)

(2026-05-02 12:54)

Four winning tickets took home over HK\$55.7 million (US\$7.1 million) each for first prize in Hong Kong’s largest Mark Six jackpot. The Hong Kong Jockey Club, the city’s sole gambling and lottery operator, also said on Saturday that 36.5 units won HK\$347,110 for the second-tier prize, while 1,153.7 units each scooped the third-tier prize of HK\$29,280. The winning numbers on Saturday were 2, 3, 8, 28, 30, 48, with 9 as the extra number. The total turnover reached about HK\$414 million, a more than...

- [The ageing dilemma: why robots can’t save us but China-US cooperation might](#)

(2026-05-02 12:00)

A top US medical anthropologist believes the United States and China must transcend geopolitical tensions and spur a global revolution in “social technology” to survive the looming ageing crisis. Arthur Kleinman, a physician-anthropologist with joint appointments at Harvard University and Harvard Medical School, proposed that the US learn from China’s recent efforts to build a long-term care insurance system, while in return China can take lessons from the US nursing home model. “We have never...

- [Russia's inching advance in Ukraine approaches eastern fortress belt](#) (2026-05-02 11:50)

Russian troops are inching towards the city of Kostiantynivka in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, trying to establish a foothold close to a heavily defended area, Ukraine's top army official said on Saturday. Kostiantynivka, along with other cities, forms a so-called fortress belt in the country's east – an area well-fortified by the Ukrainian military. “We are repelling the Russian occupiers’ persistent attempts to gain a foothold in the outskirts of Kostiantynivka using infiltration...

- [Hong Kong set for thunderstorms on Sunday as cold front approaches city](#) (2026-05-02 11:09)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong is expected to experience thunderstorms on Sunday, as a cold front sweeps across the coast of Guangdong and brings temperatures down to as low as about 21 degrees Celsius (69.8 Fahrenheit) a day later. The Observatory said on Saturday that the weather would turn bad late on Sunday, with a trough of low pressure over central China developing into a...

- [China Eastern says sorry for boarding bridge collision at Shanghai airport](#) (2026-05-02 10:52)

China Eastern Airlines apologised to passengers on Saturday after one of its aircraft struck a boarding bridge on arrival at Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport. The Shanghai-based airline said “a mechanical malfunction occurred” as the flight from Chengdu was taxiing slowly towards its gate and the aircraft hit the bridge. The collision was minor and all passengers on board the aircraft were safe, it said. “The flight crew immediately handled it according to established procedures,” China...

- [300 verbal warnings issued to Sharp Island visitors on Labour Day](#) (2026-05-02 10:40)

Hong Kong authorities issued 300 verbal warnings to people visiting Sharp Island on the first day of mainland China's Labour Day “golden week” holiday, when thousands flocked to see attractions in the city's Unesco Global Geopark. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said on Saturday that the number of visitors to Sharp Island a day earlier had “exceeded expectations” , with about 3,000 visitors making the trip, prompting additional frontline staff to be deployed. Hong Kong's...

- [New Mexico trial citing ‘public nuisance’ laws against Meta, social platforms](#) (2026-05-02 10:31)

A trial beginning in New Mexico on Monday could prompt a judge to order sweeping changes to how Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp operate – a move Meta Platforms has warned could force it to withdraw from the state. The case, which will be tried before a judge in Santa Fe, stems from a lawsuit filed by New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez, a Democrat, accusing the social media giant of designing its products to addict young users and failing to

protect children from sexual exploitation on...

- [Rescuers search for man who went missing while hiking after row with girlfriend](#) (2026-05-02 10:30)

Hong Kong authorities are searching for a 28-year-old man who went hiking and lost contact with his family after a dispute with his girlfriend, with a helicopter deployed to aid in the operation. Police said on Saturday that they received a report at 11.30am from a man who said his younger brother had lost contact with his family after arguing with his girlfriend the evening before. The caller added his brother last posted on social media that he was hiking along the fourth section of the...

- [China trip will go ahead as planned – and it will be amazing, Trump insists](#) (2026-05-02 10:02)

US President Donald Trump said he is still planning to travel to China as scheduled this month despite the stalemate in the negotiations with Iran. When asked about the trip to Beijing, Trump told reporters on Friday: “It is going to be amazing. The visit with China and Chairman Xi [Jinping] – that’s going to be great. “We have the trip with China coming up. And I think it will be an amazing event.” Trump had initially planned to visit Beijing in late March, but put the trip back to May 14 and...

- [New Fanling Bypass section to prevent road congestion ahead of public housing push](#) (2026-05-02 09:49)

Hong Kong authorities expect the eastern section of the HK\$7 billion (US\$893 million) Fanling Bypass, which opens to traffic on Sunday, will prevent congestion ahead of residents moving into a nearby new development area later this year. At the opening ceremony on Saturday, Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn Hon-ho said the 4km (2.49 miles) dual two-lane carriageway was completed just in time to support the Fanling North New Development Area, which is set to welcome its first public...

- [Upscale Shouson Hill house burgled, HK\\$1.1 million in watches, foreign currency stolen](#) (2026-05-02 09:49)

A home in the upscale Shouson Hill area in Hong Kong’s Southern district has been burgled, with luxury watches and foreign currency worth more than HK\$1.1 million (US\$140,400) stolen. Police are looking into whether the burglars scaled the wall of a vacant neighbouring detached house at Orchid Hill to enter 26 Shouson Hill Road in Deep Water Bay, the South China Morning Post learned. The force responded to a call from a domestic helper at 10.11am on Saturday, after she discovered signs of forced...

- [Trump-EU rift spurs Germany to boost military, add 75,000 soldiers](#) (2026-05-02 09:19)

A planned drawdown of US troops from Germany should spur Europeans to strengthen its own defences further, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on Saturday, following the latest

salvo from Washington against transatlantic ties. The Pentagon announced on Friday that the United States would withdraw 5,000 soldiers from Germany, its largest European base, as a rift over the Iran war and tariff tensions place further strain on relations between the US and Europe. Pistorius said the move was...

- [UAE' s Opec exit signals aim to accelerate foreign policy diversification](#) (2026-05-02 09:00)

The United Arab Emirates is expected to continue making high-risk geopolitical moves with potentially high rewards, following its exit from the Opec oil cartel, as the small but extremely wealthy Gulf state strives to become a global power. Framed by Emirati officials as an orientation towards strengthening economic autonomy, the UAE' s decision to leave the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) on Tuesday coincided with the downgrading of its diplomatic participation in the Gulf...

- [China' s live music boom spreads to smaller cities as consumption drive expands](#) (2026-05-02 09:00)

Dianjiang, a small county tucked away in southwestern China' s Chongqing, was transformed into a bustling live music hub in April as fans flocked to a concert headlined by Mandopop stars, including Jeff Chang. Such scenes are no longer unusual. Once the preserve of megacities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, high-profile concerts are now breathing life into lesser-known venues. As China endeavours to make consumption its main growth driver and targets untapped markets, entertainment spending...

- [Hong Kong records 13% rise in mainland Chinese visitors on day 1 of 'golden week'](#) (2026-05-02 08:48)

Hong Kong recorded a 13 per cent year-on-year increase in mainland Chinese visitors on the first day of the "golden week" Labour Day holiday, with more than 300,000 inbound trips made throughout the day. Meanwhile, the number of Hongkongers leaving the city on Friday also surged by 45 per cent compared with last year, reaching more than 430,000 outbound journeys. Labour Day is a statutory public holiday in Hong Kong and marks the start of the mainland' s five-day break from May 1 to 5. The first...

- [Why are modern Chinese audiences shying away from dubbed films?](#) (2026-05-02 08:37)

At the December premiere of the Chinese-dubbed 1957 Billy Wilder classic *Witness for the Prosecution* in a Shanghai cinema, dubbing artist Qiao Zhen voiced a more immediate mystery: "Do you still enjoy Chinese-dubbed films?" When audience members, mainly nostalgia-seeking fans, responded with applause and shouts of "Yes!", the 83-year-old veteran became emotional, offering a moving defence of his art form. "Several years ago we felt this profession had fallen into a low point," he told the...

- [Mini-crises sparked by the Iran war may add up to a big collapse](#) (2026-05-02 08:30)

Not a sudden, major crash but a series of mini-crises. That, according to some, is the prospect facing the global economy and financial system in the wake of conflict in the Middle East. But what if these mini-crises cascade into a collective collapse? And what if the Trump administration emerges as the only winner in the conflict by virtue of the fact that it has, in engineering the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, locked Europe and Asia into a desperate dependence on US oil and gas, especially...

- [Death of China celebrity cat leads to hospital compensation, benefits 1,100 stray felines](#) (2026-05-02 08:00)

A celebrity cat in China which died following a medical blunder has prompted the hospital involved to offer compensation and provide free sterilisation for stray cats. The feline's owner, Deng Feng, a Shenzhen-based cattery operator and pet influencer with 5 million social media followers, breeds rare-coloured British Longhair and Shorthair cats. Since 2017, his cattery, GoldenTales, has produced world-champion felines. In 2024, Deng donated three million yuan (US\$440,000) to a fund for rescuing...

- [How Trump is inadvertently bringing Japan, South Korea together](#) (2026-05-02 07:55)

Japan and South Korea are closing ranks as they prepare for high-level meetings aimed at steadying ties amid growing regional volatility, with analysts saying the diplomatic push reflects shared concern over China, North Korea and the reliability of US commitments under President Donald Trump. Both countries appear willing to put past differences aside, at least for now, as they confront an assertive China and an unpredictable US administration that has unsettled long-standing allies and...

- [UK PM Starmer says some pro-Palestinian marches could be banned, cites intifada chants](#) (2026-05-02 07:46)

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in an interview broadcast on Saturday that banning some pro-Palestinian marches could be justified, especially when they call for the intifada to spread. Labour leader Starmer is under pressure to act after a spate of antisemitic incidents, including this week, when two men were stabbed in the north London suburb of Golders Green, which is home to a large Jewish community. A 45-year-old British national who was born in Somalia was remanded in custody...

- [ByteDance's drug unit presents AI-designed therapies at global conferences](#) (2026-05-02 07:00)

ByteDance, the Chinese owner of TikTok, is pushing deeper into artificial intelligence with Anew Labs, a drug-discovery unit that has begun presenting its AI-designed therapies at international conferences. The unit – also known as Anew Therapeutics or ByteDance AI Drug Discovery – operates from Shanghai, Singapore and San Jose, California. Its official website listed 36 core members, as well as big names on its “scientific advisory board”: Liu Yongjun, former president of Innovent Biologics, Ji...

- [Hezbollah’ s cheap drones pose challenge for Israel – like ‘children’ s toys’](#)

(2026-05-02 06:48)

Hezbollah’ s cheap fibre-optic drones are creating new challenges for Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, forcing the military to adapt its tactics against an increasingly lethal threat. The Israeli military – considered one of the most advanced in the world – has confirmed two soldiers and one civilian contractor killed in explosive drone attacks in under a week, with several others wounded despite a ceasefire in place since mid-April. The devices are small, cheap and readily available, like...

- [Government ‘confident’ that 75% of Wang Chi House owners will take buy-back offer](#)

(2026-05-02 05:31)

The Hong Kong government is confident that at least three-quarters of homeowners of Wang Chi House – the only block unscathed in the Wang Fuk Court fire – will accept its buy-back package by the end of June. Speaking on Saturday, Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong Wai-lun said few owners were likely to change their minds about the government’ s offer for the 248 flats, which were initially excluded from the resettlement plan. Wang Chi House was the only one of the estate’ s eight towers that...

- [Counting gains from Beijing, Taiwanese opposition leader Cheng Li-wun eyes US trip in June](#)

(2026-05-02 05:00)

Taiwanese opposition leader Cheng Li-wun is preparing to visit the United States in June, aiming to leverage the political momentum from last month’ s meeting with Communist Party leader Xi Jinping in Beijing. Cheng, who heads the main opposition party Kuomintang, will also test her message on the Taiwan Strait in Washington. In recent media interviews Cheng has outlined an agenda that goes beyond traditional party outreach, promoting what she calls “a new road map” for cross-strait stability –...

- [Why India’ s logistics pact with Russia signals its Arctic ‘footprint’ ambition](#)

(2026-05-02 05:00)

A pact between India and Russia on reciprocal access to military facilities is expected to boost Moscow’ s influence in the Indian Ocean and increase New Delhi’ s presence in the Arctic. However, it does not mean the two countries’ bases will be opened to each other’ s armed forces as they step up defence cooperation, according to analysts. India and Russia signed the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) covering military exercises, training and humanitarian missions in Moscow in...

- [4 fixed penalty notices issued in first 2 days of expanded smoking ban in Hong Kong](#)

(2026-05-02 04:13)

Hong Kong authorities have issued four HK\$3,000 (US\$383) fines in the first two days of an expanded ban on alternative smoking products, while assuring the public that inspectors will

not conduct arbitrary body searches to enforce the law. Manny Lam Man-chung, head of the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office, said authorities stepped up enforcement and public education efforts in commercial districts since the ban on alternative smoking products –including e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products...

- [45% of fire safety shutdowns run past new 2-month cap after Tai Po blaze](#) (2026-05-02 04:00)

Almost half of notices filed to deactivate fire-fighting systems over the past two years for maintenance involved renovation projects that lasted longer than the maximum two months allowed under new rules introduced after the deadly Wang Fuk Court fire, official data has shown. A spokesman for the Fire Services Department told the South China Morning Post that the new rules would also apply to ongoing projects which had their notices to shut down the fire-fighting system before the recent...

- [A year after corporal punishment ban, Thailand needs to curb resurgence](#) (2026-05-02 04:00)

An old Thai proverb says, “If you love your cow, tie it up; if you love your child, beat them” . It is meant to convey that a loving and responsible guardian should discipline their child and that corporal punishment is an act of care as sensible as tethering one’s cattle so that it does not wander off. For many generations, this proverb and traditional practices have normalised corporal punishment. This attitude is also displayed by teachers in schools. One year after Thailand legally banned...

- [Japan’s Takaichi to hold talks in Vietnam on economic security, critical minerals](#) (2026-05-02 03:24)

Japan and Vietnam are set to agree to boost their partnership in economic security in leaders’ talks on Saturday, as Japan seeks to strengthen supply chains for critical resources amid its diplomatic spat with China and the Middle East crisis. As Tokyo looks to deepen ties with Southeast Asian nations with an eye to China’s increasing economic engagement with the region, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will also give a speech on Japan’s updated vision for its free and open Indo-Pacific policy...

- [Durian Express? New Southeast Asia rail service cuts fruit prices in China](#) (2026-05-02 02:00)

Southeast Asian growers can now ship durians to China faster than before using a new cold-storage rail service linking Thailand, Laos and southwest China’s Yunnan province, slashing prices for the pungent fruit. The first goods train laden with durians from Thailand – China’s biggest source of the fruit – began winding its way north through Laos to China over the weekend, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Tuesday. More than 90 per cent of the world’s durian exports – worth about US\$7.5 billion...

- [US Pentagon signs AI deals with Google, Nvidia and SpaceX, focus on ‘lawful’ use](#)
(2026-05-02 01:47)

Eight technology companies, including Google, Nvidia and SpaceX, have struck deals with the Pentagon to help the US military gain an edge on the battlefield. “These agreements accelerate the transformation towards establishing the United States military as an AI-first fighting force and will strengthen our warfighters’ ability to maintain decision superiority across all domains of warfare,” the Department of Defence said on Friday. The companies will deploy their AI technology on the...

- [Rapidly ageing Japan’ s ‘macho carers’ lend muscles to benefit elderly, disabled](#)
(2026-05-02 01:30)

With his broad smile, Tatsumi Hokuto helps an elderly woman in a Japanese care home almost effortlessly to her feet and makes sure she is steady. At first glance, Hokuto cuts an unlikely figure for a carer role: a powerfully built 27-year-old in tight leggings and a black singlet, with the physique of a dedicated bodybuilder. But for Nagoya-based Visionary, a company that operates nursing and care facilities across Japan, that contrast is precisely the point. Visionary’ s “macho carers” like...

- [In China at a time of geopolitical flux, I feel right at home](#) (2026-05-02 01:30)

“You could do with some international exposure. China, maybe,” a law firm partner said as we stood over the water cooler. His offhand comment was so blasé. I wasn’ t sure what unsettled me more – the comment or my reaction to it. Was it xenophobia or the inertia of assumption? He was perfectly pleasant, encouraging even, but beneath the civility was an implication I couldn’ t ignore. I had never set foot in Asia, yet suddenly, it felt as though my credibility required a pilgrimage. I wrestled with...

- [What to leave behind? Returning Wang Fuk Court residents stuck with tough decisions](#)
(2026-05-02 01:00)

Residents of Hong Kong’ s Wang Fuk Court have been wrestling with a fresh sense of loss after returning to homes ravaged in last November’ s fire, as they were forced to choose what to save under practical constraints and within a three-hour window. Cecilia* is one such Hongkonger. She considers herself fortunate to have discovered that her upper-floor flat was largely undamaged by the blaze. But now she faces losing family treasures, precious metals and antique furniture if she cannot find a way...

- [China trend of AI replicas of exes sparks debates about emotional cheating, attachment](#)
(2026-05-02 01:00)

A growing trend in China allows young people dealing with break-ups to create digital replicas of their ex-partners using artificial intelligence. These AI-powered “exes” can mimic their former partner’ s tone, catchphrases and even subtle linguistic nuances, reviving long-lost relationships in a virtual format. While this presents a novel approach to emotional healing, it

has also sparked a broader debate on privacy, emotional dependency and the limits of technology in relationships. To create a...

- [From Malaysia's book bans to Iran war, Anwar's reform agenda faces sternest test](#) (2026-05-02 00:00)

When Malaysia's government announced a ban on two books in mid-April, the move raised eyebrows, with some questioning the intent of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's administration and his reformist credentials. The home affairs ministry on April 16 declared that the books – one of which was a memoir of the grandmother to an ally of Anwar – were a danger to national security for containing communist elements and ideologies. The decision triggered immediate pushback, predictably from civil society...

- [US to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany, fulfilling Trump threat](#) (2026-05-01 23:09)

The United States will withdraw about 5,000 troops from Germany in the next six to 12 months, the Pentagon said Friday, fulfilling President Donald Trump's threat as he clashes with the German leader over the US war with Iran. Trump had threatened to withdraw some troops from the Nato ally earlier this week after Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the US was being “humiliated” by the Iranian leadership and criticised Washington's lack of strategy in the war. Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a...

- [Why Beijing now wants its spies executed in Taiwan to come in from decades in the cold](#) (2026-05-01 22:00)

Fujian province, the closest mainland Chinese province to Taiwan, is an important site for Beijing's messaging towards the island. In the first of a two-part series, Xinlu Liang examines how Beijing is framing the executions of Communist Party spies in Taiwan within a reunification narrative. A courtyard house in an old quarter of Fuzhou, capital of the southeastern Chinese province of Fujian, has become the unlikeliest of national pilgrimage sites. For decades, the residence at No 1...

- [Hong Kong's population policy is still trapped in a city state mindset](#) (2026-05-01 21:30)

Hong Kong is increasingly being urged to develop a comprehensive population policy. Academics, policymakers and business leaders warn that rapid ageing, low fertility and a shrinking labour force threaten the city's competitiveness, and call for more decisive government intervention. Most such calls converge around two familiar strategies: encouraging Hong Kong women to have more children and attracting more immigrants. Both approaches assume Hong Kong must resolve its demographic challenges...

- [China's UN envoy blasts US 'bullying' as sanctions widen before Trump-Xi talks](#) (2026-05-01 21:25)

China's top UN diplomat slammed the US on Friday over its coercive behaviour, sanctioning of Chinese vessels and firms and for starting the Iran war along with Israel as Beijing assumed the

rotating one-month presidency of the UN Security Council. The verbal blast came as Washington heaped more pressure on China on Friday by sanctioning a China-based petroleum terminal operator, the latest in a string of recent US moves to cut off Chinese funding to Iran under what the White House has dubbed...

- [Trump expands Cuba sanctions with global reach, targeting foreign banks and firms](#) (2026-05-01 19:23)

US President Donald Trump on Friday signed an executive order expanding sanctions on Cuba, authorising penalties not only against Cuban officials but also on foreign companies and financial institutions that do business with the island. The order significantly broadens Washington's ability to exert economic pressure, allowing US authorities to target third-country actors deemed to support the Cuban government, in a move that could have implications for global firms, including those in China and...

- [US sanctions China-based operator, others over alleged Iran oil trade links](#) (2026-05-01 19:08)

The United States on Friday announced fresh sanctions on entities and individuals it said were involved in trading Iranian petroleum, including a China-based oil terminal operator and a Chinese national, as it ramped up pressure on Tehran to end the conflict. The State Department said the operator, Qingdao Haiye Oil Terminal Co., Ltd, "imported tens of millions of barrels of sanctioned Iranian crude oil". Also on the sanctions list are Li Xinchun, a Chinese national who is the president of a...

- [Oscar goes missing after director forced to check it on flight: 'could be used as weapon'](#) (2026-05-01 17:55)

After being forced to check his Academy Award on a transatlantic flight, recent winner Pavel Talankin's Oscar went missing before an airline tracked it down two days later. Talankin, who co-directed the best documentary winner Mr Nobody Against Putin, did not expect to have to check his statuette for a flight from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport bound for Frankfurt, Germany, on Wednesday. But a Transportation Security Administration agent said it could not go on board. "At the airport, a TSA...

- [Trump 'not satisfied' with Iran's latest peace proposal as talks stall](#) (2026-05-01 17:34)

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he was dissatisfied with Iran's latest proposal for peace talks, as negotiations between the two sides remain stalled despite a weeks-long ceasefire. "At this moment, I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters. Iranian state media reported that Tehran had submitted a new proposal aimed at ending the conflict that began with US-Israeli strikes on February 28. According to Islamic Republic News Agency, the proposal was...

- [King Charles wins praise for deft handling of Trump on US state visit](#) (2026-05-01 17:20)

US President Donald Trump sang the praises of King Charles after the latter's state visit this week. He even lifted some tariffs on Scotch whisky as a favour to the British monarch. The king delivered a diplomatic masterclass on the trip, mixing praise for his host with subtle criticism. It's unclear, though, whether it will make a major difference to a transatlantic relationship troubled by divisions over issues including the Iran war. "In the short term probably yes, in the long term probably..."

- [Trump to put 25% tariffs on EU cars, says bloc not complying with trade deal](#) (2026-05-01 17:00)

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he would increase the tariffs charged on cars and trucks from the European Union next week to 25 per cent, a move that could jolt the world economy at a fragile moment. Trump said in the post that the EU "is not complying with our fully agreed to Trade Deal", though he did not flesh out his objections in the post. Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had agreed to the trade deal last July. It set a 15 per cent tariff on most...

- [Plane crash in US Texas state kills all 5 on board](#) (2026-05-01 15:48)

A small plane crashed in Texas Hill Country, killing all five people aboard, officials said on Friday. The crash happened on Thursday night in Wimberley, a city about 40 miles (65km) southwest of Austin, Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra said on social media. The Federal Aviation Administration said the Cessna 421C crashed around 11.25pm with five people on board. It said the FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash. The plane took off from Amarillo, Texas, about two...

- [Wall Street rises towards more records as oil prices slip](#) (2026-05-01 15:10)

The US stock market is rising towards more records on Friday after Apple, Estee Lauder and other big companies became the latest to deliver fatter profits for the start of the year than analysts expected. Modest dips for oil prices also helped to steady the relatively few stock markets open worldwide on the May Day holiday. The S&P 500 rose 0.6 per cent and added to its all-time high set the day before. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 226 points, or 0.5 per cent, as of 9.35am Eastern...

- [Beijing backs Cuba, Brazil slams BYD slave labour conditions: Latin America relations reads](#) (2026-05-01 15:00)

We have selected six of the most interesting and important news stories covering Latin American relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Chile exposes smuggling ring that shipped US\$917m in stolen copper to China Chinese buyers were the end destination of a five-year smuggling pipeline that drained an estimated US\$917 million worth of stolen copper from Chile, authorities said in April after police dismantled the network...

- [Uber to buy cab-ordering platform FlyTaxi ahead of ride-hailing regulation](#) (2026-05-01 14:28)

Uber has announced it is acquiring the Hong Kong-based online cab-hailing platform FlyTaxi to expand its taxi services, ahead of the implementation of a regulatory regime for ride-hailing services later this year. In a statement on Friday, Uber said that its acquisition of FlyTaxi was part of its commitment to help grow the taxi industry and provide “greater economic opportunities” for drivers. It also said that FlyTaxi would continue to operate as normal and that nothing would change for...

- [Will Japan’ s new arms export rules spark a high-end defence boom?](#) (2026-05-01 14:00)

Japan has overhauled its overseas arms transfer regulations, a move analysts said paves the way for the country to export high-end weapons and defence platforms, including sixth-generation fighter jets. On April 21, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi announced that her cabinet had amended the Three Principles on Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology and the accompanying implementation guidelines that had constituted Japan’ s framework for controlling military hardware and technology...

- [Ukraine sees path to Japanese arms after Tokyo eases export rules](#) (2026-05-01 13:40)

Japan’ s relaxation of its weapons-export rules opens a path for talks that could one day lead to Tokyo supplying military equipment to help Ukraine resist Russia’ s invasion, Kyiv’ s ambassador to Japan said. “This allows us to talk,” Yuriy Lutovinov said in an interview at Ukraine’ s embassy. “Theoretically, it’ s a very big step forward.” Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’ s move last week to ease export rules – Japan’ s latest shift away from a strict post-war pacifist stance – has sparked broad...

- [Hong Kong police investigate ‘suspicious’ fire after man dies in fall](#) (2026-05-01 13:31)

Hong Kong authorities are investigating a suspicious fire that broke out in a residential flat, after a man died when he fell from the building and an elderly woman was overcome due to heavy smoke. Police received a report of the fire on Friday at around 7pm at a flat in Royal Garden, Ho Man Tin. Firefighters arrived at the scene, used a ladder to access the flat, and put out the blaze about 30 minutes later. During the incident, a man fell from the sixth floor of the building onto a car park,...

- [Why Singapore, Thailand are among the world’ s ‘happiest’ economies](#) (2026-05-01 12:58)

Singapore and Thailand ranked among the world’ s “least miserable” economies in an annual index compiled by a Johns Hopkins University economist, who said Southeast Asia was one of the “healthiest economic neighbourhoods” in the world. The 2025 Hanke’ s Annual Misery Index (HAMI), compiled by applied economics professor Steve Hanke, measures the “economic temperature” of a country and seeks to approximate how its average citizen experiences the economy. This year’ s HAMI found that several...

- [More Hongkongers can drive to Macau under expanded travel scheme](#) (2026-05-01 12:58)

More Hong Kong permanent residents will soon be able to drive to Macau for work, sightseeing, family visits and business as the two cities move to expand an existing scheme to make better use of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The Transport Department said on Friday that all Hong Kong permanent residents and locally registered companies would be allowed to apply for 400 multiple-entry quota places under a new category for drivers of non-commercial private cars. Under the current scheme, only...

- [4 killed in second Indonesia train crash in days](#) (2026-05-01 12:55)

A train hit a car in Indonesia on Friday, killing four people including two children, police said, days after another deadly train crash outside the capital Jakarta. The driver of the car involved in the collision in Central Java province did not see the oncoming train on a level crossing due to thick fog, local traffic officer Eko Ari Kisworo said in a statement issued by the police. The train then collided with the car, which carried nine people and was flung about 20m (66ft) before hitting a...

- [Tokyo man who attacked teens with hammer arrested after manhunt](#) (2026-05-01 12:52)

A man who is believed to have struck a 17-year-old high school student in the face with a hammer in Tokyo earlier this week was arrested on Friday after a manhunt on suspicion of attempted murder, according to local police. Teruyuki Takabayashi, 44, was apprehended in Narashino, Chiba Prefecture after allegedly attacking the boy between 7.15am and 7.25am on Wednesday in Fussa, a suburban area in western Tokyo. The boy was part of a group of seven teenagers hanging around a nearby restaurant at...

- [Why US may regret pushing allies towards greater defence autonomy](#) (2026-05-01 12:30)

The need for the United States to start offloading some of its global responsibilities did not begin with Donald Trump. More than a decade ago, when working as a journalist and graduate student, I heard from political scientists and other observers of US foreign relations that allies would, at some point, need to rely less on Washington and start boosting their own defence budgets; this was particularly true of America's European and East Asian allies, facing US adversaries in Russia and...

- [From banking to AI, these are the key international economic bodies based in China](#) (2026-05-01 12:00)

The recent launch of the World Data Organization in Beijing added another node to a growing network of bodies headquartered in China with international participation and cross-border mandates. China is fostering these lenders, institutions and intergovernmental organisations as President Xi Jinping pushes for improved “global governance”. The move came as Washington's measures – from global tariff hikes, war on Iran and the recently released “Economic Fury” strategy – have set back some key...

- [Hong Kong taxi driver arrested for dangerous driving, hitting speeds of 160km/h](#)
(2026-05-01 11:46)

Hong Kong police have arrested a taxi driver for dangerous driving on the first of the five-day mainland Chinese Labour Day “golden week” holiday, after he was caught reaching speeds of 160km/h (99.4mph) and completing a 42km ride in just half an hour. Police took enforcement action against the 31-year-old driver on Friday after intelligence officers found the arrestee, who mainly drives around Sai Kung, had frequently uploaded videos of dangerous driving online. “Officers went undercover as...

- [Beijing’s Xia Baolong, top energy official hold talks with CLP’s Michael Kadoorie](#)
(2026-05-01 11:40)

Beijing’s point man on Hong Kong affairs and a senior national energy official have held meetings with CLP Holdings chairman Michael Kadoorie, with observers saying it signalled the firm was expected to help minimise livelihood disruptions amid the ongoing global fuel crisis and support the Northern Metropolis megaproject. The Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said its director, Xia Baolong, spoke with Kadoorie, his son Philip Kadoorie and the senior management of energy firm CLP Power in...

- [Could Chinese mathematicians tip the balance in a US conference boycott?](#) (2026-05-01 11:30)

A Chinese boycott of the “World Cup of mathematics” this year could be decisive, according to a co-organiser of a petition calling for the event to be moved out of the United States this year. Ila Varma, a University of Toronto mathematician and boycott co-organiser, said the country was “uniquely situated” to act – both as a target of US restrictions and as a major scientific powerhouse. “The Chinese government does not apply sanctions to US universities the way the US government does to...

- [Hong Kong seizes HK\\$16 million of counterfeit goods in joint cross-border operation](#)
(2026-05-01 10:54)

Hong Kong authorities uncovered 23 cross-boundary and transshipment counterfeiting cases in a joint operation with mainland China and Macau in April, seizing about 46,000 items worth an estimated HK\$16 million (US\$2 million). The Customs and Excise Department said on Friday that the operation found that 21 cases involved local express couriers and logistics companies. The remaining two cases involved batches of counterfeit goods discovered on two inbound lorries at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau...

- [Man jailed over attempted murder charge in stabbings of Jewish men in London](#)
(2026-05-01 10:52)

A 45-year-old man was charged on Friday with attempted murder in the stabbings of two Jewish men in London, the latest in a string of attacks that have sparked fear and anger in Britain’s Jewish community. Essa Suleiman was remanded into custody after appearing in Westminster

Magistrates' Court to face two counts of the charge related to the attack in Golders Green. He also faces a third count of attempted murder over an incident elsewhere in the city earlier the same day that left a man with...

- [Deadly train crash in Indonesia exposes severe safety gaps, dangerous crossings](#) (2026-05-01 10:16)

A horrific train crash that killed 16 passengers on the outskirts of Jakarta has prompted Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto to pledge 4 trillion rupiah (US\$230 million) to overhaul level crossings across Java after officials identified one such intersection as a key point in the chain collision. The pledge targets one of the key weaknesses in Indonesia's rail network: crossings that are unguarded, poorly maintained or haphazardly created by local communities. Transport analysts said the...

- [China cuts tariffs on African goods but is it enough to close the trade gap?](#) (2026-05-01 10:00)

African eels, frozen meat and rare earths now have one thing in common – at least in China. The commodities are among a wide variety of products that can enter the country tariff-free as part of a policy to help redress the continent's massive trade imbalance with China. The zero-tariff policy has applied to 33 “least-developed” African countries since 2024 and, from May 1, has been expanded to include 20 “middle-income” African nations. The schedule will remain in effect for two years, covering...

- [‘Stamp boy’ : sealing passion of China emperor criticised for harming artistic integrity](#) (2026-05-01 10:00)

As one of the most frequently portrayed Chinese emperors in modern costume dramas, Qing dynasty Emperor Qianlong is also renowned for his obsessive habit of impressing seals onto his art collections. The Qianlong Emperor (reigned 1735–1796, died 1799) was exceptionally long-lived even among rulers, and he is celebrated for ushering in a prosperous era alongside his father, Yongzheng, and grandfather, Kangxi. Additionally, he is famous for his enthusiasm for art and literature. Not only did he...

- [Man arrested in Hong Kong after police seize HK\\$800,000 of suspected heroin](#) (2026-05-01 09:41)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 44-year-old man for allegedly trafficking in more than HK\$800,000 (US\$102,110) of suspected heroin. The force said on Friday that officers from the Tuen Mun district anti-triad unit were conducting an operation at around 9.50am the day before, when they found a man acting suspiciously outside a flat on Yan Po Road. After stopping the man for questioning, officers found about 300 grams (10.6oz) of suspected heroin in a reusable bag he was carrying. They also found...

- [Gold loses its shimmer in Asia over rising oil prices, hawkish Fed stance](#) (2026-05-01 09:34)

Asia's gold rush is starting to lose some of its lustre, as surging oil prices due to the Iran war dampen rate-cut hopes that recently helped fuel one of the metal's strongest rallies in years. A surge in energy costs has revived inflation concerns and made central banks less likely to cut rates, and this has made interest-bearing assets more attractive, according to analysts. Gold prices fell by 12 per cent from US\$5,247.90 per troy ounce on February 27 to US\$4,620 on Friday morning. The metal...

- [Online sales of e-cigarettes persist in Hong Kong despite ban](#) (2026-05-01 09:30)

Sales of vaping products persist on some online platforms delivering to Hong Kong despite a ban on the import, sale and public use of alternative tobacco products, prompting authorities to step up monitoring and enforcement. The South China Morning Post on Friday found several online platforms selling e-cigarette products, with some websites displaying contact details using country codes from Malaysia and the United Kingdom. One platform advertised delivery and after-sales service in Hong Kong,...

- [Lights, camera, traction: film-projecting headlights steer China's EV feature fight](#) (2026-05-01 09:00)

China's latest electric vehicle (EV) innovations – from ultra-fast battery charging to headlights capable of projecting films – have drawn strong attention at Beijing's Auto China show, underscoring how the country's automotive technology is pulling ahead of global rivals. As domestic carmakers and key suppliers recast vehicles as “mobile living spaces” powered by artificial intelligence and digital systems, they are increasingly looking beyond the mainland to drive export growth. “We are...

- [Hong Kong's East Dam draws thousands for 'golden week' as lawmaker floats entry fee](#) (2026-05-01 08:56)

Thousands of visitors have flocked to Hong Kong's East Dam to view its rare volcanic rock columns at the start of the five-day Labour Day “golden week” holiday, prompting a lawmaker to suggest charging an entrance fee to maintain the Unesco global geopark. Drawn by the city's natural scenery and well-established hiking trails, which are being heavily promoted on mainland Chinese social media, many tourists are increasingly trading traditional shopping sprees for ecotourism at the East Dam of the...

- [Could a prolonged conflict between the US and Iran threaten another vital link?](#) (2026-05-01 08:30)

The world's eyes have been fixed on the oil tankers clogging the Strait of Hormuz. But the US-Israel war on Iran has exposed a quieter vulnerability: the undersea cables that form the digital backbone of the Middle East. Last week, a media outlet affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps highlighted that the strait functioned not only as a crucial chokepoint for oil and gas shipments but also as an essential corridor for internet communications. The outlet warned that damage to...

- [China’ s manufacturing rise is here to stay. The West must recalibrate](#) (2026-05-01 08:30)

If the “China shock” of the early 2000s was about China catching up, then “China shock 2.0” is about the country redefining the boundaries of what is economically possible across manufacturing sectors, according to Columbia University professor Adam Tooze. Amid complaints about the trade and industrial policies accelerating China’ s rise in many sectors – including aviation, space, artificial intelligence (AI), telecoms, microprocessors, robotics, nuclear and fusion power, quantum computing,...

- [Trumpet call: Malaysians demand Japan return elephants after viral ‘weeping’ videos](#) (2026-05-01 08:13)

A viral video of three elephants sent from Malaysia to a zoo in Japan has sparked public anger after online users said the animals appeared distressed when visitors called their names in Malay – which many viewers interpreted as a sign of homesickness. The footage showed the three pachyderms – Dara, Amoi and Kelat – responding to the Malaysian visitors, while another widely shared clip led social media users to claim one of the elephants appeared to be “weeping” . Other clips and images...

- [Riot erupts over Australian indigenous girl’ s suspected killer](#) (2026-05-01 08:10)

Hundreds of protesters clashed with Australian emergency services workers in a remote town following the arrest of a man suspected of murdering a five-year-old indigenous girl, police said on Friday. Australia’ s prime minister, the Northern Territory’ s police commissioner and a spokesperson for the victim’ s family all appealed for calm after an angry crowd of roughly 400 indigenous people gathered on Thursday night at the hospital where the suspect was taken after being beaten unconscious by...

- [Facing 60-day deadline, Trump administration claims Iran war ‘terminated’](#) (2026-05-01 07:22)

The Trump administration is arguing that the war in Iran has already ended because of the ceasefire that began in early April, an interpretation that would allow the White House to avoid the need to seek congressional approval. The statement furthers an argument laid out by Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth during testimony in the Senate earlier Thursday, when he said the ceasefire effectively paused the war. Under that rationale, the administration has not yet met the requirement mandated by a...

- [Hongkongers flock to Shenzhen for ‘better’ Labour Day dining and attractions](#) (2026-05-01 07:16)

Hong Kong residents flocked to Shenzhen on Friday, drawn by ‘better service’ at restaurants and family-friendly attractions as the Labour Day “golden week” holiday began. Affordability has also lured droves of Hongkongers across the border, with families budgeting about HK\$1,000 (US\$128) for a full day in the tech hub, covering restaurants, dental clinics, indoor

amusement parks and ice-skating rinks. Labour Day is a statutory public holiday in Hong Kong and marks the start of mainland China's...

- [Pakistan commissions first Chinese attack submarine in 'historic milestone' for navy](#) (2026-05-01 07:00)

The Pakistan Navy has received the first of its Chinese-built Hangor-class attack submarine fleet, as Beijing and Islamabad step up defence cooperation. A commissioning ceremony was held for the advanced submarine – named the PNS/M Hangor – in the Chinese city of Sanya on Hainan Island on Thursday, according to a statement from Pakistan's military. Asif Ali Zardari, the country's president, and naval chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf attended the event along with senior officials from both the...

- [Man arrested in Japan for burning wife's body in zoo incinerator](#) (2026-05-01 06:40)

Japanese police arrested a man for allegedly incinerating his dead wife at the zoo where he worked, officials and local media said on Friday, following the discovery of human remains. Police arrested Tatsuya Suzuki on Thursday evening on suspicion that he “transported the victim's body to a tourist facility” in the northern island of Hokkaido and “destroyed it through incineration there”, a local police official said. The victim, 33-year-old Yui Suzuki, was identified by local media as his wife....

- [How China is using AI – and state funding – to transform the micro drama industry](#) (2026-05-01 06:00)

Vigloo, a South Korean micro drama production company, has gone all-in on artificial intelligence this year, betting that automation can fundamentally reshape how content is made. The company has begun spending roughly 30 per cent of its budget on AI-driven workflows, and the change is already having a dramatic impact. It can now produce a show in just one month rather than three, and at one-fifth of the cost. That is not only allowing Vigloo to release far more shows, but also to experiment...

- [Famous Chinese short drama actor faces lay-off due to AI's impact returns to farming](#) (2026-05-01 06:00)

A Chinese actor who is well-known for playing dominant bosses in miniseries and has taken part in 200 such productions has become unemployed due to the impact of AI technology. In March, to make ends meet, Zhang Xiaolei, 28, began doing farm work in the northwestern province of Qinghai, Red Star News reported. Starting with some basic dancing skills, Zhang was introduced by his friend to a miniseries filming crew at the end of 2023. Since then, he has become a familiar face to viewers of...

- [Labour Day tourists gain deeper awareness of corals amid government promotion push](#) (2026-05-01 05:52)

Mainland Chinese tourists may have come for the tombolo but left with a deeper understanding of Hong Kong's coral reefs and marine life after the government stepped up promotion and protection efforts on Sharp Island in Sai Kung. That was the view of visitors touring the island on Friday morning, Labour Day – a Hong Kong public holiday and the start of the mainland's five-day “golden week” break. As of noon, around 300 tourists had arrived on the island, but only a few had entered the water. The...

- [‘Golden week’ opens with 76,056 mainland visitors flooding Hong Kong for hikes, city walks](#) (2026-05-01 05:40)

Hong Kong recorded more than 76,000 mainland Chinese visitor arrivals on the first morning of the five-day Labour Day “golden week”, with many heading to the countryside for scenic views and others opting for “city walks” to explore picturesque corners of the city. Some early arrivals headed straight to the countryside after getting off at West Kowloon rail terminus on Friday morning. University student Chen Hongjie, 18, was all geared up to hike the MacLehose Trail on his first day in the city...

- [Singapore's Lawrence Wong reassures workers over AI fears, vows job opportunities](#) (2026-05-01 05:35)

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has sought to reassure workers amid concerns about the AI revolution, vowing that the city state will carve out fresh opportunities even as the new technology renders some jobs obsolete. In the annual May Day rally on Friday, Wong acknowledged the anxieties but urged workers and firms to build artificial intelligence capabilities and harness its benefits. Demand would rise for AI-savvy workers, and new doors would open as global companies expanded their...

- [Gold, cruises and Dior: how Hong Kong lenders are enticing wealthy mainland China visitors](#) (2026-05-01 05:30)

Gold bars, cruises, Dior beauty services and Rosewood Hong Kong vouchers are just some of the incentives Hong Kong's major lenders are offering in hopes of capturing wealthy clients, as visitors from mainland China descend on the city during the golden week holiday starting on Friday. HSBC, Standard Chartered and Bank of China (Hong Kong) – the city's three biggest banks – Citigroup, DBS Hong Kong, ICBC Asia, Bank of East Asia and Hang Seng Bank have all extended the hours of certain branches on...

- [Malaysia's angry culture war brigade tries to dampen water festival over ‘moral harm’](#) (2026-05-01 05:09)

A government-backed water rave in Kuala Lumpur has earned the wrath of Malaysia's culture war brigade, pitting religious objections against tourism goals, as critics decry the vulgar import amid growing conservatism. The uproar over the three-day Rain Rave Water Music Festival in Bukit Bintang comes as Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's government tries to promote the country as a youthful, experience-led travel destination, even as it manages a traditionalist

pushback against concerts, pop culture...

- [‘Even 1 case is too many’ : experts warn of lasting harm after alleged dog cage child abuse](#) (2026-05-01 04:21)

Severe abuse can leave lasting mental scars and behavioural problems in children, psychologists have warned after two toddlers in Hong Kong were allegedly confined in a dog cage, a case that sparked public outrage and renewed calls for earlier reporting and intervention. The calls for action came as the latest official statistics showed that more than 100 reports had been made since a mandatory reporting requirement for suspected child abuse came into effect in January. Professor Hou Wai-kai,...

- [Many Asian-Americans feel excluded from ‘true’ US identity, survey finds](#) (2026-05-01 04:00)

Matt King, a 34-year-old graphic designer living in New York, has long grappled with his identity as the son of a Canadian-Chinese mother and white father. Despite being born in the US and raised in Los Angeles, he is aware that mainstream US society does not always see him as a bona fide US citizen. “You’ ll always get ... a sprinkling of this ‘you’ re not truly American’ ,” the 34-year-old resident of Brooklyn, New York, said, prompting him to claim his own definition. “To me, being an American is...

- [King Charles’ gift amuses Chinese, anti-spy agency makes allegation: SCMP’ s 7 highlights](#) (2026-05-01 03:50)

We have selected seven stories from this week’ s news across Hong Kong, mainland China, the wider Asia region and beyond that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. US economic gap over China to widen, but Iran might bring them closer: former UN official The economic divide between the United States and China is projected to widen to US\$11 trillion by the end of the decade, yet escalating...

- [HK\\$1 minimum wage rise unlikely to significantly lift low-paid incomes, experts say](#) (2026-05-01 03:01)

Experts have warned that the HK\$1 (13 US cents) increase in Hong Kong’ s minimum wage, which takes effect on Labour Day, is unlikely to significantly boost low-paid workers’ incomes, but should help preserve purchasing power and ease labour tensions under a new formula. Human resources expert Alexa Chow Yee-ping, managing director of ACTS Consulting, said the latest rise broadly aligned with recent pay trends. “The actual impact is not significant, as the increase is roughly the same as last...

- [Hong Kong slams attempts to sugarcoat Jimmy Lai’ s criminal acts in press freedom index](#) (2026-05-01 02:55)

The Hong Kong government has condemned attempts by anti-China forces and foreign media to sugarcoat the criminal acts of jailed former media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, while defending the city's press freedom after the release of a global index. Authorities issued a strongly-worded statement in the early hours of Friday, slamming the attempts to slander, smear and attack the city "by releasing a so-called press freedom index", saying that "such despicable behaviours totally disregarded the rule..."

- [New Banksy statue of man blinded by flag draws crowds in London](#) (2026-05-01 02:54)

Elusive street artist Banksy on Thursday confirmed he was behind a new work drawing crowds in central London: a statue of a suited man striding into the void while holding a flag that blocks his view. The monument, which has Banksy's name scrawled on the base, first appeared on Wednesday just off the central street of Pall Mall. The man depicted is mounted on a plinth, with one leg striding off it, and appears to be blindly stepping off the platform without knowing it, thanks to the flag...

- [Singapore jails 3 Chinese nationals over social media-inspired burglary spree](#) (2026-05-01 02:08)

Three Chinese nationals who travelled to Singapore to break into houses and steal expensive items after they saw multiple videos on social media about wealthy Singaporeans were sentenced to jail on Thursday. The three men, Yang Chao, Zhou Qifa and He Jiao, conspired to target vulnerable properties in Singapore, break into the houses, steal valuables and leave the country with them. Both Yang, 42, and He, 38, were sentenced to five years and three months in prison, while Zhou, 37, was sentenced...

- [UN climate body presses on after US quits, while China leads with renewables](#) (2026-05-01 02:00)

The UN's climate science body is pressing ahead with its work despite the US government's withdrawal from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) earlier this year, the organisation's top official has said. According to IPCC chair Jim Skea, around 110 to 120 of the UN body's 195 members typically show up when it meets. "So the US has not been there. It's one country, more or less," Skea said on the sidelines of the Regional Ecological Summit in Kazakhstan last week. "The meetings..."

- [Japan's higher education sector faces reckoning as student pool shrinks](#) (2026-05-01 01:30)

Japan's shrinking youth population is forcing a reckoning in higher education, with the finance ministry pushing for the closure or merger of hundreds of private universities as campuses struggle to fill classrooms. University insiders broadly agree that Japan has too many small, private tertiary institutions battling enrolment shortfalls and financial pressures, but they also argue the education ministry's own policies contributed to the problem. "The number of universities they are talking..."

- [Why governments beyond Hong Kong are wary of prediction markets](#) (2026-05-01 01:30)

After winning legislative backing for the Hong Kong Jockey Club to offer basketball betting – an initiative aimed at drawing punters away from illegal online bookmakers and capturing additional tax revenue – the government has now paused the roll-out. Officials say the rise of prediction markets has altered the landscape and warrants closer examination. So, what is it about prediction markets that unsettles officials? Prediction markets are online platforms where the menu stretches far beyond...

- [‘Love relay’ : lonely China cancer patient orders ‘company’ via food delivery platform](#) (2026-05-01 01:00)

A lonely cancer patient in southeastern China sparked a viral relay of love after ordering “companionship” through a food delivery platform. Little Li, a 24-year-old woman from Foshan, Guangdong province, is battling a rare blood cancer, according to Southern Daily. After undergoing four rounds of chemotherapy, her condition is stable, though she continues to receive care at the hospital. With her father working away to fund her treatment and her younger brother juggling an internship, Li often...

- [Iran ‘dying to make a deal’ , US war costs soar: here’ s what happened overnight](#) (2026-05-01 00:40)

The US-Israeli war on Iran enters a third month and efforts for Washington and Tehran to resume talks remain stalled. These are major takeaways from the events overnight. What did Trump say? US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House on Thursday that Iran is “dying to make a deal” . When asked whether talks with Tehran have stalled, Trump said only a few people know the status of talks with Iran. He also pointed to uncertainty over the Iranian leadership: “We have a problem...

- [Yacht tourists, hikers drive ‘golden week’ optimism for Hong Kong eateries](#) (2026-05-01 00:30)

Hong Kong’s catering sector and hoteliers are expecting a business boost during the Labour Day “golden week” holiday from May 1 to 5, with industry leaders hoping the growing trend of mainland Chinese visitors hiking and sailing yachts will bring a windfall to seafood restaurants in Sai Kung and the outlying islands. The industry leaders also said on Wednesday that rising tensions in the Middle East, which have pushed up fuel surcharges, had inadvertently benefited Hong Kong, as mainland...

- [Japan survey finds sexual abuse at 15% of hospitals. Is the true scale higher?](#) (2026-05-01 00:00)

More than 15 per cent of hospitals and long-term medical care facilities across Japan have recorded cases of sexual assault or abuse of patients, according to a new government report, as concerns mount that the actual figures may be higher. The Children and Families Agency

released the results of the survey – the first of its kind – on Tuesday, with 1,113 institutions of the 5,000 invited to take part providing responses. Many of the incidents involved medical staff in psychiatry and...

- [Trump says Secret Service agent not shot by friendly fire, as attack video is released](#)
(2026-04-30 23:18)

US President Donald Trump and the head of the Secret Service said on Thursday that the federal agent injured during the attack at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner had not been hit by friendly fire, as authorities released a video of the incident. Jeanine Pirro, the top federal prosecutor for Washington, posted the footage on social media, saying it showed the suspect shooting the US Secret Service officer as he ran through security towards the gala packed with journalists,...

- [Hong Kong public hospitals to extend time for daily visits from 5 to 9 hours by July 31](#)
(2026-04-30 23:00)

Hong Kong public hospitals will extend visiting hours at all rehabilitation and palliative wards from five to nine hours a day by the end of July, with those in central Kowloon and New Territories West expected to roll out the arrangement this month. Danny Tong Wah-kun, the Hospital Authority's chief manager of nursing, said the authority would also enable round-the-clock visits at all paediatric wards by the end of July, adding to an existing arrangement for one carer to stay overnight in...

- [From apps to autos: China's data reach sparks US espionage and sabotage concerns](#)
(2026-04-30 22:05)

China has built a state-driven campaign to harvest American data and weaponise it as a strategic asset that could prove critical in a conflict with the US, including over Taiwan, a key advisory committee to the US Congress heard. Experts told the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission on Thursday that Washington was falling short in countering Beijing's data-collection drive, one that could have far-reaching implications for American society and the economy, as well as US wartime...

- [See you in Beijing: the big shift in Xi's travel plans and what it means for China](#)
(2026-04-30 22:00)

China's diplomatic strategy has undergone a conspicuous shift, with Beijing conducting far fewer overseas state visits, opting instead to welcome a steady stream of foreign leaders to the capital. According to data compiled by the South China Morning Post, Beijing is placing greater emphasis on neighbourhood diplomacy and engagement with European middle powers. The changing dynamic reflects Beijing's shift towards favouring high-level multilateralism, in a sign of growing confidence and an...

- [Trump says he' s lifting some tariffs on Scotch whisky after King Charles visit](#) (2026-04-30 20:59)

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he was removing certain tariffs on Scotch whisky after this week' s White House visit by the UK' s King Charles and Queen Camilla.

“The King and Queen got me to do something that nobody else was able to do, without hardly even asking!” Trump posted on social media. Trump said people had wanted this change, especially with regard to the wooden barrels in which the spirits of Scotch and bourbon can be aged. His post left it unclear if the tariffs were...

- [Brazil MPs slash Bolsonaro prison term in blow to Lula](#) (2026-04-30 20:39)

Brazil' s Congress on Thursday overturned President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva' s veto of a law dramatically reducing the prison sentence of his arch-rival Jair Bolsonaro, the second major defeat for Lula in as many days. Former president Bolsonaro, 71, was sentenced last year to 27 years behind bars for coup plotting over his attempt to cling to power after losing the 2022 elections to Lula. The left-wing Lula had attempted to block a subsequent push by the conservative-majority Congress to reduce...

- [Senate vote leaves Cuba' s uncertain future at dangerous crossroads](#) (2026-04-30 20:39)

With Congress again failing to curb US President Donald Trump' s authority over Cuba, the centre of gravity in US policy towards the island is shifting decisively back to the White House – and to a narrower, more consequential question: what comes next? Tuesday' s 51-47 Senate vote to block a Democratic-led war powers resolution on Cuba does not change policy on its own. It was widely expected, reflecting a long-standing pattern in which Congress has struggled to assert its war powers authority...

- [US Congress votes to end record government shutdown](#) (2026-04-30 18:19)

The US Congress on Thursday approved funding for most of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), ending a record-breaking partial government shutdown that has disrupted critical agencies for more than two months. The House approved the measure, already passed by the Senate, sending it to US President Donald Trump, who quickly signed it. It will fund key DHS agencies through the end of the financial year on September 30. It does not include new money for immigration and border enforcement...

- [US telecoms agency votes to expand tech crackdown on China](#) (2026-04-30 17:51)

The Federal Communications Commission on Thursday voted unanimously to advance a proposal to bar all Chinese labs from testing electronic devices such as smartphones, cameras and computers for use in the United States. The agency says about 75 per cent of all US electronics are tested in China and plans to adopt a streamlined approval process for devices tested in US labs or labs from countries not posing national security risks. In a separate 3-0 vote, the commission advanced a proposal to...

- [Myanmar' s Aung San Suu Kyi moved from prison to house arrest](#) (2026-04-30 16:33)

Myanmar' s detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been moved to house arrest, state media reported on Thursday, over five years after the country' s military ousted a civilian government led by the Nobel laureate and imprisoned her. Suu Kyi, 80, has been detained by the junta since and her whereabouts have been unclear amid a deadly civil war that was triggered by the February 2021 coup that has engulfed much of the impoverished Southeast Asian nation. "... the remaining portion of Daw Aung...

- [Man charged with trying to kill Trump agrees to remain in custody](#) (2026-04-30 15:50)

The man accused of attempting to assassinate President Donald Trump at a black-tie press gala in Washington agreed on Thursday to remain in custody while his case moves forward. The suspect, Cole Allen, 31, would not immediately contest prosecutors' arguments that he was a danger to the community and should remain in jail, his lawyer, Tezira Abe, said during a court hearing. Allen allegedly stormed a security checkpoint and fired a shotgun outside the White House Correspondents' Dinner on...

- [First direct US-Venezuela commercial flight in 7 years heads to Caracas](#) (2026-04-30 15:00)

The first direct commercial flight between the United States and Venezuela departed a bit early on Thursday on its way to the capital of the South American country, seven years after the US Homeland Security Department ordered an indefinite suspension, citing security concerns. The resumption of a commercial flight between the two countries comes months after the US capture of then-president Nicolas Maduro in a stunning night-time raid on his residence in Caracas in early January. It also comes...

- [Is China' s Manus block a warning for other AI firms with global ambitions?](#) (2026-04-30 15:00)

Beijing' s decision to block Meta Platforms' proposed acquisition of artificial intelligence firm Manus should not be seen as a restriction on foreign investment, Chinese state media said, urging companies in the sector to "go global when ready" and "pursue partnerships where appropriate" . "What stands out from Meta' s Manus deal is that the AI industry is transcending simple commercial logic," Yuyuan Tiantian, the influential social media account run by state broadcaster CCTV, said on Wednesday in...

- [Uganda kindergarten murderer sentenced to death](#) (2026-04-30 14:44)

A Ugandan-American man was sentenced to death on Thursday over the murders of four young children he stabbed to death at a kindergarten in Uganda' s capital. Christopher Okello Onyum was arrested on April 2 as he tried to flee the day care centre in Kampala where he murdered the children aged 15 months to two-and-a-half years. Prosecutors said Onyum, who holds Ugandan and US citizenship, confessed to the crime, believing the "human sacrifice" would help him become rich, though he eventually...

- [Chinese firms face pressure on AI investments as US peers' spending keeps soaring](#) (2026-04-30 14:30)

Artificial intelligence investments by US tech giants continue to soar, dwarfing those of Chinese AI firms, but China's rising appetite for AI applications will compel its tech companies to increase their AI spending this year, according to analysts. The largest US tech companies are on track for more than US\$700 billion in AI capital expenditures this year, driven in part by rising memory costs and continuously growing demand for AI applications. Google and Microsoft on Thursday both said that...

- [France probes teenage suspect in massive ID data breach](#) (2026-04-30 14:27)

The Paris prosecutor's office has opened an investigation into a 15-year-old, suspected of having hacked the country's ID agency and trying to sell the data of millions of French people on the dark web this month, it said on Thursday. The teenager, whose identity was not revealed, was detained on April 25 and held in police custody for questioning after he was suspected of hiding behind the nickname "breach3d", a hacker who had put on sale on hacker forums between 12 million and 18 million...

- [Wang calls Taiwan 'biggest risk factor' in Beijing-Washington ties during Rubio call](#) (2026-04-30 14:25)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Taiwan is "the biggest risk factor in China-US relations" during a phone call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday, according to state broadcaster CCTV. The call laid the groundwork for a highly anticipated summit between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in Beijing in mid-May. According to CCTV, Wang said that Beijing and Washington "must safeguard the hard-won stability and make thorough preparations for..."

- [Why is China warning the UN of a Japanese 'nuclear breakout' ?](#) (2026-04-30 14:00)

The row between China and Japan has ratcheted up a notch, with Beijing issuing a strongly worded position paper warning that Tokyo would soon be able to produce nuclear weapons. In the document released on Thursday, China called on the United Nations to make Japan's potential pursuit of nuclear arms an "important agenda item" at an ongoing convention at the organisation's New York headquarters. China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and will assume the monthly rotating presidency...

- [US economy grows 2% in January–March; Iran war clouds outlook](#) (2026-04-30 13:50)

The US economy accelerated at the start of 2026, expanding at a modest 2 per cent pace from January through March after recovering from last fall's 43-day federal government shutdown. But the outlook is clouded by the Iran war. The Commerce Department reported on Thursday that gross domestic product – the nation's output of goods and services – rebounded from a lacklustre 0.5 per cent expansion the last three months of 2025. The federal government's spending and investment grew at a 9.3 per cent...

- [Tai Po fire: tendering system can't stop firms manipulating market, inquiry hears](#) (2026-04-30 13:04)

An official tendering system designed to curb anti-competitive conduct is powerless to combat engineering firms colluding to manipulate Hong Kong's lucrative building maintenance market, a public inquiry into the city's deadliest fire in decades has heard. Testifying on the 21st day of an independent committee's hearing, three Urban Renewal Authority (URA) officials said on Thursday that the statutory body had neither the capacity nor the resources to combat bid-rigging linked to estates' ...

- [Gaming platform Roblox to require facial scans for users under 16 in Indonesia](#) (2026-04-30 13:00)

Roblox, a gaming platform popular with kids, announced Thursday that children under 16 in Indonesia will be required to undergo facial scans to verify their age to comply with new restrictions on minors' use of social media and digital platforms in the country. Nicky Jackson Colaco, Roblox's vice-president and global head of public policy, announced the changes in a press conference in Jakarta, describing them among the strictest that the company has implemented anywhere in the world. She said...

- [China's Tiangong space station to double in size as Nasa phases out ISS](#) (2026-04-30 13:00)

China has confirmed plans to expand its space station, potentially more than doubling in size to meet growing scientific demand and expand international cooperation. The Tiangong and the International Space Station (ISS) are the only space stations operating in low Earth orbit. The ISS, led by Nasa and built with contributions from 15 countries, is the biggest structure in space and has been a laboratory for more than 3,000 experiments. Nasa plans to retire the ISS in early 2031, using a...

- [Xi-Trump summit unlikely to revive Chinese investment in US, report warns](#) (2026-04-30 13:00)

Chinese investment in the US is unlikely to recover meaningfully from its mid-2010s collapse even if President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump reach a bilateral deal when they meet in Beijing next month, according to a report released on Thursday. Rhodium Group, an American research firm that tracks China's cross-border investment, said Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in the United States had "fallen significantly from its 2016 peak, and remained at low levels for the past five...

- [Hong Kong homebuyers flock to new launches as flats sell out swiftly](#) (2026-04-30 12:35)

Hong Kong homebuyers snapped up most of the new flats released on Thursday, with developers beginning to ramp up new construction amid sustained housing demand. All 120 units at the One Victoria Cove I in Hung Hom, jointly developed by Henderson Land

Development, Hysan Development and Empire Group, were sold by 5.20pm, according to agents. Meanwhile, New World Development (NWD) and MTR Corp's Pavilia Farm III above TaiWai MTR station found buyers for 19 of the 45 units as of 6.50pm. Most recent...

- [A world adrift looks to China for institutional anchors. Enter Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-30 12:30)

The international order is under mounting strain. In recent years, unilateralism, protectionism and the selective application of international law have eroded confidence in the rules-based frameworks that once underpinned global cooperation. The return of Donald Trump to the centre of American politics, along with the policy instincts the US president represents, has only reinforced concerns that the United States may continue to privilege narrow domestic calculations over international...

- [Pakistan's IMF-backed recovery under pressure as US-Iran mediation stalls](#) (2026-04-30 12:28)

Pakistan's bid to mediate between the US and Iran has put Islamabad near the centre of efforts to defuse the Middle East conflict, but with no lasting peace yet in sight, its fragile economy is becoming increasingly exposed to the fallout from the war. While soaring oil prices and disrupted flows through the Strait of Hormuz have led to turmoil in global energy markets, analysts said Pakistan has especially limited room to absorb the blow because of its thin foreign exchange reserves, dependence...

- [China's US experts are falling short in the 'great power game', top scholar argues](#) (2026-04-30 12:00)

Chinese scholars must sharpen their focus on the internal conflicts reshaping the United States if they are to help Beijing navigate its rivalry with Washington, according to a prominent academic. These crises include shifts in political culture, heightened racial tensions, the unsustainability of the country's economic and fiscal model and the widespread influence of protectionism and populism, according to Ni Feng, a researcher and former director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' ...

- [Iran war tests India's Brics leadership as 'political relevance' questions mount](#) (2026-04-30 11:49)

Brics' inability to speak with one voice on the Middle East conflict has become a stern test of India's leadership of the bloc, exposing the challenge of building consensus among its 10 members with divergent interests and concerns. The bloc could not agree on a common position on the war at a meeting of Brics officials to discuss Middle East and North Africa issues in New Delhi last week. Brics has long sought to present itself as a voice for the Global South as frustrations with the US-led...

- [Former executive of Hong Kong's insurance regulator acquitted of misconduct](#) (2026-04-30 11:36)

A former executive director of Hong Kong's Insurance Authority has been acquitted of misconduct after she was alleged to have coerced insurer Prudential into hiring her daughter-in-law, as the magistrate ruled that her actions did not cause "actual damage" to public trust in the regulator. Magistrate Minnie Wat Lai-man on Thursday found Carol Hui Mei-ying and digital strategy consultant Chan Tsz-wai not guilty of conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office. The pair previously stood trial...

- [Hong Kong eases enrolment rules for merged schools amid declining student numbers](#)
(2026-04-30 11:07)

Hong Kong's education authorities will relax rules for under-enrolled public secondary schools that merge with others in a bid to encourage consolidation amid declining student numbers. In a circular sent to all public secondary schools on Wednesday, the Education Bureau said merged schools would be exempt from submitting survival plans in the first three years after merging, even if they fail to admit 30 students or form two Form One classes. The bureau said the move aimed to "further support..."

- [Wang Fuk Court resident finds charred HK\\$100,000 inheritance after opening safe](#)
(2026-04-30 11:06)

Two victims of the Wang Fuk Court inferno dug through the ashes of their home, only to each discover about HK\$100,000 (US\$12,800) in charred banknotes, just two of many such finds as residents returned to the fire-damaged Hong Kong estate on Thursday. On the same day, several local storage companies offered free services to affected residents as a show of compassion and solidarity. Thursday marked the second day that residents of Tai Po's Wang Tai House, one of the seven blocks severely damaged...

- [Xi Jinping urges 'disruptive innovation' to boost China amid high-stakes US tech race](#)
(2026-04-30 11:03)

Amid a high-stakes global tech race, Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for greater efforts to boost the country's basic research and innovation capabilities by expanding its talent pool and fostering a culture of tolerance. "Basic research is the source of the entire scientific system and the main switch for all technical challenges," Xi said at a symposium on strengthening the country's basic research in Shanghai on Thursday. Xi argued that global tech rivalries were increasingly pivoting...

- [Former CSRC chairman Yi Huiman to face trial for taking bribes, abusing power](#)
(2026-04-30 11:02)

A former head of China's equities market regulator will face trial on allegations that he took vast sums in bribes in return for approving company listings and loans, according to the Communist Party's top anti-graft watchdog. Yi Huiman, former chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), allegedly used "his position to seek benefits for others in job promotions, listing approvals and obtaining loans, and illegally accepted huge

amounts of bribes” , the Central Commission for...

- [China sparks backlash with plan to send jobless graduates to vocational school](#)
(2026-04-30 11:00)

Beijing has pledged to expand vocational training for young jobseekers this year, as it looks to help millions of unemployed graduates find work in emerging industries such as robotics and AI. But the policy drive – which includes plans to encourage university graduates to return to technical school – has drawn mixed reactions from a generation already hit hard by China’s youth unemployment crunch. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security vowed on Tuesday to upskill 1 million young...

- [In 1946, Hong Kong’s governor Sir Mark Young returns after WWII – SCMP archive](#)
(2026-04-30 10:45)

Sir Mark Young returns This article was first published on May 1, 1946 Sir Mark Young, Governor of Hongkong, returned to the Colony yesterday (April 30, 1946). Sir Mark was Governor when the Japanese attacked on December 8, 1941 and was a prisoner of war until the capitulation. An official welcome took place when Sir Mark stepped ashore from Queen’s Pier. Broadcasting from Government House in the evening, Sir Mark paid a tribute to the memory of those who fell in the defence of the Colony and...

- [Global oil price hits 4-year high on concerns Iran war could worsen](#) (2026-04-30 10:09)

Global oil prices jumped to a four-year high of more than US\$122 a barrel on Thursday, on concerns that the US-Iran war could worsen and lead to a protracted Middle East oil supply disruption that could hurt global economic growth. The market moved higher after Axios, citing unidentified sources, reported late on Wednesday that US President Donald Trump was slated to receive a briefing on Thursday on plans for a series of military strikes on Iran in hopes it would return to negotiations on its...

- [Minerals over ideology? US embraces pragmatic diplomacy to break China’s rare earths grip](#) (2026-04-30 10:00)

The Trump administration’s strategic interest in rare earths is pushing the US towards more pragmatic diplomacy as it seeks to rebuild critical mineral supply chains without China, according to observers. As a result, there had been cooperation with other countries on resource projects even when broader political ties were strained, they said, adding that Beijing’s dominance in the resources appeared too strong to break soon. One example is the Phalaborwa Rare Earths Project in South Africa,...

- [China vegetarian woman, 107, captivates internet with robust health and sharp memory](#)
(2026-04-30 10:00)

A 107-year-old woman, dubbed the “age-defying granny,” has trended on mainland social media for her sound health and sharpness of mind. Centenarian Ding Guijuan lives in Cixi, a

small city in the eastern province of Zhejiang. The local media outlet, Love Cixi, which is operated by the municipal propaganda authority, reported her story. In the coverage in mid-April Ding shared her longevity tips and sent good wishes to her fans. According to Ding's daughter, Chen Xingchao, 84, physical...

- [Law for terminally ill to refuse life-sustaining care planned for July 31 start](#) (2026-04-30 09:56)

The Hong Kong government has planned for legislation allowing terminally ill patients to refuse life-sustaining treatment to start on July 31. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council, authorities said that the Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Ordinance, passed in November 2024, would provide legal status to patients' advance care planning while offering protection to healthcare and rescue personnel. The two instruments covered under advance care planning – advance medical...

- [Hong Kong police intercept man after attempted armed bank robbery in Causeway Bay](#) (2026-04-30 09:49)

Hong Kong police have intercepted a man over an alleged attempted armed bank robbery in Causeway Bay on Thursday afternoon. The suspect allegedly attempted to steal HK\$100,000 (US\$12,760) from a Hang Seng Bank branch on Yee Wo Street shortly before 5pm, reportedly armed with a knife. He approached a counter and handed over a note demanding the money, claiming he was carrying a knife. A staff member immediately triggered the alarm, prompting the suspect to flee in an unknown direction. Police...

- [UK to tackle antisemitism 'emergency' as police probe double stabbing](#) (2026-04-30 09:49)

The British government on Thursday called antisemitism in the UK an “emergency”, and said it would spend millions increasing security around Jewish sites after a string of arson attacks and a double stabbing. The government announced £25 million (US\$34 million) for more police patrols and protection around synagogues, schools and community centres after two Jewish men were stabbed and seriously injured in London's Golders Green neighbourhood on Wednesday. The victims, aged 34 and 76, are in...

- [Australian police find body in search for missing indigenous girl, 5](#) (2026-04-30 09:25)

Australian police said on Thursday they have found a body believed to be that of a missing five-year-old indigenous girl and were searching for the man who allegedly murdered her. The girl, now referred to by her family as Kumanjayi Little Baby in line with Indigenous customs, was reported missing from her home in a remote community in central Australia late on Saturday. Police said they located a body of a young Indigenous girl they believed was hers shortly before midday on Thursday about...

- [China forges new aviation alliances to fast-track C929 certification](#) (2026-04-30 09:00)

China's national aviation regulator has signed new partnership deals with its counterparts in Hong Kong and Macau to accelerate type certification for the country's widebody airliner, the C929, which is being developed to take on mainstream models from Boeing and Airbus. Building on the cooperation framework established for the home-grown narrowbody C919, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department on Thursday outlined a plan to further collaborate...

- [Oil surge on Trump blockade warning tests stocks' resilience](#) (2026-04-30 09:00)

Subscribers: The Daily Pulse won't be published on May 1 because of China's Labour Day holiday. We will resume publication on Monday, May 4. Crude oil prices jumped to a four-year high after US President Donald Trump suggested that a US naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz could last for "months". Brent crude, the global benchmark, surged as much as 7.3 per cent, surpassing US\$126 a barrel, following reports that Trump met oil executives on Tuesday to discuss ways of extending the blockade and...

- [Samsung, SK Hynix flag record supply squeeze in memory market as AI demand soars](#) (2026-04-30 08:30)

Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, South Korea's two memory chip giants, are warning of a prolonged and severe global supply crunch, weeks after the two companies disclosed increased investments in their China wafer fabs to meet surging artificial intelligence demand. During Samsung's first-quarter earnings call on Thursday, the company said its order fulfilment rate had plunged to a "record low". In a rare move, customers worried about shortages were already pre-booking memory capacity for 2027,...

- [Why King Charles' 'Trump bell' gift amuses Chinese internet users](#) (2026-04-30 08:23)

Chinese social media reacted with amusement and disbelief as Britain's King Charles gave US President Donald Trump a World War II-era British submarine bell as a gift, highlighting differing cultural interpretations of the unusual gesture. "Gifting a bell isn't a big deal in Western culture – but it's quite amusing, as far as we're concerned!" a user on Chinese social media wrote. On Tuesday, during his state visit to the United States, King Charles presented Trump with the original brass bell...

- [Israel intercepts Gaza aid flotilla in international waters off Greece, detaining dozens](#) (2026-04-30 08:19)

Activists sailing on dozens of boats attempting to break Israel's maritime blockade of the Gaza Strip to deliver humanitarian aid say Israeli forces intercepted them overnight Wednesday into Thursday, detaining the crews while the flotilla was sailing hundreds of kilometres from Gaza near the southern Greek island of Crete. The Global Sumud Flotilla set sail earlier this month from Barcelona. Organisers have said more than 70 boats and 1,000 people from around the world would be participating,...

- [Male pageant contestant' s viral swimsuit walk sparks body image debate in Philippines](#) (2026-04-30 07:46)

A viral appearance in the swimsuit round by a male beauty pageant contestant in the Philippines has sparked a wider debate about male beauty standards and whether pageantry is ready to make room for people who do not fit its traditional ideals. RJ Perkins, 21, drew widespread attention after a video showed him strutting across an outdoor stage during the swimwear segment of Mister Pampanga, held in the province of Pampanga, north of Manila. Unlike the chiselled bodies typically associated with...

- [Could a 'reckless' Trump' s 'destroy-and-deal' tactics target North Korea?](#) (2026-04-30 07:41)

As a rift widens among Republicans over US-Israeli air strikes on Iran, a top Korean-American leader said Seoul must recognise that President Donald Trump is heavily influenced by a faction he calls “new neocons” . Conservative commentator Tucker Carlson broke sharply with the president in a Wall Street Journal interview on Saturday, calling him a “slave” to hawkish interventionists willing to deploy military force. Kim Dong-seok, the 68-year-old head of the Korean American Grassroots Conference,...

- [Malaysian woman jailed 2 years for throwing baby daughter from 38-floor flat](#) (2026-04-30 07:33)

A 24-year-old Malaysian woman has been jailed for two years for throwing her newborn out of her 38th-floor flat in Kuala Lumpur. The court on Wednesday convicted Lua Mei Zhu of causing the death of her baby girl on February 26, 2025, the New Straits Times reported. Lua, who is not married, tossed her daughter out of the bathroom window shortly after giving birth between 1.30pm and 9pm. A resident on the ninth floor called police at about 10.20pm after finding the baby with severe head injuries...

- [Industrial costs up 50% in Hong Kong since start of Middle East war: oil executive](#) (2026-04-30 07:11)

Operating costs for Hong Kong' s industrial and commercial sectors have jumped by 50 per cent since the start of the United States-Israel war with Iran, according to an oil industry representative, who has said distributors will pass on subsidies to customers. A taxi union leader on Thursday also called on the government to extend its subsidy on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) beyond two months if oil prices rose further. The government' s subsidy of HK\$3 (38 US cents) per litre of diesel to support...

- [Malaysian man who was married 9 times faces wife assault case again](#) (2026-04-30 06:43)

Malaysia' s system for tracking repeat domestic abusers is under scrutiny after police said a man accused of assaulting his pregnant wife until she miscarried had been married nine times and was free on bail while appealing a 10-year jail sentence for attacking another spouse who was previously expecting. The 43-year-old suspect, named in local media as Rosmaini Abd Raof,

was remanded for seven days in Kedah on Wednesday after police arrested him at a homestay in Alor Setar, the northern state’ s...

- [Why China’ s jet fuel deal with Australia underscores Canberra’ s balancing act](#) (2026-04-30 06:16)

China will work with Australian businesses on jet fuel shipments in an important “first step” in alleviating supply crunches, according to Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong. The agreement came on Wednesday as part of Wong’ s talks in Beijing with her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi. “Inputs China supplies to Australia, including jet fuel, support the Australian resources sector, which in turn helps to maintain the flow of commodities that are so important in the bilateral trading relationship,” ...

- [Is Sri Lanka’ s investor call for ‘world’ s emptiest airport’ struggling to get off ground?](#) (2026-04-30 06:03)

Sri Lanka’ s loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport will need a complete overhaul if it wants to attract investors, analysts warn, after a 30-year lease agreement with an Indo-Russian joint venture failed commercially. The nation’ s second international airport, built with Chinese loan, is located near a wildlife sanctuary on the island’ s southern coast. It has no regular flights. Since opening in 2013, the small airport has failed to generate enough revenue to cover even its...

- [Tibetan herder goes from internet darling to tourism ambassador, now romantic film actor](#) (2026-04-30 06:00)

Five years after Tibetan herder Tenzing Tsondu was hailed as “China’ s most handsome man” for a seven-second video clip, he is now a romance film actor who dreams about more experiences in the wider world. Known by his Mandarin name Ding Zhen, he gained overnight fame across the nation, after a travel photographer’ s seven-second clip showing his pure smile went viral in November 2020. The account he newly registered on a social media platform garnered two million followers in one day. Many people...

- [How China can avoid a repeat of Japan’ s ‘lost decades’ , in eyes of top economist](#) (2026-04-30 05:15)

Bai Chongen is a prominent Chinese economist and government adviser. He is the dean of Tsinghua University’ s School of Economics and Management and serves concurrently as vice-chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce. From 2015 to 2018, he was a member of the Chinese central bank’ s monetary policy committee. This interview took place during the “two sessions” – the annual meetings of China’ s top legislature and advisory body – which Bai was attending as a member of the...

- [Mali turmoil tests Russia’ s image as a security guarantor in Africa](#) (2026-04-30 05:13)

A series of reversals suffered by Mali's Moscow-backed military government has dented Russia's image as a self-styled security guarantor in Africa and threatens its strategic and economic interests on the continent. The military junta, which turned to Russia for support after expelling French and UN troops following coups in 2020 and 2021, was rocked at the weekend by an offensive by West Africa's al-Qaeda affiliate and a Tuareg-dominated separatist group. Mali's Russia-trained defence...

- [Tourists overrun Australia's most Instagrammed street, driving locals to the brink](#) (2026-04-30 04:36)

Viral posts of an Australian street dubbed the country's "most beautiful" have enticed coachloads of visitors to a picturesque seaside town – and locals have had enough of it. Just a two-hour drive south of Sydney, Gerringong is much like many other photogenic hamlets along Australia's east coast, with multimillion-dollar properties set against stunning views of the azure blue sea. But recent posts on Instagram, TikTok and as far afield as China's RedNote showing the town's Tasman Drive have...

- [Why Japan is sharing its guarded Mogami warship design with India](#) (2026-04-30 04:12)

Common security interests in the region have led to Japan's unprecedented sharing of its Mogami-class warships with India, according to analysts. The move dovetails with New Delhi's drive to localise industrial and defence production. Enhanced naval capabilities will also allow India to become a "security provider" in the Indian Ocean. Japan offered India its Mogami design plans and the option to build the frigates in Indian shipyards using Japanese materials, according to recent reports from...

- [Crisis surge or lasting shift? China's solar exports double in a month](#) (2026-04-30 04:08)

Chinese solar exports surged in March, doubling to a record high as demand accelerated across dozens of markets, according to a new report. The spike comes as global energy systems react to renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and the dual blockade of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran and the US. The Persian Gulf shipping corridor, a critical chokepoint for global oil and gas flows, has become a focal pressure point amid escalating tensions that began on February 28 with US-Israel...

- [Stealth vaping continues despite new Hong Kong ban, 2 penalised](#) (2026-04-30 03:53)

Some Hong Kong residents are still vaping in hidden corners despite a new ban on the public use of alternative tobacco products, the South China Morning Post has observed, with at least two penalised by authorities. "We will issue penalty tickets without warning, and step up publicity in high-traffic areas such as business districts," Head of Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office Dr Manny Lam Man-chung said, stressing that the new measure would not undermine tourism. A morning patrol in Admiralty's...

- [Tai Po fire probe: URA's lack of price checks opened door to 'unscrupulous consultants'](#) (2026-04-30 03:21)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. An independent committee investigating the deadly blaze at Hong Kong's Wang Fuk Court residential estate is holding its 21st day of evidential hearings on Thursday, with three witnesses from the Urban Renewal Authority set to give evidence. The first witness, URA case manager Matthew Chan Yat-ho, has said the authority was aware of the practice of bid-rigging...

- [Malaysia seeks return of elephants as Japan climate, welfare concerns grow](#) (2026-04-30 03:08)

The three Malaysian elephants sent to Osaka in Japan from Zoo Taiping and Night Safari should be brought home, according to Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Arthur Joseph Kurup. Arthur made the call amid concerns that Japan's climate is unsuitable for the elephants and that one of them, Kelat, has suffered an injury. Last Friday, a group of protesters gathered outside the ministry, urging the government to bring the elephants back. They cited welfare concerns following...

- [Elderly man drowns during morning swim at Hong Kong's Lung Mei Beach](#) (2026-04-30 03:00)

An elderly man drowned while swimming at Lung Mei Beach in Hong Kong's Tai Po on Thursday morning. Police said they received a report at 7.25am of a swimmer struggling to stay afloat. Officers rescued the 73-year-old man about 100 metres from shore. He was taken to Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital in Tai Po, where he was pronounced dead. Police retrieved a backpack believed to belong to the man from a locker at the beach. Lifeguard services at the public beach operate from 9am to 6pm...

- [Hong Kong tour groups to mainland China surge by up to 40% for Labour Day weekend](#) (2026-04-30 02:30)

Tour groups from Hong Kong to mainland China are expected to rise by up to 40 per cent year on year over the Labour Day weekend, with travel agents citing improved safety and hygiene as key factors attracting visitors. The agents also said that slight increases in fuel surcharges for flights to Asian destinations were not the main driver of shifting outbound travel patterns among Hong Kong residents; instead, they pointed to the novelty and wide range of mainland options. Steve Huen Kwok-chuen,...

- [Gruesome details alleged in D4vd case: chainsaws, a paddling pool and corpse in Tesla](#) (2026-04-30 02:24)

R&B singer D4vd used chainsaws he bought from Amazon to cut up the body of the teenage girl he murdered and left to rot in the trunk of his Tesla, prosecution documents claimed on Wednesday. The internet breakout star killed Celeste Rivas Hernandez because she threatened

to reveal their long-standing and illegal sexual relationship, which began when she was just 13, charging papers allege. He then hacked up her corpse, using a plastic paddling pool to contain the blood, and stuffed it into bags...

- [French teen facing jail over straw licking stunt allowed to leave Singapore](#) (2026-04-30 02:10)

A French teenager facing criminal charges in Singapore for a straw licking stunt was granted permission on Wednesday to leave the country for three weeks on pledges to return. The 18-year-old is accused of posting to social media a video of himself putting the straw he licked back into the dispenser on an orange juice vending machine. Didier Gaspard Owen Maximilien's clip went viral and triggered a backlash that led to his arrest in Singapore, which has a reputation for not tolerating bad...

- [Can Philippines' new anti-Pogo playbook rein in fast-moving scam hubs?](#) (2026-04-30 02:00)

Philippine authorities have introduced a new national playbook for raiding and prosecuting online scam centres, as criminal networks once tied to the country's offshore gaming industry splinter into smaller and harder-to-detect operations. The rules aim to close gaps exposed during earlier raids, when agencies struggled to coordinate evidence, freeze assets, identify trafficking victims and build cases against operators who often left few physical traces. Analysts and former officials said the...

- [Oxford AI star Song Yuhang returns to China, but why did he leave chip start-up?](#) (2026-04-30 02:00)

A young scientist who was a leader in Britain's AI chip field has returned to China, joining Nanjing University earlier this year as an associate professor at its School of Artificial Intelligence. Song Yuhang, whose published papers on artificial intelligence (AI) have been widely cited and reported, obtained his PhD from the University of Oxford in 2022, and is also a recipient of the coveted JP Morgan AI Research Award. According to Song, he and his fellow Oxford PhD candidate Walter Goodwin...

- [Ant International serves 150m merchants, 2b consumers, bets on AI commerce infrastructure](#) (2026-04-30 01:31)

Ant International, the overseas spin-off of Chinese fintech giant Ant Group, has connected more than 150 million merchants with over 2 billion consumer accounts around the world, as it positions its payments network as core infrastructure for the emerging AI commerce economy. The figures, disclosed at the company's MoMents 2026 forum in Kuala Lumpur, which ran from Monday to Wednesday, underscore the scale Ant is seeking to leverage amid the rising adoption of artificial intelligence agents. Ant...

- [Should the law treat autonomous AI 'agents' as legal persons?](#) (2026-04-30 01:30)

Almost everyone has heard of OpenClaw, the late-2025 agentic AI release which takes artificial intelligence technology one step further. Rather than leaving the user to turn answers given in a dialogue box into real life action, the latest AI iteration promises to take the final leap of executing tasks autonomously. Users have raved about the productivity gains, likening the tool to employing a tireless secretary. Equally, there are horror stories of raised “lobsters” – the nickname for OpenClaw...

- [India overtakes England to become Australia’ s largest migrant group](#) (2026-04-30 01:09)

Indians are now Australia’ s largest migrant group, supplanting the English for the first time ever, in a change that highlights the rise of immigration as an increasingly contentious political issue. Some 971,020 people in Australia – or 5.2 per cent of the population – were born in India, narrowly surpassing the 970,950 born in England, according to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The England-born population slipped from just over 1 million in 2013. The third-largest cohort...

- [Video game-loving China monk defends hobby, says gaming, religion serve similar life purposes](#) (2026-04-30 01:00)

A senior monk in China has attracted widespread social media attention for enthusiastically playing electronic games. Venerable Huayan, from Mingjiao Temple in Hefei in central Anhui province, has been a Buddhist monk for 20 years. He began to play e-games when he was a primary school pupil in the early 2000s, Counter-Strike (CS) is his favourite, according to the news portal Sina.com. Huayan once achieved the Legendary Eagle Master position, a very high ranking in CS. He said the most...

- [Trump, Putin talk Iran and Ukraine, US energy exports up: here’ s what happened overnight](#) (2026-04-30 00:42)

The fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran has continued to shatter global markets. These are the major takeaways of what happened overnight. What did Trump say? US President Donald Trump spoke with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, discussing the wars in Ukraine and Iran. Trump said that the conversation was “very good” and that the US was “going to come up with a solution relatively quickly” over its continuing conflict with Iran. He also said that the US was...

- [Will top Hong Kong civil servants pay price for blunders under new system?](#) (2026-04-30 00:30)

Where exactly does the buck stop? Senior Hong Kong civil servants are asking themselves that question after the unveiling of a new accountability system targeting department heads. They point to the deadly Tai Po fire last year as an example. An independent committee investigating the tragedy heard evidence officials gave contractors at the blaze-hit Wang Fuk Court estate advance notice of inspections, potentially allowing problems to be concealed before fire-safety checks on scaffolding...

- [Geely joins Chery, BYD in profit slide as reduced incentives decimate China car sales](#)

(2026-04-30 00:30)

Geely Automobile Holdings, Chery Automobile and BYD, the most profitable listed Chinese carmakers last year, all reported double-digit declines in net profit in the first quarter, highlighting a squeeze at home amid reduced purchase incentives. Hangzhou-based Geely, the country's second-largest carmaker behind BYD, said in a filing on Wednesday that its net profit for the January-March period slid 27 per cent year on year to 4.17 billion yuan (US\$610 million). The profit slump came even as...

- [Brics to push for intra-currency payments as 'immunity' against Western clout](#)

(2026-04-30 00:00)

Brics nations are assessing whether a digital payments framework linking their currencies could lessen the impact of Western sanctions, tariffs and US dollar volatility without destabilising the Washington-led global financial system. Under the plan proposed by India's central bank, Brics is looking to allow cross-border transactions to be settled in local currencies. Its feasibility depends on how far the bloc's members can lessen their reliance on Western-controlled payment channels without...

- [Trump may cut US troops in Germany after Merz's 'humiliating' Iran comment](#)

(2026-04-29 23:46)

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the United States is considering reducing the number of its troops in Germany, amid a row with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the Iran war. "The United States is studying and reviewing the possible reduction of Troops in Germany, with a determination to be made over the next short period of time," Trump said on social media. The United States had more than 35,000 troops in Germany in 2024, according to the Congressional Research Service,...

- [US lawmakers warn China is top space rival as race to the moon intensifies](#) (2026-04-29 23:30)

China is the United States' "most consequential threat and competitor in space," leveraging its capabilities "as a tool of diplomacy and influence", US lawmakers were told at a congressional hearing on Wednesday, as the two countries' race to the moon intensifies. The US and China are locked in a high-stakes space race, with both nations aiming to put astronauts on the moon in the coming years. While China has set a 2030 target for its first crewed lunar landing, the US' Artemis programme aims...

- [HKMA holds base interest rate at 4%, following Fed as war inflation worries persist](#)

(2026-04-29 23:27)

Hong Kong's monetary authority has held its base interest rate steady, following the lead of the US Federal Reserve, as analysts said the inflationary impact of the US-Israel war with Iran

had reduced the chances of a rate cut this year. The city's base rate would stay at 4 per cent, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) said on Thursday, hours after the US Federal Reserve kept its target rate in the range of 3.5 to 3.75 per cent following the third meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee...

- [UN bloated, costly, but China fears should keep US involved, House committee told](#) (2026-04-29 22:39)

The United Nations is bloated, costly, badly in need of reform, and too often works against US interests, but pulling out of the international organisation would see China expand its influence and leave Washington at a major disadvantage, according to testimony before a House oversight committee on Wednesday. The hearing came as the administration of US President Donald Trump has imposed an “America first” overhaul of international funding, leaving the UN, over the past 18 months, at what...

- [Brown University shooter targeted symbolic victims tied to grievances, FBI says](#) (2026-04-29 22:14)

Federal investigators say they believe the man who carried out a mass shooting at Brown University and later killed a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor did not act randomly. Instead, former Brown student Claudio Neves Valente, 48, appeared to target places and people for what they represented in his own life – institutions and individuals he associated with personal failure, missed opportunity and perceived injustice. In a detailed behavioural assessment released on Wednesday, the...

- [The UAE's exit from Opec could bring 'even bigger trouble' : Chinese expert](#) (2026-04-29 22:00)

The United Arab Emirates' decision to leave a global cartel of major oil-exporting countries is seen to reflect a widening fracture within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The UAE announced on Tuesday that it would leave the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and the wider Opec+ alliance, effective on Friday. The country joined the group in 1971, though one of its emirates – Abu Dhabi – joined in 1967. The UAE's Ministry of Infrastructure said in a statement that the...

- [From Japan to India, overtourism cries out for new success metrics](#) (2026-04-29 21:30)

Can tourism be considered successful if arrivals increase, but the local communities – the very soul of the destination – feel strained and excluded? Too often, tourism success is measured in arrivals, occupancy and revenue. These numbers matter. But they tell only a fraction of the story. We must ask: who is this success really for? Traditional growth metrics are no longer sufficient to protect the residents who host the world or the workers who power the experience. To prevent cultural...

- [King Charles commemorates 9/11 victims in New York visit](#) (2026-04-29 20:30)

Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla commemorated victims of the September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda attack on New York on Wednesday, laying a floral bouquet at the memorial where the World Trade Centre's twin towers once stood. The royal visit to lower Manhattan came at a time of tensions between Britain and the US, with President Donald Trump having criticised Prime Minister Keir Starmer for what he says is his lack of help in the US and Israel's war with Iran. Michael Bloomberg, a former New...

- [Powell says he'll stay at Fed after chair term ends, citing attacks by Trump team](#) (2026-04-29 19:33)

Jerome Powell said he plans to remain on the board of the Federal Reserve after his term as chair ends next month “for an undetermined period of time”, citing the “unprecedented” legal attacks against the central bank by the Trump administration. “I worry these attacks are battering this institution and putting at risk the things that really matter to the public,” Powell said at a press conference after the Fed announced its decision to keep its benchmark interest rate steady. Powell's decision...

- [Trump hails 'very good' Putin call as Iran talks stall and Ukraine war drags on](#) (2026-04-29 18:53)

US President Donald Trump spoke with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, discussing the wars in Ukraine and Iran even as Washington pressed ahead with its naval blockade of Iranian ports. Trump told reporters as he met with astronauts from the Artemis II mission in the Oval Office that the conversation was “very good” and that the US was “going to come up with a solution relatively quickly” over its ongoing conflict with Iran. “He told me he'd like to be involved with the...

- [US Supreme Court curbs race-based voting maps in landmark ruling](#) (2026-04-29 17:59)

The US Supreme Court on Wednesday sharply limited the use of race in drawing electoral districts, in a decision that could reshape congressional maps nationwide and boost Republican prospects ahead of midterm elections. In a 6-3 ruling split along ideological lines, the conservative-dominated court struck down a map that creates a second majority-black district in Louisiana, finding it amounted to an unconstitutional racial gerrymander despite being drawn to comply with the 1965 Voting Rights...

- [Man charged with trying to kill Trump took photo with knife in hotel](#) (2026-04-29 17:35)

The man charged with trying to storm the White House Correspondents' Association dinner and kill US President Donald Trump took a picture of himself in his hotel room just minutes earlier, outfitted with an ammunition bag, a shoulder gun holster and a sheathed knife, authorities said on Wednesday in a new court filing. Cole Allen wore black pants, a black shirt and a red tie as he snapped the image in his room at the Washington Hilton, where Trump and hundreds of journalists were meeting for a...

- [Iran war price tag hits US\\$25 billion as Hegseth defends record Pentagon budget](#)

(2026-04-29 17:14)

The two-month war with Iran has cost about US\$25 billion, a Pentagon official told lawmakers on Wednesday, as US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth defended a record US\$1.5 trillion military budget that faces backlash from Democrats. At a House Armed Services Committee hearing on Wednesday, Jules Hurst III, the Pentagon's chief financial officer, offered the first official estimate of the cost of the war in Iran. He said that most of the US\$25 billion in spending went towards ammunition, but the US...

- [Trump says US blockade could last for months, warns Iran to 'get smart soon'](#)

(2026-04-29 16:59)

US President Donald Trump warned Tehran on Wednesday that it should "get smart soon" and capitulate to Washington's demands for tight controls on its nuclear programme, as a US naval blockade turned the screws on Iran's economy. The US could extend its naval blockade of Iran for months more, oil executives were told in a meeting with Trump, an official said, after press reports that he had rejected Iran's latest proposed deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. "Iran can't get their act together ..."

- [Sweden targets social media giants over 'murder adverts' recruiting children](#)

(2026-04-29 15:42)

Sweden's government said on Wednesday it planned to introduce legislation requiring social media platforms like TikTok and Snapchat to take down criminal gangs' "murder adverts" within an hour or face hefty fines. Criminal gangs active in Sweden increasingly use social media to recruit people to commit murders and other violent acts amid a surge in "crime as a service". The recruits are often children under the age of 15, Sweden's age of criminal responsibility, meaning the youngsters cannot be...

- [Chips, oil and Iran: why US is raising pressure on China before Xi-Trump talks](#) (2026-04-29 15:00)

The United States is stepping up pressure on China across multiple strategic fronts, in moves analysts say could strengthen US President Donald Trump's hand ahead of his planned high-stakes mid-May meeting with President Xi Jinping. But they cautioned that Beijing was likely to remain unfazed because it had already adapted to earlier curbs by reducing its reliance on the American market. US lawmakers in the House Foreign Affairs Committee have advanced 20 new export control measures this month...

- [China Southern Airlines orders Airbus jets worth US\\$21b as Boeing deal remains rumour](#)

(2026-04-29 14:57)

Airbus secured an order for 137 A320neo jets from Chinese airlines, extending the European company's edge in one of aviation's most contested markets as US rival Boeing waits on a long-speculated deal with Beijing. China Southern Airlines, one of China's three major

state-owned carriers, announced the deal on Wednesday. The airline, based in the southern city of Guangzhou, will purchase 102 aircraft, while its subsidiary Xiamen Airlines will acquire the remaining 35. The orders carry a combined...

- [UK police say London stabbing of 2 Jewish men is terrorist incident](#) (2026-04-29 14:54)

London police say the stabbing of two Jewish men on Wednesday has been declared a terrorist incident. Metropolitan Police say they are investigating whether the attack specifically targeted the Jewish community. The force says the incident, in the Golders Green area, left two men, aged 34 and 76, hospitalised with knife wounds. A 45-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. Police are investigating whether the stabbings are linked to recent arson attacks on synagogues and...

- [DeepSeek adds AI vision in major move: ‘the whale can now see’](#) (2026-04-29 14:00)

Chinese artificial intelligence start-up DeepSeek has added multimodal capabilities to its flagship chatbot for the first time – meaning that it can process images and video in addition to text – bringing it in line with rivals that already offer the function. The limited release to select users comes just days after the Hangzhou-based company released its new flagship model V4, which was followed by extensive price cuts. According to DeepSeek multimodal team leader Chen Xiaokang, who made the...

- [Are US agents around Trump armed with Chinese red dot sights?](#) (2026-04-29 14:00)

A press photo of a US protective agent responding to a gunman breaching security during last weekend’s White House Correspondents’ Association dinner has ignited debate within America’s firearms community. The controversy centres not on the agent’s actions, but on what appeared to be a Chinese-made Holosun red dot sight mounted on her Glock pistol. The image, which spread rapidly across firearms forums after being shared on social media, shows a plain-clothes agent with her weapon drawn as US...

- [Tropical rainforest loss eases after record year, but still ‘11 football fields a minute’](#) (2026-04-29 13:35)

The pace of tropical forest destruction slowed in 2025 after record losses the year before but remained at worrying levels equivalent to 11 football fields per minute, researchers said Wednesday. The world lost 4.3 million hectares (10.6 million acres) of tropical primary rainforest last year, down 36 per cent from 2024, said researchers from the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the University of Maryland. “A drop of this scale in a single year is encouraging – it shows what decisive...

- [Thirst for local AI chips raises revenue for China GPU leaders Cambricon, MetaX](#) (2026-04-29 13:15)

Chinese chip designers Cambricon Technologies and MetaX Integrated Circuits reported substantial growth in the first quarter, as the artificial intelligence boom, lingering US

export-control risks and China's self-sufficiency push drove the country's demand for home-grown computing power. Cambricon's first-quarter revenue jumped 160 per cent from a year earlier to 2.89 billion yuan (US\$423 million), while profit soared 185 per cent to 1 billion yuan, the company said in a filing on...

- [Guangdong to 'actively align' with Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis push](#)

(2026-04-29 13:15)

Guangdong will "actively align" with Hong Kong's strategy for the Northern Metropolis megaproject and highlight areas of collaboration as part of the province's 15th five-year plan. The Guangdong provincial government on Tuesday published its development blueprint, with the term "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area" mentioned 57 times in the document and a chapter dedicated to the region's development. Its proposal for economic and social development, part of Beijing's sweeping 2026-2030...

- [Why China may benefit from the UAE's Opec withdrawal amid Iran war oil crisis](#)

(2026-04-29 13:00)

China may gain from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) withdrawing from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), benefiting from additional supply as global oil markets face growing strain three months into the US-Israeli war in Iran, analysts said. The UAE – Opec's third-largest producer, accounting for about 12 per cent of its total output – will formally leave the bloc on May 1. UAE Energy Minister Suhail Mohamed al-Mazrouei told CNBC that it was the "right time" to exit, adding...

- [Hong Kong education portal under fire for low readership among teachers, students](#)

(2026-04-29 12:35)

A Hong Kong government-funded online portal that provides resources for teachers and school students has failed to meet its user number target, with thousands of items never being downloaded, viewed or used, according to an audit report. The Audit Commission report, which was released on Wednesday, also cited remarks from the executive director of Hong Kong Education City (EdCity) that the platform's low usage was due to the city's shrinking student population. The report found that the portal's...

- [Sudan's sexual violence as weapon of war triggers huge mental health crisis: UN](#)

(2026-04-29 12:30)

The widespread use of rape and other sexual violence as a weapon of war in Sudan has spurred a massive mental health crisis, United Nations agencies and local aid groups warned. The Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been locked in a brutal conflict since April 2023 that has killed tens of thousands and displaced around 11 million people. Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières last month said at least 3,396 survivors of sexual violence – nearly all of them women...

- [Hit from memory costs spreads from phones to EVs as China's BYD raises driving-tech price](#) (2026-04-29 12:30)

The impact of sky-high costs for memory chips is spreading from smartphones to cars, as China's electric vehicle (EV) king BYD announced a 21 per cent price increase for its high-end driver-assistance system. Starting on Friday, the price of the optional DiPilot 300 assisted-driving system would rise to 12,000 yuan (\$1,757) from 9,900 yuan, BYD said on Tuesday, attributing the decision to “the sharp rise in global storage hardware costs”. The system, which allows cars to navigate themselves on...

- [Why an era of managed Hormuz disruption wouldn't bode well for Asia](#) (2026-04-29 12:30)

Even if the immediate phase of conflict subsides, the Gulf is unlikely to return to the status quo. For Asia, the central question is no longer simply whether the Strait of Hormuz is open. It is whether the waterway remains reliable, predictable and politically insulated from coercion. That distinction now matters more than ever. For China and other major Asian importers, it is a question of whether energy flows, shipping routes and sanctions exposure are increasingly being shaped by a crisis...

- [Why Beijing's weaponised cargo ship could be a crucial player in the Taiwan Strait](#) (2026-04-29 12:24)

Beijing's latest weaponised container ship could play a key role in deterring foreign intervention at a low cost during a Taiwan conflict, according to a mainland Chinese military magazine. The Zhong Da 79 is a medium-sized civilian cargo ship capable of carrying containerised vertical missile launchers, radar sensors and self-defence systems. It was first spotted at the end of last year at Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding's yard in Shanghai. An article by Ordnance Industry Science Technology...

- [Hong Kong Law Society closes firm linked to crash-for-cash scams](#) (2026-04-29 11:56)

Hong Kong's Law Society has ordered the closure of a solicitors' firm under investigation for its alleged role in a series of “crash-for-cash” scams in the city. The society's council announced on Wednesday it would intervene in the practice of Raymond Lam & Associates, which will cease operations with immediate effect. The council also appointed Robertsons, another local law firm, as the intervention agent to handle matters pertaining to the closure. In a statement, the society said it found...

- [‘Might over right’ imperils international justice, Wang Yi tells UN's Baerbock](#) (2026-04-29 11:51)

China's top diplomat Wang Yi called for “unity and the safeguarding of international justice” during a meeting with UN General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock on Wednesday, urging a global front against the “law of the jungle” amid deepening geopolitical tensions. During the talks in Beijing, Wang told Baerbock that multilateralism faced “severe challenges”

from unnamed powers prioritising “might over right”, a veiled critique of Washington. “Certain countries pursue a policy of ‘strength...

- [Hong Kong penthouse sells for US\\$54m to mainland Chinese buyer as luxury demand spikes](#) (2026-04-29 11:30)

A top-floor residence at High Peak in Hong Kong’s Mid-Levels West neighbourhood has sold for HK\$420 million (US\$53.7 million) as activity in Hong Kong’s high-end housing segment remains heated after a strong first quarter. The penthouse unit at 23 Po Shan Road sold to a company called Shine Action on April 8, Land Registry records showed. The buyer is believed to be a mainland resident, based on the name of Shine Action’s director in the Companies Registry, Zheng Jiang. Momentum at the pinnacle...

- [Southeast Asia’s Mekong River being poisoned by rare earth mining](#) (2026-04-29 11:22)

Perched on the bow of his long-tail fishing boat, 75-year-old Sukjai Yana untangled a handful of small fish from his net, disappointed by his catch and fretting over whether he can sell them. Some days Sukjai earns nothing: demand for fish is falling due to worries over contamination of the Mekong River and its tributaries by toxic run-off from rare earth mines upstream that is threatening millions who rely on those waters for farms and fisheries. Chiang Saen, a fishing hub in northern Thailand,...

- [Hong Kong throws SMEs lifeline with raft of measures, HK\\$450 billion in loans](#) (2026-04-29 11:17)

Hong Kong authorities have rolled out a fresh package of measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) reeling from the global fuel crisis and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, including a 21 per cent increase in available bank lending to HK\$450 billion (US\$78.43 billion). The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), the city’s de facto central bank, on Wednesday said the measures for the SMEs were designed to improve access to financing, strengthen their business resilience,...

- [2 months jail for Hong Kong security guard who shared post urging Legco poll boycott](#) (2026-04-29 11:02)

A Hong Kong man has been jailed for two months for sharing a social media post urging residents to shun last year’s Legislative Council election. Security guard Wong Wah-kwong, 63, pleaded guilty at West Kowloon Court on Wednesday to inciting others to boycott the December poll – the second under a Beijing-imposed “patriots-only” election overhaul in 2021. Wong admitted sharing a Facebook post dated October 15 last year by fugitive activist Alan Keung Ka-wai, who urged Hongkongers to avoid...

- [Before Trump’s visit, China touts mineral dominance, fortifies resource security](#) (2026-04-29 11:00)

China is flexing its dominance over the global supply chain – claiming the world’s largest reserves of 14 essential minerals, including rare earths and graphite – while preparing to ramp up exploration through the end of the decade. The Ministry of Natural Resources disclosed the information at a monthly media briefing on Wednesday, vowing that China would continue accelerating its search for minerals during the 15th five-year plan period spanning 2026 to 2030. The message underscores Beijing’s...

- [Watchdog urges Hong Kong Observatory to better explain typhoon warning decisions](#) (2026-04-29 10:38)

The Hong Kong Observatory should step up efforts to explain decisions for issuing typhoon warnings to address public concerns amid a rise in extreme weather events, the Audit Commission has urged. Citing the forecaster, a report issued by the public sector watchdog on Wednesday noted “increasing public demand” for signal change notification well in advance over the years for timely preparation as extreme weather events became more frequent in light of climate change. “Audit acknowledges that the...

- [Ikea to open first small-format Beijing store to tap China’s changing consumer trends](#) (2026-04-29 10:30)

Multinational furniture retailer Ikea says it will open its first small-format store in Beijing on Thursday, aiming at convenience and efficiency that analysts believe could lift footfall by bringing the brand closer to consumers amid shifting trends. The move comes after the company shut seven large outlets across mainland China in early February, as it grapples with the country’s rapidly changing consumer trends and declining demand for new-home furnishing amid a sluggish property...

- [In a fragmenting global order, former Japanese leader urges pivot to China](#) (2026-04-29 10:00)

Former Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama has called on Beijing and Tokyo to work together against “US arrogance”, as the global order is upended by President Donald Trump. Hatoyama, who was Japan’s prime minister from 2009 to 2010, said the two nations should find common ground and work to manage their bilateral relations. “I would argue that Japan and China should jointly confront a self-centred United States and [prevent] the collapse of the world order,” Hatoyama said at an event in Hong...

- [China boy, 6, discovers lump in throat that was initially thought to be ‘undeveloped twin’](#) (2026-04-29 10:00)

A six-year-old Chinese boy was diagnosed with a lump in his throat, which doctors said was his “twin brother”. The youngster, Xiaoliang, had been snoring heavily for the past six months, and only ate soft food. His mother, surnamed Liu, found it odd and took him for a medical examination. Their local hospital said he had an egg-sized tumour in his throat, adding that they could not treat the disease. Liu then took Xiaoliang to the Children’s Hospital of Fudan

University in Shanghai. There, an...

- [Rights groups hail Indonesia' s 'new chapter' for domestic workers, warn of long road ahead](#) (2026-04-29 09:46)

Indonesia' s new legislation to protect domestic helpers has been hailed by rights groups as the beginning of a “new chapter” for millions – though they warn that the road to change remains long and winding. On April 21, Indonesia' s House of Representatives passed the domestic worker protection bill into law, 22 years since it was first proposed. The legislation “provides legal certainty, protects workers from various forms of unfair treatment, and encourages improvements in the skills and...

- [Hong Kong auditor takes aim at fire services over delayed safety hazard prosecutions](#) (2026-04-29 09:39)

Hong Kong' s Fire Services Department has yet to launch prosecutions in 34 cases involving mini-storage premises that failed to comply with safety hazard orders, including sites first inspected as far back as 2016, the Audit Commission has said. The commission also revealed on Wednesday that none of the 249 industrial buildings required to improve fire safety measures in their common parts had complied with the orders issued under a law that took effect in 2020. Fire safety at industrial...

- [New Zealand officials reject statue remembering Japan' s WWII sex slaves](#) (2026-04-29 09:23)

New Zealand officials rejected on Wednesday an application to install a statue commemorating so-called “comfort women” enslaved by Japan before and during World War II after Tokyo suggested it could harm diplomatic relations. Japan forced up to 200,000 women from Korea, China and Southeast Asia into sexual slavery from 1932 until 1945 and the issue remains a sore point in Tokyo' s relations with its neighbours. The Korean Garden Trust had sought to install a statue honouring the survivors at...

- [Youth hostel scheme falls short as only 44% of expected flats offered: audit](#) (2026-04-29 09:13)

Hong Kong authorities have failed to meet targets on the supply and construction of youth hostels, with the number of flats offered accounting for only 44 per cent of what was intended, an audit report has found. The Audit Commission on Wednesday released its report reviewing the government' s development and management of the facilities under the Youth Hostel Scheme, which covered seven hostels, including two that had been completed and were in operation. The review found that as of December...

- [Zoo in Japan' s Hokkaido delays reopening over search for body in incinerator](#) (2026-04-29 08:54)

One of Japan's most popular zoos has delayed its reopening after an employee reportedly told police he had burned his wife's body in an incinerator on its grounds. Asahiyama Zoo in Hokkaido's second-largest city of Asahikawa, which had been closed for a seasonal break since April 8, was set to reopen on Wednesday, a national holiday. But the date has been pushed back to at least Friday to allow police to search for the body, according to The Asahi Shimbun newspaper. At a news conference on...

- [Hong Kong surplus hits HK\\$11 billion as finance chief 'monitors' Mideast war](#) (2026-04-29 08:54)

Hong Kong's financial chief has revised the city's fiscal surplus for the previous year to HK\$11 billion (US\$1.91 billion), nearly four times the original estimate, saying the ongoing Middle East conflict had a limited impact on the economy with gross domestic product (GDP) growth remaining strong in the first quarter. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also dismissed concerns that increased bond issuance to fund the Northern Metropolis megaproject would burden future generations as "overly...

- [China's EV makers to cut charging times; Tesla rival Li Auto's expansion: 7 EV reads](#) (2026-04-29 07:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage on electric and new energy vehicles from the past two weeks to help you stay informed. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. China's EV and battery makers race to cut charging times to under 10 minutes Battery makers and electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers have seized on the Beijing Auto Show to showcase technologies promising shorter charging times in a race triggered by BYD and Contemporary Amperex...

- [Which hidden gems are mainland Chinese tourists chasing this Labour Day 'golden week' ?](#) (2026-04-29 07:23)

Hong Kong expects about 980,000 mainland Chinese visitors over the Labour Day "golden week" holiday from May 1 to 5, a 7 per cent increase from last year. Instead of rushing through major attractions, many travellers are opting for slower, highly curated itineraries centred on exhibitions, neighbourhood walks and carefully timed photo spots – trends driven by popular social media platforms such as RedNote. Here, the South China Morning Post highlights what mainland tourists are currently...

- [South Korea's Yoon given longer sentence for obstructing justice](#) (2026-04-29 07:18)

A South Korean appeal court increased the sentence of jailed former president Yoon Suk-yeol on Wednesday to seven years for obstructing justice, up from five years. A lower court had handed Yoon the initial sentence in January after he was found to have used presidential security agents to block his own arrest. Both Yoon and the prosecution lodged appeals. He argued that the arrest warrants against him were based on an "unlawful investigation", while special prosecutors said his punishment...

- [Hong Kong taxis, minibuses to get 2-month LPG subsidy amid soaring fuel prices](#)
(2026-04-29 07:11)

Hong Kong will introduce a two-month subsidy for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) used by taxis, minibuses and school buses from May, amid soaring fuel prices, while a previously announced diesel subsidy will take effect on Thursday. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Wednesday that the interdepartmental task force monitoring fuel price movements had proposed a 50 HK cents per litre subsidy for two months, starting in May, to alleviate operational pressure on taxis and minibuses, among...

- [Gene study reveals unknown human migration into South America as late as 720AD](#)
(2026-04-29 07:00)

A massive genomic study of indigenous peoples in the Americas has uncovered evidence of a previously unknown migration into South America that occurred as recently as 1,300 years ago – during China’s Tang dynasty. These new settlers carried genes remarkably similar to indigenous populations in what is now Australia and the Pacific Islands, according to the study published online by the journal Nature on April 22. The international team, which included scientists from the University of Sao Paulo...

- [Hong Kong cook jailed for 18 years for ‘evil’ sexual abuse of daughter](#) (2026-04-29 06:39)

A Hong Kong cook has been jailed for 18 years for persistently sexually abusing the daughter he shares with his mistress, with the presiding judge also criticising the victim’s mother for trying to keep her silent. The High Court on Wednesday said a deterrent sentence was necessary for the 61-year-old to reflect society’s abhorrence of the “evil” crimes he committed against the girl when she was aged 11 to 18. The accused, identified only by his initials, TML, to protect his daughter’s identity,...

- [Thai influencer sells premium durians for dirt cheap to avoid rotting amid surplus](#)
(2026-04-29 06:38)

Thailand is turning to live-streamers to clear a looming durian glut, slashing prices as weaker Chinese demand threatens its biggest export market. Top online seller Pimradaporn Benjawattanapat, or Pimrypie, led a high-energy live stream on Tuesday night, pitching to her combined 31 million TikTok and Facebook followers. Known for selling everything from her own-brand fish sauce to luxury perfumes, Pimrypie priced premium Monthong at as low as 100 baht (US\$3) per fruit, well below typical market...

- [Malaysian Indians least likely to be scammed as they ask too many questions: police](#)
(2026-04-29 06:13)

Being a Malaysian Indian is apparently a good indication that you are unlikely to fall for a scam. Police have found that potential victims from the ethnic group are more than likely to frustrate

scammers with a barrage of questions. Malaysians lost an estimated 2.7 billion ringgit (US\$684million) to online scams last year alone, according to data from cybersecurity firm FortinetMalaysia – a 76 per cent increase from the previous year – as syndicates adopt increasingly sophisticated methods...

- [Russia to hold equipment-free Red Square parade as Ukraine war grinds on](#) (2026-04-29 06:04)

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that Russia's annual Victory Day military parade on Red Square had been scaled back this year and would not include military equipment due to the risk of what it described as "Ukrainian terrorist activity". The parade, held on May 9, marks the Soviet defeat of Nazi Germany during World War II, a conflict Russians call the Great Patriotic War. One of the top holidays on the Russian calendar, it allows the dwindling number of veterans to gather in...

- [China social media account banned for forcing women to stay in tank with crocodile](#) (2026-04-29 06:00)

A social media account in China with more than 11 million followers which targets juveniles has been banned for forcing young female live-streamers to stay in a tank with a crocodile. The permanent ban also came after the account was exposed of also having made the women hold their breath under water. The account with the handle @Yebali, which means Night Paris in English, had been in operation on the social media platform for five years before it bowed to pressure to close, Jiupai News...

- [HKEX posts record quarterly profit, topping forecast as listings and turnover surge](#) (2026-04-29 05:50)

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX), operator of Asia's third-largest stock market, reported a record quarterly profit in the first three months of 2026, buoyed by more new listings and increased turnover. Net profit rose 27 per cent to HK\$5.19 billion (US\$662 million) – or HK\$4.10 per share – from a year earlier, the company said on Wednesday. The result beat the HK\$4.6 billion consensus among analysts. It is the highest quarterly profit on record, surpassing the HK\$4.9 billion in the third...

- [Government vows action as landlord-tenant rows block access at Wang Fuk Court](#) (2026-04-29 05:38)

Hong Kong authorities have pledged to intervene in landlord-tenant disputes preventing residents from retrieving belongings from the fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court, as packing efforts enter their 10th day. Deputy Chief Secretary Warner Cheuk Wing-hing said on Wednesday that while the government expected agreement on limited entry quotas, authorities were prepared to make "alternative arrangements" to ensure all residents had a fair chance to retrieve their belongings. "Our stance on this is very...

- [China targets ‘zombies’ with regulatory headshots to kill off subsidised laggards](#)

(2026-04-29 05:30)

China’s top market regulator is intensifying its crackdown on debt-laden “zombie companies” – rolling out a pilot programme in seven economic hubs to facilitate the forced exit of unprofitable firms often propped up by government subsidies or bank loans. The move signals a broadening of Beijing’s campaign against local protectionism and the low-quality vicious competition that officials say results in neijuan, or “involution”. With a change to China’s Company Law, the State Administration for...

- [Mali’s junta leader says situation ‘under control’ in first appearance since attacks](#)

(2026-04-29 05:10)

The leader of Mali’s military government, Assimi Goita, on Tuesday made his first public appearance since insurgents launched coordinated attacks over the weekend, vowing in a televised address to “neutralise” those responsible. West Africa’s al-Qaeda affiliate and a Tuareg-dominated separatist group hit Mali’s main army base and the area near Bamako’s airport in the attacks on Saturday, while also pushing Russian troops supporting government forces out of the strategic town of Kidal in the...

- [Hormuz crisis revives Thailand’s land bridge plan but business case still lacking](#)

(2026-04-29 05:08)

Thailand’s vision for a land bridge splits opinion: some see it as a crucial new Asian trade route for a global economy held hostage by geography, while others view it as an expensive and environmentally ruinous distraction for a kingdom with plenty already on its plate. But to its backers, the proposed road and rail corridor, bookended by ports on the Gulf of Thailand and another 90km (56 miles) away on the Andaman Sea, to bypass a vital chokepoint, has never felt more urgent. Iran’s virtual...

- [Singapore firm sorry after Changi Airport baggage handler caught tossing luggage](#)

(2026-04-29 05:05)

Ground-handling company SATS has apologised over a video circulating online showing a service crew member throwing luggage onto a baggage belt at Singapore’s Changi Airport.

“The behaviour seen in the video does not reflect our service standards or the care with which we expect baggage to be handled,” SATS said in a statement on Tuesday. “We are sorry that this occurred.” In a social media video posted by user Eric Yoong, a SATS service crew member can be seen tossing baggage onto a conveyor...

- [Amber rainstorm warning issued as thunderstorms hit Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-29 04:22)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’s journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong’s weather forecaster issued an amber rainstorm warning on Wednesday calling on the public to seek safe shelter as thunderstorms and intense gusts might hit the city. The Hong Kong Observatory raised the

signal at 11.35am and said areas of intense thundery showers associated with upper-air disturbances had been persistently affecting the area. The...

- [Challenges ahead for Wang Fuk Court homeowners who reject buy-back offer](#) (2026-04-29 04:12)

Homeowners of the only block undamaged in the deadly Wang Fuk Court inferno who decline the government's buy-back offer will face significant challenges in the management and maintenance of their properties in the long run, Hong Kong authorities have warned. Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong Wai-lun said on Wednesday that while the government respected homeowners' decisions, the possibility for authorities to invoke legislation to acquire all property titles in Wang Chi House "absolutely...

- [India's major airlines on 'verge of closing down' as high fuel costs sting](#) (2026-04-29 04:03)

India's major airlines warned of a potential suspension in services unless the government lowered jet fuel prices. "The airline industry in India is under extreme stress and on the verge of closing down or of stopping its operations," the Federation of Indian Airlines, representing carriers including IndiGo, Air India and SpiceJet, said in a letter to India's Civil Aviation Ministry, seen by Bloomberg. They sought a return to pandemic-era cost caps on aviation turbine fuel and a reduction or...

- [Will Israel's use of Iron Dome to aid Arab neighbour recalibrate Mideast defence?](#) (2026-04-29 04:00)

Israel's reported deployment of its Iron Dome missile defence battery in the UAE signals a "watershed moment" in Middle Eastern security alignments, analysts say, as the war in Iran highlights the critical role of such air defence systems. Israel sent an Iron Dome air-defence system along with troops to the United Arab Emirates "early in the war with Iran", Axios said in a report this week citing two Israeli officials and one from the US. The Israeli officials, who were not named, told the US...

- [UK King Charles roasts Trump with colonial quip: 'you'd be speaking French'](#) (2026-04-29 03:25)

UK King Charles gave US President Donald Trump a taste of his own medicine at a White House state dinner on Tuesday when he joked that without the British, Americans would be speaking French. As the heads of state traded jokes during their dinner toasts, Charles referenced previous comments by Trump aimed at European allies he accuses of freeloading on defence since World War II. "You recently commented, Mr President, that if it were not for the United States, European countries would be...

- [Why UAE's exit from Opec is good news for Asia's energy security](#) (2026-04-29 03:23)

Asia's oil import-dependent economies will benefit from the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) exit from Opec, though the ongoing closure of the arterial Strait of Hormuz may not offer any immediate relief from soaring prices, analysts say. Global oil prices continued to surge on Wednesday, with benchmark Brent crude oil prices hitting US\$111 a barrel and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) approaching US\$100 a barrel. Before the Iran war, Brent was trading around US\$70 a barrel, while WTI was about US\$65...

- [Resistance to new mosques exposes tensions over Japan's growing Muslim communities](#) (2026-04-29 02:31)

Plans to build a mosque in Fujisawa, a city southwest of Tokyo, have become the latest flashpoint for Muslim communities in Japan, as a growing need for places of worship meets resistance from some local residents. Muslim community leaders and scholars said the opposition in Fujisawa reflected a broader pattern in Japan, where resistance to mosques has increasingly been shaped by negative overseas coverage of Islam and claims spread on social media. A public meeting in February called to allow...

- [Chinese team pioneers path to turn carbon dioxide into jet fuel as prices soar](#) (2026-04-29 02:00)

Chinese scientists are moving technology that converts greenhouse gases into aviation fuel out of the laboratory and towards large-scale production. Global jet fuel prices surged to US\$175 a barrel in March – a year-on-year leap of 94.4 per cent – and broke through the US\$200 mark in April, more than doubling the cost from a year earlier. Fuel costs have forced airlines to cancel flights. As energy prices spiked amid the war on Iran, a team from the Shanghai Advanced Research Institute of the...

- [How South Korea's Samsung clan made a US\\$45 billion financial comeback in 1 year](#) (2026-04-29 01:39)

When Lee Kun-hee, the patriarch behind Samsung Electronics, died in 2020, his dynasty soon dealt with a crisis on two fronts: first, a multibillion-dollar inheritance tax. The following year, his son Jay Y. Lee was jailed after being convicted of bribing South Korea's former president Park Geun-hye to win support for his succession. At the time, some observers speculated that the sheer scale of one of the world's largest death levies could threaten the family's control over the...

- [Why more Singapore graduates are choosing jobs below their qualifications: 'it's meaningful'](#) (2026-04-29 01:30)

Shortly after completing a bachelor's degree in 2023, Warren Neo considered doing what many business graduates in Singapore do: look for a corporate job. Instead, he became a full-time barista. "I considered going into human resources, since that was what I specialised in at university, but I discovered my interest in making coffee during my part-time job," said Neo, 29, who majored in business at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. "I gave

myself a chance to pursue being a barista...

- [A remilitarised Japan threatens more than just China](#) (2026-04-29 01:30)

There is a time and a place. Just because you have a right to do something doesn't mean you should exercise it. The United States and its allies keep claiming they have the right of navigation in international waters by sending their navies through the Taiwan Strait. Their intention to provoke is clear despite their justification under international law. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's row with Beijing over her remarks about militarily intervening in a Taiwan crisis has yet to die down....

- [US economic gap over China to widen, but Iran might bring them closer: former UN official](#) (2026-04-29 01:00)

The economic divide between the United States and China is projected to widen to US\$11 trillion by the end of the decade, yet escalating geopolitics – specifically the war in Iran and the ongoing Strait of Hormuz crisis – could inadvertently act as a stabilising force for bilateral ties, according to a prominent global strategist. Kishore Mahbubani, former president of the UN Security Council and once a top diplomat from Singapore, has forecast that the gross-domestic-product disparity between...

- [China boy grabs public attention by 'handcrafting' turbojet engine in family's living room](#) (2026-04-29 01:00)

A 14-year-old Chinese boy who reportedly “handcrafted” turbo engines in his home living room has sparked a heated social media discussion about his background. Teenager Che Jingang, from southern China's Hainan Island, came under the spotlight after several state media outlets reported him as a self-taught engineer. Che, who has a social media account run by his mother with 30,000 followers, said he is enthusiastic about “everything that flies” and this passion led him down a path of...

- ['No fundraising launched' after father's death, paralysed dancer Mo Li warns of scams](#) (2026-04-29 00:57)

A Hong Kong dancer left paralysed after being struck by a giant screen during a 2022 concert by popular boy band Mirror has clarified that neither he nor his family had raised any funds after the death of his pastor father. Reminding his supporters to beware of scammers, Mo Li Kai-yin said in an Instagram post on Tuesday that he was grateful for the concern shown in recent days over online reports about his family, following the death of his father, Reverend Derek Li Shing-lam. But he added: “We...

- ['Wartime' in Iran, Trump's extended blockade and the UAE: here's what happened overnight](#) (2026-04-29 00:43)

As the US-Israeli war on Iran enters a third month, there is no sign of a break in the deadlock between Washington and Tehran. These are the main takeaways from what happened

overnight. What did Trump say? US President Donald Trump told his aides to prepare for an extended blockade of Iran, The Wall Street Journal reported in Asian early trading hours on Wednesday, citing US officials. And after welcoming Britain's King Charles in Washington on Tuesday, he lashed out at German Chancellor...

- [Will Hong Kong vapers go underground as public possession ban kicks in?](#) (2026-04-29 00:30)

Twenty-two-year-old Hongkonger Elio* started smoking at the age of 16, when he was studying abroad in New Zealand. But what started as a way to kill time soon became a daily habit to relieve the stress of an uncertain future. Despite suffering from a collapsed lung in 2020, he resumed smoking and drinking a few months after recovery, later switching to e-cigarettes amid rising tobacco taxes. After the 2022 ban on the sale of vapes, he restricted his habit to one capsule every three days –...

- [Japanese travellers rush abroad for 'golden week' before fuel price increases](#) (2026-04-29 00:00)

Thousands of Japanese are defying rising prices at home and the pain of the feeble yen to have one final foreign holiday over “golden week” before airlines increase fuel surcharges. The operator of Narita International Airport anticipates that 1.59 million travellers will pass through the airport on the outskirts of Tokyo between Friday and May 10, an increase of around 2 per cent from last year's golden week holiday season. Sunday was the peak for departures, with nearly 57,000 people flying...

- [Trump to put his picture in US passports](#) (2026-04-28 23:16)

Donald Trump's picture will soon appear in some US passports, officials said on Tuesday, shattering another norm as the president aggressively puts his personal stamp on government institutions. The US State Department, following reports by Fox News and The Bulwark, confirmed it would offer a limited-edition passport to mark this year's 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence. The articles included two images set to appear inside the passports, one of Trump's official photo...

- [Pair of Hong Kong luxury homes sells for US\\$41m as market sizzle increases](#) (2026-04-28 23:00)

A wave of demand from mainland Chinese buyers is restoring liquidity to Hong Kong's trophy home market, enabling owners who have held onto pricey assets for many years to lock in gains. Among them, mainland property tycoon Zhao Zhijun sold two adjoining units at 8-12 Peak Road for a combined HK\$320 million (US\$40.8 million), according to Land Registry records, generating a gain of about 86 per cent compared with the purchase price 16 years ago. Zhao, chairman of mainland investment firm Niverse,...

- [Trump’ s Ukraine envoy stepping down amid stalled peace talks with Russia](#) (2026-04-28 22:49)

The acting US ambassador to Kyiv Julie Davis will step down from her post and retire, a US official and the State Department said on Tuesday, amid a lull in US-brokered talks to achieve a ceasefire and end Russia’ s invasion of Ukraine. The Financial Times first reported Davis’ departure and said it was because of differences of opinion with President Donald Trump’ s policies and that Davis had grown frustrated with her role over his dwindling support for Ukraine. The State Department pushed...

- [Democrats urge Trump to keep ban on Chinese cars in US as Xi meeting looms](#) (2026-04-28 22:42)

Over 70 Democrats on Tuesday urged US President Donald Trump to keep Chinese carmakers out of America, warning of “irreversible” consequences, just weeks ahead of his high-stakes trip to Beijing to meet with China’ s President Xi Jinping. “We must not cede the American auto industry to a strategic competitor intent on global dominance,” a letter, signed by 73 House Democrats led by US Representative Debbie Dingell, said. “The consequences for American workers, our supply chains, our national...

- [How China’ s reported ban on sulphuric acid exports could have overseas buyers reeling](#) (2026-04-28 22:00)

As the US-Israel war in Iran drags into its third month, sulphuric acid – a chemical ingredient critical for fertiliser production and metal processing that has seldom grabbed global headlines – has become a keenly watched commodity. The military conflict in the Gulf and the effective blockage of the Strait of Hormuz initially triggered a squeeze on sulphuric acid, with prices on the rise after shipments in the region – which accounts for a quarter of global production – were largely stalled...

- [US lawmakers move to mandate first comprehensive review of China’ s AI capabilities](#) (2026-04-28 21:59)

As the race with China over artificial intelligence intensifies, US lawmakers on Tuesday unveiled a draft bill that would, for the first time, require the State Department to deliver a detailed assessment of Beijing’ s artificial intelligence ambitions, including identifying “specific AI leaders” . The State Department should provide Congress with a comprehensive report on China’ s AI development, including its “progress using independent, publicly available benchmarks to achieve autonomous...

- [US-Iran ceasefire can’ t paper over fires in the Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-04-28 21:30)

While the United States and Iran exchange peace proposals in Islamabad, the Middle East remains trapped in a cycle of escalation. Ships burn in the Strait of Hormuz, Lebanon absorbs strikes by Israel and the nuclear gap remains unbridgeable. Calling this moment a ceasefire might be in line with diplomatic language, but on the ground it has the familiar look of war, just

repackaged. While US President Donald Trump might have negotiated some sort of ceasefire agreement, the American naval blockade...

- [US and Nato faced with frustrating ‘marriage crisis’ , Belgian defence minister says](#) (2026-04-28 21:00)

Belgian Defence Minister Theo Francken said the US and Nato were faced with a “marriage crisis” as frustrations mount on both sides of the Atlantic, urging Washington to stand with its allies or risk America’s fall. Francken, speaking at a think tank event in Washington on Tuesday, likened the strained transatlantic relationship, which has held for close to 80 years, to a “crisis” , saying “it’s very difficult” . “I’m convinced that we’re having a marriage crisis ... There’s a lot of frustration on...

- [US conditions for paying UN dues include China curbs, report says](#) (2026-04-28 20:51)

The US has placed specific conditions on releasing billions of dollars it owes to the United Nations, including further cost-cutting, and moves to counter China’s influence at the world body, a development news wire reported on Tuesday. The report by Devex, an independent news organisation covering global development, said two diplomatic notes circulated by the US called for nine “quick-hit” reforms as a condition for releasing more funds. It said these included: Overhauling the UN pension...

- [Trump’s FCC orders review of ABC licences after Kimmel’s ‘expectant widow’ joke](#) (2026-04-28 19:45)

After a joke by late-night host Jimmy Kimmel drew calls from the White House for ABC to fire the comedian, the US Federal Communications Commission on Tuesday ordered an early licence review of the network’s television stations. The stand-off between US President Donald Trump’s administration and the global entertainment conglomerate is the first crisis facing Walt Disney’s new CEO Josh D’ Amaro. Last Thursday, Kimmel, whose late-night television programme airs on Disney’s ABC, did a send-up of...

- [Ex-FBI director James Comey indicted again, this time over anti-Trump post](#) (2026-04-28 18:37)

Former FBI Director James Comey was indicted again on Tuesday, this time in an investigation over a social media photo of seashells arranged on a beach that officials said constituted a threat against US President Donald Trump. The criminal case is the second in a matter of months against Comey and is part of the Trump administration Justice Department’s relentless effort to prosecute political opponents of the Republican president. The seashells photo was posted nearly a year ago, but the...

- [UK PM Starmer avoids parliament probe over Epstein associate Peter Mandelson](#) (2026-04-28 18:12)

Embattled UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Tuesday survived a bid by opposition politicians to subject him to a parliamentary probe over his controversial appointment of Peter Mandelson as envoy to the US. Members of parliament voted against referring Starmer to a committee to consider if he misled parliament over giving Mandelson, an ex-associate of late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the plum diplomatic post. It was the latest development in an unrelenting scandal that has plagued Starmer's...

- [Trump welcomes King Charles to White House on 'beautiful British day'](#) (2026-04-28 17:09)

Britain's King Charles arrived at the White House on Tuesday for a meeting with US President Donald Trump, as part of a state visit intended to underscore unity between the two long-time allies, despite deep divisions over the Iran war. Charles and Queen Camilla were greeted by the president and first lady Melania Trump for a morning visit to the presidential mansion while hundreds of guests stood on the South Lawn with the Washington Monument in the distance. Cannons boomed, temporarily...

- [Hong Kong star vows to be 'companion, not mentor' to protesters arrested in 2019](#) (2026-04-28 16:24)

Hong Kong singer Hins Cheung has pledged to be a companion rather than a mentor to youngsters arrested during the 2019 anti-government protests during an event organised as part of a youth rehabilitation programme. The sharing session, themed "New Opportunity, New Journey", was held at the Hong Kong Museum of History on Tuesday night. More than 300 participants attended the event, including youngsters arrested during the protests, as well as university students and members of three neighbourhood...

- [Ukraine shot down 33,000 Russian drones in 1 month: defence minister](#) (2026-04-28 15:25)

Ukraine used interceptor systems to shoot down more than 33,000 Russian drones of various types in March, a record monthly figure since Moscow launched its all-out invasion more than four years ago, Ukraine's defence minister claimed. Ukraine has developed cutting-edge and battle-tested drone technology that has proved essential in holding back Russia's bigger army and has drawn military interest from around the world. Interceptor drones as part of a comprehensive air defence system are now...

- [Helper arrested in Hong Kong for allegedly putting 2 young boys in dog cage](#) (2026-04-28 15:12)

Hong Kong police have arrested a domestic helper on suspicion of child abuse after she allegedly put two young boys inside a dog cage in a Tsing Yi flat. Police said they received a report at 1.34pm on Tuesday from the 26-year-old mother of the boys, aged two and three, who alleged that her helper had confined them in a cage at a flat in the Grand Horizon estate on two occasions in February. A police source said the mother twice discovered through her mobile phone's security camera feed that the...

- [China' s calls to open Hormuz show the limits of its ties to Iran, experts say](#) (2026-04-28 15:00)

While China has begun to put pressure on Iran to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, its statements have been carefully worded, experts say, showing how the prolonged conflict is testing Beijing' s relationship with Tehran. President Xi Jinping told Saudi Arabia' s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman last week that China wanted an “immediate and comprehensive ceasefire” and explicitly demanded that the waterway “ remain open to normal passage” , without naming Iran or the US. Speaking at the...

- [With Meta-Manus AI deal 'difficult' to undo, how will Beijing exert its authority?](#) (2026-04-28 14:30)

It could be “time-consuming” , “complex” and “difficult” for Meta Platforms to unwind its acquisition of Manus, an artificial intelligence start-up that originated in China, given how far the deal has gone, according to analysts. Beijing' s order on Monday blocking the US\$2 billion deal came roughly four months after the acquisition was announced. During that time, Manus – developer of what it described as the world' s first general AI agent – provided Meta employees with unlimited-usage accounts,...

- [UAE to exit Opec, dealing blow to oil cartel' s unity](#) (2026-04-28 14:16)

The United Arab Emirates announced on Tuesday that it will leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and the wider Opec+ alliance effective May 1, a move that signals a push for greater control over its production strategy. The decision followed “a comprehensive review” of the country' s production policy and capacity, the Ministry of Infrastructure said in a statement, adding that it was based on national interests and a commitment to help meet global market...

- [Japan' s revised security policy to get 'more aggressive' : Chinese expert](#) (2026-04-28 14:09)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has started the process of overhauling the country' s major security policies, arguing that Japan must boost its military power in the face of geopolitical threats, including those from China. A Chinese expert said Takaichi' s statements during a gathering of experts tasked with overhauling key policy documents signalled a “fundamental” shift in Tokyo' s strategy, with the country' s security road map likely to become “more aggressive” . Beijing, meanwhile,...

- [Canada' s push to rebuild ties with China hits a snag: a lack of direct flights](#) (2026-04-28 14:00)

Canada plans to allow more flight connections to China, as it seeks to rebuild ties with Beijing and capitalise on rising demand for Canadian travel among Chinese tourists, but airlines may be reluctant to add new routes due to soaring jet fuel costs and a lack of access to Russian

airspace. Steven MacKinnon, Canada's transport minister, announced last week that Ottawa would permit an "incremental" increase in direct passenger combination flights to China and up to 20 cargo flights per week. The...

- [MTR Corporation using AR technology to fast-track work on Northern Link station](#)
(2026-04-28 13:10)

Hong Kong's railway operator has deployed augmented reality (AR) technology to speed up construction of a station on a new link serving the Northern Metropolis megaproject to ensure it opens on time next year. The MTR Corporation said on Tuesday that the power supply had been connected at Kwu Tung station and AR technology had been adopted to hasten progress. "Applying the AR inspection system will allow us to simulate future scenarios and help workers carry out the assembly work accurately and...

- [US green power growth to hit another record in 2026, despite Trump, says report](#)
(2026-04-28 12:59)

US clean energy installations are forecast to hit another record this year – and account for the vast majority of new power additions – despite facing policy opposition from the Trump administration, according to a trade industry report. The nation's power sector is expected to add about 60 gigawatts of solar, battery storage and wind capacity in 2026, the American Clean Power (ACP) Association said in its annual market assessment published on Tuesday. That is up 20 per cent from over 50...

- [Leading by example or showmanship? Singapore politicians' train rides split opinion](#)
(2026-04-28 12:57)

Social media posts of Singapore politicians taking public transport amid the global energy crisis have divided public opinion online, with some users hailing the move as leading by example while others call it showmanship. Cabinet ministers, members of parliament and even a retired defence minister have followed with their own public transport posts after Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong urged Singaporeans in an April 7 ministerial statement in parliament to take public transport as part of...

- [Hong Kong police arrest man after fire inside sports store injures staff member](#)
(2026-04-28 12:45)

A man has been arrested on suspicion of setting fire to clothing inside a Decathlon store in Hong Kong, injuring a shop worker who tried to put out the flames. Police said the incident was reported at about 3pm at the Telford Plaza store on Wai Yip Street in Kowloon Bay, where the suspect allegedly set fire to some shirts before fleeing. A 22-year-old male staff member suffered slight burns to his hands while trying to extinguish the flames and was taken to United Christian Hospital in Kwun...

- [Chinese industrial robot maker Inovance joins Hong Kong IPO queue](#) (2026-04-28 12:30)

Chinese industrial robot maker Shenzhen Inovance Technology submitted an initial public offering (IPO) application in Hong Kong on Tuesday, joining a wave of mainland tech firms seeking capital from international investors. Founded in 2003, Inovance is seen as a cornerstone of China's industrial automation sector. The company's shares, listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange since 2010, closed at 61.36 yuan on Tuesday, giving it a market capitalisation of nearly 175.3 billion yuan (US\$25.6...

- [China orders maritime security research as Strait of Hormuz crisis exposes trade risks](#) (2026-04-28 12:30)

China is stepping up efforts to secure critical sea lanes and protect its overseas assets, as crises at maritime chokepoints – including the Strait of Hormuz – expose growing vulnerabilities in global trade. In response, Beijing has tasked leading industrial enterprises and academic institutions with spearheading research to safeguard strategic trade corridors and overseas port holdings, amid escalating geopolitical tensions linked to the US-Israeli war in Iran and legal disputes over Panama...

- [Facing US and Chinese pressure, the EU must forge its own strategy](#) (2026-04-28 12:30)

Writing in Foreign Affairs, Tsinghua University's Da Wei argued that China wants Europe to function as an independent pole in a changing global order, but that Europe lacks “a more independent soul”. He is half right. Europe has the assets for independence. What it lacks is the strategy. Europe and the United States face the same rival but carry different exposures. Since 2018, the US has cut its direct imports from China. Europe's have grown harder to unwind. What appears to be decoupling is...

- [China testing truck-mounted nuclear reactor that could power AI data centre](#) (2026-04-28 12:10)

China is testing a prototype nuclear reactor that can be carried on a truck, according to a leading scientist. He described the reactor, which has been in development for several years, as the “world's first 10-megawatt vehicle-mounted nuclear power unit” and said the team behind it was now seeking opportunities to put it to use. This output would be enough to power a medium-sized AI data centre. “The ‘nuclear power bank’ we proposed exemplifies the new generation of nuclear energy systems,” Wu...

- [Greece man, 89, arrested after Athens shooting injures 5 people](#) (2026-04-28 12:05)

An 89-year-old man armed with a hunting rifle opened fire inside a Greek social security office in Athens on Tuesday, wounding an employee in the leg, authorities said. The suspect then carried out a second shooting at a courthouse in the city, leaving four more people lightly injured. The attack was reportedly sparked by problems with the man's pension payments. He was arrested a few hours after the shootings in the port city of Patras, state broadcaster ERT reported. Earlier, local media...

- [Is it wrong to show Taiwan army officers a film about KMT forces fighting Japan in WWII?](#) (2026-04-28 12:00)

A Taiwanese army officer has been punished for screening *The Eight Hundred*, a mainland Chinese war film depicting Kuomintang (KMT) forces fighting Japanese troops during World War II. The punishment has triggered a political row on the island over Beijing's state-led messaging to sway opinions in Taiwan as well as historical interpretation and military education on the island. The controversy emerged after ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) lawmaker Wang Ting-yu revealed during a...

- [North Korea's executions for watching K-dramas, foreign content surge during Covid-19: report](#) (2026-04-28 11:45)

When people were told to stay home during the Covid-19 pandemic, watching K-dramas became a solace for fans of South Korea's best-known export around the world. But for North Koreans, it spelled death. A report released by North Korea-focused human rights organisation Transition Justice Working Group (TJWG) on Tuesday showed that the number of people executed for consuming South Korean cultural content – such as K-dramas, films and K-pop – and religious practices surged by 250 per cent after...

- [BYD, China's EV king, posts a 55% slump in first-quarter profit](#) (2026-04-28 11:44)

BYD's first-quarter net profit matched market estimates as China's electric vehicle (EV) king partly offset weakness in its domestic market with rising exports. The mainland's largest and most profitable EV maker reported a net profit of nearly 4.09 billion yuan (US\$590 million) for the first three months of the year, a drop of 55 per cent compared with a year earlier. Revenue came in at 150.2 billion yuan, down 11.8 per cent from a year earlier. The market's consensus estimate was 4.09 billion...

- [Ukrainian drone attack on Russian oil refinery causes major fire, officials say](#) (2026-04-28 11:35)

A Ukrainian drone attack has caused a “large-scale fire” at Russia's Tuapse oil refinery on the Black Sea, forcing the evacuation of nearby buildings, local officials said on Tuesday. The Rosneft-owned refinery delivers oil products mainly for exports but operations have been halted since April 16 following an earlier drone attack, industry sources said. Ukraine did not immediately comment on the reports. Kyiv has stepped up strikes on Russia since March, with US-brokered talks on the war in...

- [Homeowner at Redhill Peninsula fined nearly HK\\$1 million for illegal structures](#) (2026-04-28 11:01)

A Hong Kong court has fined the owner of a luxury home at Redhill Peninsula nearly HK\$1 million (US\$173,938), the harshest penalty to date for illegal structures discovered during a government inspection at the seaside estate three years ago. Magistrate Tobias Cheng Yun-chung handed down a HK\$980,000 fine on Tuesday on Future Ocean, which has owned No

74 at Redhill Peninsula in Tai Tam since 2006. Deborah Yuen Wai-ming is listed as the company's director, and she lives in the house with her...

- [Why Moody's has raised China's credit outlook amid Iran war shocks](#) (2026-04-28 11:00)

A leading ratings agency that previously expressed concerns about China's local debt woes has cast a vote of confidence in the world's second-largest economy, raising the country's sovereign credit outlook to "stable" from "negative". This week's move by Moody's Ratings was closely watched, as energy shocks from the US-Israel war in Iran have exacerbated concerns about the global economy's trajectory. The agency had dropped China's sovereign rating from Aa3 to A1 in 2017, its first downgrade for...

- [Energy security comes first for Indonesia as it defies EU over Russian oil](#) (2026-04-28 11:00)

Jakarta's move to press on with importing 150 million barrels of Russian oil despite latest EU sanctions against an Indonesian port underscores a growing divide between Western efforts to isolate Moscow and Asia's push for energy security. On Thursday, the European Commission announced its 20th package of sanctions against Russia, which includes Indonesia's Karimun Oil Terminal for its "connections with the shadow fleet and circumvention of the oil price cap". The sanction on Karimun, located in...

- [DeepSeek mystery: who is speaking for start-up as CEO Liang Wenfeng remains out of sight?](#) (2026-04-28 11:00)

The potential emergence of a new DeepSeek spokesman has sparked intrigue as speculation over the whereabouts of founder and CEO Liang Wenfeng continues, more than a year after his last public appearance. While the Hangzhou start-up's latest V4 model did not make the same waves as its breakout moment a year earlier, the much-anticipated release still grabbed headlines through a collaboration with domestic tech giant Huawei Technologies and its remarkably low prices. For the traditionally...

- [China upgrades maritime rescue range and depth as ambitions on high seas expand](#) (2026-04-28 11:00)

China's maritime rescue authorities have expanded their ability to carry out deep sea search and rescue operations beyond 4,000 metres (13,100 feet), according to state media. People's Daily, the Communist Party mouthpiece, credited the development of hi-tech equipment for the shift, which it described as "marking the formal transition of China's transport rescue and salvage forces" to being able to carry out practical operations at such depths. The Nanhai Rescue Bureau, the body responsible for...

- [Hong Kong urged to shift focus from tourist numbers to increasing spending](#) (2026-04-28 10:58)

Researchers have urged Hong Kong to shift its focus from boosting visitor numbers to increasing tourist spending, as mainland Chinese arrivals rebound but adopt more selective consumption habits. Preliminary findings from a joint study by Polytechnic University and consultancy Think China, released on Tuesday, show mainland visitor arrivals have recovered to about 88 per cent of pre-pandemic levels in 2018. However, high-income travellers are spending less and becoming more...

- [Austria Islamic State man admits plot on Taylor Swift concert in Vienna](#) (2026-04-28 10:50)

A man accused of pledging allegiance to Islamic State group and plotting to attack one of superstar singer Taylor Swift's concerts in Vienna nearly two years ago pleaded guilty as his trial began on Tuesday, Austrian media reported. The plot was thwarted, but Austrian authorities still cancelled Swift's three performances in August 2024. The singer's fans, known as Swifties, who had flown to Austria from across the globe to attend a performance of her record-setting Eras Tour were devastated,...

- [Hong Kong's ICAC charges police superintendent over HK\\$1 million bribe, misconduct](#) (2026-04-28 10:09)

Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog has charged a police superintendent over allegedly accepting a HK\$1 million (US\$127,599) bribe from a businessman, disclosing internal information and arranging for his younger brother to act as a scapegoat in speeding cases. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on Tuesday revealed the charges against Leung Ka-man, 52, as well as his girlfriend and younger brother. According to the commission, Leung faces four charges: conspiracy for a public...

- [India, New Zealand boost trade diversification with 'forward-looking' pact](#) (2026-04-28 10:00)

A free-trade agreement signed between India and New Zealand has marked yet another regional push towards diversification and away from overdependence on major powers. The deal, which comes after 15 years of on-and-off negotiations, gained urgency in recent weeks as Indian exporters contend with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and steep American tariffs that have rattled supply chains. New Zealand, for its part, has been pursuing a strategy to reduce dependence on China, its largest trading...

- [Need for speed: China's EV, battery makers race to cut charging times to under 10 minutes](#) (2026-04-28 10:00)

Battery makers and electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers have seized on the Beijing Auto Show to showcase technologies promising shorter charging times in a race triggered by BYD and Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd (CATL). Fast-charging technology has dominated the floor at the 10-day event which runs until May 3. Second-tier Chinese battery suppliers including CALB Group, EVE Energy and Sunwoda unveiled products capable of boosting power to 70 per cent, from a starting point of 10 per cent,...

- [Chinese man supports 6 siblings while parents want more kids, say it boosts chance of success](#) (2026-04-28 10:00)

A 21-year-old man from central China, whose greatest wish is for his parents to stop having more children, sells pork to support his six younger siblings. In April, Sun Pan, from Shaoyang in Hunan province, captured national attention for shouldering family responsibilities as the eldest son. According to the mainland media outlet Jimu News, his 18-year-old second sister suffered a childhood fall that disabled her right arm and his youngest brother, born this year, was diagnosed with Down...

- [Survivors describe chaos, blood and twisted metal after Indonesia train crash kills 15](#) (2026-04-28 09:33)

Herman Susanto and Dwi Aksan were heading from Indonesia's capital Jakarta to the satellite city of Cikarang after a long day at work on Monday when disaster struck. Susanto, the head of the Indonesian Workers' Federation, and his colleague, Aksan, were in the third carriage of a commuter train crammed with workers going home at around 9pm when it stopped to let passengers alight at Bekasi Timur station. The two men had hoped to rest before they reached their final stop, but instead, they found...

- [Foreign forces promoting 'lying flat' to undermine China's economy: top anti-spy agency](#) (2026-04-28 09:00)

Foreign forces are using social media to spread the notion that young Chinese people should be "lying flat" and not working hard as they seek to undermine China's development, the country's top anti-espionage agency has warned. The Ministry of State Security cautioned that anti-China forces were trying to magnify social anxiety by continuously "promoting negative notions" that effort was futile and hard work made no gain. The intention was to "erode the spirit of perseverance among China's youth..."

- [Hong Kong exports surge 35.8% in March, sharpest rise in over 5 years](#) (2026-04-28 08:56)

Hong Kong's exports rose by nearly 36 per cent year on year in March – the sharpest rate in more than five years – backed by what authorities described as "strong global demand" for AI-related electronic products and outpacing last month's growth despite trade disruptions. According to the Census and Statistics Department, the total value of exports of goods rose by 35.8 per cent to HK\$618.4 billion (US\$78.9 billion) in March compared with the same month in 2025. Imports rose by 41.2 per cent to...

- [HKU launches School of Governance and Policy to foster global policy dialogue](#) (2026-04-28 08:33)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and fractured international relations, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) has launched a new School of Governance and Policy (SGP) that aims to foster dialogue and

train a new generation of policymakers. The interdisciplinary school stands out by convening a powerful convergence of global intellectual leadership and cross-disciplinary expertise. By integrating the strengths of the Social...

- [Hong Kong insurers' health in jeopardy as medical claims could double in decade](#) (2026-04-28 08:24)

Medical claims paid by Hong Kong insurers could double within a decade, a study has warned, raising concerns over the sector's sustainability. The findings, released on Tuesday, showed total medical claims in the city rose by more than 60 per cent between 2019 and 2023, driven largely by a surge in inpatient bills, especially for day procedures. "If such an increase continues at the same rate, it will raise serious concerns about the affordability of private health insurance for both employers...

- [Why Asean cooperation remains primary shield against Malacca Strait tolls](#) (2026-04-28 07:58)

Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz in the Middle East has turned the spotlight on a strategic waterway thousands of miles away in Southeast Asia, with littoral states having different ideas on how to control their stake. Indonesian officials last week flirted with the idea of imposing tolls for passing vessels in the Strait of Malacca. Malaysia and Singapore, however, have insisted that navigation in the vital corridor remains free. The likelihood of tolls in the strait is low thanks to...

- [South Korean court increases Kim Keon-hee's corruption sentence to 4 years](#) (2026-04-28 07:54)

South Korea's former First Lady Kim Keon-hee was sentenced on Tuesday to four years in prison for stock manipulation and bribery, after an appeal court increased her earlier sentence. The court said that Kim had participated in manipulating the price of a thinly traded Korean stock with multiple traders, reversing a lower court's ruling that acquitted her of the charge. It also found that she accepted two Chanel bags and a Graff necklace, worth around 80 million won (US\$54,257) in total, from...

- [Brokerage clerk admits helping syndicate defraud employer of HK\\$31 million](#) (2026-04-28 07:41)

An accounting clerk has admitted to helping a fraud syndicate withdraw HK\$31 million (US\$4 million) from a Hong Kong brokerage five years ago after being told she was under investigation by Beijing's national security arm in the city. The High Court on Tuesday convicted Wong Pui-shan of 10 counts of money laundering after she confessed to authorising 10 illicit transactions at the behest of an impostor she believed was from the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's...

- [China's thalassaemia jab raises hope for common inherited blood disorder](#) (2026-04-28 07:31)

Thalassaemia is the world's most common genetic blood disorder. China currently has 30 million thalassaemia gene carriers, while the global total reaches 350 million. Patient with severe thalassaemia could confront a stark reality: regular blood transfusions, potential organ transplants, and even the risk of premature death. If two carriers of the gene marry, their children have a 25 per cent chance of developing the disease. China's latest original therapy, which integrates gene editing and...

- [Hong Kong launches consultation on Keeta's proposal over competition concerns](#) (2026-04-28 07:11)

Hong Kong's competition watchdog has launched a public consultation on food delivery platform Keeta's proposed measures to ensure a fair market environment, after previously raising concerns about its exclusivity clauses. The Competition Commission said on Tuesday that it had begun consulting on three commitments offered by Keeta under Section 60 of the Competition Ordinance, which would become legally binding if accepted. The commission noted that the platform had confirmed earlier this month...

- [Un-sanctioned: China to welcome Dutch trade minister amid Nexperia, ASML discord](#) (2026-04-28 06:57)

China has cleared the way for a landmark visit by the Dutch trade minister – signalled by Beijing's quiet removal of long-held sanctions on the official – at a time when their bilateral relations need some attention, according to people familiar with the matter. Beijing has agreed to host Sjoerd Sjoerdsma for a visit and has removed him from the sanction list, a source said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. “No date is fixed yet [between Beijing and The...

- [Unstable weather in week ahead, with heavy showers on Wednesday as temperatures drop](#) (2026-04-28 06:18)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong is bracing for a sharp change in weather as a cold front and upper-air disturbances are set to bring heavy showers on Wednesday, followed by a sharp drop in temperature to as low as 20 degrees Celsius (68 Fahrenheit) on Thursday. The Observatory said on Tuesday that showers would be “heavier at times” the following day, while a cold front was...

- [Hong Kong Disneyland profit drops 36% to HK\\$536 million as costs rise, visitors fall](#) (2026-04-28 06:11)

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort posted a 36 per cent drop in net profit to HK\$536 million (US\$68 million) last year, due to higher costs, increased outbound travel by residents and weather disruptions, although earnings were the second-highest on record and the theme park is now

debt-free. The Lantau Island theme park on Tuesday reported its results for the financial yearending last September, with revenue down by 1.35 per cent year on year to HK\$8.69 billion and visitor numbers falling by 2.5 per...

- [Vietnamese hiker survives 37-hour ordeal thanks to an unlikely Lunar New Year snack](#)
(2026-04-28 06:02)

A college student stranded in the mountains of Vietnam reportedly survived for 37 hours on just Orion Choco Pies. The South Korean snack, already beloved across Vietnam and often exchanged as a gift during the Lunar New Year, is now drawing attention as a survival essential in emergencies. According to Vietnamese news outlet VnExpress, Nguyen Tuan Anh, a 19-year-old student at Dai Nam University, had joined friends for a hike on Tam Dao Mountain north of Hanoi. The group set out from Vinh Ninh...

- [Chinese man in his 40s wakes up 40 hours after having no heartbeat following cardiac arrest](#) (2026-04-28 06:00)

A Chinese man has miraculously survived after his heart stopped beating for 40 hours, sparking an online discussion about the latest life-saving medical techniques. The case came to light after emergency doctor Lu Xiao from the Second Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University School of Medicine posted it on his social media account, which has three million followers. Lu said the 40-year-old man had a cardiac arrest and no heartbeat could be found after several electric defibrillations. The...

- [Philippines' Sara Duterte hits back against wealth allegations as impeachment looms](#)
(2026-04-28 05:54)

As impeachment looms, Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio and her spouse are firing back at allegations of ill-gotten wealth, with the couple's combative responses seen as damage control over what critics say will be "smoking gun" evidence to be presented to the Senate. A handful of lawmakers are expecting the House of Representatives to submit Articles of Impeachment against Duterte-Carpio to the Senate soon. "I think she will be impeached by the first week of May. My guess is 160 to...

- [Hong Kong breaks ground on third medical school's interim complex, 7 professors hired](#)
(2026-04-28 05:54)

A university in Hong Kong that is establishing the city's third medical school has broken ground for an interim teaching and research complex, which will be completed in mid-2028 to welcome the first batch of students. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) president Nancy Ip Yuk-yu also revealed on Tuesday that the institution had hired seven clinical professors for the new school, with many others from overseas expressing interest in joining the team. The first intake of 50...

- [Hong Kong adds spared Wang Fuk Court block to resettlement plan as most opt to sell](#)
(2026-04-28 05:45)

Homeowners of the only block spared in the deadly Wang Fuk Court blaze in Tai Po will be included in the Hong Kong government's resettlement plan after three-quarters indicated a preference to sell their flats to authorities, the South China Morning Post has learned. Wang Chi House, the only one of the estate's eight blocks left unscathed by the November 26 fire that killed 168 people and displaced nearly 5,000, was originally excluded from the government's long-term resettlement proposals...

- [China's Politburo steps up response as Iran war shocks reverberate around world](#)
(2026-04-28 05:38)

China has vowed to take a holistic approach in responding to external shocks and safeguarding the country's energy security, as fallout from the US-Israel war on Iran continues to spread across the global economy. After a meeting of the country's Politburo – a major decision-making body of the ruling Communist Party led by President Xi Jinping – that ended on Tuesday, the country's top leadership pledged to push forward with new water, power and computing infrastructure projects, while...

- [Asean's natural leader, Bali on edge over Japanese earthquake: 7 Asia highlights](#)
(2026-04-28 05:18)

We have selected seven stories from the SCMP's coverage of Asia over the past week that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Why Indonesia is ceding its role as Asean's natural leader to Singapore 2. Why Japan's earthquake has Bali on edge over magnitude 9 'megathrust' risk 3. 3 killed in Japanese Type 10 tank blast that has military baffled 4. This retiree in the Philippines downloaded an...

- [Mexico captures top cartel leader 'El Jardinero' hiding in roadside ditch](#) (2026-04-28 05:13)

The Jalisco New Generation Cartel, Mexico's most powerful criminal enterprise, suffered another blow on Monday when the Mexican military captured one of its top leaders in the northwest of the country, two months after the cartel's leader was killed. Audias Flores Silva, also known as "El Jardinero", or The Gardener, was seen as a possible successor to the killed leader and the United States had a US\$5 million reward out for information leading to his arrest. The CJNG regional commander was...

- [Hong Kong home prices rise higher in March as rents peak for a fifth month straight](#)
(2026-04-28 04:38)

Hong Kong's lived-in home prices rose 1.4 per cent in March, bringing the first-quarter increase to an accelerated pace of 4.4 per cent, according to the latest official data, indicating the property market's resilience despite uncertainties brought about by the US-Israel war on

Iran. The monthly increase was slower than February's 1.8 per cent, but 2026's first-quarter rise was faster than the 2.11 per cent growth in the fourth quarter of 2025. The city's rental prices also extended their...

- [Pricier than gold: why thieves in Malaysia want your car's catalytic converter](#) (2026-04-28 04:36)

Catalytic converter theft is rising across Malaysia amid strong demand for rare metals used in automotive emission systems. Most of these thefts were reported to have occurred in residential areas, public car parks and transit hubs. Vehicles left unattended, especially overnight, are among the most vulnerable. A senior manager at a car service centre said thieves were targeting catalytic converters, which are components beneath the car along the exhaust system, because they contain rare,...

- [Ashes to assets: calls to turn HK\\$30 billion waste facility into tourism, education hub](#) (2026-04-28 04:31)

Hong Kong authorities should turn a new HK\$30 billion (US\$3.8 billion) municipal waste incinerator in Tuen Mun into a tourist attraction and an education hub for eco-protection, lawmakers have said. Their remarks on Tuesday followed the government's application to the Legislative Council for HK\$29.2 billion to build the planned Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2, or I-PARK2, with costs about 20 per cent lower than the earlier HK\$35.7 billion estimate. Samuel Chui Ho-kwong, director...

- [Nobel laureate biochemist Hartmut Michel joins Jilin University in China](#) (2026-04-28 04:00)

German biochemist and Nobel laureate Hartmut Michel has taken up a full-time position as a professor at Jilin University in Changchun, northeastern China, according to the university. The 77-year-old – who shared the 1988 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for revealing how photosynthesis works at the molecular level – will join the university's First Hospital as “a flagship hire under its talent recruitment strategy”, the university said in a statement last week. It said Michel told the university's...

- [Malay parties unite in Malaysia's Negeri Sembilan in test of Anwar's fragile alliance](#) (2026-04-28 03:41)

Malaysia's Negeri Sembilan state was pushed deeper into crisis after Barisan Nasional (BN), a key ally in Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's coalition government, declared it had secured a simple majority to form a new state administration with the opposition. The move turns an extraordinary palace dispute into the sharpest state-level test yet of Anwar's fragile ruling alliance, ahead of a national poll due in less than two years. BN, the former ruling coalition led by Umno that ruled Malaysia for...

- [Southeast Asia's office workers reel from energy-saving drive, heatwave](#) (2026-04-28 02:57)

A heatwave sweeping across Southeast Asia is making offices even warmer, as workers continue to adjust to energy-saving measures put in place by governments due to the war in Iran. Many countries have imposed temperature controls at government workplaces since the war began, among other measures to conserve energy. As the prolonged shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz drains energy reserves, relief does not look to be coming any time soon, with parts of the region set to bake in abnormally hot...

- [2 tourists arrested after hotpot night turns violent at Hong Kong serviced apartment](#) (2026-04-28 02:48)

Hong Kong police have arrested two tourists after an alleged violent fight in a serviced apartment that left both with facial injuries. A source said on Tuesday that the force was alerted to the incident at K11 Artus at 11.47pm the previous day, after an argument over “trivial matters” between a Malaysian man and a mainland Chinese woman spiralled into a physical brawl. The pair were visiting Hong Kong for sightseeing and met while shopping at K11 Musea early on Monday, according to the...

- [As Hong Kong recalibrates, the blue economy offers an anchor](#) (2026-04-28 01:30)

Last month, Hong Kong completed its first green methanol bunkering operation, a significant step in its efforts to support the decarbonisation of global shipping. As the maritime industry accelerates its transition towards cleaner fuels, this milestone signals Hong Kong’s intent to remain relevant. The global blue economy, defined as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and environmental health, is gaining urgency. No longer confined to environmental discussions, it is...

- [Pentagon mulls plan to outsource warship design and building to South Korea, Japan](#) (2026-04-28 01:02)

The Pentagon is considering outsourcing warship design and building to South Korea and Japan with a proposed US\$1.85 billion feasibility study into the project, according to US media reports. The study – included in the 2027 budget – will look at the feasibility of adopting or co-producing advanced hulls such as Japan’s Mogami-class and South Korea’s Daegu-class frigates to supplement the US Navy’s overstretched production lines, USNI News reported on Friday. If the plan goes ahead it will be...

- [China pandas rise from unknown status to become palace pets, then national symbols, treasures](#) (2026-04-28 01:00)

Once a neglected figure in ancient China’s folklore, literature and artefacts, the panda has become a national treasure and a defining symbol of the modern nation. How did this black-and-white creature, long overlooked, come to occupy such an iconic place in a country’s cultural imagination? Palaeontologists have discovered panda fossils across China, some dating back eight to nine million years. According to early human scholar Wei Guangbiao, many of these ancient specimens show butchery...

- [Will Asean's scramble for Russian oil fuel shift in regional alliances?](#) (2026-04-28 00:00)

Across Southeast Asia, governments are seeking Russian oil and gas to ease fuel shortages triggered by the continuing chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a crisis that has sent energy prices higher and forced import-dependent countries to look beyond their usual suppliers. But analysts say the scramble for Russian fuel also raises a bigger question for the region: whether Moscow can turn a short-term role as an emergency energy supplier into longer-term influence there. Member states of the...

- [China faces a France-sized demographic loss that threatens coastal growth: analysts](#) (2026-04-28 00:00)

China's population is projected to fall by about 60 million over the next decade, threatening economic activity in wealthier coastal provinces and putting growing pressure on the public pension system, according to recent analyst reports. Research firm Rhodium Group estimated that the world's second-most populous country, after India, could lose the equivalent of nearly France's entire population over the coming 10 years. In a nation of 1.41 billion people, a decline of this scale would weigh on...

- [Trump's Golden Dome aimed at combating China's 'hypersonic weapons, cruise missiles'](#) (2026-04-27 23:28)

The United States has “no defence against hypersonic weapons or cruise missiles”, a senior Pentagon official told Congress on Monday, as US President Donald Trump's US\$185 billion Golden Dome missile shield faces continued scepticism. “The Golden Dome will strengthen deterrence by denying adversaries the ability to achieve their objectives through coercion or aggression,” Marc Berkowitz, the assistant secretary of defence for missile defence and deterrence policy, told a Senate hearing on...

- [Hong Kong to block off parts of Sharp Island shoreline to protect corals for 'golden week'](#) (2026-04-27 23:00)

Hong Kong authorities will cordon off parts of the shoreline of Sharp Island in Sai Kung to protect corals, with 1,000 visitors expected in the area each day during the coming Labour Day “golden week” holiday. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department also said on Monday that 11 officers would patrol the island daily during the holiday, while five marine staff – two snorkellers and three kayakers – would monitor the sea for any disruptive visitor behaviour. The department said it...

- [Why experts say trade wins aren't enough for Xi-Trump summit in May](#) (2026-04-27 22:00)

The coming summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump offers a window to stabilise bilateral ties through trade deals, but former diplomats and business figures have urged the leaders to move beyond commerce during their talks. At a

forum held by the Centre for China and Globalisation (CCG) in Beijing on Sunday, analysts and former officials called on the leaders to address issues such as healthcare, climate change, technological decoupling and AI...

- [China's DeepSeek prices new V4 AI model at 97% below OpenAI's GPT-5.5](#) (2026-04-27 22:00)

DeepSeek has slashed prices on its artificial intelligence models, including its latest V4 which now costs 97 per cent less than OpenAI products, potentially triggering a price war in the highly competitive AI market. DeepSeek said on Sunday that it would reduce prices for “input cache hits” – where previously processed context was reused – for application programming interface (API) users to one-tenth of the original level, bringing the minimum input cost down to about US\$0.14 per million...

- [‘Looming’ risk of nuclear arms race, UN proliferation meeting hears](#) (2026-04-27 21:41)

Signatories of the landmark nuclear non-proliferation treaty began a meeting on Monday at the United Nations in New York as fears of a renewed arms race escalate, with atomic powers again at loggerheads over safeguards. In 2022, during the last review of the treaty considered the cornerstone of non-proliferation, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned humanity was “one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation”. On Monday he warned “the drivers” of nuclear weapons...

- [Without diplomacy, deterrence in Asia is a path to escalation](#) (2026-04-27 21:30)

“Balikatan 2026” is meant to reassure allies and deter adversaries. But the military exercise hosted by the Philippines also reveals a harsher truth: the Indo-Pacific is drifting into a security logic in which deterrence no longer contains risk but multiplies it. Every move taken in the name of stability now invites a countermove. Every display of resolve is answered by another. The result is not equilibrium, but a trap. That is why diplomacy has to return to the centre of regional strategy...

- [Suspect in Washington dinner shooting charged with attempting to assassinate Trump](#) (2026-04-27 20:32)

The man accused of opening fire at a Washington dinner attended by Donald Trump was charged on Monday with attempting to assassinate the US president. Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California, could face a life sentence if convicted. Allen appeared in Washington federal court two days after authorities said they foiled an attack at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, an annual black-tie gathering of journalists and politicians. Allen's hands were cuffed behind his back as...

- [Man pleads guilty in the 2002 killing of Run-DMC's Jam Master Jay](#) (2026-04-27 20:04)

Nearly 25 years after rap star Jam Master Jay of Run-DMC was killed, a man admitted in court on Monday to a role in the shooting that stymied investigators for decades. Jay Bryant pleaded

guilty to a federal murder charge, telling a judge that he helped other people get into a recording studio to ambush the DJ, born Jason Mizell. “I knew a gun was going to be used to shoot Jason Mizell,” Bryant told a federal magistrate. “I knew that what I was doing was wrong and a crime.” Bryant’s admission...

- [King Charles arrives in US for trip overshadowed by Iran quarrel and shooting](#) (2026-04-27 19:23)

Britain’s King Charles and Queen Camilla arrived in the United States on Monday afternoon for a four-day trip, welcomed by self-proclaimed royal fan Donald Trump even as the US president has differed with the British government over the Iran war. The state visit, by far the most high-profile and consequential of Charles’ reign, marks the 250th anniversary of the US declaration of independence from British rule, and is the first to the country by a British monarch for two decades. After landing...

- [Hezbollah disarmament ‘must happen’ , senior Lebanese minister tells US think tank](#) (2026-04-27 18:33)

Lebanon’s social affairs minister backed calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah but cautioned that the process would take time before a “political settlement” could be reached, calling the group a “community” and not merely a militant organisation. Haneen Sayed told a discussion on Monday that disarming Hezbollah – an Iran-backed militant group – was a demand of her government and its people, and that it “must happen” . “Of course, we understand that implementation is not easy. It’s not instant...

- [Trump demands immediate sacking of TV host Jimmy Kimmel over ‘despicable’ joke](#) (2026-04-27 18:30)

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Jimmy Kimmel should be immediately fired by Disney and ABC, joining his wife Melania Trump in calling out the late-night talk show host for a monologue he delivered before a shooting near a gathering of journalists and politicians over the weekend. Kimmel, in a parody of the White House Correspondents Dinner that was broadcast last week before the actual event, said: “Mrs Trump you have a glow like an expectant widow.” Donald Trump said...

- [4 killed and dozens injured in train crash outside Jakarta](#) (2026-04-27 17:54)

Two trains collided outside the Indonesian capital Jakarta late on Monday, killing at least four people, injuring dozens and prompting a mass evacuation effort, officials said. There were chaotic scenes at the Bekasi Timur station some 25km (15 miles) from Jakarta, with rescuers shouting for oxygen tanks as ambulances stood by in a snaking queue, lights flashing. An Agence France-Presse reporter at the scene witnessed people being carried out of the wreckage and loaded into waiting ambulances as...

- [Pope meets first female Archbishop of Canterbury in symbolic Vatican encounter](#)

(2026-04-27 17:36)

Pope Leo and new Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally met for the first time on Monday, in a symbolic encounter at the Vatican in which the leaders of the long-separated Catholic Church and Church of England exchanged gifts and prayed together. Mullally, the first woman to serve as spiritual leader of the world's 85 million Anglicans, was welcomed by Leo, the first US leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, into his formal office at the Vatican's ornate apostolic palace. The two, who...

- [Trump weighs Iran's 'red lines' as Tehran's top diplomat engages Russia's Putin](#)

(2026-04-27 17:18)

Following high-level mediation efforts in Islamabad over the weekend, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held face-to-face talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg on Monday. The diplomatic surge comes as US President Donald Trump convened his senior national security team to evaluate a fresh Iranian peace proposal, delivered via Pakistan, aimed at ending the months-long Middle East crisis and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. The White House confirmed the proposal called...

- [Archaeologists at Pompeii use AI to reveal the face of one of the victims](#) (2026-04-27 17:04)

Archaeologists at the ancient Roman site of Pompeii have used artificial intelligence for the first time to digitally reconstruct the face of a victim of the AD 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius that smothered the city, offering a new way to understand one of history's most famous natural disasters. The digital portrait represents an older man who was among two victims discovered as they attempted to flee the city towards the coast of what is now Italy during the volcanic eruption. Researchers...

- [Bruised by Trump, Nato alliance considers end to annual summits](#) (2026-04-27 16:41)

Nato is considering ending its recent practice of holding annual summits, six sources told Reuters, a move that could avoid a potentially tense encounter with US President Donald Trump in his final year in office. Trump's administration has engaged repeatedly in scathing criticism of many of the US-led defence alliance's 31 other members, most recently berating some for not providing more help to US military operations against Iran. The frequency of Nato summits has varied over the alliance's...

- [Plane crash in South Sudan kills 14](#) (2026-04-27 15:23)

A small plane crashed on Monday in South Sudan near the capital Juba, killing all 13 passengers and the pilot, local officials said. On top of instability, conflict and poverty, South Sudan also lacks reliable transport infrastructure with frequent plane crashes attributed to overloading and bad weather. The plane was a Cessna that departed Juba International Airport at 9.15am local time and crashed about 20km (12 miles) from the capital with no survivors, the South Sudanese Civil Aviation...

- [Why tougher US visa rules for skilled foreign workers may end in exodus to Asia, Europe](#) (2026-04-27 15:00)

Yoyo Yue has spent much of her life navigating the complex US immigration system. The 31-year-old Chinese content creator moved from China to a US boarding school, went to university, secured an H-1B visa and later a “green card” – a path long considered the “gold standard” for skilled foreign workers. Now, she said, that path felt far less certain. “The H-1B path today comes with significant uncertainty, not just around job stability, but also around long-term prospects,” Yue said. US President...

- [UK PM Starmer faces vote on possible parliamentary probe over Mandelson](#) (2026-04-27 14:41)

Britain’s parliament will vote on Tuesday on a possible inquiry into Prime Minister Keir Starmer, looking at whether he misled the House of Commons over the appointment of former US ambassador Peter Mandelson. Any such inquiry could have serious implications for Starmer’s future. He has so far resisted pressure to quit over his decision to hire Mandelson, but if found to have knowingly misled parliament his position would likely become untenable. House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said he...

- [Alibaba gets approval to spin off warehouse park as Reit in pivot for logistics assets](#) (2026-04-27 14:32)

Alibaba Group Holding gained approval from the Hong Kong stock exchange to proceed with a proposed spin-off of a warehouse park in mainland China, two years after the tech giant withdrew the listing plan of its logistics arm Cainiao. The e-commerce giant said it could separate an infrastructure real estate investment trust (Reit) and list it on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, with the underlying asset being the Jiaying Park, a logistics and warehousing infrastructure hub in eastern China’s Zhejiang...

- [2 months into the Iran war, who holds the upper hand?](#) (2026-04-27 14:08)

Two months after US and Israeli strikes began, their war on Iran has settled into a costly stalemate. The fighting has paused under a fragile Pakistan-brokered ceasefire, but the Strait of Hormuz remains blocked, direct talks have collapsed and neither side shows signs of yielding. Last weekend, Washington’s envoys cancelled their planned trip to the Pakistani capital for further talks after Tehran declared it would not join negotiations until the US Navy ended its blockade of Iranian...

- [Optical chipmaker’s profit soars 1,153% on AI demand, China’s tech self-reliance push](#) (2026-04-27 14:00)

Chinese optical chipmaker Yuanjie Semiconductor Technology reported an elevenfold surge in first-quarter profits as domestic firms capitalise on soaring demand for computing power amid the artificial intelligence boom and the country’s tech self-sufficiency drive. Net profit in the

three months ended March 31 jumped 1,153 per cent year on year to 179 million yuan (US\$26.2million), while revenue grew 321 per cent to 355 million yuan, the Shanghai-listed company said in a stock-exchange filing on...

- [Chinese supercomputers help crack the mystery of Yellowstone’ s volcanic plumbing: paper](#) (2026-04-27 14:00)

Yellowstone is the world’ s largest active volcanic system – its eruptions are hundreds of times more powerful than Vesuvius’ blast and its ash could blanket half the US. Yet, for decades, scientists could not agree on what drove its underground magma system. A new finding detailed by Chinese researchers could settle the dispute. They declared that Yellowstone’ s magma channels were not blasted open by magma forcing its way upwards. Instead, tectonic forces tore the lithosphere apart first and...

- [Fire risks not spotted due to old inspection guidelines, Tai Po blaze inquiry told](#) (2026-04-27 13:55)

Government surveyors failed to detect major fire risks at a housing complex destroyed in Hong Kong’ s deadliest inferno in decades because they were following outdated guidelines that did not require in-person inspections of renovation works, a public inquiry has heard. The independent committee was told on Monday that illegal alterations to Wang Fuk Court’ s emergency passages during the HK\$336 million (US\$42.9 million) overhaul of the estate’ s exterior could have been discovered sooner had...

- [Bureau defends Hins Cheung mentor role after mainland China online backlash](#) (2026-04-27 13:40)

Hong Kong’ s Security Bureau has defended its decision to appoint singer Hins Cheung as a mentor in a “rehabilitation project” for youngsters arrested during the 2019 protests, saying it welcomes individuals from all backgrounds to share positive life experiences following criticism from internet users in mainland China. The project, which has been running for two years, aims to support the rehabilitation of about 7,000 people arrested during the social unrest but not prosecuted. “[Activities]...

- [Chinese robotaxi firms accelerate global roll-outs as cost edge drives expansion](#) (2026-04-27 13:30)

Chinese robotaxi firms from Pony AI to WeRide are accelerating global roll-outs of commercial fleets, leveraging cost competitiveness from the country’ s world-leading new energy vehicle (NEV) supply chain and improved operational efficiency, company executives have said. China’ s NEV supply chain had helped reduce the total cost of Pony AI’ s upgraded seventh-generation robotaxi – including the base vehicle, battery and autonomous driving kit – to below 230,000 yuan (US\$33,700), making it cheaper...

- [China's CATL touts landmark order in 'DeepSeek moment' for sodium-ion batteries](#) (2026-04-27 13:16)

Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd (CATL) has taken a leap forward in commercialising sodium-ion batteries, signing a large supply contract with an energy-storage system (ESS) provider amid high demand for power infrastructure after the global oil shock. The world's largest electric vehicle (EV) and ESS battery maker announced on Monday that it would deliver 60 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of sodium-ion batteries to Beijing HyperStrong Technology over three years in a landmark deal for the new battery...

- [Elon Musk's trial against Sam Altman reveals power struggle for OpenAI](#) (2026-04-27 13:12)

The bitter legal fight between Elon Musk and the leading AI firm, OpenAI, led by Sam Altman, may come down to a few pages in one executive's personal diary. "This is the only chance we have to get out from Elon," wrote Greg Brockman, OpenAI's president and a co-founder, in the autumn of 2017. "Is he the 'glorious leader' that I would pick?" Brockman's diary entry is part of the thousands of pages of internal documents revealed in court since Musk, one of the original co-founders of OpenAI,...

- [Guangdong's rule as China's GDP king faces an unprecedented threat to the crown](#) (2026-04-27 12:30)

The long-standing rivalry between China's two largest economic heavyweights – with each boasting a gross domestic product comparable to Group of Seven members Italy and Canada – reflects the regional dynamism and shifting economic gravity within the world's second-biggest economy. Jiangsu has been threatening to end Guangdong's uninterrupted reign as China's largest provincial economy since the late 1980s, and the latest economic data reveals the gap between the two narrowed further in the first...

- [Reopen Strait of Hormuz by reframing Iran's tolls as reconstruction](#) (2026-04-27 12:30)

The Strait of Hormuz is usually described as a chokepoint. Today, it is more than that. It is the hinge point between war and peace in the Gulf. Roughly a fifth of the world's oil and gas trade passes through this narrow waterway. When it was secure, the global economy barely noticed it. As soon as it was threatened, prices jumped, shipping costs rose and military tensions spread beyond the region. Today, the issue is even larger than economics. If the status of the strait is left unresolved,...

- [Hong Kong proposes bill for unified regulation of new mass transit projects](#) (2026-04-27 12:28)

Hong Kong plans to table a bill by year-end to standardise regulation of future mass transit projects, including Kai Tak and East Kowloon, the transport chief has said, as lawmakers raise concerns over fares and long-term service quality. Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan told lawmakers on Monday that the government was pursuing policy innovation by

adopting open tenders for future projects, with the aim of enhancing service quality and identifying the most effective operators for...

- [Taiwan completes US tank deal as final Abrams shipment reaches port](#) (2026-04-27 12:00)

Taiwan has received its final shipment of US-made M1A2T Abrams tanks, completing a long-delayed order aimed at modernising the island's ageing armoured forces. Considered one of the world's most powerful tanks, the vehicles are expected to bolster the island's defence amid rising military pressure from Beijing. The shipment of 28 tanks arrived at the Port of Taipei over the weekend and was moved overnight under police and military escort to the army's Armour Training Command in Hsinchu county's...

- [WuXi AppTec posts record first-quarter revenue on strong global demand](#) (2026-04-27 11:30)

China's drug maker WuXi AppTec reported record first-quarter revenue, as a robust order backlog and sustained demand from global pharmaceutical companies supported growth. For the three months ended March 31, the Shanghai- and Hong Kong-listed company posted revenue of 12.44 billion yuan (US\$1.72 billion), up 28.81 per cent year on year, according to a filing released on Monday. Net profit climbed nearly 27 per cent to 4.65 billion yuan in the quarter. Both revenue and net profit exceeded market...

- [Pakistani president seeks to bolster 'full spectrum' of ties with China on visit](#) (2026-04-27 11:30)

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari is on a week-long visit to China with a focus on economics and trade. Zardari arrived in China on Saturday. The Pakistani foreign ministry said he would be visiting Changsha in the central province of Hunan before heading to Sanya in the southern island province of Hainan on Tuesday, where he would stay until heading home on Friday.

"During the visit, the president will hold meetings with provincial leadership to review the full spectrum of Pakistan-China..."

- [PLA showcases YJ-20 hypersonic missiles as Balikatan drills heat up South China Sea](#) (2026-04-27 11:13)

The Chinese military aired footage over the weekend of YJ-20 hypersonic anti-ship missile launches, as joint US-Philippines-Japan drills heighten tensions in the disputed South China Sea. China Military Bugle, a social media account run by the People's Liberation Army, posted a video on Sunday of the PLA Navy conducting strike tests at sea, including multiple YJ-20 launches. The post did not specify when and where the missiles were fired. However, the footage was released two days after Beijing...

- [India, New Zealand sign 'once-in-a-generation' free-trade deal](#) (2026-04-27 11:11)

India and New Zealand on Monday signed a free-trade agreement to deepen economic ties and expand market access, as both countries navigate mounting global trade disruptions. The deal

comes as New Delhi moves to diversify export markets to offset the impact of steep tariffs imposed by the United States and instability in shipping and energy routes due to the Iran war. For New Zealand, the agreement is part of a broader push to reduce reliance on China, its largest trading partner. The agreement...

- [Hong Kong police arrest 9 men in joint Asia-wide crackdown on child pornography](#)

(2026-04-27 11:04)

Hong Kong police have arrested nine men in a crackdown on child pornography linked to a seven-jurisdiction operation in which more than 300 suspects were detained across Asia. Police said on Monday the city had joined a coordinated international operation involving Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Brunei, targeting offences related to the production, distribution and possession of child sexual exploitation material. “Through active intelligence exchange and investigation, we...

- [Japan’s Takaichi faces women-led backlash over constitution reform push, arms build-up](#)

(2026-04-27 11:02)

Japan’s first female prime minister is facing a growing backlash from women new to political activism, as alarm spreads over her government’s push to revise the country’s pacifist constitution and expand its role in arms exports. The women are part of a protest wave that has grown from a few thousand people in late February to tens of thousands outside the National Diet in Tokyo, where demonstrators have rallied against constitutional revision, weapons exports and what they see as Japan’s drift...

- [Territorial integrity is ‘red line’ for Europe, Finland warns after US Greenland threats](#)

(2026-04-27 11:00)

Europe’s territorial integrity is a “red line” in Finland’s relations with the United States and other powers, according to Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen. “I can only say that certainly territorial integrity is the red line. “We defend the UN Charter, the territorial integrity of nations and sovereignty, and if need be, then we have to react through the means which we have at hand,” she told the South China Morning Post when asked about Greenland. Donald Trump seriously damaged relations with...

- [Prison officer admits brutal assault on inmate after baby powder bingo game](#)

(2026-04-27 10:42)

A former Hong Kong prison officer has admitted severely wounding an inmate by repeatedly thrusting a stick into the man’s rectum after being sprinkled with baby powder during a game. Tam Lik-chung, an ex-assistant officer in the Correctional Services Department, pleaded guilty in the District Court on Monday along with an inmate, Ho Lik-wun, who had helped hold down the victim. Tam, 33, had been overseeing young inmates at Pik Uk Prison in Sai Kung at the time of the assault in December...

- [French teen in Singapore faces jail for licking and returning vending machine straw](#)

(2026-04-27 10:37)

A French teenager has been charged with mischief and public nuisance in Singapore for licking a straw and putting it back in an orange juice vending machine, court documents showed on Monday. Didier Gaspard Owen Maximilien, 18, allegedly filmed himself “licking a straw and placing it back at the vending machine” , uploaded the video on Instagram knowing that it “would or would probably cause annoyance to the public” , according to the documents. The teenager is studying in Singapore, according to...

- [Families of Indonesian helpers who died in Tai Po fire struggle to break news to kids](#)

(2026-04-27 10:09)

Grieving relatives of domestic helpers killed in the Tai Po fire have struggled to break the news to victims’ children while fending off scammers targeting their compensation from Hong Kong authorities, according to a workers’ rights advocate after a trip to Indonesia. Esther Tse Yan-yin, an organiser from the Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims, travelled to Indonesia in January to visit the immediate relatives of eight helpers who died in the inferno at Wang Fuk Court...

- [China industrial profits hit 6-month high amid Iran war as factory-gate prices rebound](#)

(2026-04-27 10:00)

Profit growth at China’ s industrial firms accelerated to a six-month high in March, as long-suppressed factory-gate prices turned positive amid disruptions from the Iran war. Total profits for China’ s major industrial enterprises – those with annual revenues greater than 20 million yuan (US\$2.93 million) – grew by 15.8 per cent last month, the fastest rate since September, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday. Profits in the first quarter reached 1.696...

- [History of chilli peppers in China: first used as ornamental plants, later as ‘poor man’ s spice’](#) (2026-04-27 10:00)

It is not an exaggeration to say that chilli peppers and spicy food are available on pretty much every street in China. The pungent, heat-infused foodstuff is so ubiquitous people joke that if a person does not indulge, they will starve, or at best lose friends, because eating spicy things fosters social bonding. However, the popular ingredient has only been around in China for a relatively short time. It first entered the country 400 years ago and people have been eating it for about three...

- [Sole eatery on Hong Kong’ s southernmost island may shut after 50 years in business](#)

(2026-04-27 09:53)

The sole restaurant on Hong Kong’ s southernmost Po Toi Island may close after a half-century serving visiting hikers and boaters lured by the untouched coastline and placid bays. The owner of Ming Kee Seafood Restaurant, who gave his surname as Leung, said business had declined

and he might be forced to close at the end of next month if he could not find a partner. “Running a restaurant is hard work, and I don’ t want to continue any more, and the younger generation is not willing to take over,” ...

- [Hong Kong marks 85th anniversary of Bruce Lee’ s arrival with statue and exhibition](#) (2026-04-27 09:46)

An entertainment company and an arts curator have unveiled a life-size statue of late kung fu legend Bruce Lee at his childhood home in Hong Kong to mark the 85th anniversary of his arrival in the city. Organisers hmvod and curator Heiman Ng said the statue, unveiled on Monday, had been permanently installed at the Prudential Centre on Nathan Road, where the Lee family lived after returning to Hong Kong in 1941 not long after he was born. An exhibition titled “Bruce Lee: Homecoming – 85th...

- [Philippine court order over Marcos’ health raises constitutional question](#) (2026-04-27 09:30)

Questions over Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jnr’ s health, amplified by supporters of former president Rodrigo Duterte, have reached the Supreme Court, turning a dispute over presidential fitness into a rare test of constitutional disclosure. On Wednesday, the Supreme Court gave Marcos 10 days, or until early May, to comment on a petition regarding his state of health. The court was reacting to an “urgent petition” for a “writ of mandamus” filed by political allies and supporters of...

- [14 minors among 120 people arrested in operation targeting online sales of drugs](#) (2026-04-27 08:27)

Hong Kong police have arrested 120 people, including 14 minors, and seized worth HK\$26 million (US\$3.31 million) in a month-long operation targeting multiple online sales of illegal narcotics and related products. Chan Lik-ho, a senior inspector with the force’ s narcotics bureau, said on Monday that 53.7kg (118lbs) of dangerous drugs and Part 1 poisons were seized during an operation codenamed Amberflock, carried out from March 29 to April 25. He said there were 74 cases involving 78 male and 42...

- [China blocks Meta’ s Manus deal after months-long probe, thwarting purchase](#) (2026-04-27 08:18)

Beijing has blocked the proposed purchase by Meta Platforms of artificial intelligence firm Manus, a start-up that is officially registered in Singapore but developed its products in mainland China. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country’ s top economic planner, announced the ruling in a statement on Monday, and asked the parties involved in the deal to cancel the transaction. Neither Meta nor Manus immediately responded to requests for comment on Monday. A...

- [Beer and BBQ festivals possible under beach scheme to tap private sector operators](#)

(2026-04-27 07:52)

Hongkongers and visitors could be able to enjoy large-scale events such as beer and barbecue festivals at three public beaches under a pilot scheme that will allow private-sector operators to upgrade facilities, a district councillor has suggested, with a top administrator saying fees must be kept affordable. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Manda Chan Wing-man told a radio programme on Monday that the government would not set strict key performance indicators (KPIs) for commercial...

- [China delivers record LNG carrier as shipbuilding rivalry with South Korea intensifies](#)

(2026-04-27 07:48)

China has delivered its largest-ever liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier, bringing the number of domestic shipyards capable of designing and building the advanced vessels to five, as the country steps up its challenge to South Korea's dominance in the high-value sector. The milestone was marked by China Merchants Heavy Industry (Jiangsu), a subsidiary of China Merchants Group, which delivered the 180,000-cubic-metre (6.36-million cubic-foot) vessel on Sunday, according to a company press...

- [Malaysia's Najib drops appeal to serve 1MDB-linked prison sentence under house arrest](#)

(2026-04-27 07:30)

Former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak has dropped his legal bid to serve the remainder of his corruption sentence under house arrest, closing off a closely watched appeal tied to his 2024 royal pardon. Najib, 72, is serving a six-year jail sentence in Kajang Prison after his original 12-year term for the misappropriation of 42 million ringgit (US\$10.6 million) from SRC International was halved by the Pardons Board in 2024. SRC International was formerly a unit of 1MDB, the state fund at...

- [Lightning strikes kill 14 in a day as seasonal storms hit Bangladesh](#) (2026-04-27 07:26)

At least 14 people were killed after lightning strikes hit several parts of Bangladesh, officials said on Monday, as seasonal thunderstorms swept across the country. The deaths were reported from several districts after sudden storms brought heavy rain and intense lightning on Sunday. Most of the victims were farmers working in open fields and labourers caught in exposed areas, local authorities said. Several other people were injured and taken to nearby hospitals, with some in critical...

- [Japan's bathhouses struggle to stay afloat as oil prices spike, supply dwindles](#)

(2026-04-27 06:49)

Customers of Ikesu Onsen, a traditional Japanese bathhouse in Tsushima in Aichi prefecture, have had to delay their daily dips due to the Iran war. The sento, or public bathhouse, has been forced to push back its opening time by an hour since late March because of an unstable supply of fuel oil, according to Kyodo. Monthly delivery has been halved from about a tonne, leading

the number of customers of the family-run 97-year-old sento to fall to around 10 per day. “It’s a major blow,” its...

- [Sri Lanka arrests 22 monks with US\\$3.5 million worth of cannabis in record haul](#) (2026-04-27 06:46)

Twenty-two Sri Lankan monks returning from Thailand were arrested on Sunday at the main international airport with 110kg (242lbs) of powerful cannabis, officials said. A Sri Lanka Customs spokesman said the group, returning home after a four-day holiday in the Thai capital, had kush – a potent, plant-based strain of cannabis – hidden in their luggage. “Each carried about five kilos of the narcotic concealed within false walls in their luggage,” the spokesman said, adding that the monks had been...

- [Washington hotel shooting exposes gaps in security protocols for Trump and other VIPs](#) (2026-04-27 06:32)

US law enforcement officials are reassessing security arrangements after a gunman opened fire near the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner, raising questions about how he was able to get so close to an event attended by President Donald Trump, cabinet members and lawmakers. Two former Secret Service agents and three senior US officials told Reuters on Sunday that federal agents appeared to carry out their plan to protect the president effectively on Saturday night, stopping the...

- [North Korea, Russia boost anti-West ‘powerful bulwark’ as Ukraine war drags on](#) (2026-04-27 06:13)

North Korea and Russia are moving to consolidate their military ties at a time of deepening global instability, with both sides using the Ukraine war as a symbol of their unwavering alliance. Sunday’s unveiling of a memorial museum in Pyongyang for North Korean soldiers killed in the war was also aimed at showing the two countries were in lockstep over their anti-West stance, according to observers. The partnership stemmed from their converging needs – Russia’s demand for manpower and materiel,...

- [Everest climbers left hanging after giant ice chunk blocks path to summit](#) (2026-04-27 06:05)

A large ice chunk is blocking the climbing route to Everest’s summit, risking delays in the summit season at the world’s highest peak, according to officials. A team of highly skilled mountaineers, known in Nepal as “icefall doctors”, began fixing ropes and ladders on Mount Everest last month to prepare for the coming spring climbing season. But a dangerous serac – a block of glacial ice – above the already treacherous Khumbu icefall has disrupted their work for nearly two weeks. “We are waiting...

- [China old folk custom sacrificed young women to become ‘Cave God’ brides who starved to death](#) (2026-04-27 06:00)

In a tragic and mysterious ancient custom in China, unmarried girls were chosen as brides by a legendary “Cave God” and sent to live in caves, where they would fast to death as a form of sacrifice. The practice, known as Luo Hua Dong Nv is a folk legend from the Miao communities in Xiangxi, located in western Hunan province in southern China. It is an ancient practice which no longer exists and its origins are unclear. The custom has been described as a “marriage between humans and deities” and...

- [Malaysian state in crisis after Umno pulls support for chief minister in royal row](#)
(2026-04-27 05:39)

The ruling administration of Malaysia’s Negeri Sembilan state is at the brink of collapse after a key ally withdrew support on Monday in a spat that has shone the spotlight on increasingly fragile ties within Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim’s coalition government. Anwar has been facing growing pushback from allies and critics alike in recent months, ahead of national polls due in less than two years. Parties across the aisle are doubling down on contentious issues to bolster support from their...

- [China-Japan tensions a boon to Hong Kong tourism for ‘golden week’ , expert says](#)
(2026-04-27 04:33)

The appreciating yuan and ongoing Sino-Japanese tensions have given Hong Kong tourism a boost ahead of mainland China’s Labour Day “golden week” holiday, with hotel prices rising by as much as 8 per cent, an industry representative has said. Lawmaker Alan Chan Chung-ye, who is also the chief operating officer of Miramar Group, expressed optimism on Monday that the city would welcome more mainland tourists originally heading to other parts of East Asia during the country’s coming long holiday,...

- [Indonesian migrant smugglers target Malaysia entry via Singapore, Thailand](#) (2026-04-27 04:30)

Malaysian immigration authorities say they have uncovered an Indonesian migrant-smuggling syndicate that moved people from sea crossings to a more elaborate route through Singapore and southern Thailand. The raid, carried out before dawn on Saturday at two major transport terminals in Kuala Lumpur, led to the arrest of 11 Indonesians, including a suspected transporter, and the seizure of a Mazda CX-5 believed to have been used to move migrants to their next stop. Immigration director general...

- [DJI-Insta360 rivalry, nuclear hint for China’s next carrier: 5 weekend reads you missed](#)
(2026-04-27 04:28)

We have put together stories from our coverage last weekend to help you stay informed about news across Asia and beyond. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. As DJI duels Insta360, China sharpens global hardware edge amid US scrutiny 2. Did China just hint that its next aircraft carrier will be nuclear-powered? 3. Reverend Derek Li, father of injured Hong Kong Mirror dancer Mo Li, dies 4. 3 killed in Japanese Type 10 tank blast

that has military...

- [China unveils ultra-cheap ‘all-iron flow battery’ for renewable energy storage](#) (2026-04-27 03:59)

Chinese scientists have achieved a breakthrough in “all-iron flow battery” technology that could sharply reduce the cost of storing renewable energy while significantly extending battery lifespan. Lithium costs over 80 times more than iron as a raw industrial material at present. An iron battery may offer a potential solution to one of the biggest bottlenecks in the global energy transition, according to the researchers. A team from the Institute of Metal Research under the Chinese Academy of...

- [Netanyahu’ s biggest rivals join forces for Israel’ s coming election](#) (2026-04-27 03:55)

Two of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’ s most formidable political rivals said on Sunday they were joining forces in a bid to oust his coalition government in the coming election expected later this year. The former prime ministers - right-wing Naftali Bennett and centrist Yair Lapid - issued statements announcing the merger of their parties, Bennett 2026 and There is a Future. “We are standing here together for the sake of our children. The State of Israel must change direction,” ...

- [Window blocking ‘inappropriate’ but outside building authority’ s remit, Tai Po probe told](#) (2026-04-27 03:07)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’ s journalism by subscribing. An independent committee investigating Hong Kong’ s deadly Wang Fuk Court fire will scrutinise the roles of building and home affairs authorities on the 20th day of evidential hearings. Four witnesses from the Buildings Department and the Home Affairs Department are scheduled to give evidence before the judge-led panel on Monday. The inferno broke out on...

- [Thailand to extradite Indonesian man in US\\$10 million scam targeting Americans](#) (2026-04-27 02:07)

Police in Thailand have arrested an Indonesian who allegedly defrauded Americans of about US\$10 million, Thai authorities say, adding that they will extradite him to the United States. The 33-year-old Indonesian man was arrested on Friday at a luxury resort in the coastal town of Phuket after a tip-off from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Suriya Pongsombat of the national immigration police said on Sunday. The FBI had informed Thai authorities that the suspect left Dubai and...

- [Chinese EVs make inroads in South Korea, one of world’ s most competitive auto markets](#) (2026-04-27 02:00)

Electric vehicles (EVs) made in China now account for one in every three new registrations in South Korea, as Tesla’ s Shanghai-built models power the surge and Chinese carmakers start to

gain traction. The country's auto manufacturers have further room to expand, analysts said, supported by higher fuel prices linked to the US-Israeli war in Iran and looser restrictions than traditional target markets. Still, tightening subsidy regimes could slow the pace of expansion, they cautioned. Sales of...

- [Lebanon reports bloodiest day since ceasefire as Israel targets Hezbollah](#) (2026-04-27 01:32)

Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes on the country's south on Sunday killed 14 people, the deadliest day since a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war came into force over a week ago. It came as Israel and the Iran-backed group traded fresh accusations of breaching the fragile truce, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying the military was "vigorously" targeting Hezbollah and the group vowing to keep responding to "violations". Israel's military has carried out repeated strikes...

- [North Korea's Kim vows continued support for Russia at memorial for fallen troops](#) (2026-04-27 01:30)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said his country would continue to support Russia's policies and he discussed the international political situation with Russia's defence minister, state media KCNA reported on Monday. A Russian delegation including Defence Minister Andrei Belousov attended a completion ceremony for a memorial honouring North Korean soldiers killed while fighting in Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces staged an incursion in 2024, KCNA said. Russia launched a full-scale...

- [Hong Kong's civil service accountability system will end buck-passing mentality](#) (2026-04-27 01:30)

Kudos to the Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung Ho Poi-yan for introducing a two-tier civil service accountability system. This will include giving an independent statutory body, the Public Service Commission, powers to investigate "widespread, repetitive and systemic" management problems, while department heads can investigate problems involving rank-and-file officers. To many, the revamp of the civil service accountability system is long overdue. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu has...

- [China launches war on Alzheimer's that may affect 10% of population by 2050](#) (2026-04-27 01:00)

China has launched a comprehensive national campaign against Alzheimer's, as projections warn the degenerative brain disease could affect nearly 10 per cent of citizens by 2050. With the world's fastest-growing dementia caseload set to sharply grow by mid-century, China is mobilising top scientific institutions, major biotech firms and dozens of experts to accelerate the development of original treatments. This urgent initiative aims to avert a looming public health and economic crisis, driven...

- [China city dwellers adopt chickens as pets, treating them like babies, walking them in prams](#) (2026-04-27 01:00)

In several first-tier Chinese cities, chickens, which were once confined to the dinner table, are finding a new role: cherished household companions. On social media, posts and videos about “pet chickens” have racked up over 3.1 billion views, underscoring how they are reshaping perceptions of pet culture in urban China. In southeastern China’s Guangdong province, a local saying goes: “No chicken leaves here alive”, a testament to the region’s love of eating poultry. Yet one woman, Aguai,...

- [ESF reserves reach HK\\$3.75 billion, even as government subsidies shrink](#) (2026-04-27 00:30)

The reserves of Hong Kong’s largest international school group have more than tripled to HK\$3.75 billion (US\$480.8 million) in over a decade, even as it taps different income sources to offset shrinking government subsidies, the South China Morning Post has found by reviewing the organisation’s annual reports. The English Schools Foundation (ESF) also said in its annual report for the 2024-25 academic year that it expected increased competition for students and it would modernise its marketing...

- [Magnitude 6.2 quake strikes Japan’s Hokkaido, JMA warns of more to come](#) (2026-04-27 00:20)

A strong earthquake rattled Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido early on Monday, US and Japanese meteorological agencies reported, the latest in a series of powerful tremors to hit the island nation. The 6.2-magnitude quake struck at 5.23am in Hokkaido’s southern region, at a depth of 83km (52 miles), the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) reported, revising its preliminary estimate of magnitude 6.1. No tsunami alert was issued, JMA said, and the US Geological Survey predicted that damage to...

- [Japan aims to build world’s largest wind farm. Can it power on by 2035?](#) (2026-04-27 00:00)

Japan is planning to build what could become the world’s largest floating wind farm – a gigawatt-scale project off the Izu Islands to power the island chain and Tokyo. But the plan, championed by Governor Yuriko Koike, is facing questions over whether it can be delivered by 2035. There are also doubts about the power generation forecast and whether Japan could tackle the technical demands of such a megaproject. Koike first announced the wind farm project at a climate change conference in...

- [US Justice Department cites shooting to press preservationists to drop Trump ballroom suit](#) (2026-04-26 23:16)

US President Donald Trump’s Justice Department is using the shooting at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner on Saturday to try to pressure preservationists to drop their lawsuit over his planned US\$400 million ballroom on the site of the former East Wing of the White

House. “It’s time to build the ballroom,” acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said plainly on Sunday on social media, posting a letter in which Assistant Attorney General Brett Shumate gave the National Trust for Historic...

- [Trump factor drives up Asia-Pacific military spending at fastest pace since 2009](#) (2026-04-26 22:00)

Military spending in the Asia-Pacific rose at the fastest pace for 16 years in 2025 as US allies felt “growing uncertainty” over whether Washington would honour its security commitments, according to a new report. Total global spending reached US\$2.89 trillion, an increase of 2.9 per cent from 2024, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) think tank said in its annual report on military expenditure published Monday. That marked the 11th consecutive year of increases and...

- [Daniel Gros on what China can learn from the euro as it works towards a global yuan](#) (2026-04-26 22:00)

Daniel Gros is the director of the Institute for European Policymaking at Bocconi University. Previously, he served as an adviser to the European Parliament, collaborated with the European Commission as economic adviser to the Delors Committee, which developed plans for the euro, and worked at the International Monetary Fund. In this interview, Gros examines the structural tensions shaping EU-China economic ties, draws lessons from the euro’s experience to analyse the yuan’s...

- [Why US-led security alliances in Asia are losing coherence](#) (2026-04-26 21:30)

Geopolitics, at its core, examines how geography shapes international politics, power distribution and security dynamics. One enduring idea is geographer Halford Mackinder’s “heartland” theory, which situates Eurasia as the central arena of global power competition. In 1904, Mackinder argued that the vast land mass of Europe and Asia – what he called the “world island” – contained a pivotal core, the “heartland”, rich in resources, population and strategic depth. His dictum – “Who rules Eastern...

- [Italy to extradite suspected Chinese hacker wanted by US authorities: reports](#) (2026-04-26 20:21)

The Italian government has decided to extradite a Chinese man wanted by US authorities on hacking charges that include stealing Covid-19 medical research, a person with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters. The government’s decision, which was first reported by Bloomberg, follows a ruling by an Italian court earlier this month which said Xu Zewei could be extradited. A representative for Italy’s government declined to comment. Xu’s lawyer Enrico Giarda told Reuters that his client...

- [King Charles’ US state visit to go ahead as planned after Washington media gala shooting](#) (2026-04-26 19:29)

The state visit by Britain's King Charles to the US would take place as planned, Buckingham Palace said on Sunday, following a shooting at a Washington media gala. The incident late on Saturday at the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association came less than 48 hours before Charles and Queen Camilla begin a four-day state visit to the United States. The palace said Charles was "greatly relieved" that Trump, the first lady Melania and other guests were unharmed and later on...

- [Mali junta in crisis after defence minister is killed and key city 'captured'](#) (2026-04-26 18:37)

Mali's military rulers faced a security crisis on Sunday after coordinated nationwide attacks by jihadist fighters and separatist rebels this weekend killed the defence minister and reportedly left a key northern town in rebel hands. There was no word from the junta leader General Assimi Goita, who has not been seen since the attacks began at dawn on Saturday. The offensive, synchronised by Tuareg rebels of the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA) coalition and the jihadist Group for the Support of...

- [16 dead in strikes as Chernobyl anniversary highlights nuclear risks of Russia-Ukraine war](#) (2026-04-26 17:57)

Strikes across Ukraine, Russian-occupied territory and Russia killed at least 16 people, authorities said, as the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster prompted fresh warnings about the risks posed by attacks near the plant during Russia's more than four-year invasion of its neighbour. The death toll from Russian drone and missile strikes on the city of Dnipro rose to nine, regional head Oleksandr Hanzha said on Sunday. One man was killed in a Ukrainian drone strike on the port city...

- [Wildfires in Japan's north worsen, 1,400 firefighters deployed](#) (2026-04-26 14:04)

Japan has deployed 1,400 firefighters and dozens of Self-Defence Force personnel to battle mountain blazes that have been raging in the north for five days and threaten to reach homes in the picturesque coastal town of Otsuchi, officials said on Sunday. Fanned by dry, windy weather, two more wildfires broke out elsewhere in the north on Sunday – one in Kitakata city and the other in Nagaoka, potentially stretching firefighting resources thin as local authorities send personnel to neighbouring...

- [Scientists in China create a predator-like material to hunt for uranium in the ocean](#) (2026-04-26 14:00)

An international research team in China has developed a microscopic "predator-like" material capable of swimming through water and hunting uranium ions, a breakthrough that could open new possibilities for nuclear fuel extraction and cleaning up radioactive pollution. The light-powered material, a metal-organic framework (MOF) micromotor created by researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Qinghai Institute of Salt Lakes, can autonomously move through water while capturing uranium ions....

- [Doctor in long-delayed hearing over alleged blunder says he thought baby was choking](#) (2026-04-26 13:52)

A Hong Kong doctor accused of a blunder that left a boy permanently disabled 16 years ago said he did not return to the hospital to examine the infant immediately as he initially diagnosed the emergency as a choking case, the Medical Council heard on Sunday. Testifying for the first time at the hearing, Dr Sit Sou-chi contested an allegation that he had failed to conduct all necessary and immediate investigations of newborn Li Yuanjian, the son of a mainland Chinese couple, after the infant had...

- [Can parents and children playing video games together level up their relationship?](#) (2026-04-26 12:45)

A Hong Kong survey has found a 20 percentage point gap in relationship scores between parents and children who play video games together and those who do not. The Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong on Sunday urged parents to adopt a new approach to supervising their children's gaming habits, encouraging families to take part in such activities together rather than just observing. The group issued the call after conducting a survey of the experiences and attitudes of parents, young children and teenagers...

- [Middle East shipping crisis elevates China-Europe railway's profile](#) (2026-04-26 12:30)

The China-Europe railway network has evolved in the past decade from a nascent logistical experiment into a growing commercial alternative to maritime and air freight. In the wake of the US-Israel war on Iran, it might now be assuming an unanticipated role as a key security provider for transcontinental supply chains. What began as sporadic trial runs has matured into a sprawling web of rail connections that currently links 235 cities across 26 European countries with more than 120 Chinese...

- [China is poised to reap rewards as energy shock heats up the race for renewables](#) (2026-04-26 12:00)

In the face of a prolonged US energy blockade of Cuba, solar panels from China have come to the rescue and provided a model of independence from fossil fuels that is resonating globally amid what is being called the worst energy crisis in history. Within the 12 months through February, solar's share of national power generation in Cuba increased from 6 per cent to more than 20 per cent, according to Microgrid Media, a California-based publication that tracks global renewable energy capacity. "By...

- [Syria begins long-awaited first trial of Assad-era officials](#) (2026-04-26 11:52)

The first public trial in Syria of officials linked to the rule of former President Bashar al-Assad opened in Damascus on Sunday. Atef Najib, a former Syrian army brigadier general who was head of the Political Security Branch in southern Syria's Daraa province under Assad, and who is also a cousin of the former president, appeared in the courtroom to face charges related to

“crimes against the Syrian people,” the state-run news agency SANA reported. Najib was in that position in 2011 when...

- [China warns EU to remove firms and citizens from Russian sanctions list](#) (2026-04-26 11:40)

China has demanded that the European Union remove Chinese businesses and individuals from its latest sanctions list related to Russia's war in Ukraine. The Ministry of Commerce in Beijing also warned the bloc that it would take whatever measures were necessary to protect the rights and interests of its citizens and companies. “[We should] find a way to resolve our respective concerns through dialogue and consultation,” the ministry said, adding that the consequences of not lifting the sanctions...

- [China's Li Auto targets BMW and Mercedes with premium SUVs in Middle East, Asia-Pacific](#) (2026-04-26 11:10)

Li Auto, one of Tesla's major rivals in mainland China, has set its sights on the Middle East and Asia-Pacific, with its premium intelligent models poised to take on petrol car brands such as BMW and Mercedes-Benz. The Beijing-based electric vehicle (EV) maker, which is actively building a sales network abroad, expected overseas deliveries to account for 30 per cent of its total by 2030, according to president Ma Donghui. “It is inevitable that we will compete against BMW, Benz and Audi, which...

- [Ukrainians gather to remember Chernobyl disaster despite Russia's war](#) (2026-04-26 10:44)

People streamed into the central square of Slavutych in the early hours of Sunday, placing candles on a large radiation hazard symbol laid out on the ground as a midnight commemoration began for those killed in the Chernobyl disaster 40 years ago and the thousands who risked deadly radiation exposure to contain its aftermath. Residents show up for the vigil each year despite wartime curfews and official warnings against large gatherings during Russia's war on Ukraine. The April 26, 1986 disaster...

- [China backs Myanmar's push to ease diplomatic isolation, stamp out telecoms scams](#) (2026-04-26 10:37)

China has pledged to help Myanmar's new government to engage more with multilateral platforms and eradicate telecoms scam operations. Capping a five-day trip to Southeast Asia on the weekend, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar's junta leader-turned-president, on Saturday that China “firmly supports Myanmar in safeguarding its national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity” . “This year marks the first year of Myanmar's new government. Both sides should seize...

- [China unveils world's first coal fuel cell that can produce electricity with zero emission](#) (2026-04-26 10:00)

Chinese scientists have developed a method to generate electricity and achieve higher energy efficiency than conventional burning, while producing zero carbon dioxide emissions, by placing coal inside a “battery” . “Coal-fired power” conjures images of heavy pollution, steep carbon footprints and modest efficiency. But a novel, direct coal power technology challenges that stereotype by eliminating combustion entirely and sidestepping the CO₂ emissions that have long defined coal use. A team led...

- [China Gen Z snipers nicknamed ‘Sweetheart’ , ‘Gun Queen’ challenge gender stereotypes](#) (2026-04-26 10:00)

Two female Gen Z snipers in China have drawn attention on the training ground, defying gender stereotypes with their marksmanship and grit. Liu Jiangtao, 26, from Chongqing in southwestern China, serves as a sniper in a mobile unit of the Sichuan corps of the People’s Armed Police (PAP). She began as a scout, but later broke the women’s record in a sniper selection test, firing three rounds through a single hole on a coin-sized target hundreds of metres away. Her rise, however, was met with...

- [2 US citizens killed in raid on Philippines communist stronghold](#) (2026-04-26 09:34)

Two US citizens were among 19 people killed in a raid on an alleged communist stronghold in the Philippines that has sparked a probe by the country’s rights commission, a government task force said. More than 300 residents in the Toboso municipality of Negros Island fled their homes on April 19 as gunfire rang out in the remote sugar cane-farming region, the municipal disaster management office told reporters last week. The number of people killed in the firefight, in which only one soldier was...

- [First section of Fanling Bypass to open soon. So how will Hongkongers benefit?](#) (2026-04-26 09:34)

The eastern section of Hong Kong’s new Fanling Bypass will be commissioned on May 3, marking the first major transport infrastructure project to be completed under the Northern Metropolis mega development. The new bypass promises to cut travel times by 10 minutes and will serve as a vital roadway for the Fanling North New Development Area. The South China Morning Post unpacks what the new bypass is and its significance. 1. What is the new bypass? The Fanling Bypass (Eastern Section) is a new 4km...

- [Woman rescued after falling into sea while taking photos at a Hong Kong lighthouse](#) (2026-04-26 09:28)

A 46-year-old mainland Chinese woman was rescued on Sunday morning after slipping into the sea while taking photos at a lighthouse in Hong Kong’s Sai Kung. Police received a report at 10.54am that a woman had fallen into the water at Fat Tong Mun, a sea channel between the southern tip of the Clear Water Bay Peninsula and the northern tip of Tung Lung Chau. A source said the woman was taking photos with friends at Fat Tong Mun Lighthouse when she lost her footing and fell three metres (9.8 feet)...

- [Cinema Day attracted 201,000 film-goers. How does it stack up against last year?](#)

(2026-04-26 08:43)

Hong Kong's Cinema Day has drawn a record-breaking 201,000 film-goers, despite a marginal decline in occupancy rates compared with last year. The Hong Kong Theatres Association, which organises the annual event, revealed the figures on Sunday, a day after 52 cinemas offered HK\$30 (US\$3.83) movie tickets for 1,694 screenings. "It marks a new high for the event, with 201,000 admissions and an average occupancy rate of 81 per cent," a post on the promotion's social media page said. "Families, the...

- [For the US dollar, a subtler shift than a 'petroyuan' order is underfoot](#)

(2026-04-26 08:30)

In the span of a few days earlier this month, developments that usually sit in separate policy compartments began to converge. Abu Dhabi's crown prince arrived in Beijing as President Xi Jinping used the visit to set out China's four-point position on the Iran war. Pakistan, now central to keeping US-Iran diplomacy alive, said no date was fixed for the next round of talks. Washington escalated pressure on buyers of Iranian oil and the banks handling related funds. Reports circulated of yuan use...

- [Southwestern China's busiest airport hit by massive hailstorm](#)

Southwestern China's busiest airport was mopping up and struggling to resume operations on Sunday after a massive hailstorm grounded flights, damaged aircraft and stranded passengers. Hailstones, some as big as fists, battered Kunming Changshui International Airport in Kunming, Yunnan province, when the storm struck early on Saturday. The storm lashed runways, terminal roofs and some of the more than 110 aircraft at the facility on Saturday morning, with water seen seeping down into terminal...

- [Over 5,000 Guangdong motorists sign up for Hong Kong's southbound travel scheme](#)

(2026-04-26 08:01)

More than 5,000 Guangdong motorists have been approved to drive into Hong Kong's urban areas under a southbound travel scheme as of March, while 90 per cent of the 3,500 travellers who booked to visit have stayed for one or two days. The Transport Department said on Sunday that the urban access portion of the Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles arrangement was operating smoothly and had become increasingly popular since its launch near the end of 2025. The scheme currently grants access to...

- [Chinese travellers flock to Central Asia as flight bookings soar 120% on pre-Covid levels](#)

(2026-04-26 08:00)

Once a niche destination, Central Asia is quickly emerging as a key market for Chinese travellers, supported by robust traffic growth, expanding air links and deeper economic ties under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative, according to analysts. Data from the Civil Aviation

Administration of China showed that passenger traffic to Central Asia grew 59.3 per cent in 2025 from a year earlier, marking one of the fastest growth rates among all regions tracked, said Mayur Patel, commercial and industry...

- [US press dinner shooting casts fresh spotlight on Trump's security](#) (2026-04-26 07:58)

The shooting on Saturday night of a Secret Service agent at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner raises questions yet again about the protection afforded to America's political leaders at a time of increased political violence. Hundreds of agents from several law enforcement agencies were tasked with protecting the annual bash, which US President Donald Trump headlined this year. Yet a suspect with a shotgun and other weapons managed to get just a floor above the Washington...

- [Hong Kong plans new trial of infecting male mosquitoes to halt offspring growth](#) (2026-04-26 07:25)

Hong Kong will try out a "mosquito-to-control-mosquito" strategy next year, under which the insect males are infected with bacteria to prevent their offspring from reaching maturity, following the city's first local dengue fever case in over a year. Announcing the strategy on Sunday, Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene Donald Ng Man-kit said the government would consider stepping up mosquito control measures with a lower threshold, as the population of the insects had risen more rapidly...

- [Hong Kong boosts e-cigarette ban awareness in mainland China before 'golden week'](#) (2026-04-26 06:12)

Hong Kong authorities have stepped up publicity with mainland Chinese media ahead of a ban on possessing alternative smoking products, including e-cigarettes, in public places, which will take effect before the Labour Day "golden week" holiday. Director of Health Ronald Lam Man-kin said on Sunday that the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office had conducted more than 11,000 inspections and issued about 2,200 HK\$3,000 (US\$383) fixed penalty notices so far this year. Of these, 23 were related to the...

- [Who is Cole Tomas Allen, the suspect linked to Trump's press dinner shooting?](#) (2026-04-26 06:02)

Social media posts that appear to match the California man arrested on Saturday in the shooting at the White House correspondents' dinner show he is a highly educated tutor and amateur video game developer. A May 2025 profile photo of Cole Tomas Allen of Torrance, California, appears to match the appearance of the man in a photo of the alleged attacker being taken into custody that was posted on Saturday night by US President Donald Trump. The photo, posted to the professional networking site...

- [Frenzy for Hong Kong luxury homes set to continue after 156% sales rise in first quarter](#) (2026-04-26 06:00)

Hong Kong's sales of luxury homes more than doubled in the first quarter from a year earlier, helped by a buoyant stock market and attractively priced assets that drew the attention of wealthy investors including mainland Chinese buyers, according to analysts. The segment was likely to record another increase in the second quarter, they added. "With the wealth effect from accumulated gains in the stock market over the past two years, both local and mainland Chinese capital have seized the...

- [Japan underground idol sparks outrage for offering armpit sniffing service for fans](#)
(2026-04-26 06:00)

A Japanese underground idol has stirred an online debate by offering fans the unusual perk of sniffing her armpits. Hari Matsumoto, from Wakayama, Honshu island, has attracted over 400,000 followers on social media thanks to her bubbly personality and approachable charm. In Japan, underground idols usually perform in intimate venues such as small theatre, livehouses or shopping centres and rarely appear on mainstream media. Unlike top-tier idols featured on television, in magazines, and in...

- [At Malaysia's arms bazaar, drone dealers chase Southeast Asian market share](#)
(2026-04-26 05:30)

Watch a cheap commercial drone destroy a battle tank on the frontlines in Ukraine, or a cut-price Iranian Shahed menace Tel Aviv, then ask yourself why Southeast Asia's defence ministries are suddenly very interested in unmanned aerial vehicles. The answer was on full display last week at the Defence Services Asia (DSA) exhibition in Kuala Lumpur, where vendors from Abu Dhabi to Pretoria were chasing deals in one of the global arms trade's hottest emerging markets. "There is huge demand from the...

- [Hong Kong's IPO market 'exceeds' HK\\$140 billion amid renewed gold trading push](#)
(2026-04-26 05:27)

Hong Kong's initial public offering (IPO) market has raised more than HK\$140 billion (US\$17.87 billion) as of April, maintaining its global lead, the city's financial chief has said, while indicating a renewed push to develop gold trading amid rising demand for risk diversification. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Sunday that Hong Kong remained the world's top IPO fundraising hub as of last week, citing a growing number of high-quality companies using the city's strong financing...

- [Midnight pranksters fan flames of frustration for Malaysia's fire services](#) (2026-04-26 04:18)

It's midnight. A call was made to Malaysia's Fire and Rescue Department about a forest fire in Tanjung Bungah, Penang. Firefighters rushed to the scene only to discover there was no such blaze. The department gets a prank call every other day. Many of these calls are usually made about an hour before or after midnight. Its exasperated director general Nor Hisham Mohammad is now calling for a multipronged approach to deal with the problem. "There should

be stricter enforcement, use of technological...

- [Could Russian missiles help India counter its arch-rival's Chinese weapons?](#) (2026-04-26 04:00)

India has reportedly signed a deal to buy Russian missiles that target support aircraft as its arch-rival Pakistan and China continue to integrate their aerial weapons profiles. Russia has cleared the export of around 300 R-37M ultra-long-range air-to-air missiles in a US\$1.2 billion deal, according to media reports. Malaysia-based news platform Defence Security Asia said deliveries of the missiles could begin within 12 to 18 months. India is also developing its own Astra Mk 2 and Mk 3 missiles,...

- [How gunfire threw Trump's glitzy Washington Hilton dinner into chaos](#) (2026-04-26 03:06)

It was meant to be a glitzy Saturday night at a Washington ballroom featuring President Donald Trump, but the glamour was shattered by gunshots that left guests diving to the floor and the US leader bundled out by security personnel. Trump was seated on the dais at the White House Correspondents' Association's annual dinner – the first time he is attending as president – when loud bangs disrupted the revelry and caused him and others on stage to look up in alarm. Video captured by news outlets...

- [Singapore's answer to school bullying? The cane ... and counselling](#) (2026-04-26 03:00)

For six months, Adriana Lim Escano's teenage son went to school and said nothing. He had tried to do the right thing – stepping in when a group of boys bullied a classmate – and paid for it with half a year of misery, name-calling and social isolation. His mother only found out when another parent called to say her son had voiced suicidal thoughts to a friend. The school's response, when it finally came, was a talking-to from the discipline committee. No suspensions. No meaningful...

- [What's fuelling the surge in South Koreans travelling to China?](#) (2026-04-26 02:00)

A new wave of South Korean content creators is descending on Chinese cities, cameras in hand, transforming the streets of Shanghai, Shenzhen and beyond into lively backdrops for travel vlogs and lifestyle videos. Dubbed the “Korean v-blogger influx” by some online users, their ranks have swelled since China extended its unilateral visa-free policy for South Korean passport holders for another year, allowing stays of up to 30 days for tourism, business and family visits. Introduced in 2024 and...

- [Iconic South Korean district on the brink in divisive urban renewal fight](#) (2026-04-26 01:30)

For 42 years, Ha Sung-ki has sold large speakers to churches and event halls from his electronics shop inside Seoul's Sewoon Plaza. On a weekday afternoon, the corridor outside – once part of a bustling merchants' network – is largely empty. “These days, the number of customers crossing the street to come here can be counted on your fingers – sometimes fewer

than 10 a day,” he said. “People used to come for the nostalgia, the vintage products and the experience of assembling electronic...

- [10 ways Hong Kong schools can effectively promote mental health](#) (2026-04-26 01:30)

Student mental health is a matter of great concern. According to the latest data from the Education Bureau, the number of secondary students with mental health issues has doubled over the past five years, from 660 in 2020-21 to 1,330 in 2024-25. In recent years, the government and various stakeholders in society have worked to halt the continued rise in student suicides. However, the number of suspected suicide cases still rose by 10 per cent between 2024 and 2025, from 28 to 31. To help...

- [Can Chongqing leverage its online viral fame to become an international tourism hub?](#) (2026-04-26 01:15)

Chongqing, also known as ‘the most confusing city’ has become one of China’s most popular tourism attraction spots in recent years. Many Chinese and international social media content creators have hopped on the viral trend of making videos about the city’s bewildering, mountainous urban landscape. The South China Morning Post’s Llewellyn Cheung travelled to Chongqing to meet a local content creator and tourism experts to find out what the city is really like beyond the viral trends, and why its...

- [Some Hong Kong trees are behaving strangely and botanists want to know why](#) (2026-04-26 01:00)

A citywide study should be launched to examine how global warming is affecting plants in Hong Kong and the knock-on effect on the rest of the ecosystem, botanists have urged after witnessing clear changes in leaf-shedding and flowering patterns. Some species, such as the red kapok tree, commonly known as the cotton tree, and the flame tree, which should shed all leaves during winter, had shown signs of incomplete leaf drop by spring or early flowering in recent years, the experts said, stressing...

- [Muddy yet clear-cut: How Chinese investors are turning jungle into Indonesia’s new capital](#) (2026-04-26 01:00)

After an hour’s drive through the jungle of Borneo, you reach more jungle. Your rental van from the Balikpapan city airport shakes precariously, navigating a partial bridge washout. A roadside sign admonishes against poaching the endangered sun bears. By hour three you’ve arrived at Indonesia’s new capital, which is due to start taking over from gridlocked, polluted and seaward-sinking Jakarta in 2028. Welcome to Ibu Kota Nusantara, known locally as just Nusantara or IKN. Eventually, if all goes...

- [Rumours of China Forbidden City using 600,000 tonnes of pig blood to ‘dispel evil’ debunked](#) (2026-04-26 01:00)

A long-standing and widely-circulated rumour that the Forbidden City in Beijing uses 600,000 tonnes of pig's blood each year to dispel evil has been debunked. The liquid is actually used as a form of adhesive which is painted on the famous palace's signature red walls and pillars, according to a recently published book. The book *Sitting under the Roof of the Forbidden City: Answering 50 Questions about the Forbidden City* is written by Zhou Qian, a researcher at the palace for 20 years who is also...

- [Trump escapes unharmed as gunman opens fire at White House press dinner hotel](#) (2026-04-26 00:53)

US President Donald Trump and other top US leaders were evacuated from an annual White House correspondents dinner in Washington on Saturday night after a gunman fired several shots at the glitzy, high-profile event. The president, first lady Melania Trump, Vice-President J.D. Vance and cabinet members were uninjured as the event broke up and the first family returned to the White House. A member of the White House press pool reported hearing the shots as Secret Service officers swarmed the...

- [Explosive device kills 13 and injures 38 on bus in Colombia](#) (2026-04-26 00:02)

An explosive device killed 13 people travelling on a bus in southwestern Colombia on Saturday, an attack the country's army chief described as a "terrorist act" that also left at least 38 injured as violence linked to drug trafficking in the region escalates. Octavio Guzman, the governor of the region of Cauca, said on social media that the device was set off while the bus was travelling along the Panamerican Highway in the municipality of Cajibío. Five children were among the injured, Cauca...

- [Will South Korea or Japan develop a nuclear deterrent of their own?](#) (2026-04-26 00:00)

War on Iran has changed many things, not least of which is the tenor of nuclear debate in two of America's closest Asian allies: countries that have long defined themselves by the weapons they do not possess. For decades, the question of whether South Korea and Japan might one day build their own nuclear arsenal was treated as fringe speculation – the preserve of hawks and provocateurs. No longer. The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has sounded the alarm....

Source: The Diplomat China

- [Why China's Internet Is Reopening the Case Against the 'Qin System' of the First Emperor](#) (2026-05-01 14:39)

In niche corners of the Chinese internet, discussions of the very first dynasty stand in for critiques of today's China.

- [Why China Treats 'Lying Flat' as a National Security Threat](#) (2026-05-01 12:48)

It's not about the economy at all: In a system that defines not struggling as a crime, opting out is a public offense.

- [Are the Ryukyu Islands an Overlooked Flashpoint in the Indo-Pacific?](#) (2026-05-01 12:46)

Considerable attention has been paid to the threat of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, but analysts have arguably overlooked a more immediate danger facing the Ryukyu Island chain.

- [The Real Role of a Trump-Xi Meeting](#) (2026-05-01 12:12)

The summit is unlikely to deliver decisive breakthroughs. Instead, its importance lies in how it helps manage competition under pressure.

- [Warning Signs: How China Normalizes Its Military Presence](#) (2026-04-30 13:19)

As its presence becomes more normal, China's aggressive and illegal behavior will attract less opposition.

- [China's Economy: By the Numbers](#) (2026-04-30 12:26)

Officially, China's economy is on the rise yet again. But there are other sources of data to consider.

- [China's Sanctions Hit Europe's Emerging Drone Doctrine](#) (2026-04-29 12:46)

Several European countries have been quietly developing a new drone doctrine built on both Ukraine's battlefield experience and Taiwan's high-tech components. China is trying to sever that link.

- [Expanding Frontiers: China's Military Push Beyond the First Island Chain](#) (2026-04-28 14:52)

Beijing has a deliberate, long-term strategy – one that prioritizes persistence and gradual advantage.

- [China's Belt and Road Initiative in Bangladesh, 10 Years Later](#) (2026-04-28 12:36)

It's been almost a decade since Bangladesh joined the BRI. What has the Belt and Road actually accomplished in the country?