



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 28, 2026 - May 05, 2026

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

Executive Summary

During the period of April 28 to May 05, 2026, China demonstrated a sustained and assertive posture across military, diplomatic, and internal security domains. Key developments included intensified military activities in the South China Sea and around Taiwan, largely in response to allied exercises, alongside continued naval modernization efforts. Diplomatically, China engaged in trade disputes with the European Union, threatening countermeasures over the "Industrial Acceleration Act," while also preparing for a high-level summit with the United States amidst ongoing economic and geopolitical tensions. Internally, the Chinese government escalated its framing of the "lying flat" youth movement as a national security concern, attributing it to hostile foreign influence. These events collectively underscore China's commitment to strengthening its military capabilities, asserting its territorial claims, and maintaining internal stability against perceived external and ideological threats.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait

China conducted naval and air combat readiness patrols around Scarborough Shoal (Huangyan Dao) in the South China Sea on April 30, 2026, in response to the ongoing Balikatan 2026 exercises involving the Philippines, the United States, and other allies. These patrols followed reports of China deploying a 352-meter floating barrier at the entrance to Scarborough Shoal on April 10-11, and ten Chinese coast guard vessels being observed around the shoal from April 5-12. Concurrently, Chinese military pressure on Taiwan continued, with Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reporting 22 Chinese military aircraft and nine naval vessels operating near Taiwan between April 27 and April 28, 2026, with 20 aircraft approaching Taiwan's main island. The PLAN aircraft carrier Liaoning also transited the Taiwan Strait heading south on April 20, 2026. These actions highlight China's consistent use of military presence to assert its claims and respond to perceived challenges in its near-seas region.

- Naval Presence near Japan (Tsushima Strait)

On April 27, 2026, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) observed a PLAN Luyang-III-class guided-missile destroyer (hull number 120) and a Fuchi-class replenishment oiler (hull number 903) sailing southwestward approximately 80 km northeast of Tsushima Island, subsequently passing through the Tsushima Strait into the East China Sea. The same Luyang-III-class DDG (hull number 120) was again

spotted by JMSDF on April 28, 2026, sailing northeastward approximately 70 km southwest of Tsushima Island, and continued through the Tsushima Strait into the Sea of Japan from April 28 to 29. These repeated transits demonstrate China's expanding naval reach and sustained activity in international waters near Japan.

- 2026 Defense Budget Increase and Modernization Drive

China announced a 7% increase in its 2026 defense budget, reaching US\$281 billion (¥1.94 trillion), with US\$277 billion (¥1.91 trillion) channeled through central government allocations. This marks a continuation of single-digit growth in defense spending since 2016, consistently exceeding the official GDP growth target of 4.5–5 percent. The budget reflects a strategic shift towards technology-intensive, system-centric warfare, with focused investment in "new domains and new-quality combat forces" such as joint operations, unmanned systems, algorithmic warfare, and human-machine integration. This sustained investment aims to transform the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into a fully modern force by 2035, with the PLA's 2027 centenary serving as a major milestone for near-term modernization.

- EU-China Trade Tensions and Industrial Policy

China formally warned the European Union (EU) on April 27, 2026, that it would take countermeasures if Brussels enacts its proposed "Industrial Acceleration Act" (IAA), which Beijing has labeled as "systemic discrimination" against Chinese investment. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce submitted formal comments to the European Commission on April 24, 2026, expressing "serious concerns" that the IAA, which targets strategic sectors like batteries, electric vehicles, photovoltaics, and critical raw materials, poses "serious investment barriers" and violates WTO principles. This diplomatic friction highlights deepening economic security concerns between China and the EU.

- US-China Relations and Upcoming Summit

Despite ongoing trade frictions and sanctions, signs of a "thaw" in US-China relations emerged with the announcement of a planned April 2026 visit by US President Donald Trump to Beijing to meet with President Xi Jinping. The summit, now expected in mid-May, aims to discuss trade, military issues, and improving bilateral ties, following increased Chinese purchases of US agricultural products. However, underlying tensions persist, as evidenced by the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designating five China-based "teapot" oil refiners on April 28, 2026, for processing Iranian-origin oil, prompting China to invoke "Blocking Rules" on May 2 to counter these sanctions.

- "Lying Flat" Movement as a National Security Concern

China's Ministry of State Security posted a video on April 28, 2026, describing the "lying flat" (tangping) youth movement as an attempt by hostile foreign forces to poison and ideologically influence Chinese youth. This development, reported on May

4, 2026, signifies a politicization of a lifestyle choice, framing it as a national security issue rather than merely an economic or social phenomenon. This indicates a heightened focus on internal ideological control and the perception of external threats to social stability.

- Allegations of Environmental Warfare in South China Sea

The Philippines' National Security Council stated on April 13, 2026, that laboratory tests confirmed cyanide in bottles seized from Chinese maritime militia boats near disputed Second Thomas Shoal in February, July, and October 2025. Manila described this as alleged sabotage threatening reef stability and a Philippine navy outpost. While Beijing dismissed the claim, this incident adds an environmental dimension to the already volatile maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

- Weaponization of Overflight Rights against Taiwan

Taiwan's President William Lai's trip to Eswatini over the weekend of May 3-4, 2026, was reportedly disrupted by several countries withdrawing previously granted overflight permits, forcing a sudden suspension and last-minute recalibration of the presidential route. This incident, described as a "weaponization of overflight rights," illustrates a broader shift in how China applies pressure on Taiwan, extending its reach into procedural and administrative layers to shape, delay, or deny access without overt military escalation.

- PLA's Focus on Emerging Technologies and Innovation

A report on April 28, 2026, highlighted the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) use of technology-focused challenges and competitions to prepare for future conflict. These events prioritize multi-domain integration, technological countermeasures, and autonomous navigation in contested environments, with a particular focus on countering swarms of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). This underscores China's commitment to military innovation, advancing unmanned technologies, and strengthening military-civil fusion to accelerate capability development.

- Cybersecurity and Information Warfare Concerns

Concerns over cybersecurity and information warfare were evident with the report on April 28, 2026, that Chinese applicants were barred from the Asia Pride Games in Taiwan due to national security concerns, including some appearing to be from people with Chinese military backgrounds. Additionally, there were reports of Beijing using lifestyle Facebook pages to push political messages in Taiwan, indicating ongoing efforts in narrative influence.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's security developments during this period have significant geopolitical implications, particularly for regional stability and relations with major powers. The intensified military activities in the South China Sea and around Taiwan, including naval patrols near Scarborough Shoal and repeated air and naval incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone, directly challenge the existing regional order and escalate tensions with the Philippines, Taiwan, and their allies, notably the United States and Japan. These actions, often framed as responses to joint exercises like Balikatan 2026, demonstrate China's resolve to assert its territorial claims and project power, increasing the risk of miscalculation or accidental engagement in these critical maritime zones. The "weaponization of overflight rights" against Taiwan's President further illustrates China's expanding toolkit for "gray zone" coercion, aiming to alter the status quo without triggering overt conflict.

Relations with the United States remain complex, characterized by both attempts at dialogue and persistent friction. While a planned Trump-Xi summit in May signals a potential "thaw" and an effort to manage strategic competition, underlying issues like trade imbalances, technology restrictions, and US sanctions on Chinese entities (e.g., for Iranian oil purchases) continue to fuel distrust. China's invocation of "Blocking Rules" against US sanctions indicates a growing willingness to directly challenge the extraterritorial application of US law, potentially leading to further economic decoupling or legal disputes. The ongoing military modernization, backed by a 7% defense budget increase, is viewed by the US and its allies as a direct challenge to their regional military dominance and a driver of an arms race in the Indo-Pacific.

With the European Union, relations are strained by trade disputes, particularly over the EU's "Industrial Acceleration Act." China's threat of countermeasures underscores its opposition to what it perceives as protectionist policies aimed at curbing its industrial competitiveness in key sectors like electric vehicles and renewable energy. This friction could lead to a more fragmented global trading system and further complicate efforts to address shared challenges. China's denunciation of Japan and the EU at the UN Security Council over South China Sea remarks also highlights its sensitivity to international criticism regarding its maritime claims and its efforts to push back against perceived interference. Overall, China's actions during this period reflect a strategic approach of assertive self-interest, balancing diplomatic engagement with robust displays of power and a firm stance against perceived external pressures.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military and defense posture during this period continues to be defined by an accelerated modernization program and a strategic shift towards advanced capabilities. The announced 7% increase in the 2026 defense budget to US\$281 billion

(¥1.94 trillion) underscores Beijing's unwavering commitment to transforming the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into a world-class force by 2035, with significant milestones targeted for the PLA's 2027 centenary. This budget, which consistently outpaces GDP growth, is not merely quantitative but reflects a qualitative shift towards "new domains and new-quality combat forces," emphasizing areas like joint operations, unmanned systems, algorithmic warfare, and human-machine integration.

Force posture in the maritime domain remains a key focus, with the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) projected to grow to 420 ships by 2025 and 460 ships by 2030. This expansion includes continued investment in advanced naval platforms, submarines, and anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) capabilities, such as anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBMs) and anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCMs) like the YJ-18A with a 537 km range. The recent patrols by PLAN vessels in the Tsushima Strait and combat readiness patrols in the South China Sea demonstrate the increasing operational tempo and reach of the Chinese navy. Furthermore, the PLA is actively leveraging military-civil fusion to integrate commercial technologies, including robotics and AI, into its defense-industrial base, accelerating the development and fielding of autonomous combat and support systems. This strategy aims to overcome traditional procurement cycles and rapidly enhance military capabilities.

However, analysis also points to potential challenges within the PLA's modernization. While technical capabilities are expanding, the centralized leadership culture governing decision-making has not fundamentally transformed, potentially limiting the initiative of subordinate leaders in complex, degraded communication environments. This suggests that while hardware and technological integration are advancing rapidly, the human and organizational aspects of adapting to future warfare scenarios may still present friction points. The ongoing emphasis on technology-focused challenges and competitions within the PLA aims to address these bottlenecks and foster innovation in areas like multi-domain integration and counter-UAV swarm technologies.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to maintain its assertive posture in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. The ongoing Balikatan 2026 exercises will likely continue to elicit Chinese military responses, including further naval and air patrols, and potentially more "gray zone" tactics around disputed features like Scarborough Shoal and Second Thomas Shoal. Diplomatic tensions with the EU over trade and industrial policy are expected to persist, with China likely to reiterate its threats of countermeasures if the Industrial Acceleration Act proceeds. The upcoming Trump-Xi summit in May could offer a temporary de-escalation in rhetoric between the US and China, but fundamental disagreements on trade,

technology, and regional security will remain. Internally, the Chinese government will likely continue its campaign against the "lying flat" movement, reinforcing ideological control and framing domestic dissent as foreign-influenced national security threats.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint, with the risk of miscalculation or accidental engagement increasing due to sustained Chinese military pressure and the "weaponization of overflight rights." Any significant political developments in Taiwan or perceived shifts in US policy could trigger a more forceful Chinese response. The South China Sea is another high-risk area, particularly around contested features where Chinese and Philippine vessels frequently interact. The alleged use of cyanide by Chinese maritime militia near Second Thomas Shoal, if confirmed and continued, could escalate environmental and security concerns. Trade disputes with the EU, if they lead to reciprocal tariffs or investment restrictions, could harm global supply chains and economic stability. The potential for China to supply air defense systems to Iran, despite denials, could also become a flashpoint in US-China relations.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and scale of PLA air and naval incursions around Taiwan and in the South China Sea, particularly during or after allied military exercises. Any further deployment of physical barriers or aggressive maneuvers by Chinese coast guard or maritime militia vessels in disputed waters should be closely watched. On the diplomatic front, the outcomes and rhetoric from the Trump-Xi summit will be crucial for gauging the trajectory of US-China relations. Developments in EU-China trade negotiations, specifically regarding the Industrial Acceleration Act and any retaliatory measures from Beijing, will indicate the severity of economic friction. Domestically, the government's handling of social movements like "lying flat" will provide insights into internal stability and control. Finally, any verifiable reports of China's defense acquisitions or arms deals, especially those involving sensitive technologies or transfers to contentious regions, will be important.

Strategic recommendations: For regional actors and international partners, maintaining a strong, unified diplomatic front against coercive actions in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait is essential. This includes continued freedom of navigation operations and joint exercises to deter aggression and uphold international law. Diversifying supply chains and reducing economic dependencies on China, particularly in critical sectors, should be a priority for the EU and other economies to mitigate the impact of trade disputes. Dialogue channels with China, such as the upcoming US-China summit, should be utilized to manage competition, prevent miscalculation, and explore areas of cooperation where interests align, such as climate change or global health. Internally, China's focus on technological self-reliance and military-civil fusion necessitates increased vigilance from other nations regarding intellectual property theft and the potential for dual-use technologies to enhance

military capabilities.

Structured Assessment

```
```\njson\n{\n  "threat_level": "Elevated",\n  "hotspots": [\n    {\n      "label": "Taiwan Strait",\n      "detail": "Sustained Chinese military pressure, including air and naval incursions and 'gray zone' tactics, raises the risk of miscalculation.",\n      "lat": 23.5,\n      "lng": 120.5,\n      "intensity": 4\n    },\n    {\n      "label": "Scarborough Shoal",\n      "detail": "China's deployment of floating barriers and combat patrols in response to allied drills escalates maritime tensions with the Philippines.",\n      "lat": 15.1333,\n      "lng": 117.7667,\n      "intensity": 3\n    },\n    {\n      "label": "Second Thomas Shoal",\n      "detail": "Allegations of Chinese maritime militia using cyanide near the shoal introduce an environmental dimension to ongoing disputes.",\n      "lat": 9.7333,\n      "lng": 115.55,\n      "intensity": 3\n    }\n  ]\n}
```

```
},
{
 "label": "Tsushima Strait",
 "detail": "Repeated transits by PLAN vessels demonstrate China's expanding naval reach and activity near Japan.",
 "lat": 34.5,
 "lng": 129.5,
 "intensity": 2
},
{
 "label": "Beijing",
 "detail": "The capital is the center of diplomatic tensions with the EU over trade and internal security concerns regarding social movements.",
 "lat": 39.9042,
 "lng": 116.4074,
 "intensity": 2
}
]
}
````
```

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: BBC China

- [Deadly China plane crash was caused by fuel cut-off, says report](#) (2026-05-05 04:25)

The Boeing 737 plane crashed into a Chinese hillside in 2022, killing all 132 people on board.

- [Explosion at China fireworks factory kills 21 people](#) (2026-05-05 03:30)

A blast at a fireworks factory in Hunan province has killed 21 people and injured 61, state media report.

- [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.

Source: China Defense Blog

- [Historical Photos of the Day: Type 87A in PAP and PLA Service](#) (2026-05-03 18:45)

The Type 87A represents the refined, polished variant of the original Type 87 featuring improved materials, upgraded polymer furniture, and better ventilated handguards. While the baseline Type 87 served primarily as a development platform for China's new 5.8×42 mm cartridge, the Type 87A was the more mature, ergonomic version that saw limited use in both the PAP and select PLA units for a

- [Just Photos: ZTZ100 Main Battle Tank In The Field](#) (2026-05-03 18:20)

- [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

Source: China | The Guardian

- [Australia eyes security pact with Fiji as pushback from Beijing undermines agreement with Vanuatu](#) (2026-05-05 05:34)

Foreign minister Penny Wong visits Fiji this week to progress the security and economic agreement. Follow our Australia news live blog for latest updates. Get our breaking news email, free app or daily news podcast. Australia looks close to signing a landmark security and economic agreement with Fiji as part of the Albanese government's efforts to contain China's growing influence across the Pacific. But pushback from Beijing has undermined a separate pact with Vanuatu's government, resulting in a scaling back of a deal aimed at locking in Australia as the country's primary security partner. Continue reading...

- [Explosion at fireworks factory in China kills at least 21 people , state media says](#) (2026-05-05 05:28)

Xi Jinping, the Chinese president, calls for thorough investigation after disaster in Changsha city. A blast at a fireworks factory in China's Hunan province has killed 21 people and injured 61, prompting the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, to call for a thorough investigation, state media reported on Tuesday. The explosion in Liuyang, under the administration of Hunan's capital city of Changsha and a hub for fireworks manufacturing, occurred on Monday at about 4:40pm. (0840 GMT), according to reports by CCTV and Xinhua. Continue reading...

- [Bitter aftertaste: Taiwan's leading baristas forced to compete at global coffee championship as 'Chinese Taipei'](#) (2026-05-04 02:17)

Decision by the World Coffee Championships has enraged members of Taiwan's coffee community, including previous winners of the competition. Berg Wu remembers the pride he felt when he was crowned world barista champion. The stands that June day in Dublin were packed with cheering friends as he bested competitors from more than 50 countries to take first place at the 2016 World Coffee Championships (WCC). The first Taiwanese person to win the competition, he draped the red, blue and white nationalist flag of the Republic of China – Taiwan's official name – over his shoulders as he posed for pictures with his award. Continue reading...

- [The Guardian view on China's carrots and sticks: Trump should not soften on Taiwan when he visits Beijing | Editorial](#) (2026-05-03 16:38)

Xi Jinping hopes that the president may water down US support for a vibrant democracy. Defending the status quo would be better for America too. China senses opportunity when Donald Trump visits later this month. A nakedly transactional US president in need of a trade deal, and hoping that Beijing could lean on Iran, might shift on Taiwan in return. China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, linked the issue explicitly to broader bilateral cooperation in his call

with Marco Rubio, the US secretary of state, on Thursday. Beijing would be delighted to see Mr Trump soften the US position, and perhaps pull back on arms sales after a mammoth \$11bn package was announced late last year. Taiwan has been self-governed since the end of China's civil war in 1949, so never ruled by China's Communist party. Xi Jinping has made unification central to his legacy. Three years ago, US intelligence assessed that he had told the People's Liberation Army to be ready for an invasion by 2027. But Beijing would surely prefer to achieve its goal without force. Continue reading...

- [‘We wanted a taste of what they had’ : the Beijing restaurant dining out on Starmer visit](#) (2026-05-03 11:30)

In and Out has been fully booked since PM ate there, with patrons able to choose from special menu based on his meal. Whatever the ins and outs of Westminster politics, Keir Starmer can take small comfort in the fact that there is one place where he is consistently popular. It just happens to be 5,000 miles away. In and Out, an upmarket restaurant in Beijing, has been fully booked since Starmer and his team dined there in January during the first visit by a British prime minister to China since 2018. Continue reading...

- [Trump may not be a fan of clean energy but Iran war is accelerating global shift from oil and gas | Heather Stewart](#) (2026-05-03 10:17)

Unintended consequence of US president's actions will be boon for China, the leading renewables manufacturer. Operation Epic Fury has thus far achieved none of Donald Trump's war aims, but it may well accelerate the global transition towards the clean energy he loves to hate. Last week brought the latest exchange of verbal blows in the standoff over the strait of Hormuz. Iran was “choking like a stuffed pig” on the oil it was unable to export because of the US blockade, Trump claimed. Continue reading...

- [‘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 law. The 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 Vietnam. Taipei 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 Australia. Get our breaking news email, free app or daily news podcast. Australia’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-dependence. Europe 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...

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.

Source: Financial Times China

- [Solar panel prices rise after China clampdown on producer competition](#) (2026-05-05 04:00)

Rebound may spell end of the era of ever-cheaper cells after a price war that stoked huge losses among biggest producers

- [Trial of Blackpool's block trade king begins in Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-04 13:40)

Simon Sadler of Segantii Capital faces criminal charges over alleged insider trading of clothing retailer Esprit

- [EU blocks funds for key Chinese solar energy parts](#) (2026-05-04 13:04)

Brussels cites security concerns in latest crackdown on sensitive China-made imports

- [China is building soft power as Trump burns bridges](#) (2026-05-04 12:51)

After years of struggling to match the global popularity of the US, Japan and South Korea, Beijing's image is improving

- [Inside China' s massive \\$3tn overseas acquisition spree](#) (2026-05-04 05:30)

Pwned by Beijing

- [Trump' s strategy of accommodation with China is a historic mistake](#) (2026-05-03 17:00)

The upcoming summit in Beijing could lock in an American posture of strategic deference

- [Will the Iran war amplify the 'second China shock' ?](#) (2026-05-03 11:00)

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

- [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

Source: New York Times China

- [Fireworks Factory Explosion in China Kills at Least 21](#) (2026-05-05 04:07)

Dozens more were injured in the explosion, which appeared to be one of the country's deadliest in recent years.

- [As Oil Prices Stay High, China Doubles Down on Wind Power](#) (2026-05-05 04:00)

An industrial policy of subsidies and import restrictions laid the foundations for China to become almost as dominant in wind turbines as in solar panels.

- [U.S. Warns China Over Iranian Oil as Sanctions Fight Intensifies](#) (2026-05-04 17:32)

China told its independent refineries to disregard U.S. sanctions over their purchases of Iranian crude.

- [Chizi, Standup Comic Exiled in China, Wants to Be More Than Just 'a Rebel Comedian'](#) (2026-05-04 04:01)

Having gotten into trouble for making jokes critical of the Chinese government, the standup comic Chizi now lives in self-imposed exile. He's finding that freedom imposes its own constraints.

- [China Seeks an Advantage With Both Trump and Iran as War Evolves](#) (2026-05-03 22:30)

With President Trump's visit to Beijing looming, China is pushing Iran to negotiate even as its companies export material that could be used by Iran's military.

- [DeepSeek's Sequel](#) (2026-05-03 21:02)

China made the inner workings of the A.I. model open to all, and that's starting to look like a soft-power win.

- [Trump Faces the Complicated Reality of a Costly, Unpopular War in Iran](#) (2026-05-03 18:22)

President Trump's predictions of a relatively short-term conflict with minimal economic consequences appear to be crumbling.

- [These Countries Embrace E.V.s to Avoid Oil Price Shocks](#) (2026-05-03 09:00)

People in Costa Rica and other Latin American, Asian and African countries are increasingly buying electric vehicles to avoid spiking fuel prices.

- [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.

Source: South China Morning Post

- [China stray dog becomes local hero after car crash, 56 cabbies cover medical costs, aid in recovery](#) (2026-05-05 06:00)

A stray dog in central China has gone viral after a group of taxi drivers raised money for his surgery following a car accident. At the high speed rail station in Xuancheng, Anhui province, a yellow dog became a beloved figure among the local cabbies. Lively, friendly and always eager to run, the dog quickly warmed his way into the drivers' hearts. Last summer, driver Zhang encountered the dog and was moved by his gentle nature. From that day, Zhang and his fellow drivers began bringing food and...

- [EcoCeres to invest HK\\$10 billion in sustainable aviation fuel plants in Greater Bay Area](#) (2026-05-05 05:38)

A biofuel company backed by the family office of tycoon Peter Lee Ka-kit will invest HK\$10 billion (US\$1.3 billion) in sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production plants in the Greater Bay Area, a project that Hong Kong's leader has hailed as a "milestone" collaboration between the city and mainland China. EcoCeres, a Hong Kong-based renewable fuel producer backed by the tycoon – who is also chairman of Henderson Land Development and chairman of Towngas – unveiled on Tuesday plans to build an SAF...

- [Drones shatter months of relative calm in Sudan's capital as international airport targeted](#) (2026-05-05 05:33)

Sudan's armed forces blamed a drone attack on Monday that targeted Khartoum airport on the United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia, the latest in a barrage of assaults in recent days that has shattered months of relative calm in Sudan's capital, three years into its civil war. Reuters could not independently verify the claims. Neither country immediately commented on the allegations made late on Monday. Sudan has often accused the UAE of supporting Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitaries, a charge...

- [Philippine inflation hits 3-year high amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-05-05 05:09)

Philippine annual inflation accelerated to a three-year high in April, as a surge in fuel prices triggered by the Middle East conflict raises the chance of more policy tightening. Consumer prices rose 7.2 per cent last month, the statistics agency said on Tuesday, the highest since March 2023. That was above the 5.5 per cent median forecast in a poll of economists. The April print also breached the central bank's forecast range of 5.6 to 6.4 per cent for the month. Emilio Neri, lead economist...

- [Fee, prize caps proposed for claw machines amid ‘deceptive design’ concerns](#) (2026-05-05 05:01)

The operation of claw and pinball machines could be regulated by capping fees and prize values as a first step to curb addiction to automated games, lawmakers have said, while also warning of “deceptive” designs that make winning impossible. While calling for a balance between user protection and industry development, two legislators said the caps could follow the existing Gambling Ordinance, under which premises with an Amusements with Prizes Licence cannot charge more than HK\$5 per game and...

- [EU sounds out industry over new trade weapon against China’ s overcapacity](#) (2026-05-05 04:59)

Brussels is rallying support among EU industry groups for a trade weapon to tackle Chinese overcapacity, as the European Commission races to propose a sweeping new tool this summer. While the contours of the new instrument remain a closely guarded secret, it is expected to be presented to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on May 29, at a rescheduled debate on China among all 27 commissioners of the bloc’ s executive branch. The South China Morning Post previously reported that the...

- [1 of 2 Hong Kong hikers rescued from Japan’ s Northern Alps, search continues](#) (2026-05-05 04:38)

Japanese authorities have rescued one of two Hong Kong hikers stranded on treacherous slopes in the country’ s Northern Alps. Gifu Prefecture police dispatched a four-member rescue team, comprising police officers and civilian experts, from the mountain base at dawn on Tuesday in an attempt to reach the duo on foot, according to local media. A disaster prevention helicopter from neighbouring Nagano Prefecture eventually rescued one of the men before 10.30am local time, who was later transported...

- [UAE’ s Opec exit, why Japan shared Mogami warship design with India: 7 Asia highlights](#) (2026-05-05 04:30)

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. More Singaporeans are choosing jobs below their qualifications. Here’ s why A new survey shows 19.4 per cent of Singapore’ s resident workforce had academic qualifications beyond what was required for their job in 2025. 2. Why UAE’ s exit from Opec is good news for...

- [Japan offers Indonesia and the Philippines lethal muscle to counter China](#) (2026-05-05 04:29)

Japan’ s defence minister is touring Southeast Asia this week with what analysts describe as a clear, if diplomatically understated, mission: turning Indonesia and the Philippines into harder targets for Chinese maritime ambition. Shinjiro Koizumi landed in Jakarta on Monday to sign a

defence cooperation pact with his Indonesian counterpart Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, coming hot on the heels of Tokyo's landmark decision to lift a decades-old ban on the export of lethal weapons last month. He heads next...

- [Japanese citrus farmers switch to avocados as climate change warms soil](#) (2026-05-05 04:20)

Fuminori Arita once farmed iyokan, a Japanese citrus variety, but about 10 years ago he switched to growing avocados, revelling in the challenge of producing crops of what he describes as a “sensitive and difficult to grow” fruit. The 67-year-old is symbolic of efforts by the western Japanese city of Matsuyama in Ehime prefecture, long known primarily for citrus cultivation, to shift more to avocados, partly as a strategy to adapt to rising temperatures amid climate change. Given the challenge...

- [‘Phantom birth’ scam spooks Thailand as hundreds of babies get fake citizenship](#) (2026-05-05 04:07)

Authorities in Thailand are unspooling a “phantom birth” racket involving possibly hundreds of babies – mainly Chinese – falsely registered as Thais by corrupt officials so that their parents can gain land and company ownership rights. Scores of birth certificates have come under scrutiny, with several officials arrested for suspected bribery in a scam that first came to light in northern Chiang Mai, but has now clustered around a Bangkok suburb and northeastern Nakhon Ratchasima...

- [China unveils driverless mining truck that can ‘crab-walk’ across rough terrain](#) (2026-05-05 04:00)

China has debuted a massive driverless mining truck that can “crab-walk” across difficult terrain, highlighting the country's push to modernise its mining industry through technology. Despite a kerb weight of nearly 100 tonnes, this advanced model boasts exceptional manoeuvrability – it can move sideways and pivot on the spot, allowing it to operate in narrow pits and across complex, sloped roadways. At the same time, it offers the hauling capacity and power required for continuous,...

- [Has China given the first sign it's ready to export its J-35A fighter jet to Pakistan?](#) (2026-05-05 03:00)

China's state broadcaster has given a glimpse of the first export variant of the J-35A – the country's second land-based fifth-generation fighter jet – with Pakistan the most likely recipient, according to reports and analysis. The CCTV clip featured during the “2026 May 1st International Labour Day ‘Heart to Heart’ Special Programme” shows a J-35A model bearing the serial number 001 rolling out of the hangar with the logo of China's largest military aircraft manufacturer, Aviation Industry...

- [‘Golden week’ crush shows Hong Kong needs top-down ecotourism policy, experts say](#) (2026-05-05 02:30)

Hong Kong should adopt a top-down, comprehensive ecotourism policy to safeguard the city’s natural attractions, with a designated authority taking the lead, experts have urged, after a surge in Labour Day “golden week” visitors overwhelmed ecologically sensitive spots. The call on Monday came after a viral video showed a Mandarin-speaking tourist smoking a cigarette in front of the press and claiming he had confirmed with law enforcement officers that smoking was allowed at the beach of Ham Tin...

- [2 volunteers die during rescue after boat capsizes off Australia’s New South Wales coast](#) (2026-05-05 02:29)

Two marine rescue volunteers died after their boat capsized while attempting to help a yacht in distress off the east coast of Australia, according to New South Wales police. On Monday evening, a member of the public reported that a yacht appeared to be struggling at a breakwall in Ballina in northern New South Wales, police said. A vessel of volunteer service Marine Rescue NSW with six crew on board was responding to the call when “their vessel capsized while crossing the Ballina Bar in heavy...

- [Hong Kong should study how Singapore awards infrastructure contracts](#) (2026-05-05 01:30)

As Hong Kong prepares for another major push in public works, one question deserves far more attention than it has received: are we buying infrastructure in a way that is sustainable for the construction industry and the public as a whole? In his February budget, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po announced that HK\$150 billion (US\$19.1 billion) will be transferred from the Exchange Fund to support the Northern Metropolis and other infrastructure projects in the coming two years. This major...

- [China fireworks factory explosion kills 21, injures more than 60 people](#) (2026-05-05 01:12)

A fireworks factory explosion in Liuyang, Hunan province on Monday has killed 21 people and injured 61 others, state media said. The explosion occurred at around 4.40pm in a workshop at the Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Company in the county-level city famous for its firework production, under the provincial capital Changsha. President Xi Jinping has urged all-out efforts to search for people who are still unaccounted for and save the injured. Online footage circulating on...

- [AI helps Singapore’s Grab woo tough Southeast Asian crowd, exceed expectations](#) (2026-05-05 01:11)

Singapore’s Grab reported first-quarter profit that exceeded analysts’ estimates, helped by resilient demand for ride hailing and delivery in a market rattled by economic and political challenges. Southeast Asia’s biggest ride-hailing and delivery firm has been trying to boost spending on its platform by incorporating artificial-intelligence features into its superapp and

bundling its core ride-hailing, delivery and financial services. With oil and gas prices soaring due to the war in the Middle...

- [China's fight to keep Darwin Port could help fragile Sino-Australian relations: analysts](#) (2026-05-05 01:00)

Chinese multinational company Landbridge Group's legal claim regarding Darwin Port – the first case ever brought against Australia at the international tribunal – is likely to yield a multi-year proceeding, which could serve as a buffer to provide some positive impacts for the Australia-China relationship, analysts said. The owner of Landbridge, Ye Cheng, filed a case with the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investor Disputes (ICSID) requesting “arbitration proceedings” over...

- [Ex-China soldier escapes Myanmar fraud centre by scaling wall, masking scent with cow dung](#) (2026-05-05 01:00)

An ex-Chinese soldier has told how he escaped a Myanmar scam hub after scaling a wall, applying cow dung to mask his scent and subduing an armed guard. Yang Lei, from northeastern China, shared the thrilling story of his escape after he arrived safely back in China. Yang said he led a tour group of 10 people to Thailand, near the Thai-Myanmar border, in mid-March. The local tour guide he hired did not have a legal residence permit and tried to bypass border control, leading the group to bump...

- [What the public inquiry into deadly Tai Po blaze has revealed so far](#) (2026-05-05 00:30)

The independent committee tasked with investigating Hong Kong's deadly Tai Po blaze has finished 21 sessions of evidential hearings in three rounds, pointing to multiple apparent loopholes in the supervision of the estate's renovation project and the government's regulation of fire hazards. The inferno broke out on November 26 last year when all eight blocks at Wang Fuk Court were undergoing exterior maintenance work and were covered in scaffolding and mesh netting. The fire tore through seven...

- [Penang's cemetery tours spur interest in pioneers, colonial history](#) (2026-05-05 00:00)

The sounds of passing cars and birds chirping broke the morning stillness at Penang's Northam Road Protestant Cemetery as visitors began filtering in after 8am. Tour guide Zul Harris arrived in a purple shirt, grey trousers and a black flat cap to greet seven tourists waiting at the gate. Inside, a narrow laterite path ran through the cemetery beneath old frangipani trees, whose dense canopy cast a muted green light over weathered headstones tilting at uneven angles. Zul was leading a cemetery...

- [China's robots step into real-world roles, from cleaning to directing traffic](#) (2026-05-05 00:00)

Robots are beginning to reshape everyday life in China as the country accelerates its embrace of embodied artificial intelligence, handling tasks from cleaning homes and directing traffic to

repairing equipment in hazardous factory settings. Embodied AI refers to AI embedded in physical machines, such as robots, that can sense their environment, make decisions and act in the real world. A cleaning service that launched in March on 58.com, a Chinese classifieds platform, pairs a human cleaner...

- [Birthday girl, 10, among 3 dead in Colombia monster truck crash](#) (2026-05-04 23:29)

A Colombian girl celebrating her 10th birthday was among three people crushed to death at a monster truck display when a vehicle veered out of control and ploughed into spectators, authorities said on Monday. Hellen Velarde was attending Sunday's exhibition in the southwestern city of Popayan as a birthday gift when she was crushed by the truck in an incident that caused widespread anger. A second girl and a young woman were also killed, local media reported. Images circulating on social media...

- [UK eyes joining EU's €90 billion Ukraine loan to tap defence orders](#) (2026-05-04 23:09)

Britain is in talks to join the European Union's €90 billion (US\$105.13 billion) loan to Ukraine to qualify for Kyiv's defence orders that the loan finances but will have to cover some interest payments on the borrowing to be eligible, the European Commission said. "Today marks the first high-level discussion on the UK's potential participation in the €90 billion Ukraine Support Loan, following technical exchanges between the UK Government and the Commission," a Commission spokesman told...

- [Chinese start-up ZYT eyes mass production of semi-autonomous trucks this year](#) (2026-05-04 23:00)

Chinese self-driving technology firm ZYT is edging closer to mass production of semi-autonomous trucks that can improve fuel efficiency and save logistics costs, likely to benefit the country's manufacturing businesses amid a global energy crisis. The Shenzhen-based start-up, a spin-off from drone maker DJI, has formed partnerships with mainland China's top six heavy-truck makers to produce models fitted with its navigation on autopilot (NOA) systems, with the first deliveries expected as early...

- [Pulitzers honour damning coverage of Trump and his policies](#) (2026-05-04 22:20)

Coverage of the Trump administration dominated the Pulitzer Prizes announced on Monday as the prize committee unleashed a searing attack on US President Donald Trump's attempts to limit freedom of reporting. "We stand for civil discourse and against censorship," said Pulitzer Administrator Marjorie Miller ahead of the announcements, which honoured coverage of Trump's immigration crackdown and his enrichment of his allies. "Unfortunately, this bears repeating now, as media access to the White...

- [How the Middle East crisis is expanding China's agrochemical influence](#) (2026-05-04 22:00)

As the Middle East conflict spreads uncertainty among farmers around the world, Chinese farmers are carrying out their spring ploughing as usual and appear largely untroubled. “The supply of chemical fertilisers for spring ploughing is ample,” an official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said at a news conference last month, adding that domestic fertiliser prices were “far lower than international prices” and spring sowing was proceeding as normal. While policymakers around the...

- [Armed man shot by US Secret Service near White House](#) (2026-05-04 21:56)

An armed man was shot by US Secret Service (USSS) agents in downtown Washington on Monday, officials said, prompting a brief lockdown of the nearby White House. The shooting near the National Mall took place just after a motorcade carrying Vice-President J.D. Vance had passed by the area, USSS Deputy Director Matthew Quinn said. Quinn told reporters he did not believe that the vice-president was an intended target and said he could not speculate if it was related to recent attempts on the life...

- [How US tech hegemony is locking out the Global South](#) (2026-05-04 21:30)

In global discourse, a script has been handed to us: the United States and China are locked in a “tech race”. But this is really a misnomer. True competition requires a level playing field. When one runner trips the other to ensure victory, it’s not a competition; it’s cheating. So, when Washington deploys an arsenal of sanctions, export controls and diplomatic strong-arming to hamstring China’s technological ascent, it is not competing. It is an act of suppression. This reflects a deliberate...

- [Russia orders 2-day ceasefire in Ukraine war to coincide with Victory Day](#) (2026-05-04 19:44)

President Vladimir Putin on Monday ordered a two-day ceasefire in the conflict with Ukraine on May 8 and 9 to mark Russia’s World War II victory anniversary but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky countered with his own proposed pause in fighting starting earlier, on the night of May 5 to May 6. Russia’s defence ministry said in a statement on Monday that Moscow expected Ukraine to follow the May 8-9 truce and that Russian forces would take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of...

- [China consul in Mexico calls protectionism a ‘dead end’ as trade tensions with US escalate](#) (2026-05-04 19:40)

China’s top diplomat on the US-Mexico border denounced protectionism as a dead end at the weekend, delivering a pointed defence of open trade just weeks before Mexico, the United States and Canada sit down to review the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) that governs North American commerce. Consul General Fu Xinrong told a business gathering in Tijuana that unilateralism benefits no one and called on nations to build economic ties based on sovereignty and mutual respect rather than...

- [Britney Spears admits to reckless driving in plea deal to avoid jail](#) (2026-05-04 19:02)

Britney Spears on Monday admitted to reckless driving involving alcohol, in a plea deal that means she will avoid jail. The “Toxic” singer was arrested in March after police spotted her driving erratically on a freeway in Ventura County, near Los Angeles. She was initially charged with DUI – driving under the influence – but under the plea deal confirmed on Monday she admitted a lesser charge of reckless driving involving alcohol, drugs or both. A court in Ventura sentenced the 44-year-old to 12...

- [Chloe Zhao, Stellan Skarsgard and Demi Moore among Cannes Film Festival jurors](#) (2026-05-04 18:37)

Chinese filmmaker Chloe Zhao, whose films from *Nomadland* to *Hamnet* have become awards-season favourites, will join the jury for the Cannes Film Festival, which kicks off next week, organisers announced on Monday. The film extravaganza on the French Riviera, one of the world’s most important annual cinema events, hands out a host of prizes, including the prestigious Palme d’Or for best film, decided by a nine-person jury. American actress Demi Moore, still riding high from the late-career boost...

- [US’ Bessent urges China to help open Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-05-04 17:42)

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday pressed China to ramp up diplomatic pressure on Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz even as he stressed that the US has “absolute control” over the strategic waterway. “Let’s see [China] step up with some diplomacy and get the Iranians to open the strait,” Bessent said in a Fox News interview. “Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism and China has been buying 90 per cent of their energy, so they are funding the largest state sponsor of...”

- [Fatal 2022 China Eastern Airlines plane crash points to deliberate fuel cut-off](#) (2026-05-04 17:27)

The China Eastern Airlines plane that crashed into a hillside in 2022, killing all 132 people on board, had its fuel supply cut mid-flight, newly released investigative material shows, which bolsters the theory that the aircraft was intentionally brought down. While China still has yet to release a final report on the accident, findings released by the US National Transportation Safety Board this month show that levers controlling the flow of fuel to the jet’s engines were switched to the...

- [2 dead, 2 injured after car ramming in German city of Leipzig](#) (2026-05-04 16:29)

Two people were killed and two severely injured when a car ran into a crowd in the centre of the eastern German city of Leipzig on Monday, local broadcaster MDR reported, citing police. A suspect has been arrested. “A car hit several people on Grimmaische street and fled the scene,” police said in a post on social media. “The driver has been arrested and no longer poses any danger.” Leipzig mayor Burkhard Jung confirmed the deaths, adding nothing was known about the motive of the driver....

- [Uzbek PM Abdulla Aripov to join ‘milestone’ 200-member delegation in Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-04 16:06)

Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov will visit Hong Kong two days after a 200-strong delegation from the Central Asian country arrived in the city via a charter flight on Monday to explore collaboration opportunities. It was understood that a high-level Hong Kong delegation will also visit Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan soon. Commissioner for Belt and Road Initiative Nicholas Ho Lik-chi said he was “very bullish” about the city’s relationship with Uzbekistan at a welcome event for the largest...

- [Germany jails mother for locking up daughter for 7 years](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

A German woman convicted of keeping her young daughter locked up at home for years was sentenced to five years in prison on Monday. The woman, who had kept her daughter confined to the home of the girl’s grandparents, was found guilty of kidnapping, abduction of a minor and mistreatment of a vulnerable person, according to a court spokeswoman. The grandmother was given a two-year suspended sentence for the same charges, while the grandfather also received a suspended sentence as an...

- [Trump family’s crypto project sues billionaire backer Justin Sun](#) (2026-05-04 15:42)

World Liberty Financial, the crypto venture co-founded by US President Donald Trump and his sons, said on Monday it had filed a defamation lawsuit against Hong Kong-based crypto entrepreneur Justin Sun, in the latest escalation of a dispute between the project and one of its most prominent backers. World Liberty posted a copy of its lawsuit on X in which it accused Sun of launching a “public smear campaign” including claims that it said were false. The crypto project – one of several...

- [India PM Modi’s party takes control of West Bengal in key state election](#) (2026-05-04 15:22)

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling Hindu nationalist party on Monday wrested control of the state of West Bengal, an opposition stronghold, in a key election. The Election Commission of India released partial results showing the Bharatiya Janata Party won at least 124 seats in the 294-member West Bengal assembly, and was leading in 83 others. Final results are expected on Monday evening. It would be a significant breakthrough for Modi’s party, which had tried for years to dislodge the...

- [US Supreme Court restores access to abortion pill mifepristone](#) (2026-05-04 15:13)

The Supreme Court on Monday restored broad access to the abortion pill mifepristone, blocking a ruling that had threatened to upend one of the main ways abortion is provided across the nation. The order signed by Justice Samuel Alito temporarily allows women seeking abortions to obtain the pill at pharmacies or through the mail, without an in-person visit to a doctor. Those rules had been in effect for several years until a federal appeal court imposed new restrictions

last week. Most abortions...

- [Iran war could give Xi the upper hand in meeting with Trump: US experts](#) (2026-05-04 15:00)

The US-Israel war on Iran could bolster Beijing's leverage on issues such as hi-tech supply chains and Taiwan during the coming Trump-Xi summit, according to American experts. US President Donald Trump is expected to meet his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, next week.

"He's not going to move to reschedule it," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said during an interview with Fox News on Sunday, after Trump confirmed on Friday that his visit would take place as scheduled. The summit, expected to...

- [Seoul says 'explosion and fire' on South Korean ship in Hormuz strait](#) (2026-05-04 14:55)

Seoul said on Monday that an "explosion and fire" had struck a South Korean ship in the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial Middle Eastern waterway effectively blocked following US-Israeli attacks on Iran. The foreign ministry said that, at around 8.40pm in Seoul, "an explosion and fire occurred on a vessel operated by a South Korean shipping company ... anchored in waters near the United Arab Emirates inside the Strait of Hormuz". There had been "no casualties to date" among the 24 crew members on...

- ['Golden Dome' defence, new space rivals: 7 US-China relations reads](#) (2026-05-04 14:30)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering US-China relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. UN bloated, costly, but China fears to keep US involved, House committee told 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...

- [Awkward India diplomacy, US-Nato 'crisis', Strait of Hormuz woes: 7 global relations reads](#) (2026-05-04 14:30)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering global relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Quad summit plan turns uneasy as India pushes ahead without top leaders: sources A stretch of awkward diplomacy was unfolding in the Indo-Pacific in April: New Delhi was planning to host a foreign ministers' meeting that could have been framed as a leaders-level discussion, even if the top...

- [US tech can use China as 'listening post' for global edge, Washington think tank explains](#) (2026-05-04 13:00)

US technology companies should stay in China, despite persistent political pressure for their exit, to capitalise on revenue potential and stifle local competition while monitoring consumer trends, according to a Washington-based policy think tank. Sales generated by American firms within China can be reinvested in research and development back in the United States, thereby helping “sustain US innovation leadership”, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) said in a new...

- [‘Golden week’ : Hong Kong draws more mainland Chinese visitors but spending uneven](#) (2026-05-04 12:51)

Hong Kong recorded a 4.8 per cent increase in mainland Chinese visitors in the first three days of their Labour Day “golden week” holiday, but industry players warned that uneven spending and more flexible travel patterns could weigh on business despite hotel occupancy rates potentially reaching 90 per cent. Immigration Department data showed mainland Chinese made 714,765 visits to the city between May 1 and 3, up by about 4.8 per cent from 682,114 in the same period last year. Total visitor...

- [Wall Street hesitates, oil prices rise amid uncertainty in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-05-04 12:44)

The US stock market is holding tentatively near its record heights on Monday, while oil prices climb with uncertainty about when oil tankers can resume crossing the Strait of Hormuz and restore the world’s flow of crude. Duelling claims about a possible Iranian strike on a US Navy vessel in the strait heightened the tensions. The S&P 500 slipped 0.1 per cent, coming off its latest all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 216 points, or 0.4 per cent, as of 9.35am Eastern time, and...

- [Hong Kong police launch investigation after elderly couple found dead in flat](#) (2026-05-04 12:41)

A couple in their late eighties have been found dead in a To Kwa Wan flat, prompting Hong Kong police to launch an investigation. A security guard at Lok Seen Lau, a residential block in Lok Man Sun Chuen estate on Kau Pui Lung Road, reported a strange smell coming from the flat at around 4.15pm. Firefighters forced entry into the flat and discovered the couple, an 89-year-old man and his 87-year-old wife, lying unresponsive on a bed. Both were certified dead at the scene. Officers are...

- [‘Made in Europe’ law sets stage for an economic showdown with China](#) (2026-05-04 12:30)

Amid the trade war with the United States, the last thing China needs is an economic confrontation with the European Union – Beijing’s major export destination. But with the EU seemingly determined to protect its market by introducing measures that many see as controversial, an economic stand-off appears inevitable. When European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen blamed China last June for showing an “unwillingness to live within the

constraints of the rules-based international system” ,...

- [Green group warns of disturbance to uninhabited island known for breeding seabirds](#) (2026-05-04 12:06)

A bird watcher saw people landing on an uninhabited island in southern Hong Kong waters known to be a regular breeding site for terns during mainland China’s Labour Day “golden week” holiday, according to a green group. Terns mainly feed on small fish and aerial insects. While about 40 species exist globally, 12 have been recorded in Hong Kong. Three species breed on Hong Kong’s outlying rocky islands during the summer, with one near Po Toi Island. On the second day of the holiday, a bird...

- [Lift technician dies after 10-metre fall down shaft at Hong Kong luxury estate](#) (2026-05-04 12:02)

A worker died after falling 10 metres (33 feet) down a lift shaft he was repairing at a luxury estate in Hong Kong on Monday. A security guard at Block 4 of Pacific View on Tai Tam Road in Stanley reported the accident to police at 2.40pm. Rescue personnel pulled the unconscious 26-year-old worker from the shaft, but he had suffered head injuries and was certified dead at the scene. Police said the cause of the accident was under investigation. The Association for the Rights of Industrial...

- [Austria expels 3 Russian diplomats over signals spying](#) (2026-05-04 12:01)

Austria declared three Russian diplomats *persona non gratae* over an “antenna forest” on the roofs of diplomatic buildings that could be used for spying, the government said on Monday. Numerous satellite dishes placed on buildings used by the Russian state in Vienna, particularly a residential complex for diplomatic staff, have long attracted the attention of Austria’s main domestic intelligence service, which has warned for years they could be used to intercept other states’ satellite...

- [What’s behind the KMT’s internal splits over Taiwanese defence spending?](#) (2026-05-04 12:00)

Internal splits over defence spending are widening within Taiwan’s main opposition party, the Kuomintang, ahead of this year’s local elections. The party is facing growing pressure from the United States over its response to a proposed NT\$1.25 trillion (US\$40 billion) special defence budget put forward by the ruling Democratic Progressive Party to fund the purchase of arms from the US and the development of domestic weapons. Washington’s *de facto* ambassador in Taipei, Raymond Greene, last week...

- [Hong Kong puts its own spin on DeepSeek with China-chip AI push abroad](#) (2026-05-04 11:30)

A Hong Kong government-backed artificial intelligence lab is preparing to launch a new model built on DeepSeek that can run entirely on Chinese-made chips. The Hong Kong Generative AI

Research and Development Centre (HKGAI) plans to unveil its HKGAI-V3 model in the first half of this year as it looks to export its “sovereign AI” capabilities to overseas markets. The system was based on DeepSeek V4 architecture with “full-parameter fine tuning for localisation”, and had been optimised to operate...

- [Yan Huichang to step down as head of Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra after 30-year run](#) (2026-05-04 11:10)

Yan Huichang will step down as the artistic director of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra in July 2027 after three decades at the helm, the group has announced. But the 70-year-old Shanxi province native would stay on as the orchestra’s honorary artistic director and conductor for life, as well as chairman of its artistic committee and head of its orchestral academy, the group said on Monday. “This is the third resignation I tendered to the orchestra council, once at 60 years old, another time at...

- [Woman plunges to death from Hong Kong hotel pool deck, injuring 7 others](#) (2026-05-04 10:55)

An American woman has died after plunging from a Hong Kong hotel’s 29th-floor pool deck, injuring seven people on the ground floor, one seriously. The 69-year-old, a US passport holder who had reportedly suffered from depression and stopped taking medication in March, was staying at Hotel Indigo on Queen’s Road East in Wan Chai with her husband, a police source said. Her husband reportedly left the hotel at about 8am to see a doctor. The woman went to the pool deck and plunged to her death...

- [Shooting at US party sends at least 13 to hospital](#) (2026-05-04 10:50)

A shooting on Sunday night at a party at a lake near Oklahoma City sent at least 13 people to hospitals, according to police and hospital officials. Edmond police spokesperson Emily Ward said authorities received reports of shots being fired at about 9pm at a gathering of young people near Arcadia Lake. She said on late Sunday that no arrests had been made yet. “This is obviously a very terrifying situation and we understand the concern from the public and those involved and we are working...

- [Hong Kong to tighten grip on claw machines under new licensing proposal](#) (2026-05-04 10:25)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed amending gambling laws to tighten oversight of claw machines and other amusement games with prizes by issuing individual licences for each device to prevent addiction. In a document released by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau on Monday, officials called for a mandatory regime for internet cafes, requiring operators to apply for a licence or an exemption rather than voluntarily following a code of practice. The preliminary proposal followed a surge in claw...

- [Viral video of Bangladeshi father saving baby under moving train raises safety concerns](#) (2026-05-04 10:22)

A Bangladeshi man who jumped onto the train tracks to shield his baby with his body as a train ran over them has gained kudos but also criticism from social media users after a video went viral. The family had been travelling on the Dhaka-bound Titas commuter train at Bhairab Railway Station, according to a report by Bangladeshi newspaper Daily Sun. When the train, which was delayed by about 1½ hours, pulled into the station at about 3.30pm on Tuesday, the family reportedly failed to get...

- [Pitch perfect diplomacy? North Korean footballers head to South Korea](#) (2026-05-04 10:14)

North Korean athletes are set to step onto South Korean soil for the first time in eight years, raising hopes that sports could again help ease bilateral tensions even as Pyongyang continues to define Seoul as a hostile state. Naegohyang Women's FC of North Korea have confirmed their participation in the 2025–2026 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Champions League (AWCL). “We have been informed by the AFC that Naegohyang Women's FC have expressed their intention to participate in the...

- [Transgender student sues Hong Kong school over ‘discriminatory’ hair policy](#) (2026-05-04 10:00)

A transgender student has taken a Hong Kong school to court, alleging “discriminatory” policies requiring short hair in line with her sex assigned at birth. Lawyers for Oscar Fung King-ho on Thursday sought unspecified damages from the incorporated management committee of Lung Kong World Federation School Limited, Lau Wong Fat Secondary School in Tai Kok Tsui. They said she had faced “public humiliation and rebukes” from teachers over her hair length before leaving the school last...

- [Two worlds collide: the regulatory battlefield hanging over the EU's ties with China](#) (2026-05-04 10:00)

In an abandoned Norwegian mine last year, an unusual experiment produced results that drew scrutiny in boardrooms and government offices across Europe and helped to spark new regulations pouring fuel on already fiery EU-China relations. Ruter, the public transport authority for greater Oslo, drove new and used electric buses made by Chinese manufacturing conglomerate Yutong into a decommissioned mineshaft inside a mountain. There, cybersecurity tests revealed that the buses could be remotely...

- [China ‘Madman of Science’ believes budget space travel is viable after low-cost rocket launch](#) (2026-05-04 10:00)

An innovator in China has successfully launched a self-developed low-cost rocket, proving the feasibility of budget space exploration to the world. In February, the 12m Shenzhen Pioneer rocket made local history in China's remote northeastern Qinghai province, reaching a record altitude of 3,700m and setting a new regional benchmark for liquid rocket launches. Built by a

five-person team led by 31-year-old Lu Yulong, the rocket took just 15 days to build in Shenzhen. Lu, a self-taught innovator...

- [Hong Kong residential property upturn drives recovery in office, retail: Morgan Stanley](#) (2026-05-04 09:15)

Hong Kong's property market is poised for a broad-based recovery as a strong upturn in the residential segment spills over to the struggling office and retail sectors, according to analysts. Morgan Stanley upgraded its forecast for the city's home prices to a 12 per cent increase this year from 10 per cent previously and anticipated another 5 per cent rise in 2027, it said in a report on Monday. Likewise, the office property segment was likely to see some relief, with Hong Kong's top business...

- [China says to ignore US sanctions even as Trump visit nears](#) (2026-05-04 09:01)

China ordered companies to ignore US sanctions against five oil refiners accused of buying Iranian crude, an unprecedented pushback against American financial measures less than two weeks before a presidential summit. The US action "violates international law and the basic norms of international relations", China's Ministry of Commerce said on Saturday. The sanctions cover a refinery in Dalian owned by Shanghai-listed Hengli Petrochemical, along with four independent "teapot" refineries –...

- [Can Malaysia's Umno reclaim role as pillar of Malay political power with solo election bid?](#) (2026-05-04 09:00)

Malaysia's Umno is making a heady gamble by planning to strike out on its own, experts say, as the former ruling party looks to rally support from among the country's Malay-Muslim majority in preparation for national polls that must be called in less than two years from now. Umno President Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on Sunday said the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition that the party led was "almost certain" of standing alone in the coming general election, after more than three years as a junior partner...

- [China, Indonesia launch cross-border QR payments – a boost for the global yuan?](#) (2026-05-04 09:00)

China and Indonesia have launched a new cross-border QR payment system, marking the latest step in Beijing's drive to build a regional digital payments network as it pushes to internationalise the yuan and reduce dependence on the US dollar. Users can now use domestic mobile apps – such as China's Alipay and Indonesia's QRIS – to scan QR codes and make retail payments in either country using their home currencies. Alicia Garcia-Herrero, chief economist for the Asia-Pacific region at French...

- [Hong Kong tax revenue jumps 22% to HK\\$458 billion](#) (2026-05-04 08:40)

Hong Kong's tax revenue rose by 22 per cent to HK\$458.3 billion (US\$58.5 billion) in the past financial year, driven by a buoyant stock market and increased property transactions.

Commissioner of Inland Revenue Benjamin Chan Sze-wai announced on Monday the provisional tax figures for the year ending March 31. Stamp duty jumped by 61 per cent to HK\$102.6 billion, profits tax rose by 20 per cent to HK\$212.6 billion and salaries tax increased by 10 per cent to HK\$97.7 billion. “The volume of...

- [Driver arrested after wife killed in crash at Hong Kong border checkpoint](#) (2026-05-04 08:35)

A 67-year-old driver has been arrested after his vehicle reportedly lost control at a border checkpoint in a traffic accident that killed his 62-year-old wife. Police received a report at 4.41am on Monday that a private car had rammed into multiple traffic cones and a kiosk before coming to rest on its side on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge near 80 Shun Wan Road. The car, bearing the number plate ZZ9**2, was headed towards Hong Kong when the accident took place, with the driver and passenger...

- [Hong Kong media outlet cleared of tax evasion paid HK\\$40,000 in ‘unfair’ costs](#) (2026-05-04 08:11)

An online media outlet in Hong Kong has been cleared of tax evasion after a year-long review, but the process still cost HK\$40,000 (US\$5,106) in accounting fees, according to a journalists’ union. The Hong Kong Journalists Association said on Monday it also had been required to prepay HK\$730,000 in taxes this year after being under review by the Inland Revenue Department since November 2023. Of the eight media outlets and at least 20 journalists reviewed by the department for salaries tax,...

- [How ‘lost’ Yiddish songs from a wartime ghetto in Ukraine revive links to Shanghai’ s past](#) (2026-05-04 08:00)

Lost anti-fascist Yiddish language songs from World War II will be making their Asian debut this month. Yiddish Glory will be performing in Shanghai – a city where some 18,000 Jewish refugees found shelter from the Nazis – Hong Kong and in South Korea. The project is the brainchild of University of Toronto academic Anna Shternshis, who said Shanghai’ s own history gave the choice of venue an extra significance, and songwriter and musician Psoy Korolenko. Their performances, which combine live...

- [AI cost-cutting not a legal excuse to fire workers, Chinese court says](#) (2026-05-04 07:42)

A court in China has ruled it illegal for a company to terminate an employee on the grounds that an artificial intelligence replacement would be cheaper, affirming limits on AI-driven job displacement amid a wave of anxiety over the technology’ s potential to fuel unemployment. A 35-year-old worker surnamed Zhou who oversaw AI-generated responses at a fintech firm in Hangzhou, capital of east China’ s Zhejiang province, was fired after refusing a demotion and pay cut. The company told him his role...

- [Drone hits upscale Moscow tower as Russian capital readies for Victory Day parade](#)

(2026-05-04 07:35)

A drone hit a residential tower in an upscale Moscow district in a rare strike near the city centre ahead of the traditional World War II Victory Day parade. Moscow air defences repelled an attack by two Ukrainian drones, and one hit the building on Mosfilmovskaya Street, according to a post on Monday by Mayor Sergei Sobyenin. Emergency services were sent to the scene, and there were no reports of casualties. Mosfilmovskaya is about 6-8km (about 4-5 miles) from the Kremlin, and local media...

- [Beautician convicted of blackmailing ‘cash machine’ ex-lover for HK\\$2.6 million](#)

(2026-05-04 07:28)

A Hong Kong court has convicted a beautician of doxxing and blackmail after she uploaded intimate photos and the personal details of a married finance director she had briefly dated, demanding he pay her HK\$2.6 million (US\$331,830) or she would expose the affair. Deputy District Judge Ivy Chui Yee-mei on Monday found Li Yanlin guilty of doxxing offences related to four videos she uploaded to YouTube between May 2022 and March 2023. The clips contained images and the victim’s name, along with...

- [Singapore, New Zealand sign world’s first bilateral treaty to protect essential trade](#)

(2026-05-04 06:59)

Singapore and New Zealand on Monday signed the world’s first legally binding bilateral agreement to keep essential supplies – including food, fuel, healthcare products and chemical and construction materials – flowing even during crises. The Agreement on Trade in Essential Supplies was signed by Singapore’s Minister-in-charge of Energy, Science and Technology Tan See Leng and New Zealand’s Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay at the Singapore-New Zealand Annual Leaders’ Meeting in...

- [Hong Kong extends tax waiver for residents displaced by deadly Tai Po fire](#)

(2026-05-04 06:32)

Residents displaced by the deadly Tai Po fire will have their taxes waived for an additional year, the Hong Kong government has announced. In a statement on Monday, the government said homeowners and residents of Wang Fuk Court would be exempted from the final tax payable for the 2025-26 assessment year to “ease the financial burden on people affected by the fire”. The move follows a similar announcement in December, when authorities waived the final tax for 2024-25 and the provisional tax for...

- [Paralysed dancer Mo Li testifies for first time over Mirror concert accident](#)

(2026-05-04 06:31)

A Hong Kong dancer left paralysed after being struck by a giant screen at a concert by Cantopop boy band Mirror delivered court testimony for the first time on Monday, with his lawyer revealing he had received treatment in Beijing and Thailand. The District Court is assessing the

damages to be awarded to Mo Li Kai-yin after finding Studiodanz liable for compensation under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance following the accident at Hong Kong Coliseum on July 28, 2022. Li, 31, was paralysed...

- [Why African leaders value seamless transcontinental links over US-China rivalry](#) (2026-05-04 06:00)

Washington may have framed the Lobito Corridor as de-risking mineral supply chains from Chinese influence, but governments in Africa are prioritising a “handshake” with Beijing and other corridors to create a seamless transcontinental connection. The United States views the Lobito Corridor as a direct rival to the China-backed 1,860km (1,156-mile) Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (Tazara) that stretches from Kapiri Mposhi in central Zambia to Dar es Salaam on Tanzania's eastern coast. The...

- [China son calls mum to say he ‘might not return’ while saving driver from burning truck](#) (2026-05-04 06:00)

A young Chinese man who risked his life to save a driver from a burning truck, called his mother during his heroic act to tell her that he “might not return”. The actions of Zhang Jian, 24, who is from eastern China's Shandong province and was on his way home from central China's Shanxi province at the time of his intervention, have moved many people online. While passing through the Baotashan Tunnel, Zhang saw a burning truck. Two people were next to the vehicle, one was seriously injured and...

- [South Korean team behind promising stroke research, treatment cites Chinese interest](#) (2026-05-04 05:16)

South Korean scientists have identified a potentially promising new pathway for treating ischemic stroke, long considered one of the most difficult challenges in modern medicine. According to the South Korean team, doctors in China are interested in a partnership and learning more about an experimental drug that it has developed to combat the disease. The team's study, titled “Oxidative stress-induced astrocytic collagen biosynthesis drives glial barrier formation and neuronal death in ischemic...

- [Panic in Philippines as Mayon volcano ashfall blankets towns in total darkness](#) (2026-05-04 05:00)

More than 300 families have been evacuated after massive amounts of ash billowed from the Mayon volcano over the weekend due to the collapse of lava deposits from its slopes, Philippine officials said on Monday. There was no explosive eruption from Mayon, which has been erupting mildly on and off since January, but huge deposits of lava on its southwestern slope suddenly cascaded down in a pyroclastic flow – an avalanche of hot rocks, ash and gas – before nightfall on Saturday, said Teresito...

- [Cheaper durians for China, Hong Kong helpers camp in tents: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-05-04 04:34)

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. Durian Express? China brings in cheaper fruit with new Southeast Asia train 2.

‘Structural shift’ : new routes for Middle East freight to bypass Hormuz 3. ‘Nowhere to go’ : helpers pushed out of parks spend day off in tents at bus terminus 4. Why Beijing now wants its spies executed in Taiwan back...

- [Japan’ s FamilyMart gives old clothes new lease of life to reduce textile waste](#) (2026-05-04 04:05)

Select FamilyMart convenience stores in Japan have installed boxes to collect used clothing and household goods for reuse, joining similar initiatives taken by retailers, as a step to reduce waste and attract more customers. In a trial launched jointly with Bookoff Group Holdings, which buys and sells used goods, boxes were installed in around 30 FamilyMart stores in residential areas of Tokyo. Bookoff plans to sell some of the collected items overseas, including to Malaysia. FamilyMart said...

- [AI helped Shenzhen judges handle cases 50% faster. Is this the future for China?](#) (2026-05-04 04:00)

Judges in Shenzhen – China’ s Silicon Valley – processed 50 per cent more cases last year than in 2024 with the help of a pilot system powered by AI technology, according to the city’ s Intermediate People’ s Court. It said the artificial intelligence-driven system would now be introduced in the courts of dozens more Chinese cities. In a social media post on Tuesday, the Shenzhen Intermediate People’ s Court said each judge in the city had handled an average of 744 cases in 2025 – up by 249 cases...

- [In Malaysia, Anwar’ s former ally Rafizi Ramli grilled over US\\$278 million Arm chip deal](#) (2026-05-04 03:23)

Malaysia’ s anti-corruption agency on Monday questioned former economy minister Rafizi Ramli over a billion-ringgit semiconductor deal with British chip designer Arm Holdings, escalating a politically sensitive inquiry that has swept up ministers, senior officials and one of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim’ s most outspoken former allies. Rafizi, the Pandan MP and a former senior figure in Anwar’ s reformist People’ s Justice Party, arrived at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission’ s (MACC)...

- [Ultra-low-priced tours exploiting mainland Chinese visitors survive despite crackdown](#) (2026-05-04 03:00)

Ultra-low-priced Hong Kong tour packages reliant on commissions and pushing mainland Chinese visitors to make additional purchases remain prevalent despite tighter government regulations, the South China Morning Post has found. The business model has come under

renewed scrutiny after the Travel Industry Authority revoked the licences of a travel agency and its tour guide over four cases of suspected coerced shopping between January and March. The practice has also prompted concerns about the...

- [United Airlines Boeing 767 jet hits light pole, truck while landing at Newark](#) (2026-05-04 02:23)

A United Airlines jet with 231 passengers and crew escaped a major disaster on Sunday after one of its wheels clipped a light post and truck on a highway while on final approach to land in New Jersey. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials said the Boeing 767 landed safely at Newark Liberty International Airport after arriving from Venice, Italy, and the agency would investigate the incident. A preliminary investigation from New Jersey State Police said “while a United Airlines Aircraft...

- [Hong Kong Exchange Fund records smallest gain in 5 quarters amid Middle East crisis](#) (2026-05-04 02:12)

Hong Kong’s Exchange Fund, the war chest used to defend the local currency, reported its smallest investment gain in five quarters as the Middle East crisis weighed on stock market performance. The fund gained HK\$34.5 billion (US\$4.4 billion) in the first quarter, 56 per cent lower than HK\$79.2 billion a year earlier, according to data released by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on Monday. The fund still managed to report its fifth consecutive quarterly gain, but it was the smallest gain...

- [Mainland Chinese students turn to Hong Kong universities amid gaokao, US visa worries](#) (2026-05-04 02:00)

Hong Kong universities are rapidly gaining favour among mainland Chinese families as they shun the intense domestic competition of the gaokao and uncertainties stemming from Sino-US tensions, embracing the city’s generous non-local admission quotas. The Blue Book on Mainland Students Studying in Hong Kong released late last month underscores this trend, attributing it to geographic proximity, cultural familiarity, and pragmatic considerations regarding career prospects and residency planning,...

- [How South Korea is transforming way it bids farewell to migrants killed at workplace](#) (2026-05-04 01:53)

On a quiet March morning at Incheon International Airport, the head of a government agency responsible for administering industrial accident insurance stood before a memorial adorned with flowers and a photo of Nguyen Van Tuan. The 23-year-old Vietnamese worker had died 10 days earlier in a conveyor belt accident at a gravel factory in Icheon, Gyeonggi province. Korea Workers’ Compensation and Welfare Service (K-Comwel) President Park Jong-kil bowed deeply, offered flowers and placed his hand on...

- [Paul Chan should welcome lawmakers’ budget scrutiny, not dismiss it](#) (2026-05-04 01:30)

Congratulations to Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po for getting the city's budget to sail through the Legislative Council. It wasn't always such smooth sailing and Chan would do well to acknowledge as much. When Chan was first given the keys to the city's coffers, they were full. Successive financial secretaries faced political pressure of a very different kind. There weren't many issues that opposing parties saw eye to eye on. However, accusing the government of hoarding cash and not giving...

- [Former police spokesman John Tse set for top government media role](#) (2026-05-04 01:02)

A Hong Kong policeman turned public relations adviser will be promoted to lead the government's Information Services Department, the South China Morning Post has learned. John Tse Chun-chung, who has served as the government's information coordinator since 2024, is expected to take up the post on a three-year contract as early as Tuesday. Tse, 49, joined the police force in 1999. He became a well-known face during the 2019 social unrest, when he led the force's daily press conferences while...

- [China bride's botched cold treatment causes 3-month coma, wakes 2 days before wedding](#) (2026-05-04 01:00)

A bride from eastern China slipped into a coma after a botched cold treatment, but she awoke and smiled at her fiancé just two days before her wedding. Wang Ranran, 24, from Taian in Shandong province, had been in a six-year relationship with her fiancé, Zhang Xirui. After registering their marriage at the end of last year, they eagerly planned their wedding for April 25, securing a popular emcee and hotel well in advance. But a simple cold treatment changed their lives forever. In January,...

- [Glimmer of hope in Hormuz Strait as fragile ceasefire holds: what happened overnight](#) (2026-05-04 00:33)

The fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran has continued into its third week. There are signs of a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz looming on the horizon. These are the major takeaways from what happened overnight. What did Trump say? President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the US would “help free up” ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz within hours. No details were provided. “This process, Project Freedom, will begin Monday morning, Middle East time,” Trump said in a social media...

- [Why CY Leung thinks Hong Kong needs to strengthen maritime-related sectors](#) (2026-05-04 00:30)

Hong Kong should develop its shipping insurance and management capabilities, among other areas, to strengthen its status as a global maritime hub amid intensifying geopolitical tensions, former city leader Leung Chun-ying has said. Leung, in his capacity as co-founder and honorary adviser to the Hong Kong Chamber of Shipping, said in a wide-ranging interview last week that the city should adopt big-picture thinking when it came to unpredictable global developments to minimise exposure to...

- [Singapore software engineers with AI skills earn 25% more: ‘no longer nice-to-have’](#)
(2026-05-04 00:00)

AI skills are becoming a clear salary advantage for Singapore’s software engineers, with those who have such capabilities earning up to 25 per cent more than their peers, according to a new salary report by NodeFlair. The Singapore-based tech talent platform said its findings came from more than 230,000 verified data points and showed software engineers with AI expertise commanded a 13 to 25 per cent pay premium across experience levels. That marks a shift from 2024, when rising demand for AI...

- [Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani hospitalised in critical condition, spokesman says](#)
(2026-05-03 23:54)

Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani has been hospitalised and is in “critical but stable condition”, his spokesman said on Sunday. The spokesman, Ted Goodman, did not immediately provide more details about Giuliani’s condition or how long he has been hospitalised. “Mayor Giuliani is a fighter who has faced every challenge in his life with unwavering strength and he’s fighting with that same strength now,” Goodman said in a statement. “We do ask that you join us in prayer for...”

- [Elderly scam victims lose HK\\$850,000 on average, but ones who know finance lose more](#)
(2026-05-03 23:30)

Investment scams targeting Hong Kong’s elderly rose by 17 per cent in the first quarter of 2026 against a year ago, despite an overall decline in the number of cases, with police warning that better-educated retirees with more investment experience were more vulnerable to fraudsters. Superintendent Theodora Lee Wai-see of the force’s commercial crime bureau said elderly victims’ losses contributed to the 18.6 per cent rise in total losses incurred from scams between January and March compared...

- [Israeli raid in West Bank leaves 1 Palestinian dead and 4 wounded](#) (2026-05-03 23:12)

One Palestinian man was killed and four others seriously wounded during an Israeli military raid in the Israeli-occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday, the Palestinian Red Crescent said. The Ramallah-based Palestinian Health Ministry said the man’s wife was in labour at a local hospital when she was informed of his death. The Red Crescent said five people were hit by gunfire during an Israeli military operation. Nayef Firas Ziad Samaro, 26, was killed, according to the Health Ministry, and...

- [2 US Army soldiers missing after ‘African Lion’ military exercises in Morocco](#)
(2026-05-03 22:02)

Two US service members are missing in southwestern Morocco after taking part in annual multinational military exercises in the North African country, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) said on Sunday. The service members are US Army soldiers who went missing while

on a hike, a US defence official told Associated Press on condition of anonymity as they were not allowed to speak publicly about the issue. “They were not actively taking part in any training. The day’s exercises had concluded...

- [Bai Chongen on China’s new economic paradigm and closing the US tech gap](#) (2026-05-03 22:00)

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. Here, he discusses how China can avoid “Japanification”, what Beijing can do to help cultivate the next Elon Musk, and why the “China shock 2.0” phenomenon is often...

- [China’s Manus block a show of strength ahead of Xi-Trump summit](#) (2026-05-03 21:30)

Beijing’s decision last Monday to block Meta’s US\$2 billion acquisition of the Chinese-founded AI start-up Manus came as little surprise. The central government had already flagged its investigation and barred the company’s two founders from leaving the country. At first glance, the intervention appears disruptive to Chinese firms seeking foreign capital and US companies eyeing investments in China. However, a deeper look reveals this as emblematic of a new normal in China-US business ties,...

- [German Chancellor downplays row with Trump after troop drawdown announced](#) (2026-05-03 20:45)

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he must accept that US President Donald Trump does not share his opinions to work with the United States within Nato but stressed there was no link between their rift and a planned troop drawdown. Merz dismissed suggestions that his criticism of US war planning in Iran had sparked Washington’s Friday announcement that the US would reduce its military presence in Germany, its largest European base, by 5,000 soldiers, and repeated his commitment to the...

- [Suspected hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship in the Atlantic kills 3, WHO says](#) (2026-05-03 20:02)

Three people have died on a cruise ship in the Atlantic, the WHO said Sunday, one a confirmed case of hantavirus – an illness usually transmitted to humans from rodents. The illness broke out on the MV Hondius, travelling from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cabo Verde, formerly known as Cape Verde. “To date, one case of hantavirus infection has been laboratory confirmed, and there are five additional suspected cases,” the WHO told Agence France-Presse. “Of the six affected individuals, three have died...

- [French hard-left politician Melenchon to stand in 2027 presidential election](#) (2026-05-03 19:38)

Jean-Luc Melenchon, the leading figure in the hard-left France Unbowed (La France Insoumise) political party, will stand in next year's presidential election, he said on Sunday.

"Yes, I am a candidate," Melenchon told TF1 TV. Melenchon, 74, has been a fixture of the French left for decades, holding ministerial posts in past governments when he was a Socialist Party member. He ran for president in 2012, 2017 and 2022, coming third that year behind far-right leader Marine Le Pen and President...

- [Rubio to visit Rome, meet Pope Leo after Trump row in attempt to 'thaw' relations](#) (2026-05-03 18:14)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet Pope Leo on a trip to Rome this week, in the wake of the pontiff's clash with US President Donald Trump, a Vatican source said on Sunday. The source confirmed Italian media reports about the meeting, which newspapers said would take place on Thursday in an attempt to "thaw" relations. It comes just weeks after Trump's extraordinary criticism of Pope Leo XIV over the Catholic leader's anti-war rhetoric. An Italian government source earlier told Agence...

- [Cargo ship near Strait of Hormuz reports being attacked as Iran makes new peace proposal](#) (2026-05-03 17:04)

A cargo ship near the Strait of Hormuz has reported being attacked by multiple small craft, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said on Sunday, marking at least two dozen attacks in and around the strait since the Iran war began. All crew on the unidentified northbound carrier were safe after the attack off Sirik, Iran, east of the strait, the monitor said. Iranian officials have asserted that they control the strait and that ships not affiliated with the...

- [Tsinghua University alumni can help Hong Kong serve nation: liaison office chief](#) (2026-05-03 15:08)

Beijing's point man on Hong Kong affairs has called on the alumni of the prestigious Tsinghua University to help the city better serve national development with their patriotism, pragmatism and global networks. Adding to the remarks by the director of the central government's liaison office on Sunday, city leader John Lee Ka-chiu also expressed hope that more of the university's graduates would assist the city in becoming an international education hub and promoting high-quality national...

- [Why a 5-year defence pact between North Korea and Russia could make China uneasy](#) (2026-05-03 14:00)

China may be feeling uneasy about talk of a rare five-year defence cooperation plan between North Korea and Russia that could accelerate Pyongyang's military modernisation on multiple fronts, analysts said. According to the Russian state news agency Tass, Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov held talks to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang on April 26, with Belousov describing relations between the countries as at an "unprecedentedly high level".

Belousov also said preparations...

- [Vigilantes in Nigeria kill herders amid jihadist tensions, kidnapping gangs](#) (2026-05-03 13:06)

A state-backed Nigerian militia, operating alongside the military, killed scores of ethnic Fulani herders in a raid, local sources have told journalists. The herders were killed in an operation that also involved vigilantes from Benin, just across the border from Niger State, after the herders were accused of being informants for the jihadist group Ansaru. The Nigerian vigilantes from Bussa district raided herding Fulani settlements around Kabe, in neighbouring Borgu, in a massacre that also saw...

- [The US sanctioned Chinese oil refineries. Now China is really pushing back](#) (2026-05-03 13:00)

China has ordered companies throughout the country not to comply with US sanctions on five Chinese oil refiners accused of trading in Iranian fuel, a move observers say could mark a new stage in Beijing's pushback against American long-arm jurisdiction. The order is the first application of a measure designed to block "improper" foreign actions, and could be a potential headache for US sanctions enforcement, according to analysts. The order was issued in response to a series of US sanctions...

- [From footwear to AI services: China moves up the value chain in exports](#) (2026-05-03 12:30)

For decades, the global image of Chinese trade was synonymous with massive container ships loaded with footwear, bags and furniture. However, a profound structural shift is under way. Having conquered the world of physical goods, China is now rapidly ascending the industrial chain as an emerging exporter of manufacturing technology. In 2025, the country's exports of telecoms, computer and information services reached 808 billion yuan (US\$118 billion), marking a robust 13 per cent year-on-year...

- [World may find itself 'in a very Chinese time' of data governance](#) (2026-05-03 12:30)

At the end of March, China inaugurated the World Data Organisation in Beijing, a body with a stated mission of "bridging the data divide, unlocking data's value and powering the digital economy". The move is the latest signal of a broader trend: over the past several years, Beijing has developed a distinct data governance strategy to drive artificial intelligence (AI) development as it reshapes the terms of technological competition. Since late 2025, Beijing has pursued an aggressive AI adoption...

- [Calls grow to tap MPF for housing as young Hongkongers' desire to buy homes wanes](#) (2026-05-03 12:24)

Calls have been renewed to allow Hong Kong's young families to use part of their mandatory pension savings to buy homes, with a recent survey finding that high flat prices and large down

payments have dampened their desire to own property. The study released on Sunday also called for the government to offer housing loans to first-time buyers and to halve the downpayment required for middle-income home hunters to buy subsidised sale flats. Two policy think tanks, New Youth Forum and the...

- [How can China best profit from Trump's latest rift with traditional US allies?](#) (2026-05-03 12:00)

Donald Trump's latest attacks on US allies in Europe – including the order to withdraw troops from Germany and threats to do the same in Italy and Spain – may help to relieve the pressure on China. For now, Beijing's priority should be to deny the US the chance to “redirect attention towards China” and let Washington's own actions do the work, some analysts have argued. Trump has escalated his attacks on European allies in his second term, threatening to quit Nato over their refusal to support...

- [Hong Kong police hunt for man over damage to US consulate sign](#) (2026-05-03 11:58)

Hong Kong police are searching for a man suspected of causing criminal damage to the sign outside the United States consulate in Central. Police received a report at around 2.40pm on Sunday from consulate staff that the sign on the exterior wall of the premises at Garden Road showed signs of tampering. Officers at the scene discovered the first “S” in the “States” section of the sign had been partially dislodged from the wall. The rest of the sign was undamaged. Authorities are currently...

- [2 dead after boat runs aground in France in failed crossing to UK](#) (2026-05-03 11:28)

A small boat carrying migrants trying to cross the English Channel ran aground on a beach in northern France, leaving two dead and 16 people injured, including three with serious burns, authorities said on Sunday. The vessel, carrying 82 people, set out overnight from Hardelot beach, a few kilometres south of the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, but the engine failed and it began to drift, Christophe Marx, Secretary General of the Pas-de-Calais prefecture, told reporters. A French maritime gendarmerie...

- [Top civil servants 'liable if they don't flag systemic loopholes' under proposal](#) (2026-05-03 11:08)

A proposed accountability framework will hold government department heads personally liable for systemic loopholes that they fail to flag to superiors, Hong Kong's civil service chief has said. Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung Ho Poi-yan also said that public perception could play a role in decisions on pay adjustments for government employees, after being questioned about the potential impact of an inquiry into the city's deadliest fire in decades. In a television appearance on...

- [How 2 Iranian brothers in China use ancient music as a bridge through wartime](#) (2026-05-03 11:00)

During a recent concert in Beijing, as Persian melodies flowed from ancient instruments played by Majid and Massoud Shamaeezadah, the Iran war was never far from the twin brothers' minds. "Every time we play, we think of our country, Iran," Majid said afterwards. "Our music is very deep. It carries many feelings at once: sadness, happiness and imagination of home." The concert, held at the brothers' newly opened music workshop, featured five family instrumentalists whose individual performances...

- [‘Nowhere to go’ : helpers pushed out of parks spend day off in tents at bus terminus](#) (2026-05-03 10:30)

Tents inside Hong Kong bus terminuses that have drawn online complaints during mainland China's Labour Day "golden week" holiday are being used by domestic helpers, who say they have nowhere else to go on their days off. Images of tents lining streets across the city, from Tai Po to Central and Tseung Kwan O, have circulated widely on social media in recent days. Some posts suggested mainland visitors were camping, as tourist numbers have surged during the holiday. However, visits by the South...

- [Takaichi bound for Australia to strengthen economic, security ties](#) (2026-05-03 10:11)

Japan's prime minister is set to arrive in Australia to strengthen ties with one of her country's strongest allies as she seeks to build on an updated regional strategy laid out in Vietnam. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is scheduled to touch down late on Sunday local time in Canberra for the three-day visit, which will focus on defence, critical minerals and broader economic security. The two countries have grown increasingly concerned about the changing security and economic environment in the...

- [Are US Air Force C-17s flying cars into Beijing for Trump's China trip?](#) (2026-05-03 10:00)

Two American military cargo aircraft have been spotted landing in Beijing – another apparent sign that US President Donald Trump's trip to China will go ahead as expected this month. According to images posted on Chinese social media by several aviation photography enthusiasts, the C-17 US Air Force heavy-lifters – bearing the tail numbers 088204 and 055140 on their vertical stabilisers – arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport on Friday and Saturday. The planes' arrival was also noted...

- [60% of Hong Kong's homeless plan to cut medical visits amid higher fees: survey](#) (2026-05-03 09:05)

Nearly 60 per cent of homeless Hongkongers plan to make fewer medical visits due to higher fees, an NGO has found, with advocates urging authorities to introduce automatic waivers and simplify subsidy applications. Kenny Ng Kwan-lim, deputy head of programmes at Impact HK, a charity supporting the homeless, said many street sleepers faced significant hurdles in applying for waivers due to their unstable circumstances. "Even if their possessions have not been stolen, in the face of their health...

- [Gaza flotilla activists detained by Israel face ‘extreme brutality’](#) (2026-05-03 08:34)

Two foreign activists from a Gaza-bound flotilla who were brought to Israel for interrogation appeared before an Israeli court on Sunday, according to the rights group defending them. The flotilla of more than 50 vessels had set sail from France, Spain and Italy with the aim of breaking an Israeli blockade of Gaza and bringing supplies to the devastated Palestinian territory. They were intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters off Greece early on Thursday, with Israel saying it had...

- [Why Hong Kong subsidies should go towards food, not fuel](#) (2026-05-03 08:30)

Hong Kong should not renew the HK\$3 per litre diesel subsidy when it expires at the end of June. Instead, it should use the funds to launch a crash programme to accelerate electrification of public transport, starting with the minibus fleet. The crisis in the Middle East has had a serious impact on fuel prices. In response, a government task force has recommended a package of measures to provide temporary relief, including the diesel subsidy to be paid directly to local fuel companies and a 50...

- [Crowd disarms knife-wielding woman at Malaysia water festival](#) (2026-05-03 08:00)

A woman carrying a knife has been arrested after being tackled by the crowd during the Rain Rave Water Music Festival in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday night. In a viral video, a man can be seen attempting to disarm the woman. Several others from the crowd, along with security personnel, then joined in to restrain her until the police arrived. She was seen being arrested shortly after. Kuala Lumpur police chief Fadil Marsus reportedly confirmed the arrest of the 28-year-old woman for possession of a...

- [Fuelling a continent: how China’s engineering prowess built Africa’s biggest oil refinery](#) (2026-05-03 08:00)

As the energy shock unleashed by tensions in the Middle East rippled through Africa, a massive oil refinery in Nigeria’s biggest city of Lagos, owned by Africa’s wealthiest man, came to the rescue. Running at its full capacity of 650,000 barrels per day, the world’s biggest single-train refinery supplied fuel to many African countries that usually relied on imports through the Strait of Hormuz, from Senegal in the west to Mozambique in the southeast. Built at a cost of about US\$20 billion,...

- [Quirky China: robot plays dead for pesticide warnings; bot hugs girl, in-car toilet approved](#) (2026-05-03 08:00)

A robot in a high-visibility vest carrying a loud hailer while patrolling a park in China’s northeastern Jilin province has caused much amusement online. “We have sprayed pesticides in the park. It is highly poisonous,” the robot was exclaiming through the loud hailer. The robot was also saying that when worms eat the pesticide it they instantly lie down and pretend to be dead, state media CCTV reported. An official from the park said the robotic warnings were necessary because it was a prime...

- [Japan joins hunt for aliens. Can it solve the ‘Wow! Signal’ mystery?](#) (2026-05-03 07:07)

Astronomers in Japan have recently launched what they say is the country’s first organisation dedicated to the search for alien life, with radio observations planned in the summer next year. “They must exist somewhere in the universe. I’m excited to be putting this into action,” said Shinya Narusawa, an astrophysical expert at the University of Hyogo and head of the Japanese Society for SETI – the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Narusawa, a 61-year-old leading expert in the SETI field,...

- [Hong Kong set for cloudy skies, showers and thunderstorms in coming days](#) (2026-05-03 06:49)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’s journalism by subscribing. Hongkongers should expect mainly cloudy skies accompanied by occasional showers and thunderstorms in the next two days, the local forecaster has said, after an amber rainstorm warning stayed in effect for 3½ hours on Sunday afternoon. The Hong Kong Observatory issued the signal at 2.20pm, with associated thundery showers bringing more than 30mm of rainfall to...

- [Finance chief says Hong Kong on track for strongest quarterly growth in 5 years](#) (2026-05-03 06:43)

Hong Kong is set for its strongest quarterly growth in nearly five years, the finance chief has said, citing a 17 per cent rise in visitor numbers and a 5.2 per cent increase in retail and catering spending. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said in his Sunday blog that 602,000 visitors entered Hong Kong in the first two days of mainland China’s Labour Day “golden week” break, a rise of 6 per cent year on year. Despite a complex and rapidly changing external environment, Hong Kong’s economy...

- [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...

- [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,” Yurii 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...

Source: The Diplomat China

- [What Orban's 16-Year China Experiment Reveals About Europe](#) (2026-05-04 13:56)

Orban amplified and politicized Hungary's China ties, but the deeper drivers behind them extend well beyond one illiberal leader.

- [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?