



HONG KONG SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 29, 2026 - May 06, 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 29 to May 06, 2026, Hong Kong's security landscape was primarily shaped by ongoing diplomatic tensions with the United States, robust internal security measures, and a heightened focus on cybersecurity. The HKSAR Government vehemently rejected the US State Department's 2026 Hong Kong Policy Act Report, underscoring a persistent divergence in views on autonomy and national security legislation. Counter-terrorism preparedness was a significant theme, highlighted by a major joint exercise involving regional partners. Concurrently, the city grappled with evolving cyber threats, particularly those leveraging artificial intelligence, and domestic security incidents, while also navigating the broader geopolitical impacts on its economic stability and energy resilience.

Key Security Developments

- Diplomatic Confrontation over US Policy Act Report

On April 17, 2026, the US State Department released its 2026 Hong Kong Policy Act Report, which criticized the degradation of Hong Kong's autonomy and human rights through the National Security Law (NSL) and Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (SNSO). The HKSAR Government and China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned and rejected the report on April 17, 20, and 21, 2026, labeling it as politically motivated interference in China's internal affairs and asserting the legitimacy of Hong Kong's national security laws. This exchange highlights the deep and ongoing diplomatic friction between Hong Kong/Beijing and the US regarding the city's governance and legal framework.

- Major Regional Counter-terrorism Exercise "STEALTHNET"

The Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) successfully concluded the Counter Cyber and Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026, codenamed "STEALTHNET," on April 16-17, 2026. This exercise involved over 380 participants, including representatives from Interpol, Macao Judiciary Police, Singapore Police Force, Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, and the Korean National Police Agency. The simulation included terrorist financing scenarios and cross-border cyber and physical attacks against critical infrastructure in financial, aviation, and healthcare systems across Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, and South Korea, demonstrating enhanced regional cooperation against hybrid threats.

- Escalating Cybersecurity Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection

The "Hong Kong Cybersecurity Outlook 2026," released in January 2026, reported a record high of 15,877 cybersecurity incidents in Hong Kong in 2025, a 27% year-on-year increase. The report identified AI-related attacks and supply chain vulnerabilities as top concerns for 2026. Furthermore, Hong Kong's Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance became effective on January 1, 2026, mandating robust cybersecurity measures for essential services and important societal/economic activities, with non-compliance risking investigations and fines.

- Continued Transnational Repression and Erosion of Freedoms

Reports from April 2026 indicate ongoing concerns about transnational repression, with the US State Department's report noting that Hong Kong authorities surveilled activists, their families, and journalists, and issued arrest warrants and bounties for overseas activists. The cancellation of RightsCon 2026 in Zambia in late April/early May due to Chinese pressure to exclude Taiwanese civil society attendees further highlighted concerns about transnational pressure on free speech and digital rights. The conviction of former media mogul Jimmy Lai in December 2025 under national security legislation, with sentencing expected in early 2026, was cited as emblematic of the systemic collapse in press freedom.

- Domestic Security Incident: Explosives Arrest

On May 5, 2026, a 12-year-old boy was arrested in Hong Kong for allegedly attempting to manufacture explosives, following a public tip-off about videos posted on social media. This incident underscores the ongoing vigilance required against potential domestic radicalization and threats, even among younger demographics.

- Domestic Security Incident: Doxxing Arrest

On April 29, 2026, a 23-year-old female was arrested in Hong Kong for suspected doxxing of her former schoolmate due to personal disputes. This highlights the continued prevalence of cyber-related offenses and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's efforts to alert the public to various online scams and fraudulent activities.

- Energy Security Concerns Amidst Middle East Conflict

An editorial on May 5, 2026, discussed Hong Kong's energy resilience challenges, with the Middle East conflict driving up fuel and electricity costs globally. The HKSAR government introduced temporary fuel subsidies, and mainland Chinese authorities pledged support to ensure electricity supply, emphasizing the need to align Hong Kong's energy strategy with China's 15th national five-year plan (2026-2030).

- Economic Repercussions of Geopolitical Shifts

A report on April 29, 2026, indicated a decline in job postings for China, Hong Kong, and Macau, attributed to rising geopolitical tensions and US tariffs reshaping global supply chains. However, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, Paul Chan Mo-po, stated on April 27, 2026, that these geopolitical shifts represent an evolution rather than a

threat to the city's status as a major trade center, enhancing its role as a "super-connector".

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Hong Kong's security developments from April 29 to May 06, 2026, are deeply intertwined with the broader geopolitical competition between China and Western powers, particularly the United States. The release of the US State Department's 2026 Hong Kong Policy Act Report and the immediate, strong rebuttal from Beijing and the HKSAR Government exemplify the persistent diplomatic standoff over Hong Kong's autonomy and the application of its national security laws. This ongoing friction contributes to regional instability by fueling narratives of democratic erosion versus sovereign protection, impacting international perceptions of Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" framework.

The region also saw efforts to bolster security cooperation, as evidenced by the "STEALTHNET" counter-terrorism exercise involving Hong Kong, Interpol, Macao, Singapore, and South Korea. This collaboration on hybrid threats, including cyber and physical attacks on critical infrastructure, signals a recognition of shared security challenges that transcend national borders in Southeast Asia. Such exercises, while enhancing regional preparedness, also occur against a backdrop of increasing strategic competition, where alliances and partnerships are often viewed through the lens of major power rivalry.

Furthermore, global events such as the Middle East conflict and US-China tech competition have tangible, albeit indirect, impacts on Hong Kong. The Middle East conflict's effect on global energy prices and supply chains directly influences Hong Kong's energy security and economic stability. Similarly, US restrictions on chip equipment shipments to Chinese manufacturers, driven by national security concerns, contribute to the regionalization of supply chains, which Hong Kong's Financial Secretary views as an opportunity for the city to evolve its "super-connector" role. These dynamics highlight Hong Kong's vulnerability to global geopolitical shifts while also showcasing its strategic importance as a hub attempting to adapt to a changing world order.

Military and Defense Analysis

Hong Kong, as a Special Administrative Region of China, does not maintain an independent military force; its defense falls under the purview of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison. Therefore, military and defense analysis

for Hong Kong primarily focuses on internal security capabilities, law enforcement, and critical infrastructure protection, rather than conventional military posture or defense acquisitions. The period from April 29 to May 06, 2026, saw a strong emphasis on enhancing these internal security capabilities, particularly in counter-terrorism and cybersecurity.

The Hong Kong Police Force's (HKPF) "Commissioner's Operational Priorities 2026," published on April 15, 2026, outlines key areas such as strengthening intelligence gathering, counter-terrorism capabilities, public awareness campaigns against domestic terrorism and self-radicalization, and enhancing the protection and resilience of critical infrastructure through public-private partnerships. This indicates a proactive and comprehensive approach to internal security, focusing on prevention, intelligence-led operations, and community engagement. The successful conclusion of the "STEALTHNET" counter-terrorism exercise on April 16-17, 2026, further demonstrated HKPF's and regional partners' capabilities in responding to complex cyber and physical terrorist threats targeting critical financial, aviation, and healthcare systems.

The enactment of the Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance, effective January 1, 2026, signifies a strategic shift towards mandating robust cybersecurity measures for vital sectors, reflecting an understanding of modern hybrid threats. While specific defense spending figures for Hong Kong's internal security apparatus were not detailed in the available news, the continuous implementation and enforcement of the National Security Law (NSL) and Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (SNSO) underscore a significant investment in legal and enforcement mechanisms to safeguard national security, as perceived by Beijing and the HKSAR Government. The enhanced powers granted to Beijing's Office of Safeguarding National Security (OSNS) in Hong Kong through subsidiary legislation in May 2025 further consolidate central government control over the city's security apparatus, aligning it more closely with mainland China's national security framework.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Hong Kong is likely to experience continued diplomatic friction with the United States and other Western nations, particularly concerning human rights and the implementation of national security laws. The HKSAR Government and Beijing will likely maintain their firm stance against perceived external interference, reinforcing the narrative of safeguarding national sovereignty and stability. Internally, the focus on cybersecurity will intensify, driven by the "Hong Kong Cybersecurity Outlook 2026" report highlighting AI-related threats and supply chain vulnerabilities. Law enforcement will continue to prioritize counter-terrorism and national security operations, as demonstrated by recent

exercises and arrests.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: A critical flashpoint remains the ongoing enforcement of the NSL and SNSO, particularly concerning arrests of activists and any further actions perceived as transnational repression, which could trigger additional international criticism or sanctions. The city's economic resilience could be tested by the continued regionalization of global supply chains and the broader impacts of US-China trade and tech tensions. Energy security, influenced by global conflicts like the one in the Middle East, will remain a risk area, necessitating ongoing support from mainland China and strategic planning. The potential for domestic security incidents, including those involving radicalized individuals or cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, will also require constant vigilance.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of diplomatic statements from the US, EU, and other international bodies regarding Hong Kong, as well as the HKSAR Government's responses. The number and profile of arrests under national security legislation, particularly those involving overseas individuals or prominent figures, will be crucial. Cybersecurity incident reports and the effectiveness of critical infrastructure protection measures will indicate the evolving threat landscape. Economic indicators related to foreign investment, trade flows, and the performance of key sectors will reflect the impact of geopolitical shifts. Finally, any changes in mainland China's policy or rhetoric regarding Hong Kong's integration into national development plans, such as the Northern Metropolis development, will be significant.

Strategic recommendations: Hong Kong should continue to invest heavily in advanced cybersecurity defenses and intelligence capabilities, particularly in countering AI-driven threats and securing supply chains. Proactive public awareness campaigns on national security and cyber hygiene are essential to foster community resilience. Diplomatically, while maintaining its stance on national security, Hong Kong could seek opportunities for engagement on non-political issues to mitigate international isolation. Economically, diversifying trade relationships and strengthening its role as a "super-connector" within regional supply chains, aligned with China's 15th Five-Year Plan, will be vital for long-term stability and prosperity.

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: HK Free Press

- [Rubio warns against ‘destabilizing’ acts on Taiwan before Trump’s China visit](#) (2026-05-06 04:54)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned Tuesday against any “destabilizing” actions on Taiwan before a trip to China by President Donald Trump and called on Beijing also to raise pressure on Iran. Trump is scheduled to pay the first visit of his second term to China next week, a trip he delayed after he [...]

- [7 arrested for alleged corruption in building maintenance projects](#) (2026-05-06 04:41)

Hong Kong’s anti-graft watchdog has arrested seven people for alleged corruption in building maintenance projects, including the owner of a contractor firm who concealed his control over a company tasked with overseeing tendering. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said in a statement on Tuesday that it arrested five men and two women, aged from [...]

- [Trans alum sues former secondary school over ‘discriminatory’ hair policies](#) (2026-05-05 23:30)

A transgender alum has sued her former secondary school over “discriminatory” policies that barred her from having long hair. Oscar Fung, who studied at Lung Kung World Federation School Limited (LKWFSL) Lau Wong Fat Secondary School in Tai Kok Tsui from 2019 to 2025, filed a writ in the District Court on Thursday, local media [...]

- [Hong Kong hiker dies, another survives after rescue from Japanese peak](#) (2026-05-05 12:34)

One Hong Kong hiker has died, and another one survived after being rescued from a Japanese mountain, according to media reports. Japanese TV Chubu-Nippon Broadcasting (CBC) reported on Tuesday afternoon that two men, believed to be Chinese nationals, were stranded on Mount Okuhotaka, Japan’s third-highest peak, resulting in one fatality. According to CBC, Japanese police [...]

- [China fireworks factory blast kills 26, injures 61](#) (2026-05-05 08:58)

The death toll from a giant explosion at a fireworks factory in central China rose to 26, with 61 more injured, officials said Tuesday. The explosion occurred at around 4:43 pm on Monday at the Liuyang Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Company in Liuyang, Hunan province, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Following the blast, all fireworks [...]

- [Taiwan president says island has ‘right to engage with the world’](#) (2026-05-05 07:45)

By Joy Chiang Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said Tuesday the democratic island has the “right to engage with the world” , after he returned from a trip to Africa that Taipei has accused Beijing of trying to derail. Taiwan said China applied “intense pressure” to Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar to revoke overflight permits for Lai’ s original [...]

- [Hong Kong proposes tighter claw machine regulations over addiction fears](#) (2026-05-05 07:02)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed tightening the regulation of claw machine shops by implementing a licensing regime to curb addiction risks. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau’ s proposal, included in a document submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) on Monday, comes as claw machine shops proliferate in the city as a low-maintenance business opportunity. “Since [...]

- [Hong Kong gov’ t collects record high tax revenue of HK\\$458 billion, boosted by stamp duty](#) (2026-05-05 05:50)

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has announced that tax revenue jumped by 22 per cent in the 2025-26 fiscal year, hitting a record high of HK\$458.3 billion. Unveiling the provisional tax figures at a press conference on Monday, Benjamin Chan, commissioner of Inland Revenue, attributed the rise partly to rallies in the property and stock [...]

- [China’ s Wu Yize wins World Snooker Championship for first time in dramatic finish](#) (2026-05-05 04:17)

China’ s Wu Yize won the World Snooker Championship for the first time with a dramatic 18-17 victory over Shaun Murphy in the final on Monday. Wu held his nerve to seal his thrilling triumph in a tense last frame shoot-out at Sheffield’ s Crucible Theatre. The 22-year-old is the second Chinese player to win the world [...]

- [Former Hong Kong police officer appointed to lead government’ s media relations department](#) (2026-05-04 23:30)

A former police officer who led daily press briefings during the 2019 protests and unrest has been appointed to a top post leading the Hong Kong government’ s media relations department. Authorities announced on Monday that John Tse would begin the role as head of the Information Services Department (ISD) on Tuesday. Tse was previously appointed [...]

- [HKFP Lens: Hundreds flock to Ham Tin Beach in Sai Kung during Labour Day Golden Week holiday](#) (2026-05-04 13:01)

Hundreds of people descended on Ham Tin Beach in Sai Kung on Saturday, the second day of the Labour Day Golden Week holiday in mainland China. The tranquil spot is one of the many attractions in Hong Kong that have gained popularity on mainland Chinese social media platforms in recent months, prompting concerns about overtourism [...]

- [China's Wu seizes lead in World Snooker Championship final against Murphy](#) (2026-05-04 12:40)

China's Wu Yize is on track to win the World Snooker Championship after building a 10-7 lead against Shaun Murphy in the final on Sunday. The 22-year-old's superb long potting and composed break-building ensured he would go into Monday's deciding sessions in pole position to lift the trophy for the first time. Wu's clearance of [...]

- [Hong Kong press union faces HK\\$730K prepaid tax demand, accuses tax office of misallocating public resources](#) (2026-05-04 12:10)

The Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) has said it was ordered to pay HK\$730,000 in provisional taxes within days and has accused the city's tax authorities of misallocating public resources with audits on independent media. HKJA chairperson Selina Cheng held a press conference on Monday morning – ahead of an Inland Revenue Department (IRD) press [...]

- [Sweden arrests Chinese captain of suspected Russia 'shadow fleet' ship](#) (2026-05-04 09:53)

The Chinese captain of a ship that Sweden boarded this weekend over suspicions it belonged to Russia's "shadow fleet" has been arrested, the Swedish prosecution authority said on Monday. Sweden's coast guard on Sunday boarded the 182-metre (597-foot) Jin Hui, suspected of sailing under a false Syrian flag. It was the latest of several boardings [...]

- [Over 60% of homeless unfamiliar with medical waiver applications amid higher hospital fees, NGO survey finds](#) (2026-05-04 05:09)

Over 60 per cent of Hong Kong's homeless are unfamiliar with how to apply for medical waivers, and nearly three-fifths are reducing medical visits due to increased public hospital fees, an NGO has found. ImpactHK, which serves the city's homeless, surveyed 120 people between February and March to understand how medical fee reforms were affecting [...]

- [Hong Kong gov't and Reporters Without Borders trade barbs over press freedom ranking](#) (2026-05-04 03:42)

The Hong Kong government and legislature have condemned Reporters Without Borders (RSF) after the city was ranked low in the NGO's annual press freedom index. They also hit out after German public broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) awarded jailed media tycoon and Apple Daily founder Jimmy Lai a press freedom prize. In RSF's 2026 global press [...]

- [Tourists flock to Hong Kong countryside as city records 600,000 arrivals in first 2 days of Golden Week](#) (2026-05-03 23:30)

Hong Kong's countryside has seen an influx of tourists with the start of the Labour Day Golden Week in mainland China, recording over 600,000 arrivals in the first two days of the five-day-long holiday. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) said on

Saturday that ecological hotspots were crowded on Friday, the first day of [...]

- [Sri Lanka arrests 37 Chinese nationals at suspected scam centre: police](#) (2026-05-03 15:22)

Sri Lankan police have arrested 37 Chinese nationals suspected of running a cyberscam centre in the capital Colombo, a spokesman said on Sunday, in the latest crackdown on foreign-run online fraud. The suspects, aged between 23 and 44 and including one woman, were arrested after a tip-off, the police spokesman said. “They had entered the [...]

- [Taiwan leader makes delayed visit to Eswatini after China objections](#) (2026-05-03 02:51)

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te on Saturday announced his arrival in Eswatini — Taipei’s only diplomatic ally in Africa — after an earlier trip was cancelled when several countries revoked overflight permits. Those various African nations withdrew overflight permission following “intense pressure” from Beijing, one of Lai’s closest advisers said at the time, forcing cancellation of [...]

- [Press Freedom Day 2026: 25 reasons to support HKFP’s independent newsroom](#) (2026-05-03 02:00)

As we mark Sunday’s UN World Press Freedom Day, ahead of HKFP’s 11th anniversary next month, our team of seven are soldiering on. We remain on the ground despite unprecedented political and financial pressure last year, including threats and harassment, scrutiny from multiple government departments, pressure on our corporate partners, and false complaints to the authorities. [...]

- [Chinese swimmer Sun Yang reports cyberbullying to police](#) (2026-05-02 04:39)

Three-time Chinese Olympic champion swimmer Sun Yang filed a police report after being subjected to “large-scale” cyberbullying, his team said Friday. Sun, 34, returned to competition in 2024 after a four-year ban for smashing vials of blood during a 2018 doping test, the circumstances of which he still disputes. His team said Friday that false [...]

- [‘Clearly me’: Chinese AI drama accused of stealing faces](#) (2026-05-02 02:00)

By Sophia Xu and Purple Romero Christine Li is a model and influencer, but not an actor, so when she saw herself playing a cruel character in a Chinese microdrama she felt bewildered, then angry and afraid. The 26-year-old is one of two people who told AFP their likenesses were cast without consent in the [...]

- [China urges US to preserve ‘stability’ in ties, warns Taiwan is ‘risk point’](#) (2026-05-01 05:16)

China’s foreign minister on Thursday urged the United States to maintain “stability” between the two powers and warned that Taiwan posed the biggest risk, weeks before President Donald Trump visits Beijing. In a call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Beijing and Washington should “safeguard the hard-won stability”

[...]

- [Taiwan economy grows at fastest pace since 1987](#) (2026-05-01 02:00)

Taiwan's economy expanded at its fastest pace in nearly 39 years thanks to robust demand for artificial intelligence technology, data showed Thursday, despite concerns over the Middle East crisis. The island is a global powerhouse in the manufacturing of semiconductor chips, which power AI, and its economy has been growing at a fast clip in [...]

- [HKFP Lens: 'Bodies in Motion, Bodies at Rest' – Gareth Brown's 19 years of dance photography](#) (2026-05-01 01:00)

Hong Kong photographer Gareth Brown has spent the past 19 years working on a personal project called "Bodies in Motion, Bodies at Rest" – using dance to showcase the city's unique spots. For what he called a "very personal passion project," he photographed ballerinas, contemporary and traditional dancers, as well as artistic swimmers and aerialists, [...]

- ['Not good enough' : Key points from gov't departments' testimony at Tai Po fire inquiry](#) (2026-05-01 00:00)

In the second half of April, the public inquiry into the deadly Tai Po blaze heard from multiple government departments about authorities' oversight during a major renovation at Wang Fuk Court before the tragedy unfolded. In the first 10 days of the hearings, residents gave damning testimony of how their complaints about potential fire hazards [...]

- [China's April factory activity expands despite Middle East war](#) (2026-04-30 09:46)

China's factory activity grew for a second straight month in April, official data showed Thursday, showing resilience despite surging energy prices and shipping disruption caused by the war in the Middle East. The manufacturing purchasing manager's index -- a key measure of industrial activity -- was 50.3 in April, according to the National Bureau of [...]

- [Urban Renewal Authority did not consider bid-rigging risks at Wang Fuk Court, fire inquiry hears](#) (2026-04-30 08:02)

The authority that oversaw tender applications for the renovation work at the fire-hit Wang Fuk Court had not considered the risks of illegal tendering practices, a case manager has told an inquiry into the deadly blaze. Testifying on Thursday, Matthew Chan, a case manager for the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), said the semi-government body had [...]

- [Australia foreign minister says China agrees to collaborate on jet fuel exports](#) (2026-04-30 06:55)

Australia's foreign minister said Wednesday that China has agreed to work together to facilitate exports of jet fuel, in an attempt to ease supply disruptions caused by the war in the Middle East. The conflict and closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's crude oil transits, have caused fuel [...]

- [Hong Kong gov't steps up measures at ecological hotspots ahead of Golden Week visitor surge](#) (2026-04-30 06:23)

The Hong Kong government has introduced a string of measures to manage ecotourism hotspots in Sai Kung and Lantau Island, as a surge in visitors is expected during China's upcoming Golden Week holiday. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) said in a statement on Wednesday that it would deploy drones and additional staff to [...]

- [Hong Kong remains at 140th on global press freedom index as NGO highlights Jimmy Lai's 20-year jail term](#) (2026-04-30 04:00)

Hong Kong remains at 140th place on Reporters Without Borders' (RSF) global press freedom index of 180 countries and territories, with the NGO highlighting the 20-year sentence handed down to Apple Daily founder Jimmy Lai earlier this year. The press freedom watchdog released its annual index on Thursday, ahead of World Press Freedom Day on [...]

- [Hongkongers now face fines, jail time if caught carrying vapes in public](#) (2026-04-29 23:40)

Hongkongers caught carrying more than five vape pods or 100 heat sticks in public will face up to six months behind bars and a HK\$50,000 fine from Thursday. Cases involving smaller quantities will attract fines of HK\$3,000. The rules cover alternative tobacco products such as vapes, herbal cigarettes and electronic smoking products. They are part [...]

- [Diesel, LPG subsidies for Hong Kong public, commercial vehicles amid fuel price hikes](#) (2026-04-29 11:54)

The Hong Kong government has announced it will provide diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) subsidies for public and commercial vehicles, amid higher fuel prices due to the ongoing Middle East war. The diesel subsidy of HK\$3 per litre will run for two months, from 12am on Thursday to 11.59pm on June 29, finance chief [...]

- [China to ban drone sales in capital over security fears](#) (2026-04-29 11:29)

China will ban the sale of drones in Beijing and require users to apply for permission for all flights in the capital under strict regulations that enter force on Friday. Officials have cited public security for the new rules, which also forbid bringing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or their core components into Beijing. E-commerce platforms [...]

- [Hong Kong Disneyland records 36% drop in profit despite higher hotel occupancy, guest spending](#) (2026-04-29 11:15)

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort has recorded a 36 per cent drop in net profit in its latest fiscal year, although other figures, including hotel occupancy rate and guests' per capita spending, trended upwards. The theme park announced its results for its 2024-25 fiscal year, ending in September 2025, on Monday. Amid rising costs, Disneyland saw [...]

- [Domestic worker arrested for allegedly putting 2 toddlers in dog cage](#) (2026-04-29 10:29)

A domestic worker has been arrested on suspicion of child abuse after allegedly putting her employer's two toddlers in a dog cage on two occasions. Police said they received a report on Tuesday from the children's mother, who alleged that the Indonesian domestic worker had put the two boys, aged two and three years, in [...]

- [US leads new call condemning China's actions in Panama Canal dispute](#) (2026-04-29 09:10)

The United States led a group of regional countries in calling China's actions during a dispute over the Panama Canal a "threat," prompting backlash from Beijing on Wednesday. Washington and Beijing accuse each other of seeking to control the Panama Canal, a vital trade link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Panama took control of [...]

- [Authorities to 'look into' rubbish, other items in fire-hit Wang Fuk Court flat, official says](#) (2026-04-29 04:37)

A government official has said authorities will "look into" the situation after a resident at the fire-hit Wang Fuk Court found rubbish and other items that did not belong to his flat when he retrieved his belongings. The resident of Wang Cheong House, the first block hit by the blaze, told reporters on Tuesday that [...]

## Source: RTHK English News

- [One HK man dead, one rescued in Japanese Alps tragedy](#) (2026-05-05 13:45)

A Hong Kong man who was trapped while climbing the Japanese Alps has been rescued, while his companion – also an SAR resident – has died, according to Japanese media reports. The pair reportedly had been climbing the Hida Mountains on Honshu since last Friday, and called for help two days later when they were caught in severe weather. Rescue teams deployed by the Nagano authorities were unable to reach them on Monday due to the conditions, according to reports. Local media reported that a helicopter located the pair on Tuesday. One of them, a 30-year-old man, is said to be conscious when he was airlifted to hospital. But his companion, identified by Japanese media as a 22-year-old Hong Kong man living in Tokyo, was pronounced dead shortly after being found. In response to media enquiries, the Immigration Department on Monday said it had contacted the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the SAR and the Chinese consulate-general in Nagoya after receiving requests for assistance. The department added that it's in close contact with the relevant authorities and will provide all possible assistance to the victims' families. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [12-year-old held for alleged explosives manufacturing](#) (2026-05-05 10:34)

A 12-year-old Form One student has been arrested on suspicion of attempting to make explosives, police said on Tuesday. Officers said they were alerted a day earlier to a video shared on social media purportedly showing someone manufacturing explosives in an

experiment outdoors. The boy was apprehended in Tseung Kwan O the same day and has since been detained for investigation. There were no injuries or damage. Officers from the explosive ordnance disposal bureau seized chemical substances suspected to be explosive residue. "While the experiment was conducted under a bridge, the site was right next to a public rest area and a jogging trail," acting chief inspector Choi Ting-kwong said. "He ignored his own safety and that of others by carrying out the experiment involving explosives in a public space." Choi reminded the public that manufacturing explosives is a serious offence. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Lawmakers back push to beef up fire safety law](#) (2026-05-05 10:19)

The vast majority of lawmakers on Tuesday expressed support for the government's plans to change fire safety laws following the deadly Tai Po blaze. Under the amendment bill, officials propose a number of tougher penalties for violations, such as shutting down fire safety devices without approval and responsible parties not ensuring that the devices always work. Several lawmakers, however, asked why officials only require maintenance firms to apply for sustained switch-offs of devices for late-night repairs three working days beforehand but not for daytime repair work. Secretary for Security Chris Tang said this came down to balancing relevant risks. "It is because during the daytime, shutdowns are likely to be for a short period of time for maintenance purposes," he said. "Very often, staff from the contractors will be on hand in the daytime, as well as guards or watchmen. "And residents would know about the maintenance work, so the risks therein would be lower. We want to balance the risks, and daytime risks are low." While property management firms will in future take up more fire safety responsibilities, such as conducting fire alarm checks every six months instead of a year, Tang said the legal changes should not result in a surge in the fees that they charge. He said the companies are already doing most of the things the amended legislation will mandate – it is just that they will in future be considered to be legally responsible for fire safety matters. And in the event that a firm gets penalised for violating fire safety regulations, Tang said it should not pass on the fine to customers as it is the guilty party. With regards to the extra workload for frontline fire safety officers, he expects the Fire Services Department to handle it through internal staff redeployment. If there is really a need, Tang said, officials will look internally for more resources, before the government asks the legislature for more funding. He also said the government would recommend work be conducted in phases, if that is feasible, but noted that in some instances it is not possible to ban contractors from working on an entire estate simultaneously, like what happened in Wang Fuk Court. "For example, it's not feasible to repair a pipe only a few floors at a time when it connects all floors," Tang said. As for so-called "three-nil" buildings, that is, those that do not have owners' corporations, resident groups and management firms, he said fire safety committees in district councils would organise fire drills. Tang also said officials have decided to amend laws to fine buyers of illegal fuel up to HK\$1 million and imprison them for up to a year as such acts pose serious risks to communities. He noted there have been recent cases of such activities in urban areas that have resulted in people suffering serious injuries and vehicles catching fire. Tang said the government would

soon conduct a one-month public consultation with a view to tabling the amendment bill within this year. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Q1 GDP growth hits near 5-year high](#) (2026-05-05 09:38)

The Hong Kong economy expanded at its fastest pace in almost five years in the first quarter. Advance estimates released by the Census and Statistics Department on Tuesday showed the city's gross domestic product jumped 5.9 percent year on year in real terms in the first three months of the year. That was also stronger than the 4 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2025. First-quarter growth was boosted in part by exports, which rose by 23.8 percent from a year ago and 15.4 percent from the October-December quarter. Gross domestic fixed capital formation also helped lift the economy during the period, rising by 17.7 percent year on year in real terms, after an 11.7 percent growth in the fourth quarter. Both private and government consumption expenditure rose as well, with private spending up 5 percent year on year and government consumption 2.9 percent higher. Commenting on the figures, a government spokesperson noted that the local economy "expanded robustly" in the first quarter of 2026, adding that the outlook remains positive, thanks to strong global demand for AI-related electronics, sustained growth in visitor arrivals and robust cross-boundary financial activities. "Relatively solid business and consumer sentiment is expected to continue supporting domestic demand. However, persistent tensions in the Middle East pose downside risks to the economic outlook," the spokesperson said. "The government has taken targeted measures to safeguard energy supply stability and mitigate the impacts on affected sectors," the spokesperson added, noting that the authorities would closely monitor the risks. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Stroke of genius as pioneers sniff first aid chance](#) (2026-05-05 06:53)

Researchers at the University of Hong Kong said on Tuesday they have, in collaboration with InnoHK, developed the world's first nasal spray for patients suffering from the most common type of stroke to receive timely emergency aid prior to their arrival at hospital. Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the SAR, and ischemic stroke – caused by a blocked main artery – accounts for about 80 percent of the cases. Patients inhaling the nasal spray, NanoPowder, within 30 minutes of the onset of stroke symptoms, the team said, will have medication delivered straight to their brain, reducing the size of the infarction by more than 80 percent and thus reducing complications. Associate professor of pharmacology and pharmacy Aviva Chow said it currently takes more than two hours for patients to receive treatment in hospitals from the onset of symptoms and that only half of ischemic stroke patients manage to get the urgent medical assistance they need in time. The NanoPowder nasal spray only gives ischemic stroke patients a bit of leeway timewise to get medical assistance, he stressed, and that hospitalisation is crucial. While it usually takes 10 to 15 years to get a new medication from the discovery to the sale stage, the team expects the nasal spray will take only about five to seven years as they believe their application can be fast-tracked. "Ischemic stroke is a major disease in global setting. Normally when FDA [the US Food and Drug Administration], EMA [European Medicines Agency] ... for some of the major disease that will have a global impact, for example like Covid,

for example cancer, their approval process normally will be faster because that will be very helpful to patients to receive early treatment," Chow said. Researchers aim to ultimately make the drug available for sale in pharmacies after carrying out clinical trials in 2030. Chow hopes the drug can be rolled out up to three years after the trials, depending on regulatory approval. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [HK-Dongguan biofuel hub drive flies in face of crisis](#) (2026-05-05 05:39)

Chief Executive John Lee said on Tuesday Hong Kong can turn challenges posed by the global energy disruption in the Middle East into "green opportunities", as exemplified by the SAR working with Dongguan to set up a biofuel base. The sustainable aviation fuel base would be set up in Dongguan by EcoCeres, a Hong Kong-based biofuel producer that specialises in using advanced technologies to turn waste cooking oil into globally certified sustainable aviation fuel. The move also came as the firm signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dongguan government in building the sustainable aviation fuel value chain. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Lee noted that the collaboration between Hong Kong and Dongguan marked a "real milestone" as the new base, the first such hub in the Greater Bay Area, would support the country's moves to reach its carbon-reduction goals. "Traditional aviation fuel carries a heavy carbon footprint," he said. "Sustainable aviation fuel, SAF, cuts lifecycle emissions by more than 80 percent. That is a substantial step toward greener aviation. "Hong Kong brings global finance, professional services and research capabilities. Dongguan brings mature chemical industry parks, logistics and a steady supply of used cooking oil, the essential raw material for SAF. " Together, we form a powerful combination." EcoCeres was set up by Hong Kong & China Gas, known as Towngas, and received backing from US private investment firm Bain Capital in 2023. EcoCeres products include hydrotreated vegetable oil, renewable naphtha and cellulosic ethanol. Lee noted that the establishment of the new base is in line with the country's 15th five-year plan, which stressed the acceleration of the comprehensive green transition across the economy and society while promoting low-carbon transport. "The world faces energy disruptions. But Hong Kong, under 'one country, two systems', enjoys a unique advantage: strong support from the motherland and close connection to the world. We can turn green challenges into green opportunities," he said. Also speaking at the event was Dongguan municipal committee party secretary Wei Hao, who noted that there's great potential for the two sides to collaborate further, after the two cities previously jointly built an international hub connecting the airports of the two cities, which also became the world's first sea-land-air multimodal transportation project to lower logistics costs. Towngas chairman Peter Lee noted that green energy had become the "main theme" amid the "volatile" global environment, making the reduction of carbon emissions in the aviation industry "inevitable". Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Some lawmakers back tighter grip on claw machines](#) (2026-05-05 05:11)

Two lawmakers on Monday expressed their support for the government's plan to require operators of claw and pinball machines to obtain licences. Officials said machine operators

would be required to apply for prize-based amusement licences under gambling laws. They also want to require internet cafes to obtain licences, instead of simply following a voluntary code of practice. The head of the Legislative Council's panel on home affairs, culture and sports, unionist Bill Tang, said the move should help tackle addiction problems, especially among young people. He said some claw machines have mobile phones as prizes, a reward far more valuable than the HK\$300 cap for other types of games that require licences. Tang noted that some operators of gambling abstention services have raised concerns about people spending hours each day on the machines. The Federation of Trade Unions lawmaker also backed the idea of regulation for individual machines rather than the premises they are located in, saying machines in one shop could belong to different individuals. "Such a proposal fits today's situation - we can see [the machines] in so many shopping malls and new-style restaurants," he told RTHK. "The machines are there to attract children and make parents consume at the restaurants." DAB lawmaker Vincent Cheng, meanwhile, agreed that the new regulations should not be so tight as to stifle operators. "Now, many shopping malls have introduced claw and pinball machines, perhaps due to difficulties in their operations," Cheng said on an RTHK programme. "We have to consider whether their industry's development would be affected [by the new laws]. We have to strike a balance here and avoid a scenario where they all have to close down because the law is too tight." The panel's councillors are due to discuss the matter at a meeting next Monday. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [New licensing proposed for claw machines, cybercafes](#) (2026-05-04 13:54)

The government has proposed regulatory changes to strengthen the supervision of claw machines, pinball machines and internet cafes. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council on Monday, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau proposed amendments to the Gambling Ordinance and Gambling Regulations to require individual licences for any gaming device involving prizes, odds and potential addiction risks. "We will also review the relevant laws to ensure that the relevant premises are properly regulated, so that the public can safely participate in these activities," the paper stated. Operators would be required to display clear licensing notices at the entrances. The bureau is considering adding more clauses, such as including addiction warnings on the notices. Authorities are also considering a number of ideas when it comes to regulating internet cafes. One option would see them being categorised as amusement game centres, which would effectively prohibit entry to students in school uniforms. An alternative proposal is to set up a system similar to that of e-sports venues. This would allow internet cafes to apply for licence exemptions on a case-by-case basis, provided they meet strict conditions. These would include fire safety and ventilation standards, as well as a total ban on accommodation. Lawmakers are set to discuss the proposals at the panel on home affairs, culture and sports next Monday. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Worker dies after trapped in lift shaft](#) (2026-05-04 11:03)

A lift technician died on Monday afternoon while carrying out repair works at a housing estate in Stanley. Police were called to the scene on Tai Tam Road at around 3pm and found the victim

trapped inside a lift shaft. He suffered serious head injuries and was later pronounced dead. Officers suspect the worker fell from a height of about 10 metres. The Labour Department said it had sent staff to the scene and was investigating the cause of the incident. The Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims said the deceased worker was in his mid-20s and in the process of replacing lift ropes when tragedy struck. The group said it is deeply saddened by his death and urged the employer to provide support for the family. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [John Tse named as new head of information services](#) (2026-05-04 09:31)

The government on Monday appointed former police spokesman John Tse as the new director of information services, effective on Tuesday. Tse joined the force in 1999 and then the Chief Executive's Office as its communications secretary nearly four years ago. He had been serving as the government's information co-ordinator since the middle of 2024. Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung said Tse has extensive experience in public administration and is an outstanding leader and manager who is highly skilled in handling media and public relations. "I am confident that under his leadership, the Information Services Department will strive to promote public understanding of government policies and positions, and tell the world about the good stories of Hong Kong," she said in a statement. The administration said Tse was identified as the most suitable candidate following an open and internal recruitment exercise this year. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [SAR's tax revenue surges 22pc to HK\\$458.3bn](#) (2026-05-04 09:11)

The Inland Revenue Department on Monday said tax revenue surged 22 percent for the year 2025/26 as it issued 2.77 million tax return forms, including 1.85 million paper forms and 920,000 e-returns. Wang Fuk Court homeowners and residents will be waived from their final tax bill for the 2025/26 financial year, on top of a similar waiver announced in December that aims to ease their financial burden following the inferno. Commissioner of Inland Revenue Benjamin Chan said they only have to fill in the return forms as usual. "I think what they need to do is to complete the information about their income, as well as whether they need to claim any allowance or deductions in the tax returns," he said. All individuals must submit the form by June 4, while sole proprietors have until August 4 to do so. There will be a one-month extension for those filing the form online. On the city's tax revenue in the previous financial year, Chan said provisional figures showed that it jumped by 22 percent to HK\$458.3 billion. He said this was partly driven by a 61 percent growth in stamp duty revenue to HK\$102.6 billion.

"Last year, the number of property transactions increased significantly, and also the price of property has remained stable, and that's the reason why we had a very good increase in the stamp revenue arising from property transactions," he said. "As for the stock transactions, I think [it's] very obvious because you know that the trading volumes at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has increased significantly [by] more than 50 percent." Income from salaries tax and profits tax also rose, Chan said, as taxpayers earned more in the previous year, and more firms were liable to pay profits tax. The department forecasts that total revenue for the current

financial year will stand at HK\$455.1 billion. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Wang Fuk residents retrieve paintings, designs](#) (2026-05-04 08:40)

The first round of home visits for Wang Fuk Court residents concluded on Monday as people salvaged what they could from their fire-ravaged homes. Some collected belongings which had a sentimental value to them, including a Wang Tai House resident who retrieved more than 30 of her own paintings. “I didn’ t expect [that I could retrieve them] and I am a bit happy. I’ ve been painting for over 10 years. I feel at ease seeing they are fine,” she said. A Wang Shing House resident said he retrieved some furniture of his own design over the decades. The man in his 70s said he hoped to return home again to collect more items. “We’ ve poured our entire lives into this home. We are not very rich – we saved up to buy the flat when we were young and accumulated belongings along the way, and our children have grown up,” he said. “We had planned to live here until the very end, but now it has ended prematurely. This flat, with things inside, was like another child to us.” But another resident said she could hardly retrieve anything, adding it was emotionally difficult to return home. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Exchange Fund gains HK\\$34.5bn in Q1 amid volatility](#) (2026-05-04 08:30)

The conflict in the Middle East weighed on the first-quarter performance of the Exchange Fund, which posted its smallest investment gain in five quarters. According to figures released by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on Monday, the fund, which serves as the city's financial war chest to defend the local currency, reported an investment income of HK\$34.5 billion in the first three months of the year. That's 56 percent lower compared with the figure of HK\$79.2 billion a year ago, and 34 percent down from HK\$52.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 2025. HKMA chief executive Eddie Yue said the January-March period had been rather "difficult" as the global equity market declined by almost 10 percent, following "huge volatilities" triggered by US-Israel attacks on Iran at the end of February. By categories, investments in local stocks posted a loss of HK\$5 billion – its second straight quarterly loss – and reversed gains of HK\$16.4 billion year on year. Investments from other equities logged losses of HK\$11 billion, compared with gains of HK\$15.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 2025. By contrast, foreign exchange investment doubled from a year ago, posting gains of HK\$25.9 billion thanks to changes in currency valuations. Bonds, meanwhile, reported gains of HK\$24.6 billion. "There's been a gain in the bond market investment partly because of the interest income, which offsets most of the bond price reduction we've seen over the quarter," Yue said. "And because of the weaker US dollar throughout the quarter, we've also seen the non-US dollar assets of the Exchange Fund recording a foreign exchange gain. "In the end we've got HK\$34.5 billion in income, which is actually understandable given the volatility of the financial markets." Looking ahead, Yue spoke about uncertainties in interest rate movements due to rising global oil prices and inflationary risks caused by the conflict in the Middle East. "Depending on where the military conflict is going and how that is going to affect oil prices, they [the US Federal Reserve] may have to watch further how inflation, how prices change in the US before deciding their next move," he said. " Of course, the new Fed chair will come in very shortly, but for the new Fed chair and the Fed

board of governors as a whole, they still need to look at all the different economic data inmaking their decisions... including inflation and employment. "And in both areas, there are stilluncertainties, so it's a bit hard to predict where rates are going because of the hugeuncertainties we are seeing now." The HKMA said HK\$5.8 billion of the investment income willgo to the government's fiscal reserves. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Female passenger, 62, dies after HZMB car crash](#) (2026-05-04 04:02)

A female passenger died in the early hours of Monday, after the private car she was travelling in crashed on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Police said at about 4.41am, the vehicle was approaching Hong Kong when it was suspected to have lost control and flipped on its side after ramming into a number of traffic cones and a kiosk. Both the male driver, 67, and the passenger, 62, were trapped inside the car and had to be rescued by first responders. The woman sustained multiple injuries and was unconscious when taken to hospital, where she was certified dead. The driver meanwhile, hurt his limbs and was conscious when taken to hospital. The police's New Territories South special traffic investigation team is probing the case. Edited by Aaron Tam

- ['Camping doesn't hurt HK's hotel sector'](#) (2026-05-04 03:01)

A tourism sector representative on Monday said the surge in mainland tourists camping in Hong Kong's countryside would not hurt the city's hotel industry. Speaking to RTHK, the executive director of the Hong Kong Tourism Association Timothy Chui said the overall occupancy rate at local hotels reached more than 90 percent during the Labour Day Golden Week holiday. As for campers, Chui said that some of them were not staying outdoors for their entire trip, instead, they booked hotel rooms for part of their stay and continued spending money in the city. "Campers might sleep at the camping site for one night and opt for a hotel on the following night. Hong Kong offers this option, it allows tourists to switch between a short time period. They may go camping one day and then continue dining, shopping and having fun in the urban areas the next," he said. "This is exactly Hong Kong's strength." Chui also pointed out that about half of all hotel guests booked for one night, while the other half stayed for a longer period. He noted that hotel prices increased by 10 percent compared with holidays in the past, adding that some tourists would only decide their accommodation at the last minute. "For example, some visitors who have arrived in Hong Kong might not have booked a hotel. They can either stay in Hong Kong or return to Shenzhen or Zhuhai for accommodation, especially since the transport within the Greater Bay Area is very convenient," he said. "It's easy for tourists to leave Hong Kong, even in the early morning. So visitors' decision on whether they would stay in Hong Kong was made late." Meanwhile, Edward Leung, chairman of the Hong Kong Feast and Retreat Association, told the same programme that catering businesses at tourist areas saw a 15 to 20 percent boost. However, restaurants at districts near the border recorded a slight drop in business as many Hong Kong residents headed to the mainland during the Labour Day holiday. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [HK commemorates May 4 Movement anniversary](#) (2026-05-04 02:51)

Senior officials attended a flag raising ceremony on Monday to mark the 107th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement and the 90th anniversary of the Red Army's Long March victory. Chief Secretary Eric Chan, deputy director of Beijing's Liaison Office Sun Shangwu, deputy commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong Li Yongsheng, were among those who attended the event at the Golden Bauhinia Square in Wan Chai at 8am. About 1,200 members from uniformed groups, as well as primary and secondary schools attended the event. Meanwhile, 20 youth representatives made a declaration, saying that they were willing to take up responsibilities, protect the nation and love the SAR. The May Fourth Movement began in Beijing in 1919, and was a youth-led campaign which protested against the decision to allow Japan to retain territories in Shandong province that had been previously seized from China by Germany. The demonstrations sparked nationwide protests and saw a surge in nationalistic fervour which resulted in the flowering of new political movements and ideas. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Scam reports stabilise but more elderly falling prey](#) (2026-05-04 00:48)

Hong Kong has seen a rise in the number of older people falling victim to online scams, even as the overall figure for such crime remains stable. Police say they recorded more than 9,400 scam cases between January and March this year, largely unchanged from the same period in 2025. But the number of over 60s being taken in by scams rose to 1,264, up from 952. Between them, they lost HK\$530 million to fraudsters, according to the force's commercial crime bureau. Superintendent Theodora Lee said the single biggest amount stolen was HK\$84 million, with the victim a 67-year-old man who thought he was investing in cryptocurrency. Lee said the man had struck up a romantic relationship online with a fraudster claiming to be an expert in investments. "The victim had downloaded a fake investment app and transferred a total of HK\$84 million crypto assets to the wallets designated by the scammer," the superintendent said. "Finally, when the victim tried to get the profits and failed, then he realised he had been scammed." Lee said many elderly people are coming across fake investment apps and tutorial videos made by criminals on social media platforms. Those with the most education and experience in investing are the most likely to fall for the scams, she said. "We believe that's because they have greater confidence in their investment decisions and because the scammers will use some very general and very true investment products to lure them into investing," Lee said. "The scammer would share real investment tips for them, so they would have built the trust with them." Since March, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority has required banks to assess whether their customers could be in danger of being conned. It is also building a machine-learning model to check for potential stooge accounts which criminals use to process illicit funds, executive director Chan King-wang said. "We have already started collecting the account opening data from 11 banks. We are in the process of developing that model based on the historical data, as well as the confirmed real account cases data provided by the police. The model is already there, but the power of the model to predict whether an account is a real account has yet to be fully tested," he said. Chan added that the HKMA hopes to finalise the model as soon as possible. Edited by Altis Wong

- [Mixed reaction among Wang Fuk Court returnees](#) (2026-05-03 09:40)

Emotions were mixed among Wang Fuk Court residents who returned home to collect their belongings on Sunday, the second to last day of the first round of homecoming. A woman, surnamed Tse, said the three hours given to her family was enough to take everything they wanted from their Wang Shing House flat. She said they only took a few things of sentimental value, and won't really miss their ruined home. "We won't go up for a second time again. There's nothing else to pack up, we didn't take away many things," she told reporters. "It's hard to come back to live here again. It would be like going through a nightmare again. And you'd have to wait for like more than 10 years, why bother?" Another woman, surnamed Ho, was noticeably upset by how badly damaged her flat was, saying she's packed about a third of her belongings in 21 large bags and plans to make another trip back. "My friend told me it's time to declutter and say goodbye, but that made me feel upset," she told reporters. The government has indicated that arrangements will be made for those who want to return to their fire-hit flats a second time. Other families, meanwhile, still held out hope that officials would rebuild the estate on-site. One man living in the same block, surnamed Liu, said his home was largely untarnished by the blaze. He saw his bed looked the same before the fire, and his nephew's homework was still lying on the desk. He also said it's regrettable and disappointing if they won't be allowed to live there again. "We've lived here for more than three decades after all. Now that we're forced to leave, we're not very happy. "Why can't [the authorities] renovate the place to allow us to live here again? Or they can rebuild the place, I can wait for nine, 10 years to live here again." The government has said that it does not plan to rebuild Wang Fuk Court on-site, citing cost-effectiveness and technical difficulties. Inspecting the operation in Tai Po, Deputy Chief Secretary Warner Cheuk met with some residents as well as social workers and clinical psychologists assisting them. He spoke to Wang Tai House residents waiting to move their belongings onto vans, and learned about the use of temporary storage space nearby. The minister offered his gratitude to all parties involved in helping the residents return to their homes. \_\_\_\_\_ Last updated: 2026-05-03 HKT 18:39 Edited by Edmond Fong

- ['Senior officials should report problems to others'](#) (2026-05-03 08:16)

Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung on Sunday said government department heads are responsible for reporting systemic loopholes after spotting them. If senior officials noticed a problem beyond the scope of their own department's authority, they should report it to other departments or bureaux, or discuss it during internal meetings, Yeung told a TVB programme.

"I believe department heads have the responsibility, apart from focusing on their own departments' work, that when there is a problem that cannot be handled, they should report it and bring it to a higher level of the government," she said. "If they fail to do that, they should be held accountable." Yeung said the Heads of Department Accountability System proposed by the government aimed to enhance departments' execution abilities. Investigations under the system, which will be divided into two tiers based on severity of issues, will cover all people involved instead of department heads only, she said. "After the investigation, we would follow an existing mechanism to handle. Whether it's the permanent

secretary, department head or frontline civil servant, if they are incompetent or have committed misconduct, we would handle it using the same mechanism and there will be same consequences," she said. Asked if issues mentioned in the Wang Fuk Court inferno inquiry would affect pay rise for civil servants, Yeung said the government would consider all relevant factors. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Observatory issues hail warning](#) (2026-05-03 07:23)

The Observatory said on Sunday afternoon that hail may affect the city shortly. Bad weather has been hitting Hong Kong, with forecasters saying violent gusts reaching 90 kilometres per hour or above may affect the SAR. The Observatory said members of the public should seek safe shelter immediately. The Amber Rainstorm Warning was issued at 2.20pm. Edited by Edmond Fong

- ['Local restaurants to see 10pc revenue growth'](#) (2026-05-03 05:54)

A representative from the catering industry on Sunday forecast that local restaurants would see revenues rise by 10 percent year-on-year during the Labour Day Golden Week holiday. In an interview with RTHK, Simon Wong, president of the Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants and Related Trades, said the growth was mainly driven by a surge of mainland visitors. "Since we have close to half a million visitors coming to Hong Kong for the first two days on the Golden Week, we saw that the catering industry for these two days has been very good," he said. "I would estimate that there would be an increase of about 10 percent in our business and even for some busy districts with a lot of tourist attractions, the business enjoyed about 15 to 20 percent increase in their business," Wong added. Wong explained that restaurants in busy areas like Tsim Sha Tsui, Yau Ma Tei, and Jordan stayed open till midnight due to high demand during the holiday, resulting in higher expected growth. Despite a large number of locals leaving for the Greater Bay Area or Shenzhen, he noted that a 13 percent year-on-year increase in mainland visitors helped fill in the gap. Wong also forecast the industry would record a daily turnover of around HK\$280 million to HK\$300 million on average during the holiday. "Compared to Mother's Day or Christmas holiday, the record can be HK\$350 million, or even record high of around HK\$400 million, but with HK\$300 million for the Labour Day per day business is already quite well," he said. As of 10am on Sunday, the third day of the holiday, the Immigration Department recorded more than 189,000 inbound and outbound visitors. There were around 111,000 inbound visitors, with mainland tourists accounting for over 61,000, while more than 78,000 people left Hong Kong, of which about 53,000 were Hongkongers. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Strong GDP growth expected in Q1: FS](#) (2026-05-03 05:36)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan on Sunday said Hong Kong is expected to see the strongest quarterly growth in nearly five years. His remarks came as the government gets ready to release the advance estimates of the city's gross domestic product for the first quarter of 2026 on Tuesday. Writing in his weekly blog, Chan said GDP growth is expected to accelerate, thanks to

improvements in private consumption and good performances in exports and fixed investments. Local consumption has been recovering over the past year, with mega events held by the government attracting more tourists, he said. Chan said the number of visitors to Hong Kong reached over 14.3 million in the first quarter, while the tourist volume for the whole year was expected to exceed an earlier estimate of 53.8 million, driving tourism-related spending to over HK\$240 billion. During the Labour Day Golden Week holiday, Hong Kong recorded more than 600,000 visitor arrivals on the first two days of May, marking a six percent increase year-on-year, he said. Chan added that some restaurants and stores were expecting business to be strong during the holiday. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Motorists give thumbs-up to new Fanling Bypass](#) (2026-05-03 04:52)

The new Fanling Bypass opened on Sunday morning — the first major piece of transport infrastructure in the Northern Metropolis development project that has come into service. The four-kilometre, Eastern Section of the bypass takes vehicles from the edge of Tai Po on Fanling Highway to a new town in Fanling North. Officials said the route would save commuters around 10 minutes during peak hours. Civil Engineering and Development Department chief engineer, Pakin Cheung, said operations were smooth. "It's Sunday, so most residents might have been testing the new bypass out, to head towards the urban areas in Kowloon. They benefited from using the bypass to reach the Fanling Highway quicker, he told RTHK. "As for Monday, the first working day of the week, we expect the traffic to be busier, so motorists may need more time to get used to new entries and exits along the bypass." DAB lawmaker Yiu Ming, representing New Territories North, said drivers need to be careful about new signage, as some sections that used to allow drivers to change lanes now have solid lines. A number of motorists who tried out the new route said they enjoyed the experience, but added there might need to be some adjustments. One of them was a driver surnamed Man, who lives in Ping Che. "The new road is quite good, but maybe it's brand new so there are some rocks around. I find the signage to be clear," he said. "It saved some time, because you don't need to go through the old routes that have a lot of traffic lights. So I very much look forward to the first working day, hopefully this bypass can help residents in the district." Other drivers said while they personally won't use the bypass much for now, they believe it will be a very important route down the line when an influx of residents is expected later with the development of the Northern Metropolis. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [IOMed set for inaugural high-level summit](#) (2026-05-02 09:48)

Secretary for Justice Paul Lam said the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) will hold its first high-level summit next week. The event, which will focus on dispute resolution, marks a major milestone for the organisation, which began operations just last year. Speaking on a radio programme, Lam said the biennial Mediation Week will run from May 4 to 7, followed by the first-ever Global Mediation Summit, hosted by IOMed on May 8 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. According to Lam, this summit represents the organisation's first high-level meeting since its launch. Chief Executive John Lee is expected to

attend, and a number of experienced, influential figures have been invited to speak on the latest developments in international, commercial and investment mediation. Over 1,000 participants from more than 60 countries have already registered, either to attend in person or join online. Lam also shared his hope that mediation culture would serve not only nations and large commercial institutions but also the public. "Regarding the mediation week schedule, the first four days will be more focused on people's livelihood and down-to-earth matters, centred on our local Hong Kong context – regardless of age group or type," he said. "Because what I really want to say is that the culture of mediation needs to be very down to earth. "While there should be high-level international elements, mediation is not only about serving between nations, nor only about serving large commercial institutions – it must also help the general public." Lam expressed confidence that the establishment of IOMed in Hong Kong would create a "magnet effect" that attracted a wider range of international organisations to the city for talent exchanges. He also revealed that the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank planned to set up an office in Hong Kong, with progress described as good and hopes high for the matter to be finalised within this year. Additionally, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law is expected to open its Asia-Pacific liaison office in Hong Kong by the end of 2026. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Metropolis to look north for infrastructural direction](#) (2026-05-02 09:24)

Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn said on Saturday that the government will make improvements to infrastructure and industrial layout plans for the Northern Metropolis to ensure they are aligned with the country's 15th Five-Year Plan. Officiating at an opening ceremony a day ahead of the commissioning of the first major transport infrastructure project in the metropolis, she said the four-kilometre Fanling Bypass (Eastern Section) would serve residents in Fanling North's first public housing project, due to be completed this year. Linn also said land acquisition and infrastructure development in North District had entered the final stages and that authorities would make improvements to various developments in the Northern Metropolis. "The commencement of the bypass is just the beginning," she said. "The government will continue to improve the industrial layout, transport network and community amenities at the Northern Metropolis. "We will do our best to develop the Northern Metropolis into a new engine that would drive Hong Kong's development, to inject new economic vitality and create a better living environment for residents." The bypass stretches from Kau Lung Hang, Tai Po, connecting to Shek Wu San Tsuen in North District and the Fanling North New Development Area. Motorists can save approximately 10 minutes during peak hours by using the bypass to travel between Lung Yeuk Tau, Luen Wo Hui and Fanling Highway. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Confidence high Wang Chi owners will accept buyout bid](#) (2026-05-02 06:42)

Authorities remain confident that owners of Wang Chi House will agree to sell their flats by the end-of-June deadline with the deployment of special engagement teams to ensure they fully understand the acquisition scheme. The government has announced that it is considering

expanding its buyout plan for Wang Fuk Court to include Wang Chi House – the only building in the residential estate not affected by November's deadly fire. The move came after homeowners in the block showed a high level of consensus on one of the government's rehousing options, with around 77 percent of them having expressed preliminary support for selling. For the offer to become binding, at least 75 percent of owners must sign a letter of acceptance by June 30, officially confirming their interest. Speaking on a radio programme on Saturday, Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong, who also heads the task force on emergency accommodation arrangements for those displaced by the Wang Fuk Court fire, pointed out that the engagement team's role is to help residents understand the pros and cons of the acquisition scheme, not to act as a "sales team". "From the very beginning, I personally briefed the team members," Wong said. "I told them that they don't need to meet any targets. The most important thing is to present the scheme clearly. "There is no pressure to get every owner you meet to agree to sell. That is very clear." Wong emphasised that the scheme is voluntary and based on mutual agreement. "If 10 or 20 percent say they don't intend to sell, I respect that and won't criticise them," he said. However, Wong noted that owners who opt out must understand that their flats would, if Wang Chi House doesn't reach the threshold for compulsory sale, then fall back into the normal market mechanism – complete with unresolved land lease and deed of mutual covenant issues, as well as estimated repair costs of at least HK\$30 million. He also revealed that the team has encountered residents still struggling emotionally with the impact of the fire. "Some say their psychological trauma is huge," Wong said. "Although their block was not directly affected by the fire, it's right next door. Going back makes them very uncomfortable. They don't want to live there again." According to Wong, formal acceptance proposal letters will be sent to all Wang Chi House owners within the next two weeks. Owners who wish to sell, he said, simply need to sign and return the letter, after which the government will proceed to the next step. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Public vaping ban 'won't dim HK allure to tourists'](#) (2026-05-02 03:56)

The Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office said on Saturday this week's expansion of the smoking ban would not deter tourists from visiting Hong Kong. As of April 30, the use of alternative smoking products – including e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and herbal cigarettes – in public spaces is banned. Public possession alone brings a HK\$3,000 penalty. More serious breaches, including the importation or sale of these items, mean a fine of up to HK\$50,000 and up to six months in jail. As of 5pm yesterday, the office's inspectors had conducted 216 operations and issued four penalty notices. Speaking on an RTHK programme, control office head Manny Lam pointed out that the ban on the importation of alternative smoking products had been in force for four years and that such regulations are not unique to Hong Kong. "If we look at the whole world, more than 30 countries and regions have imposed similar laws, including Singapore and Thailand, which rolled out such regulations in 2014 and 2018, respectively," he said. "We have not seen any impact on their tourist numbers following such bans. Lam said his office had been informing tourists about the ban since the beginning of the

year. He said this involved collaborating with Customs, the Tourism Board, the Travel Industry Authority, and airlines. As for the January 1 expansion of the smoking ban to within three metres of doorways of places like hospitals and government clinics, schools, residential-care homes and child-care centres, Lam said more than 11,000 inspections had been carried out in the first quarter. They resulted in more than 2,100 fixed-penalty notices being issued, including 23 for smoking in the newly stipulated areas. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Uber says acquiring e-hail taxi startup FlyTaxi](#) (2026-05-01 21:26)

Uber says it is acquiring the Hong Kong e-hail taxi start-up FlyTaxi. Launched 13 years ago, locally-built FlyTaxi was one of the first meter taxi platforms in Hong Kong. In a statement, Uber said FlyTaxi would continue to operate as normal and there would be no change for drivers and riders using the FlyTaxi or Uber apps. It said the move was part of its commitment to growing the taxi industry and providing greater economic opportunities to drivers. FlyTaxi's founder Simon Siu said joining forces with Uber was a proud milestone. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Labour of lore as tourists hit all the high spots](#) (2026-05-01 08:58)

Mainlanders began flocking to Hong Kong on Friday as the five-day Labour Day Golden Week holiday kicked off. Many of them visited the former Yau Ma Tei Police Station, saying they wanted to experience the historical landmark in person after having seen it used as a location in local films. A woman surnamed Li, who is from Chengdu, said she was thrilled as she enjoys the dramatic fare that Hong Kong films conjure up on the silver screen. "I have only been seen [the building] on screen and never come close to it," she said. "But now that I'm here, it's like all those scenes – those exciting, thrilling movies, the chase scenes with all the handsome police officers – are being replayed in my mind," she said. Another tourist said the former police station had been popular as a tourist spot among travellers online so she came to take photographs of the landmark fixture in Hong Kong's film history. With some heading for some of the more popular tourist hotspots such as Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park, the slightly more intrepid went to Sai Kung's Sharp Island for the unique natural scenery and rich coral outcrops of Unesco Global Geopark. "I am from Shanghai and I like the outdoors a lot, but there is no such unique spot that encompasses the sea and mountain there, and it takes a few hours to drive to go somewhere distant, so I think it is quite convenient here," a woman surnamed Shen said. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department staff will be deployed in strength to ensure that the 1,000 mainland visitors expected to head there on all five days of the holiday are on their best behaviour. They will also implement various measures, such as distributing leaflets to boost environmental protection awareness as well as guiding kayakers and snorkellers in as well as out of the water in some instances. A woman surnamed Wang from Shenyang told RTHK that the measures are useful, as not all people are aware of the right thing to do in certain circumstances. She added that violators could be fined to ensure a deterrent effect. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Quota scheme set for mega bridge travel between SARs](#) (2026-05-01 08:43)

All permanent residents as well as companies registered in Hong Kong can soon apply to use the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge to travel by car between the two special administrative regions. This came as the Transport Department said on Friday that an open category for these two categories of applicants would be set up as part of an attempt to make cross-boundary travel more efficient. There will be a quota of 200 for applicants in each category when applications open on Thursday. “These new open quotas will provide additional convenience for Hong Kong residents to drive to Macao for work, business, visiting families or sightseeing, thereby strengthening ties between the two places,” a spokesman said. Currently, only permanent residents and firms meeting specific requirements can apply. Besides these, another quota of 1,000 – half of them new and the rest reallocated – will be set aside for existing eligible applicants in the upcoming round. Under the quota scheme, drivers are entitled to multiple entries into Macao using the mega bridge starting from mid-July until it expires in 2029. However, the department stressed, current holders of quotas issued after September 2023 are not eligible to apply this time around. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Early queues in Wang Fuk race to retrieve belongings](#) (2026-05-01 08:01)

Long queues formed at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po in the early hours of Friday as more people returned to retrieve belongings they were forced to leave behind when the deadly inferno tore through most of their residential estate. In the latest phased arrangement, five floors in Wang Tai House and 10 floors in Wang Kin House were opened up. By just before 9am, dozens of people had lined up outside Kwong Fuk Community Hall to register and receive the protective gear they had to don before they were allowed to go into the buildings. Many were seen toting large red-white-blue canvas bags, pulling handcarts or wheeling suitcases. A woman surnamed Chan who lived in Wang Tai House, one of two buildings that were severely damaged in the blaze, said she hoped to retrieve what mattered most to her family. "I definitely want to retrieve valuables and sentimental items like photos," she said. "My mother will not be going up with me, but my older sister and two friends will. My mother is already 85 years old, so walking up 14 floors is way too difficult." A woman surnamed Kwan said she owned three high-floor units in Wang Kin House, which she had been using for both self-occupation and rental. She said she had managed to put the fire incident out of her mind for a while but that her mood turned heavy again when she learned she could finally go upstairs. "Most important is that I can get my son's photos and certifications. I also want to grab my own awards from work," Kwan said. "I heard from my social worker that it is a good thing if we don't get advance photos to give us an idea of our unit's condition. If we don't get photos, it means the condition of our home isn't too bad." "I hope the condition of Wang Kin House is better than what we expect it to be." A man surnamed Siu, who had been living in Wang Kin House, said his parents were among the first batch of owners and that their greatest wish had been to move back into their unit. He added that though his father is reluctant to part with the flat, he knows he has to let go. Siu also said the family believes the government has been very considerate of their situation. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Employers 'missing out on MPF offset subsidies'](#) (2026-05-01 07:58)

Lawmaker Lam Chun-sing has called on the government to step up its publicity promotional efforts for a subsidy scheme that helps employers deal with the abolition of the mandatory provident fund offsetting arrangement a year ago. His remarks came after the government said it had received more than 20,000 applications for the subsidy that aims to assist employers to adapt to the policy change and processed more than 16,000 of them. Speaking on an RTHK programme on Friday, Lam, who chairs the Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions, said the number of applications was lower than expected. “Some employers may not be aware of the scheme,” he said. “Even if they are, they may not know the application procedure and just skip it thinking it only involves a small amount of money. “I hope the government can enhance its promotion to small and medium enterprises. “Since the government has reserved HK\$33.2 billion for subsidies over 25 years – and only disbursed HK\$40 million so far – I think this resource should be used to support SMEs.” Lam also said many of the applications had been lodged by employers in the construction and catering sectors. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Cabbies, fares told go extra mile on e-payment options](#) (2026-05-01 07:33)

The Taxi Drivers and Operators Association has called on cabbies and passengers to avoid potential confusion over electronic payments by communicating clearly with each other. The call on Friday came a month to the day after it became mandatory for taxi drivers to provide at least two e-payment options. The Transport Department has received 65 complaints as of April 17, with the grouses mainly about cabbies failing to offer electronic payment methods and certain platforms charging passengers transaction fees. Speaking on an RTHK radio programme, association secretary-general Wong Tai-hoi said most of the complaints arose as a result of a lack of communication. “For example, I may provide two electronic payment options, but a passenger may use something else,” he said. “[They would say] why can't you provide, say, the credit card payment option, why don't you have it? Aren't you supposed to provide it?” Wong pointed out that even though there are stickers on taxis showing which e-payment methods are available, drivers working different shifts might offer different options without changing the stickers. He urged drivers to make it a practice to make it clear to customers when they board which two payment options they offer. Passengers, Wong added, should at the same time also keep cash in hand in spite of the availability of e-payment options, Wong added. He also pointed out that while Octopus Card Hong Kong has waived handling fees for cabbies using its app for business purposes, it is uncertain whether the arrangement is permanent. The cost of using e-payment methods, Wong stressed, is very high for drivers. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Four people fined on day one of expanded smoking ban](#) (2026-05-01 07:30)

Four fixed-penalty notices were issued on Thursday, the first day Hong Kong's new tobacco-control regulations effectively banned the use of alternative smoking products in public places, according to the head of the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office. As of April 30, a total ban on alternative smoking products – including e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products and

herbal cigarettes – has been in place in public spaces. Offenders caught possessing, using, importing or selling these items face penalties of up to HK\$50,000 and six months in jail, while public possession alone can result in a HK\$3,000 fine. Speaking on an RTHK radio programme on Friday, Manny Lam, head of the control office, said that as of 5pm on the first day of enforcement, his office had issued four penalty notices under the relevant law. He added that inspections would continue across various locations, particularly in areas with high pedestrian traffic. Lam noted that the low number of violations was largely expected. "This is largely in line with our expectations," he said. "First, these products such as e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products have already had their import, sale, promotion and manufacturing banned for four years. "In fact, there is no legal way to obtain these products in society." Lam also credited public awareness campaigns for the low number of infractions. "Given our extensive publicity work recently, we expected that the number of these penalty notices issued would not be very serious," he said. Lam emphasised that ongoing publicity efforts aim not only to encourage public understanding and compliance with the law but also to raise awareness about the dangers of alternative smoking products. "Publicity work is never perfect or completely sufficient, but even though we have done a lot, we will keep doing it," he said. "We hope that through publicity, besides helping people understand and comply with the law, the public will also truly understand what the hazards of these products are." Lam reiterated that alternative smoking products contain nicotine, are not "harm-reduction" tools, and do not help people quit smoking. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Two Sai Kung cabbies nabbed for allegedly overcharging](#) (2026-05-01 02:45)

Two taxi drivers have been arrested in Sai Kung in an undercover operation for alleged overcharging a day prior to the start of the Labour Day Golden Week. The men, aged 43 and 66, were suspected of charging about HK\$300 and HK\$540, about twice the original fare. They were also alleged to have failed to ensure their taxi driving licences and meters were openly displayed. Police said their taxis had been impounded for further investigations. Last Saturday, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Rosanna Law said authorities were determined to clamp down on taxi drivers' misbehaviour, including overcharging. The government would not tolerate any misconduct that affects the SAR's tourism reputation, she added. Offenders face a fine of up to HK\$10,000 and six months in prison for a first conviction for overcharging. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Public hospitals set to extend non-acute ward visiting](#) (2026-04-30 23:10)

Visiting hours will be extended in around 20 percent of wards at public hospitals by the end of July to allow for greater flexibility, the Hospital Authority announced. For paediatric wards, visiting hours will be extended from four hours to 24-hour, around-the-clock access. As for rehabilitation, convalescent, infirmary, palliative and hospice wards, visiting time will increase from four hours to nine hours. However, there will be no extension for acute wards, where visiting time remains capped at four hours per day. The limit of two visitors per patient at any one time also remains unchanged. Dr Danny Tong, the authority's chief manager of nursing,

said that the authority is "playing it safe" before considering further extensions. "In acute settings, the clinical condition is not stabilised yet. And we have to have the proper, accurate diagnosis and treatment plan," he said. There is also an established mechanism to make special visiting arrangements for patients with specific care needs in acute wards, he added. Citing the experience of several public hospitals that have already extended visiting time, Dr Tong stressed that extended hours actually reduce the workload for frontline nurses. "For the traditional or prevailing arrangement, we have to fix the period of time to facilitate visiting, like two hours in the noontime and two hours in the evening. And then it creates a scenario that all visitors sort of pack into this narrow visiting time period," he said. "From our experience, it's like diverting the workload, spread evenly in the wider window period. And that's why, from our experience, there's no specific pressure, so in case that we have to make a very stringent or specific manpower arrangement to entertain this kind of request." The Kowloon Central Cluster will be the first to fully implement the changes on May 2, followed by the New Territories West Cluster on May 4. The authority expects the new arrangements to be in effect territory-wide by the end of July. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Govt hopes to amend laws amid fuel smuggling rise](#) (2026-04-30 11:15)

Secretary for Security Chris Tang has announced that the government is actively amending laws in response to a sharp rise in illegal fuel smuggling activities. Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Fight Crime Committee on Thursday, Tang said that the proposed changes are designed to close existing legal loopholes by raising penalties and clarifying the criminal liability of buyers. Under the new proposals, the maximum fine for selling illegal fuel would be increased from HK\$200,000 to HK\$3 million, and the maximum prison term would be raised from one year to three years – a move Tang said would serve as a stronger deterrent. In addition, authorities plan to expand the enforcement powers of the Fire Services Department. The department, he said, would be granted arrest powers in cases involving illegal refuelling, as well as the authority to stop, search and seize vehicles to improve enforcement efficiency. Tang also noted that the government is studying the legal liability of those who purchase illegal fuel. "The current provisions mainly target sellers. Buyers are not subject to any legal restrictions," he said. "In the absence of legal constraints on the demand side, this makes such crimes more likely to occur. We hope to clearly establish the criminal liability of buyers to plug this loophole." The security chief revealed that authorities have received 656 complaints related to illegal refuelling – twice the amount compared to the same period last year. The number of cases in urban areas, he said, has surged from ten in the first quarter of last year to 61 in the same period this year, a rise of 5.1 times. Tang highlighted several dangerous incidents in densely populated areas. "For example, a mobile illegal refuelling station in Cheung Sha Wan caused a vehicle fire that damaged several cars in February and led to two injuries," he said. "In March this year, in To Kwa Wan, we raided an illegal refuelling station located in a street-level shop, seizing approximately 850 litres of fuel. If that amount of fuel were ignited and exploded, the destructive force would be equivalent to 1,000 pounds of explosives. "The location is near residential buildings and even has an elderly home. If an accident were to occur, the

consequences would be unimaginable." The government aims to submit a draft bill to the Legislative Council by the end of this year. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Authorities to crack down on illegal tour guides](#) (2026-04-30 09:59)

The Travel Industry Authority (TIA) on Thursday said it will "severely" crack down on illegal tour guides during the mainland's Golden Week holiday that runs from May 1 to May 5. In a statement, the authority noted it has already conducted inspections and publicity campaigns, alongside the Immigration Department, at various tourism hotspots over the past two days. It said they have visited popular areas such as the West Kowloon Cultural District and the Avenue of Stars to distribute leaflets urging people not to follow unlicensed tour guides. It reminded tourists to check on the business qualifications and licensing status of an agency before embarking on any of its tours. It also called on visitors to file a report to either the authority or the police if they are treated unfairly by merchants or encounter suspected illegal tour guides. The TIA also noted that unlicensed tour guides face fines of HK\$50,000 and up to a year in prison. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [URA not involved in Wang Fuk project consultant hiring](#) (2026-04-30 09:31)

The Urban Renewal Authority (URA) did not have any role in the tendering or hiring of a project consultant and registered inspector for Wang Fuk Court, an independent committee probing last November's deadly inferno at the estate heard on Thursday. Case manager Matthew Chan, the first URA official to testify, told the inquiry that he had been following up on the tendering for renovation works at the Tai Po estate since June 2019. He explained that the authority's role was limited to hosting the tender advertisement on its website and consolidating a summary table once the management committee received bids. However, Chan testified that the URA would not offer opinions on the tender evaluation criteria, to remain neutral. The committee's lead counsel, Victor Dawes, suggested that bid-rigging often involves manipulating evaluation criteria and described the authority's passive stance as a "major loophole." Dawes also pointed out a significant "discrepancy" in the bids for the project consultant role at Wang Fuk Court. The prices ranged from over HK\$2 million down to just HK\$45,000. Chan noted that some management committees consider price as the sole selection factor. He called the price gap a "normal industry practice" where less experienced firms underbid to gain a foothold in the market. Dawes also said that Hau Wa-kin, the director of the project's main contractor Prestige Construction and Engineering, was related to at least five companies that submitted bids for construction works at Wang Fuk Court. Questioned whether the URA was aware of these connections, Chan said the authority had relied on reports provided by the project consultant, adding that the authority did not conduct its own scrutiny. A director at the URA, Peter Wong, also testified and conceded that the authority is currently unable to take any action if a project consultant and contractors collude to carry out unnecessary works. But he stressed that a strengthened Smart Tender system will be launched later this year, featuring a new background check mechanism to assist management committees in evaluating tenders. Wong added that under the updated system, the URA will

take a more active role by conducting its own tender evaluations and then picking the three best bids for residents to choose from. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Public transport drivers sit easier with LPG subsidy](#) (2026-04-30 04:54)

The Motor Transport Workers General Union said on Thursday that a plan to subsidise certain sectors running on liquefied petroleum gas would go a long way with drivers tasked with serving the public. Taxis, public minibuses and school buses are expected to get a subsidy of 50 Hong Kong cents per litre by the end of next month, not long after the ceiling price per litre of LPG is hiked up at dedicated filling stations by more than HK\$1 starting in May. The general union's first vice chairman, Chong Wing-tak, told an RTHK radio programme that drivers in these public transport sectors faced having to pay about HK\$30 more per shift per vehicle. “[The increment] isn't that great if you calculate it on a daily basis. It's only about HK\$30 a day. On a monthly basis, however, that's about HK\$1,000,” he said. “That means drivers would be taking a monthly pay cut. As you know, taxi and minibus drivers are self-employed.” Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan has said the decision to offer an LPG subsidy is expected to benefit operators of around 16,900 taxis, 3,440 minibuses and 170 school buses. The government's swift action in this regard, Chong added, can alleviate drivers' burden by half. He also hopes the two-month subsidy can be extended if LPG price continues on an upward trajectory. Chong suggested the administration consider setting up a fuel surcharge mechanism for drivers in these sectors in the long run. The move comes in the wake of a HK\$3 per litre subsidy for vessels and commercial vehicles that run on diesel, with the relief measure starting on Thursday and ending on June 29. With firms having to submit a weekly report to the authorities to ensure that they do not increase the charges that they levy on the public while receiving the subsidy, the deputy general manager of a diesel distribution firm, Janet Lo, said the requirement has brought an extra workload. This is because they have to compile the information needed within a short time, and they also have to make sure that their customers are not using the fuel outside Hong Kong or reselling it, she added. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Inspections begin for people using vapes, e-cigarettes](#) (2026-04-30 04:29)

New tobacco control regulations targeting the use of alternative smoking products in public areas took effect on Thursday, with offenders facing a fine of up to HK\$50,000 and six months in jail. Anyone found with vapes, e-cigarettes or heated tobacco will be issued with a HK\$3,000 fixed penalty notice. Those found carrying large quantities of such products, such as more than five units of cigarette capsules or 100 units of heat sticks, will face criminal prosecution. The head of the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office, Manny Lam, led spot checks in Admiralty, where two residents were caught carrying heated tobacco. Speaking to reporters afterwards, Lam said the office will enhance inspections over the next fortnight, specifically targeting crowded areas and commercial districts. “When our Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office inspectors find anyone possessing, smoking, or carrying e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products, we will issue the fixed penalty notice without prior warning,” he said. “We will review our tactics in the early phase of our inspection. We will conduct more inspections

wearing uniforms with the purpose to enhance the awareness of the public about the new legislation.” Lam added that there would be no leeway for overseas visitors, saying the office will enhance publicity efforts to ensure tourists are aware of the rules. He noted that the sale or import of such products has been prohibited since 2022 and stressed that similar bans in places such as Thailand have not deterred tourists from visiting. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- ['Over HK\\$30m needed to repair Wang Chi House'](#) (2026-04-29 13:28)

The current property manager of Wang Fuk Court estimates that repair works at Wang Chi House – the only building at the estate in Tai Po not damaged by the inferno last November – will cost more than HK\$30 million and take at least nine months to complete. Hop On Management, which was appointed by the government to handle follow-up work for residents, added that it will hold a briefing for homeowners early next month to explain the details of the required repairs. In a statement published on Wednesday, the company noted that about two-thirds of the building's exterior walls require further waterproofing to rectify issues from renovations carried out before the fire. “With the rainy season approaching, there is a risk of water leakage and safety hazards in these areas. It is necessary to set up scaffolding or suspended working platforms to handle them,” the statement read. The company also noted that additional time is required to construct emergency vehicle access routes to comply with fire safety regulations. “These works may involve private land ownership, and additional time may be required for completion,” it added. There is a need to inspect and repair vital infrastructure, the company said, such as the fire service system, drinking water tanks, and public pipelines. Meanwhile, the government said that a total of 111 households from Wang Tai House and Wang Kin House returned to their homes on Wednesday and spent around two hours and six minutes on average inside the buildings. There were five cases where police assistance was requested involving suspected lost property, such as watches, jewellery, cash and gold. Officers were able to find the missing belongings in one of the cases. One resident also sought help from authorities after feeling unwell. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Green agenda, market potential attract firms to China](#) (2026-04-29 08:53)

Foreign firms from around the world are showcasing their innovative products in Hong Kong in a bid to use the city as a launchpad into the mainland market. Some 5,600 exhibitors from more than 30 countries and regions have been taking part in seven "mega" trade fairs in Hong Kong. Around 15 percent of them, or 820 exhibitors, focus on green and sustainable products, along with the use of innovative materials in compliance with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. Knishka Bahety, chief executive of Indian decoration and kitchenware firm, Crown Decor, said he hopes to secure more buyers from Asia, especially China, partly because of the country's growing emphasis on the environment. "One of our products are made out of laminated boards, which is antimicrobial and has all the properties of eco-friendliness. Definitely this is 'the product of the future'," he told RTHK. "Predominantly, we are very strong in the European market, but now with the [Iran war] we are looking for other markets so that we can spread our risks. "China is a big market. And of course, we do export one of our brands

to the mainland, and now we plan to do this even more for the China and other Asian markets," he said. He added his firm, which joined the fairs in the SAR for the first time, hoped to widen its global reach as part of its strategy to hedge against trade disruptions. "The reason for us coming here is also because all the international customers from various parts of the world are here, so we decided to be here to reach maximum countries at this place," he said. Separately, Mohamed Alayat, founder of Dubai-based company, Alpha Art, which focuses on corporate gifts such as tech-enabled drinkware, was keen to explore the mainland market due to its "huge" consumer potential. "We have inquiries before with Huawei, and they are talking about [orders of] five million pieces, we never find this kind of numbers anywhere. The China market is a huge market," he said. The trade fairs, organised by the Trade Development Council, cover a wide range of industries, including houseware, fashion, printing and packaging, premium gifts, and intellectual properties. First-time exhibitors include those from Finland, Germany, Iceland, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, as well as India. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Auditor finds eye-watering expenses at Tai Po hostel](#) (2026-04-29 08:31)

An audit report has found that a government-funded youth hostel in Tai Po spent excessively on furniture and equipment. Under the Youth Hostel Scheme introduced in the 2011–12 Policy Address, the government pays for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to construct youth hostels, which they then operate on a self-financing basis. In a report published on Wednesday, the Audit Commission noted that an NGO procured 78 thermo ventilators at total cost of HK\$903,000 for a hostel in Tai Po. However, audit research revealed that the retail price for the supply, delivery, and installation of the same model was between HK\$1,900 and HK\$2,300. In response, the NGO explained that the higher prices it paid were driven by several factors, including the requirement for certified installation personnel on construction sites, insurance, and a strict 21-day installation window. The report also highlighted that the hostel procured 76 toilet paper holders at a unit price of HK\$3,390 and 46 bathroom soap dispenser holders priced at HK\$2,390 each, but they were never put in use. The NGO explained that the toilet paper holders were found to be too difficult to use and that the soap dispenser holders could cause safety hazards. The commission also noted that the government had failed to deliver the 3,000 hostel units it promised the Legislative Council in 2012, as only around 1,300 were completed as of December last year. The commission urged the government to review the target of 3,000 units and speed up the implementation of approved youth hostel projects as far as practicable. The administration was also urged to strengthen controls over the procurement of furniture and equipment at youth hostels, for example by boosting competition as far as possible when there is a need to conduct restricted tendering. Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Alice Mak agreed with the audit recommendations. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Govt to offer diesel subsidy starting Apr 30](#) (2026-04-29 07:24)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan on Wednesday announced that the two-month subsidy for vessels and commercial vehicles running on diesel would start on Thursday. It will hand out the HK\$3 per litre subsidy to designated oil companies and distributors. Environment minister Tse

Chin-wan said the government would ensure that motorists would directly benefit and not pay more than they need to, as oil firms and distributors must submit reports to authorities every week on information such as the sources of the fuel they purchase, sales volume and prices. "After the scheme, they have to conduct an independent audit to verify all those information. Because the government, we know the price of the oil they buy from external sources, therefore [for] all the changes in the oil prices, we can monitor and we know what are the changes," he said. "Therefore, with the reporting and the auditing system, we are very confident the oil companies will not be able to [counteract] the subsidy." Meanwhile, the government is also considering a HK\$0.50 per litre subsidy next month for taxis, minibuses and school buses which run on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The financial secretary said this was due to the fact that the ceiling price per litre of auto-LPG at dedicated filling stations would rise by more than a dollar starting in May. Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan said the decision to offer an LPG subsidy is expected to benefit about 16,900 taxis, 3,440 minibuses and 170 school buses. "Public minibuses and taxis are two important components of our public transport system. On the other hand, we have also minibuses providing student service," the official said. "In order to ensure that they will continue to maintain a steady service for the general members of the public, we will deploy internal resources within the government in order to provide the subsidy for petroleum suppliers companies." The potential subsidy for LPG transport vehicles is expected to cost around HK\$38 million, she added, and would run for about two months. The details would be announced in due course, she said. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Lawmakers approve budget bill as FS explains moves](#) (2026-04-29 06:47)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan on Wednesday dismissed concerns from some lawmakers that the financial cornerstone of the SAR will be shaken by the government's plan to use HK\$150 billion from the Exchange Fund for infrastructure spending. This came as lawmakers approved the budget bill, with some of them raising questions about the funds transfer plan. Chan described as "scaremongering" comments that issuing bonds for Northern Metropolis development would create financial crises for future generations. "[It would only be irresponsible] if we don't invest in the Northern Metropolis and create greater capacity for Hong Kong, seizing the opportunities to snatch companies and get them to set up here to develop our innovation and technology and a vigorous I&T ecosystem," he told lawmakers before the bill's passage. "It would only be irresponsible if we don't diversify the economic structure of Hong Kong and make the future economy more resilient, and allow young people and future generations to have more, and better, job opportunities." Chan stressed that the one-off transfer – to be carried out over two years – amounts to less than four percent of the overall reserves of the Exchange Fund. He added that the HK\$150 billion will come from the HK\$330 billion annual surplus, to support infrastructure development in the metropolis, as well as other projects. The minister also rejected arguments that the government is using money raised through bond issuance to cover other bond debts. He said the administration is issuing relatively shorter bonds of three to seven years, because doing so will mean lower interest

commitments. He said given the market confidence in purchasing the bonds – due to the SAR government's sound financial situation – officials plan to keep issuing them. Chan went on to say that the administration plans to focus on developing artificial intelligence in Hong Kong to boost high-quality development of the local economy. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [HKO urged to set target date for 14-day forecasts](#) (2026-04-29 05:27)

Hong Kong's auditor has called on the observatory to set a concrete timetable for extending its nine-day weather forecast to cover two weeks and to step up public education of its tropical cyclone warning system. In a report published on Wednesday, the Audit Commission noted that there have been various trial operations in weather monitoring and forecasting, including an extension of the outlook period from nine to 14 days for internal reference. The commission noted that the forecaster "had not set a concrete timeframe for the trial operation of extension of the weather forecast period from 9 days to 14 days". "[The observatory] needs to keep under review and evaluate the results of trial operations in weather forecasting, and formulate full implementation timeframes where appropriate," it said. The report cited the observatory's director as saying that "sufficient data covering different seasons and weather scenarios is needed to evaluate the performance of the potential new service on extension of the forecast period before launch", and that the forecaster will make assessments to formulate a full implementation schedule. Among other issues raised in the report, the auditor urged the weather forecaster to better educate the public on the tropical cyclone warning system, as it receives enquiries on the issuance of typhoon signals from time to time. It suggested the observatory publish "more comprehensive information" relating to tropical cyclones, such as factors that are taken into consideration when making decisions on issuing warnings. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- ['E-cigarettes, vapes ban to protect young people'](#) (2026-04-29 05:22)

A government official and an anti-smoking advocate on Wednesday said the ban on alternative smoking products will not impose additional restrictions on smokers but will enhance the protection of young people and prevent them from developing smoking habits. Their remarks came a day before a ban comes into effect on the possession or use in public of alternative smoking products, such as vapes, e-cigarettes, or heated tobacco. Anyone who violates the law faces a fine of up to HK\$50,000 and imprisonment of up to six months. Speaking on RTHK's Backchat programme, Grace Wong, senior medical and health officer at the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health, highlighted the potential danger of alternative smoking products for young people. She said overseas figures and findings have shown that such products can quickly spread among young people and penetrate schools rapidly with their trendy designs and multiple flavours. She noted that adolescents who have used e-cigarettes are three to four times more likely to start smoking conventional cigarettes in the future. "These findings underscore the significant public health concerns... the product may serve as an entry point to long-term tobacco use rather than a means of harm reduction," she said, calling on the public to stop using such products from now on. Hong Kong Council on

Smoking and Health chief Henry Tong told the same programme that the ban will send a very clear message to both young people and adults that alternative smoking products are really harmful. He also said the new values education framework released by the Education Bureau this month for all secondary and primary schools will teach students about the harm of e-cigarettes and bring Hong Kong a step closer to being a smoke-free society. "With the cooperation of parents, teachers, and the Education Bureau, we believe that we will continuously strengthen tobacco control education in Hong Kong's education system," he said. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- ['Purely CUHK's decision to repay loan early'](#) (2026-04-29 04:30)

The decision of a private hospital, run by the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), to fully repay a government loan of more than HK\$4 billion earlier than scheduled did not come upon government's request, the institution's council said on Wednesday. The CUHK Medical Centre (CUHKMC) said this week it would repay the HK\$4.033 billion government loan in full by March next year, ahead of its plan to start paying off the money in 2028. It had earlier sought extensions to its repayment plan twice. Lawmaker Bill Tang, who's also a CUHK Council member, stressed that CUHKMC has been recording a surplus since last November, even though it had suffered losses. "I can say it's purely 100 percent in consideration of the best public interest and best CUHK interest," he said. He went on to say the decision was purely determined by the CUHK Council and the CUHKMC board. They believed the decision would be best for CUHKMC's development, Tang added. Another CUHK Council member and legislator, Ben Chan, said the decision would not impact the university's operations, despite its plans to provide loans or bank loan guarantees to the medical centre to pay back the loan. The money would not come from funds set aside for education purposes or other designated purposes, he said. Legco's Panel on Health Services will discuss the repayment proposal on May 8. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [More anxious residents return to fire-damaged homes](#) (2026-04-29 04:17)

Some residents of Wang Fuk Court felt a mix of anxiety and uncertainty on Wednesday, as those living on five floors of Wang Tai House – one of the more severely damaged blocks in last year's fire – began their turn to retrieve personal belongings. During this round of access, five floors of Wang Tai House and 10 floors of Wang Kin House will be opened for residents to return to their units and collect what they can. One resident, a man surnamed Liu who lives on a lower floor of Wang Tai House, described the experience as feeling like "opening a blind box". "A blind box means you don't know how badly it is burnt inside the unit. They only showed me a photo of the doorway. I wish they would have taken more photos so we could prepare mentally for the return," he said. "If they could take more photos, they should have taken one of the bedroom, the living room and the kitchen so that we could have an idea of what we can retrieve." Liu, who has lived in Wang Tai House for more than 40 years – since it first opened in 1983 – said there are many belongings he hopes to recover. Another resident, a man surnamed Lam who lives on a lower floor of Wang Kin House, said that while he misses his

home, he feels he has no choice but to adapt. "I do miss this place, but there's no choice. It's burnt to this extent. I'm forced to move elsewhere. I see it as a change of environment after having lived here for over 40 years," he said. Meanwhile, another resident – who has not seen the condition of her unit since the fire – said she had brought bags with her, hoping to collect as many of her belongings as possible. Residents of these two blocks have until May 1 to collect their belongings. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Extra support for Wang Fuk Court flat visits](#) (2026-04-29 03:50)

Authorities have announced expanded support for the households most severely affected by the fire in Tai Po, as more residents of Wang Fuk Court's seven damaged blocks return to their units to retrieve personal belongings. The operation entered its 10th day on Wednesday, marking the start of the third phase. During this round, five floors of Wang Tai House and 10 floors of Wang Kin House will be opened. Residents of these two blocks have until May 1 to collect their belongings, after which the remaining residents of Wang Tai House, along with those in Wang Shing House, will have their turn from May 2 to 4. Speaking to reporters in Tai Po, Deputy Chief Secretary Warner Cheuk noted that the situation in Wang Tai House and Wang Cheong House is particularly severe, given the higher number of fatalities from last November's blaze. As a result, he said special support measures have been put in place for residents of these blocks. "For units where fatalities occurred, each household will be accompanied throughout the entire process by a clinical psychologist and a social worker from the Social Welfare Department (SWD)," he said. "If individual households require additional support, the SWD will deploy more clinical psychologists or social workers. In addition, the number of accompanying police officers will be increased to two." Cheuk added that the Civil Aid Service will be present on the main floors, while dedicated teams of social workers, clinical psychologists and mobilised civil servants will provide support on the upper floors as needed. He also noted that after discussions with many residents, a clear desire has emerged for another opportunity to revisit their flats. "Their wishes are very clear. After the first round for Blocks A to G is completed, residents of Wang Chi House will be scheduled to go upstairs in batches from May 13 to 17," he said. "Then, once the current round of belongings collection for Blocks A to G concludes on May 4, we will announce as soon as possible the specific arrangements for allowing residents of these seven blocks to go upstairs again." Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Govt urged to markedly raise quota for southbound cars](#) (2026-04-29 03:34)

Business and Professionals Alliance lawmaker Aaron Bok on Wednesday said the government should significantly expand the daily quota for Guangdong vehicles travelling to Hong Kong, saying the current limit of 100 cars is too low. The engineering sector representative said he thinks the quota could be raised by as much as 10 times, to a 1,000 vehicles a day, saying this could help boost the economy. "I believe the government will take gradual steps in this regard. But if you ask me, it's not a problem to raise the quota to 500 a day or even 1,000," he said on the RTHK programme "In the Chamber". "A 10-fold rise might sound like a lot, but once the

vehicles travel south, when they spread across the city, you don't really know where the cars have gone." Bok said his proposal to raise the quota would "definitely not" lead to traffic congestion, stressing that "not every vehicle will travel to Canton Road" in Tsim Sha Tsui as different drivers would want to go to different places. He said the SAR is mostly ready to digest more southbound vehicles, as many shopping malls have been fitted with national standard charging facilities or converters for electric vehicles from the mainland. The lawmaker went on to say that the existing rules require southbound drivers to obtain a Hong Kong licence before being allowed to travel. For additional safety, he said authorities could subject them to extra tests on important traffic regulations in the SAR, such as no parking by double yellow lines, no crossing double white lines and traffic signs for no entry zones. Bok raised similar questions in Legco. In a written reply to the legislature, transport minister Mable Chan said it plans to expand the quota in an orderly and gradual manner. "[The SAR government] is planning to progressively expand the scope of the scheme from the current four cities in Guangdong Province... to other Guangdong cities after six months of implementation, with a view to taking forward the Southbound Travel Scheme in a prudent and manageable manner," she said. Factors at play, the secretary noted, include the capacities of port facilities, local road traffic and support facilities such as electric vehicle chargers. Edited by Tony Sabine