



HONG KONG SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 19, 2026 - May 26, 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.

Security Analysis Report: Hong Kong (May 19, 2026 - May 26, 2026)

Executive Summary

During the period of May 19 to May 26, 2026, Hong Kong's security landscape was characterized by persistent cybersecurity threats, active diplomatic engagement to bolster its international standing, and continued implications of its national security legislation. The city's Financial Secretary undertook a significant European tour to address counter-terrorism financing and attract investment, leveraging a perceived easing of US-China tensions. Concurrently, Hong Kong hosted a major summit emphasizing China's global governance vision, positioning the city as a key "superconnector." However, concerns regarding the erosion of freedoms under the National Security Law (NSL) and Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (SNSO) remained prominent, underscored by ongoing legal proceedings against activists. Maritime security also saw attention with an unusual incident involving an Iran-flagged tanker near Hong Kong waters.

Key Security Developments

- Surge in Cybersecurity Losses Despite Fewer Cases

Police reported a significant increase in financial losses from hacking crimes, surging by nearly 70 percent to HK\$21.2 million in the first quarter of 2026, even as the number of recorded cases dropped to 11. Local financial organizations and virtual asset service platforms were particularly targeted, with one incident alone accounting for a HK\$20 million loss. This highlights the growing sophistication and financial impact of cyberattacks on Hong Kong's critical financial infrastructure.

- Diplomatic Push on Counter-Terrorism Financing in Europe

Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po attended the "No Money for Terror" Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in Paris on May 20, 2026. During the conference, he emphasized Hong Kong's robust legal framework and compliance with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, particularly concerning digital assets.

- Hong Kong Promoted as "Superconnector" During European Tour

As part of a five-day European tour that began on May 19, 2026, Financial Secretary Paul Chan visited France, Belgium, and Switzerland. His mission was to attract investment and provide clarity on Hong Kong's economic prospects and strategic value, especially in light of stabilizing US-China relations. Chan noted a "marked difference" in European perceptions and interest in diversifying investments away from US dollar assets.

- Global Prosperity Summit Highlights China's Governance Vision

The Global Prosperity Summit 2026 commenced in Hong Kong on May 19, 2026, serving as a platform for China to articulate its "Global Governance Initiative" (GGI). The summit positioned Hong Kong as a "vital platform for dialogue" and a "superconnector" in promoting a multipolar world order that prioritizes solidarity and development, challenging the existing post-war international system.

- Ongoing Concerns over National Security Legislation and Expanded Police Powers

A US Department of State report from April 2026 reiterated concerns about the systematic degradation of Hong Kong's political autonomy and freedoms due to the 2020 National Security Law (NSL) and the 2024 Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (SNSO). Amendments to the NSL's implementing rules, effective March 23, 2026, empower police to demand passwords and decryption assistance for electronic devices from individuals under investigation, including foreign citizens, with refusal carrying criminal penalties.

- Tiananmen Vigil Activists' Trial Resumes

The trial of prominent Hong Kong activists Chow Hang-tung and Lee Cheuk-yan, charged with "inciting subversion of state power" under the NSL for their involvement in organizing Tiananmen vigils, resumed closing arguments on May 18, 2026. Both activists have been in pre-trial detention since September 2021 and face potential imprisonment of up to 10 years if convicted, drawing international criticism regarding freedom of expression.

- Unusual Maritime Activity Involving Sanctioned Tanker

On May 18, 2026, an Iran-flagged tanker, TOUR 2 (IMO 9364112), which is subject to OFAC sanctions, was observed drifting approximately 100 km southeast of Hong Kong after departing an anchorage south of the city. This unusual movement pattern for a sanctioned vessel raised questions regarding maritime security and potential illicit activities in the region.

- Routine PLA Firing Practice in Hong Kong

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) garrison in Hong Kong conducted scheduled firing practice in May 2026 at two military sites: the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range. These exercises are routine demonstrations of the PLA's

presence and operational readiness within the Special Administrative Region.

- Hong Kong's Role in Stabilizing US-China Relations

Following a summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump on May 14, 2026, which indicated signs of stabilizing bilateral relations, Hong Kong is seen as having a "unique role" as a "super connector" and "super value-adder" between East and West. This improved geopolitical climate is anticipated to attract renewed US investment, particularly in projects like the Northern Metropolis.

- Cybersecurity Vulnerability Alerts Issued

GovCERT.HK and HKCERT issued multiple high-threat security alerts between May 20-22, 2026, warning of vulnerabilities in various widely used software and systems, including Cisco, SonicWall, Nginx, Firefox, Splunk, Trend Micro Apex One, Drupal, and Microsoft Defender. These alerts underscore the continuous and evolving cybersecurity challenges faced by Hong Kong's digital infrastructure.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from May 19-26, 2026, saw Hong Kong navigating a complex geopolitical landscape, significantly influenced by the broader US-China relationship. The recent summit between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump on May 14, 2026, signaled a potential easing of tensions, with both leaders agreeing to build a "constructive relationship of strategic stability." This development is particularly impactful for Hong Kong, which is actively positioning itself as a "super connector" and "super value-adder" between the East and West. Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Paul Chan's European tour aimed to capitalize on this perceived stability, seeking to attract investment and diversify economic partnerships, especially as European financial institutions express interest in reducing over-reliance on US dollar assets.

China's strategic use of Hong Kong as a platform for its global governance initiatives was evident with the Global Prosperity Summit 2026. This event, held in Hong Kong, allowed China to articulate its vision for a reformed, multipolar world order, challenging the existing international system. This demonstrates Beijing's intent to leverage Hong Kong's international standing, despite the city's diminishing political autonomy, to project its influence and foster "track-two diplomacy" through academic and civil society channels.

However, the ongoing implementation of the National Security Law (NSL) and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (SNSO) continues to be a source of diplomatic friction, particularly with Western powers. The US Department of State's April 2026 report highlighted the systematic degradation of Hong Kong's autonomy and freedoms, leading to the revocation of elements of its special status under US

law. The expanded police powers under the NSL, including the ability to demand electronic device passwords, apply to all individuals, including foreign citizens, raising concerns about privacy and due process. These developments create a delicate balance for Hong Kong, as it strives to maintain its economic attractiveness while operating under Beijing's tightened security framework, which can lead to "unilateral sanctions" from individual countries, despite Hong Kong's adherence to UN sanctions.

Military and Defense Analysis

Hong Kong's defense is primarily the responsibility of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) garrison stationed in the Special Administrative Region. During the reporting period, routine military activities included scheduled firing practice at the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range in May 2026. These exercises are standard procedures to maintain the operational readiness of the PLA forces.

Domestically, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) plays a crucial role in maintaining internal security, with a strong emphasis on counter-terrorism and national security. The Commissioner's Operational Priorities for 2026 include strengthening intelligence gathering, enhancing counter-terrorism capabilities through inter-departmental and inter-agency cooperation, and raising public awareness of terrorism, including domestic terrorism and self-radicalization. The HKPF also focuses on investigating acts endangering national security through intelligence-led operations.

A significant event in April 2026, the "Counter Cyber and Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026" (codenamed "STEALTHNET"), demonstrated Hong Kong's commitment to enhancing its security capabilities against hybrid threats. This exercise, conducted in collaboration with INTERPOL and police forces from Macao, Singapore, and Korea, simulated cyber and physical attacks on critical infrastructure, including financial, aviation, and healthcare systems. The exercise aimed to strengthen intelligence sharing, coordinated rapid response, and joint operations, highlighting a regional focus on bolstering defense against complex and evolving terrorist threats.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Hong Kong is likely to continue its proactive diplomatic and economic outreach, particularly towards Europe, to mitigate the impact of geopolitical tensions and attract foreign investment. The Financial Secretary's recent European tour sets a precedent for sustained efforts to promote Hong Kong's economic value proposition. Cybersecurity will remain a critical area of focus, with ongoing efforts to combat sophisticated hacking crimes and

address system vulnerabilities, as indicated by the continuous security alerts issued by HKCERT. The legal landscape will continue to be shaped by the National Security Law and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance, with further developments expected in high-profile national security cases, such as the ongoing trial of Tiananmen vigil activists.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: A primary flashpoint remains the delicate balance between Hong Kong's economic autonomy and Beijing's national security imperatives. Any further tightening of national security legislation or high-profile convictions under the NSL could exacerbate international criticism and potentially impact foreign investment sentiment, despite the recent easing of US-China tensions. The maritime domain around Hong Kong could also present risks, as demonstrated by the recent presence of a sanctioned Iran-flagged tanker, highlighting the potential for Hong Kong to be implicated in broader geopolitical disputes related to international sanctions. The ongoing global geopolitical competition, even with a temporary *détente* between the US and China, could still lead to unpredictable shifts that affect Hong Kong's status as an international financial hub.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the outcomes of ongoing national security trials, particularly those involving prominent activists, as these will signal the practical application and interpretation of the NSL and SNSO. Trends in foreign direct investment and the sentiment of international businesses operating in Hong Kong will be crucial in assessing the city's economic resilience. The frequency and sophistication of cyberattacks targeting Hong Kong's financial and critical infrastructure should also be closely watched. Furthermore, any shifts in the diplomatic rhetoric or policy actions from major powers (US, EU) regarding Hong Kong's autonomy and human rights will be significant.

Strategic recommendations: Hong Kong should prioritize enhancing its cybersecurity defenses and fostering international cooperation to combat cybercrime and terrorist financing, leveraging its established reputation in these areas. Proactive and transparent communication regarding the implementation of its national security laws, while challenging, could help manage international perceptions and address concerns from foreign governments and businesses. Economically, Hong Kong should continue to diversify its partnerships and attract investment by highlighting its unique advantages as a gateway to mainland China, while also emphasizing its distinct legal and financial systems. Internally, fostering a sense of stability and predictability in the legal and regulatory environment will be essential for maintaining confidence among residents and international stakeholders.

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: HK Free Press

- [Hong Kong issues first very hot weather warning of the year, with heatwave expected through Friday](#) (2026-05-26 05:32)

Hong Kong has issued its first “very hot weather” warning of the year, with the city expected to endure a heatwave through Friday. The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) issued the warning at 7.45am on Tuesday, with the mercury expected to reach 35 degrees Celsius. The warning is triggered when the mercury is set to reach, [...]

- [KMB bus driver arrested after collision on Tsing Kwai Highway injures 22](#) (2026-05-26 03:45)

The driver of a Kowloon Motor Bus (KMB) double-decker has been arrested after the bus collided with a maintenance vehicle on Tsing Kwai Highway on Monday, injuring 22 people. The driver was among the injured. Police said on Monday they arrested the driver, 39, on suspicion of dangerous driving after the collision left 21 bus [...]

- [Hong Kong slams wanted activist’ s ‘unfounded’ allegations about top gov’ t prosecutor](#) (2026-05-26 00:00)

Hong Kong authorities have slammed viral claims by an overseas activist, saying her allegations that a top government prosecutor used public funds to pursue a romance with a colleague amounted to “malicious smearing.” The Department of Justice (DoJ) said they have referred the matter to police. US-based activist Frances Hui alleged in a Facebook post [...]

- [HKFP Lens: Crowds flock to Cheung Chau for annual bun festival race and Pui Sik Parade](#) (2026-05-25 23:16)

The Cheung Chau Bun Scrambling Competition attracted around 1,650 spectators on Sunday, as 12 finalists fought to gather as many buns as possible from a 14-metre tower within a three-minute time limit. Kwok Ka-ming won the men’ s championship, according to a Sunday government press release, whilst Kung Tsz-shan won the women’ s contest at Pak Tai [...]

- [Eyes in the sky: Hong Kong police tackle petty crime with drone patrols, but privacy concerns linger](#) (2026-05-25 00:30)

Several times a day, a drone carrying high-capacity cameras and flashing red-and-blue lights whirs and rises from the rooftops of police stations across Hong Kong. They emerge from a box-shaped docking system that slowly unfolds its doors to both sides. Some hover over the city’ s billion-dollar villas with private pools and tennis courts; others whizz [...]

- [‘Hard to win’ : Taiwanese react to uncertainty over US arms sales](#) (2026-05-25 00:26)

President Donald Trump’s suggestion that US arms sales to Taiwan could be a bargaining chip with China has set off alarms across the world, but in Taipei, people told AFP the situation was beyond their control. A week on from Trump’s remarks to Fox News and aboard Air Force One, feverish speculation bubbled over whether [...]

- [China launches crewed space flight as part of Moon ambitions, with Hong Kong police officer-turned-astronaut aboard](#) (2026-05-25 00:00)

China launched its crewed Shenzhou-23 spacecraft and eased it into a successful docking with a space station early Monday as part of Beijing’s ambitions to send humans to the Moon by 2030, state media said. During this mission, a Chinese astronaut is scheduled to spend a full year in orbit on the Tiangong space station, [...]

- [At least 82 dead in China’s worst mining disaster in 17 years](#) (2026-05-24 01:21)

Coal miners in the sleepy Chinese county of Qinyuan sometimes dine at Zhang’s skewer eatery, especially on payday, so a gas explosion that killed at least 82 of these workers left her feeling sorrow for their bereaved families. The tragedy unfolded in northern Shanxi province, with preliminary findings showing the company operating the mine had [...]

- [10 injured on Cathay Pacific flight from Australia that encountered turbulence](#) (2026-05-24 00:49)

Ten people have been injured on a flight between Brisbane, Australia and Hong Kong that encountered turbulence. Cathay Pacific’s CX156 arrived in Hong Kong at 6.45am on Saturday, with medics boarding the plane to assess the condition of passengers and crew. According to the flagship airline, four passengers and six cabin crew members sustained minor [...]

- [In Pictures: Hong Kong filmmaker’s quest to document city’s native newt and other wildlife](#) (2026-05-24 00:30)

On a spring night in 2023, Fung Hon-shing was driving on Fei Ngo Shan Road in Sai Kung when he discovered over a hundred newts that had been run over by vehicles. Some had died, while some were on the brink of death. The striking scene deeply moved Fung, prompting him to crowd-fund around HK\$300,000 [...]

- [China set for latest space launch, with Hong Kong astronaut – a police superintendent – aboard](#) (2026-05-23 04:30)

A Hong Kong astronaut will join a Chinese space mission for the first time as part of a three-person crew launching on Sunday, as Beijing edges closer to its goal of landing people on the Moon. The Tiangong space station — crewed by teams of three astronauts that are typically rotated every six months — [...]

- [China probes cross-border brokers in crackdown; Hong Kong ‘loophole’ in crosshairs](#) (2026-05-23 04:15)

China’s market regulator announced a sweeping investigation on Friday against three major brokers running cross-border trading, as it launched a two-year crackdown on investment leaving the country. China does not allow private individuals to directly invest in overseas markets, requiring them to trade assets only through approved third-party channels. However, regulations differ in the semi-autonomous [...]

- [‘Taiwan Travelogue’ author hopes award-winning novel can be read in China, spark dialogue](#) (2026-05-23 02:00)

The author of “Taiwan Travelogue”, Yang Shuang-zi, told AFP she hopes her International Booker Prize-winning novel can one day be read in China and facilitate dialogue about the “future Taiwanese people want”. On Tuesday, Yang, 41, became the first Taiwanese author to win the prestigious award which celebrates works translated into English, alongside translator Lin [...]

- [China signals it will ease household registration restrictions](#) (2026-05-22 13:09)

China proposed changes on Friday to its household registration system, calling for more cities to abolish restrictions that have impacted migrant workers for decades, state media reported. The permanent residence system, or “hukou”, was first introduced in the 1950s to regulate population mobility, and classifies Chinese people as either “urban” or “rural”. Most Chinese citizens [...]

- [Host of Hong Kong LGBTQ radio show ‘We Are Family’ says Metro Radio halted relaunch](#) (2026-05-22 11:27)

Hong Kong’s Metro Radio has abruptly halted a plan to relaunch radio programme We Are Family, an LGBTQ show axed by government-funded broadcaster RTHK three years ago, its host has said. Brian Leung Siu-fai, the host of We Are Family, said on the show’s Facebook page on Wednesday that Metro Radio invited him in April [...]

- [Fire in Jordan subdivided flat leaves 1 dead, over 300 evacuated](#) (2026-05-22 08:52)

A fire that broke out in a subdivided flat in Jordan has left one elderly man dead and prompted the evacuation of more than 300 people. Authorities received reports of the blaze at Man Yuen Building at 10.49pm on Thursday, the Fire Services Department (FSD) said at a press briefing in the early hours of [...]

- [Supermarket chain ParknShop will not merge with rival Wellcome, says CK Hutchison exec.](#) (2026-05-22 07:00)

An executive for Li Ka-shing’s CK Hutchison Holdings has dismissed speculation that its supermarket chain ParknShop could merge with rival Wellcome. Dominic Lai, CK Hutchison’s group co-managing director, was responding to a question at the company’s general meeting

on Thursday, according to Indexbox. Last month, the Financial Times reported that Jardines was in “negotiations” with [...]

- [US Navy official says Taiwan arm sales on ‘pause’ due to Iran war](#) (2026-05-22 06:19)

The acting US Navy secretary said Thursday that arm sales to Taiwan had been put on “pause” to ensure that the American military had sufficient munitions for its Iran operations. Asked at a congressional hearing about the stalled US\$14 billion weapons purchase by Taiwan, acting secretary Hung Cao said that “right now we’ re doing a [...]

- [Owners of giant dredger sinking off Lamma Island ordered to speed up salvage after missing deadline](#) (2026-05-22 05:43)

The owners of a dredger, which has been stranded off Lamma Island all year, have been ordered to expedite their salvage plan after failing to remove the vessel by a previous deadline set for April. The 50-year-old Sea Diamond, a dilapidated cutter suction dredger, remains partly submerged off Ha Mei Wan, a rural Lamma Island [...]

- [Hong Kong taxi driver in court over Ngau Tau Kok crash that killed 2](#) (2026-05-22 05:01)

An elderly Hong Kong taxi driver has appeared in court over dangerous driving that killed two pedestrians in Ngau Tau Kok. Ng Kam-cheong, 70, wore a mask and sunglasses when he appeared at the Kwun Tong Magistrates’ Court on Thursday, Court News reported. He was charged with one count of dangerous driving causing death and [...]

- [Hong Kong court orders forfeiture of HK\\$670,000 in ‘terrorist property’ linked to 2019 bomb plot](#) (2026-05-21 23:30)

A Hong Kong court has ordered the forfeiture of more than HK\$670,000 in “terrorist property” from three persons involved in a thwarted bomb plot during the 2019 protests. In a written judgment on Thursday, High Court Judge Judianna Barnes ruled that Wong Chun-keung and Ng Chi-hung were “terrorists” and Lau Pui-ying was a “terrorist associate” [...]

- [Construction worker pleads guilty to distributing ‘seditious’ materials, including calls to boycott ‘patriots only’ polls](#) (2026-05-21 12:49)

A 55-year-old man has pleaded guilty to making and distributing “seditious” materials, including ones that called for a boycott of the “patriots only” legislative elections last year. Raymond Wong, a construction worker, was charged and brought to the West Kowloon Magistrates’ Courts on Thursday afternoon. He was arrested by national security police on April 21, [...]

- [Former resident walking back to Hong Kong from Scotland to raise £1 million for charity](#) (2026-05-21 07:00)

A social media influencer and former Hong Kong resident is walking back to Hong Kong from Scotland with the goal of raising £1 million (HK\$10.5 million) for Scottish charities. Kate Barr, 30

– known on Instagram as @edukate\_\_ – is currently in Munich, Germany, having set off from Dumfries, a town in southern Scotland, on [...]

- [Taiwan President Lai says ‘happy’ to talk to Trump](#) (2026-05-21 06:59)

Taiwan’s President Lai Ching-te said Thursday he would be “happy” to talk to US leader Donald Trump — a conversation that would break more than four decades of diplomatic protocol and risk angering China. Trump told reporters on Wednesday that he would speak to Lai, as the White House weighs arms sales to the democratic [...]

- [China-Russia summit: Putin, Xi hail ‘unyielding’ ties in talks after Trump visit](#) (2026-05-21 05:19)

President Xi Jinping hailed China and Russia’s “unyielding” ties in talks with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, as the pair met to underscore their alliance days after Donald Trump’s own visit to Beijing. The two countries’ ties have deepened since Moscow’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine, as Russia has become increasingly dependent on China, its main oil [...]

- [Hong Kong deploys ‘water-pumping dragon’ machines to clear flooding after heavy rainfall](#) (2026-05-21 04:34)

Hong Kong authorities have deployed powerful machines known as “water-pumping dragons” to clear flooding after the city’s northern territories were hit by heavy rainfall overnight. The Drainage Services Department said on social media early on Thursday that its teams had cleared seven instances of flooding in the northern part of the New Territories using the [...]

- [Hong Kong Customs seize HK\\$6 million worth of suspected cannabis in Tuen Mun, arrest 1 man](#) (2026-05-21 03:50)

Hong Kong Customs seized around 31 kilograms of suspected cannabis buds in Tuen Mun on Tuesday and arrested a 33-year-old man. The value of the suspected cannabis was estimated to be around HK\$6 million, according to a government press release on Wednesday. During Tuesday’s anti-narcotics operation, officers stopped a suspicious man and found he was [...]

- [Hong Kong logs 40 online grooming cases targeting minors in first 4 months of 2026 – security chief](#) (2026-05-20 23:30)

Hong Kong authorities recorded 40 online sexual grooming cases targeting minors in the first four months of this year, the city’s security chief has said, as the government mulls a legal revamp. Secretary for Security Chris Tang said on Wednesday that police logged 100 such cases in 2025, while a total of 2,156 child sexual [...]

- [Smoke engulfs Kowloon Bay neighbourhood after kitchen fire at restaurant, 8 evacuated](#) (2026-05-20 10:20)

Lam Hing Street in Kowloon Bay was filled with billowing smoke during the lunchtime rush hour on Wednesday, after a stove overheated at a restaurant. Police told HKFP on Wednesday that eight people were on the premises at the time – all were evacuated, and no injuries were reported. Smoke from a kitchen stove was [...]

- [11,000 subdivided units registered under 3-year grace period system as Hong Kong seeks to regulate shoebox flats](#) (2026-05-20 08:24)

Around 11,000 subdivided units have been registered under a grace period system that will give landlords three years to ensure their properties meet new government requirements for the city's infamous substandard housing. Victor Tai, the under secretary for housing, said on Tuesday in a briefing session with selected media outlets that as of Tuesday, around [...]

- [Taiwan writer wins International Booker for 'slyly sophisticated' novel](#) (2026-05-20 07:10)

Taiwanese author Yang Shuang-zi and translator Lin King won the International Booker Prize on Tuesday for “Taiwan Travelogue”, a playful postcolonial novel with a culinary bent. The prestigious award, which was handed out in a ceremony at London's Tate Modern gallery, recognises works of fiction from around the world that have been translated into English. [...]

- [Japan asks China to ensure citizens' safety after Shanghai stabbing](#) (2026-05-20 05:08)

Tokyo has asked Beijing to ensure its citizens' safety after a stabbing in a Shanghai restaurant in which two Japanese were injured, Japan's consulate in Shanghai told AFP Wednesday. It is the latest diplomatic point of friction as the two countries are embroiled in a stand-off triggered by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's suggestion Tokyo might [...]

- [HKFP Job Vacancy: Executive Editor](#) (2026-05-20 04:57)

Whether it's questioning top officials, gathering breaking news from court, or live-streaming from the ground, HKFP's tight-knit team is on the frontlines of Hong Kong's political twists and turns every day. At the city's only independent English-language outlet, our journalists are in a privileged position to help write the first draft of history. All of [...]

- [Hong Kong police raid alleged drug lab in Tsuen Wan flat, seize HK\\$2.5 million of etomidate](#) (2026-05-20 04:56)

Hong Kong police have dismantled an alleged drug manufacturing laboratory inside a public housing flat in Tsuen Wan, seizing HK\$2.5 million worth of etomidate – also known as space oil – and arresting three women. Police said on Wednesday they received a tip-off that a flat in Tsuen Wan's Lei Muk Shue Estate was suspected [...]

- [Designated protest area at Hong Kong legislature being used as car park](#) (2026-05-20 00:00)

The Legislative Council (LegCo) has confirmed that the Designated Demonstration Area at the complex, along with the surrounding LegCo Square, is being used as a car park. In a response to HKFP earlier last month, the LegCo Secretariat said that the revamp was part of the renovations which took place after the number of lawmakers [...]

- [Hong Kong Tiananmen vigil activist urges court to safeguard ‘dignity, bottom line of law’ in national security trial](#) (2026-05-19 11:16)

A Hong Kong Tiananmen vigil activist standing in a national security trial has urged the court to safeguard the “dignity and bottom line of the law,” as she warned judges not to become “accomplices” in an alleged government crackdown on free speech. Chow Hang-tung, a former leader of the now-defunct Hong Kong Alliance in Support [...]

- [Hong Kong gov’t adds HK\\$5 billion to national security fund – third allocation since 2020](#) (2026-05-19 05:49)

The Hong Kong government has allocated an additional HK\$5 billion to a national security special fund, bringing the total amount to HK\$18 billion. The funding is the third allocation for national security since Beijing imposed the national security law in Hong Kong in June 2020. The government unveiled the funding on Friday, when it gazetted [...]

- [4 plead guilty to rioting at PolyU during 2019 protests](#) (2026-05-19 04:25)

Four men have pleaded guilty to rioting during the siege of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) campus amid the anti-extradition protest and unrest seven years ago. Cheung Chung-yiu, 24; Cheung Chin-ming, 29; Chan Chun-hei, 22; and Chan Yuen-ming, 33, appeared at the District Court on Monday morning to enter their pleas. The four defendants [...]

- [Earthquake kills two in south China as 7,000 people evacuated: state media](#) (2026-05-19 04:21)

A 5.2-magnitude earthquake struck south China’s Guangxi region on Monday, killing two people and causing 13 buildings to collapse, state media reported. The quake hit Guangxi’s Liuzhou city at 12:21 am (1621 GMT), state news agency Xinhua said. The US Geological Survey recorded a lower magnitude of 5.0. State broadcaster CCTV identified the deceased as [...]

- [Australia secures Chinese jet fuel to keep flying in energy squeeze](#) (2026-05-19 03:37)

Australia has secured three shipments of jet fuel from China totalling 600,000 barrels, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Tuesday, doubling the national supply. The Middle East conflict and closure of the Strait of Hormuz have caused fuel prices to soar and left many Asia-Pacific nations facing an energy crisis. Tourism and freight exports in the [...]

## Source: RTHK English News

- [CE calls for educators to embrace tech in teaching](#) (2026-05-26 05:50)

Chief Executive John Lee on Tuesday called on teachers to utilise technologies in their teaching, pointing out the nation has emphasised the need to deepen the integrated reform of education, technology and talent in its 15th Five-Year Plan. He made the remarks at the annual Outstanding Teacher Ethics and Conduct Award ceremony. "In addition to inspiring students' thinking both in and out of the classroom, teachers should also embrace the opportunities and challenges brought about by the rapid development of technology and artificial intelligence," Lee said. "They should use innovative technologies in their teaching to improve classroom interaction and students' ability to learn independently." Aside from extending his congratulations to award-winning educators, Lee also made an appeal to all teachers, saying they bear the responsibility of helping students to cultivate correct values. "I hope you will continue to uphold professional standards and remain true to the purpose of education... and cultivate talents who possess both moral integrity and patriotism and who will serve as pillars of society for the country and Hong Kong," he said.

- [Hospital calls to come with prefix IDs amid scam fears](#) (2026-05-26 05:09)

The Hospital Authority said its new standardised caller identification prefixes has been put into operation to make it more convenient for patients and their families to access medical care as many refuse to answer its calls out of concern they may be made by scammers or sales staff. From Tuesday until the end of June, facilities under the authority will gradually adopt a total of 200 phone lines under two prefixes, 18285 and 18286. Speaking on an RTHK programme, Larry Lee, a chief manager at the authority, said the move was made after frontline staff found that the problem of their calls going unanswered had become increasingly apparent. "We mostly call patients and their families when we need to change appointments because of extreme weather or a typhoon," he said. "But the important thing is it could also be an emergency call from the hospital to let the family know when a patient's condition changes." Use of the standardised caller identification prefixes will start from four smaller-sized clinics: Cheshire Home, Chung Hom Kok; David Trench Rehabilitation Centre; Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service; and Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club Family Medicine Unit. Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital will be the last to adopt the prefixes on June 29. Lee said the new numbers are solely aimed at assisting the public in identifying where the incoming calls are coming from and that the phone number patients use to call the hospital or clinic for inquiries remain unchanged. For certain services such as non-emergency transfer services and outreach services, he said, direct lines or mobile phone numbers may still be used due to operational requirements. Lee also reminded the public that they should still remain cautious when receiving calls and not provide any personal information to suspected scammers. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [China Mobile set to boost investment in Central Asia](#) (2026-05-26 04:02)

Telecom giant China Mobile International (CMI) has announced plans to boost investment in Central Asia over the coming years, citing exponential economic growth and rapid digital transformation in the region. "At the current level, I would say it's around HK\$10 million. It is

an eight-digit number of investments,” Kevin Chan, the telecommunication operator's Head of Carrier Business, told RTHK. “In the future, with the growth and demand, I believe that amount will multiply in a few years.” He pointed out that 5G networks were only launched in Central Asia in 2023, adding that Kazakhstan’s aggressive push into artificial intelligence and digitalisation has opened up significant opportunities for the sector. “In the previous five years, we saw there's a rapid economic growth in Central Asia. I think the fastest growth country that we saw was in Kazakhstan.” “They set up a new government department to facilitate the growth of AI and digitalisation. Having that policy backed up, I think that will actually generate a lot more opportunity in smart solutions. I believe the growth will be exponential.” Chan’s remarks came as Chief Executive John Lee is set to lead a delegation of high-level business representatives from Hong Kong and the mainland to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan early next month to explore business opportunities. During the visit, CMI will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on smart logistics with QazPost, Kazakhstan’s national postal operator. Chan said this will be a win-win situation for both sides. “We're going to give them our smart logistics platform solutions. On top of that, because we also have other projects happening in Central Asia, especially in Kazakhstan, QazPost will be providing us with the logistic capability.” Chan also highlighted Hong Kong's strategic edge as a global hub for submarine communication cables. He noted that CMI has linked Central Asia’s terrestrial networks with Hong Kong's submarine network, saying this has sped up data traffic from Central Asia to many major economies in the world, such as Singapore and Japan. In turn, Chan said connecting terrestrial networks of Hong Kong and Central Asia creates an alternative data transit route from the SAR to Europe, bypassing traditional pathways through South Asia and the Middle East. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Road-safety vehicle 'averted a more serious accident'](#) (2026-05-26 03:50)

A motorists' group said a highway maintenance shadow vehicle played its part in preventing a serious traffic accident from happening on Monday when a double-decker bus ran into it on Tsing Kwai Highway. A total of 24 people sustained minor injuries in the incident, including the bus driver, who was trapped briefly before being rescued by emergency services. "You can see that the bus crashed onto the shadow vehicle [at speed] without braking, smashing the shadow vehicle's truck-mounted attenuator, then towards the vehicle itself," Ringo Lee, honorary life president of the Hong Kong, China Automobile Association, told an RTHK programme on Tuesday. "The shadow vehicle helped avoid a serious head-on collision." Lee also said the key to avoiding traffic accidents from happening is drivers' remaining alert to their surroundings while their vehicles are in motion. Technology can be adopted as a way to help drivers, he said, citing drowsiness detection systems that track drivers' eyes and automatic emergency braking systems that help cars prevent collisions. As for construction work on roads, traffic cones can be placed metres away from work sites so as to alert drivers to take action early enough when their vehicle hits a cone, Lee added. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [School body apologises over swearing incident](#) (2026-05-26 03:32)

The governing body of a school in Tuen Mun on Tuesday issued an apology expressing deep regret over an incident involving its student exchange group in Singapore last week. Online video showed a man — widely believed to be the school's principal — seen verbally abusing a local security officer, including using offensive language, during confrontation aboard a tour bus, reportedly triggered by a parking dispute. In a statement, the governing body emphasised that the school and its sponsoring body have always placed the highest priority on staff professional conduct. "Should any teaching or administrative staff [be] involved in misconduct or inappropriate behaviour, the school will inevitably conduct investigations and follow-up actions in accordance with established procedures," the statement read. The governing body said it's highly concerned about the case and it's working closely with the tour operator to obtain full details of the incident. Outcomes of the investigation will be provided to all students, parents, and staff at a later date. Edmund Wong, a former lawmaker and an independent manager of the school's Incorporated Management Committee, said the committee would convene a meeting on Tuesday to address the incident. "We will hold a committee meeting to discuss the incident, which will include, but not be limited to, meeting with the principal," he spoke on a radio programme. "Following that, we will explain the matter to all teaching staff, students, and parents. This is to reassure all students, parents and relevant stakeholders that we accept full responsibility and are capable of managing the situation." He added the committee would fully cooperate with the Education Bureau's investigation. Asked if he expects the internal probe to conclude within a week, Wong stressed that the committee would carry it out as quickly as possible, though he didn't provide an exact timeframe. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [HK investment firm eyes connector role in Central Asia](#) (2026-05-25 23:24)

The head of a private equity firm who's part of Chief Executive John Lee's upcoming delegation to Central Asia says he'll be looking to further connect Middle Eastern investors with local businesses. Cliff Zhang, the CEO and co-founder of Templewater, revealed his partners in the Middle East have been investing in Central Asia for over a decade. One of his missions is to bridge their capital with local markets and Chinese technology, with "some collaboration" to be announced during the trip in early June, he added. Zhang described Central Asia as a "gold mine at its early stage of development and opening up", pointing to several factors that make the resource-rich region so promising. Geographically, he said it is a strategic transit hub for land transport between China, East Asia, the Middle East and Europe. In terms of demographics, while Kazakhstan boasts the largest economy in the region, Uzbekistan has the biggest population at more than 37 million. United Nations figures suggest six in 10 Uzbeks are 30 or younger, and Zhang said this signals "a lot of potential when it comes to consumption upgrade and productivity enhancement". Hong Kong, he said, would play a perfect role as a connector between Central Asia's growing markets and Chinese technology and services, while at the same time leveraging Middle Eastern capital that wishes to invest there. "Hong Kong and Templewater play the role of a super connector and a super value-adder in bringing everybody together," he said. Boasting a diversified portfolio including transport and new energy, Templewater has been

actively looking to promote electrolysers, energy storage and other areas tied to energy transition. "That certainly will be one of the focuses for us in Central Asia region, and hopefully we will replicate the success we've had in Oman and the Middle East in the Central Asian market in the next few years," Zhang explained. Healthcare is another focus -- Templewater owns Tamarind Health, which operates 36 oncology centres across Asia and serves more than 200,000 patients a year. "Quality healthcare is also something that is in high demand when a country and economy develops and this is also the case for the Middle East and for Central Asia," he said. All this, he believes, aligns with the narrative of the nation's Belt and Road Initiative. "We are changing from just having quantity and scale in development to focusing more on the quality of those developments," he said. "That's where Hong Kong can play a more important role because Hong Kong is known for its high-quality professional services. We are able to help Chinese companies expand into those new markets and having a more quality and refined solution on the ground from day one." Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [24 people injured in accident on Tsing Kwai Highway](#) (2026-05-25 07:42)

Police said more than 20 people sustained minor injuries following a collision between a double-decker bus and a construction vehicle on the Tsing Kwai Highway shortly after 2pm on Monday. Officers said the bus driver was briefly trapped before being rescued by emergency services. A total of 23 bus passengers were also injured in the crash. Footage online showed the bus ramming into what appeared to be a traffic management vehicle. Most of the airport-bound lanes on the Tsing Kwai Highway near Princess Margaret Hospital had been closed to all traffic. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Lai an 'ideal candidate for Shenzhou-23 mission'](#) (2026-05-25 07:24)

Hong Kong's first-ever payload expert in space Lai Ka-ying will operate a locally designed observatory that tracks greenhouse gas emissions during her mission aboard the Tiangong space station. Lai and the rest of the Shenzhou-23 crew docked at the nation's space station early on Monday. The payload specialist from the SAR will be responsible for installing the multi-spectral imaging carbon observatory to allow data collection to begin. The specialised science payload – developed by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology – arrived at the space station aboard the Tianzhou-10 cargo spacecraft this month. The instrument – known as the "Eye For Space" – will be used for at least two years to monitor the nation's carbon dioxide and methane emissions from strong emission industrial sources such as power plants, coal mines and landfills. Project lead professor Su Hui, co-director of the Space Science and Technology Institute at the university, said Lai's mission reflects Beijing's profound recognition of Hong Kong's aerospace capabilities. "It represents the nation's high recognition of our scientific research capabilities and demonstrates that Hong Kong's research teams are not only capable of manufacturing world-leading payloads but also have the ability to cultivate our very own world-class astronauts," she told an RTHK radio programme. "This will contribute significantly to the progress of aerospace technology development in Hong Kong and promote deeper cooperation between research institutions in Hong Kong and the mainland." Chow

Kam-pui, the doctoral mentor for Lai and an honorary associate professor from the School of Computing and Data Science at the University of Hong Kong, said Lai had shown leadership qualities and an attention for detail as a student. "Our research team was made up of four to five students," he said on the same programme. "Lai embodied the spirit of teamwork and occasionally took the lead in some projects. "Apart from the academic side, she already demonstrated her team spirit and positive work attitude back then. It shows that she is capable of participating in very complex projects." Quentin Parker, director of the Laboratory for Space Research at the University of Hong Kong, praised Lai for being an ideal candidate with the ability to execute complex scientific experiments in space. He said Lai's extensive experience in criminal forensic work during her time with the police provided her with the perfect skill set required to serve as an onboard specialist scientist. "She would be excellent performing many of the experiments on board as somebody that has the right training and attention to detail, looking down into the granular detail of things that happen on board of a spacecraft," Parker said. "That means that you're far more likely to be able to notice small, subtle differences in experimental setups compared to what you might have done on the ground and in terms of the results that you might be acquiring." Meanwhile, Ken Wong, chairman of the Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers, said he had accompanied a group of teachers and students to the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center to witness the Shenzhou-23 blast-off on Sunday. The lawmaker and veteran educator said he believes Lai's success will inspire the city's next generation to become more committed to science and technology. "I believe this also represents a massive inspiration for the education sector," Wong said. "This is a vivid example. It is no longer abstract, but rather a real and tangible demonstration that we need to do more in education to ensure it remains possible for us to participate further in national space development in the future." Edited by Aaron Tam

- [CE hails mission as Lai Ka-ying begins space dream](#) (2026-05-25 03:52)

Chief Executive John Lee on Sunday extended his congratulations on the successful launch of Shenzhou-23, paying tribute to its crew members. They include the Hong Kong SAR's first astronaut Lai Ka-ying, the mission's payload expert. In a statement, he said that, over the course of more than 30 years, the country's manned space programme had realised its vision of becoming an aerospace power through determination, forward-looking vision, strategic planning and unmatched perseverance. This mission, he added, is hugely significant as it's the first manned spaceflight mission during the 15th Five-Year Plan period and the first time a payload expert from Hong Kong has taken part. He said all Hongkongers are thrilled and proud. "The national 15th Five-Year Plan clearly sets out key strategies to develop a modernised industrial system and expedite the development into an aerospace power," Lee said. "With the strong support of the country, the HKSAR can transform from a 'supporter' of the country's great aerospace endeavours into an 'executor'." Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong, who was at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in north-western China to witness the launch, said this was a great educational opportunity to inspire young people in Hong Kong. "I hope every young person in Hong Kong can see the power of dreams," he said. "

Next, the SAR government will continue to create more opportunities and conditions for our youth to pursue innovation and technology. "The vast universe is boundless, and exploration never ends. I look forward to seeing more Hong Kong youth in the vastness of space." Undersecretary for Security Michael Cheuk, who was also in Jiuquan, thanked the nation for trusting and recognising Hong Kong's level of space development and talent and for giving the SAR the opportunity to contribute to the country's space endeavours. "Witnessing the rocket launch in person was truly breathtaking," he said. "I truly felt the strength of the nation's space development and technology. "Being here really moved me – especially knowing that Dr Lai Ka-ying is the first payload expert from Hong Kong to take part in the Shenzhou-23 crew's space station mission. I am truly proud of her." Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Kwok Ka-ming and Janet Kung crowned Bun King and Queen](#) (2026-05-24 22:27)

Twelve competitors scrambled up a 14-metre bun tower at the stroke of midnight on Monday (May 25), marking the climax of Hong Kong's annual Cheung Chau Bun Festival. Nine men and three women vied to grab as many buns as possible within a three-minute limit, with points awarded according to the height at which the buns were taken. Retrieving a bun from the top of the tower is traditionally believed to bring luck to their family. Ice climbing athlete Janet Kung and firefighter Kwok Ka-ming were crowned this year's bun queen and king. It was Kwok's 11th victory in the competition. "Winning the championship for the 11th time feels pretty special," said Kwok. I was feeling a bit tired at the start—maybe because I had been waiting for so long—and I made a small mistake early on. Luckily, I was able to recover and catch up, securing enough 9-point buns to win." For more than a century, residents of the outlying island of Cheung Chau have held the festival to ward off disaster and pray for peace and safety. The event returned to full scale in 2023 after being suspended for several years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, coinciding with the local celebration of Buddha's Birthday. (Reuters) Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Parade, festive treats highlight Bun Festival](#) (2026-05-24 10:53)

It was fun and games on Cheung Chau on Sunday as revellers celebrated the annual Bun Festival by enjoying a colourful parade and tasting festive "peace buns". Child performers got top billing as they took part in the parade held in the afternoon. This year's event featured various themes, including ancient stories, current social issues and even television dramas. Many of the young performers started preparing for the parade since the morning. With Monday being a public holiday, a parade organiser said more youngsters applied to take part compared with previous years. A first-time visitor to the Bun Festival on Cheung Chau described the atmosphere as lively and joyful. He said he would visit again in the future. A university student studying costume design said she took a ferry as early as 8am so she could attend the parade. She said she was impressed by a child performer portraying a judge from a television drama. "There are other Buddha's Birthday celebrations in the city as well, but the vibe here is more exciting and it's more crowded here. What we see and experience in Cheung Chau is different," she said. "I will bring more friends to the festival next year. It is a very good

experience and totally worth going," she added. A group of 10 visitors from the mainland was impressed by child performers representing Hong Kong athletes, saying it reflected the "Hong Kong spirit". "The kid dressed up as a swimming champion... demonstrating the 'Hong Kong spirit' of being a champion," one of the visitors said. The fun-filled day also meant good business for bakery owners and others. Kwok Yu-tin, a bakery owner, said there were long queues for his "peace buns". "Sales over the past eight to 10 days were about the same as last year, at 60,000 buns," he said. Kwok also said he tried to attract younger customers by introducing uniquely designed stuffed bun plush toys this year. His shop also collaborated with an airline to offer themed meals on flights. The price of his "peace bun" rose slightly this year, from HK\$11 to HK\$12. "We hadn't adjusted the price for four or five years, but the underlying costs, labour, rent and ingredients have become more expensive every year. So this year, we have no choice but to raise the price by a dollar," Kwok said. An elderly man who arrived early from Sheung Shui bought 28 buns. He said he has been buying the festive treats at the same shop for 21 years. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [FS sees stronger HK-Europe ties moving forward](#) (2026-05-24 08:31)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan said Hong Kong and Europe can step up cooperation further as European countries show a "strong desire for change" amid an evolving global landscape. Writing in his weekly blog, Chan said his talks with business and political leaders during his visit to France, Belgium and Switzerland last week revealed Europe's growing focus on "strategic autonomy" amid rising geopolitical tensions, alongside efforts towards multilateralism and diversification from trade risks. The discussions also covered investment in innovative and technological development, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence. "We see opportunities for pragmatic cooperation and to achieve win-win outcomes between Hong Kong and Europe in areas such as trade, investment and innovation," he wrote. Chan noted that Hong Kong's "value proposition" for Europe lies in its robust financial markets, the opportunity to develop each other's markets, as well as financial innovation. "During this trip, I met with representatives from the European Union and international institutions who have not visited Hong Kong since the pandemic. "Through candid exchanges and discussions, they have deepened their understanding of Hong Kong's market, strengthened their positive outlook on its future development, and helped correct some misunderstandings." Chan added that Hong Kong can serve as a bridge between mainland and European businesses trying to establish a stronger presence in the other's market. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [CE wishes HK first astronaut a successful trip](#) (2026-05-24 07:07)

Chief Executive John Lee held a video call with Hong Kong's first astronaut Lai Ka-ying to wish her success ahead of her historic space mission. Lai has been selected as a payload specialist for the Shenzhou-23 spaceflight mission, which is scheduled to launch at 11.08pm on Sunday. Lee was joined by Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong and Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung in the video call. The CE expressed pride in Lai's role in the national mission. "Your successful selection reflects the nation's recognition of you, as well as

its trust and support for Hong Kong," he said. Recalling their last meeting in 2024 just before Laileft for training on the mainland, Lee asked about her daily life at the training centre. Laidescribed her schedule as packed and the training truly demanding, but said she's ready fordeparture and confident in completing the mission. "I have never been away from Hong Kongfor this long, so I look forward to coming back as soon as the mission is complete," she said.She also said her family is settling in well in Beijing, and her children are happy with theirstudies there. Sun noted that Lai completed the demanding training in just over a year and metthe standards required for a space mission. Meanwhile, Yeung said that she believes HongKong' s more than 170,000 civil servants share a deep sense of pride and honour over Lai' sachievement. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Electricity bills expected to peak in August](#) (2026-05-24 05:33)

The head of the government's Energy Advisory Committee on Sunday said he expected electricity bills to be at their highest in August. Committee chairman Simon Wong made the remarks on a TVB programme. The city's power companies had earlier announced increases to electricity charges due to the impact of the Middle East conflict. Wong expects Hong Kong households will see their electricity bills rise starting from June, due to the overall rise in fuel costs. Since the conflict began in March, and fuel charges are calculated on a three-month average, costs are expected to peak later over the summer, he said. "In May, we are calculating the bill with the three-month average of January, February and March, so we haven't seen a hike yet, but we might face a price hike in June. We won't see a sudden surge due to the three-month average calculation. "Based on my calculation, electricity costs may reach a short-term peak in August. After that, costs might fluctuate at a high level, with a possibility of them easing slightly. " As we look at the international oil prices, prices rose to around US\$120 per barrel then fell back to US\$80, and have now climbed back to around US\$100," Wong said. Wong also said businesses and the public do not need to worry about the end of the two-month diesel subsidy. Launched on April 30, diesel users can receive a subsidy of HK\$3 per litre of diesel. Due to the fact that oil prices remain high, Wong believed the government would maintain the diesel subsidy once the two-month period was up. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [HK embraces super value-adder role in Central Asia](#) (2026-05-24 03:49)

Hong Kong must transform itself into a more diversified international hub and embrace the role of a "super value-adder" for multinational firms, according to Heiwai Tang, Associate Dean of HKU Business School. Speaking after a radio programme on Sunday, Tang outlined a strategic vision for the city beyond its traditional role as a connector or broker. He pointed to Central Asia as a key partner, noting that the resource-rich region is also shifting towards AI-driven economies, with the chief executive set to lead a delegation to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan early next month. "If an economy needs to be transformed into a new economic centre, it needs financial and different kinds of resources like human capital. Hong Kong will be able to provide that kind of support," Tang said, adding that Central Asia' s strategic location between Europe and China makes it an important Belt and Road hub. "In the long run, I can see quite a lot of

synergy between our own economic transformation and theirs," he said. Tang believes HongKong should host more regional headquarters for multinational firms. "Central Asia has some very rich companies. They may not have expanded their footprints into Asia before, and HongKong is a very important gateway for them to tap into Asean as well as China's resources and business opportunities," he said. He also noted that shifting geopolitics are reshaping HongKong's outbound investment strategy, positioning the city as a "going global" platform for mainland enterprises. While traditional destinations like Asean remain important, Tang highlighted the growing significance of the Global South, including the Middle East and Central Asia. "The Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia, used to be a very important destination, but now the situation is changing. So Central Asia's importance has increased," he said. When asked about Hong Kong's economic outlook for the rest of the year, Tang pointed squarely to the war between the United States and Iran. "A crucial key for this year's economy is when the Iran war will end. If it drags on for another two or three months, I expect significant global inflationary pressure," he said. "Central banks may start to feel pressure to raise interest rates. That would affect financial markets and real estate." Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Wang Fuk sales choice 'not linked to owners' meeting'](#) (2026-05-23 12:11)

A looming Wang Fuk Court owners' meeting should not be a factor for those deciding whether or not to accept a blanket government offer for their property rights, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Alice Mak said on Saturday. She was speaking after a radio show in response to a question as to when such a meeting, called for by some of those displaced by the inferno, can be held. Mak said Hop On - the management company appointed to oversee affairs at the Tai Po residential estate following November's deadly inferno - has sought to delay the meeting for more time to work on arrangements but stressed that homeowners' decisions have nothing to do with the meeting. "The establishment of an owners' corporation is for the management of public spaces in and administrative work involving the entire estate," she said. "On homeowners' handling of certain units, these are private premises, and it's their concern. It is not handled by holding an owners' meeting. "If homeowners are considering whether or not to sell their private flats, their own flats, that would be based on their own considerations. So it should not be linked with the holding of an owners' meeting." Mak was also speaking after the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals announced that it would allocate HK\$10 million to help eligible Wang Fuk owners with legal costs if they accept the buyout offer. More than 1,000 homeowners, she added, have said that they would like to apply for the assistance. Edited by Azam Khan

- [First HK astronaut brings Lion Rock spirit to mission](#) (2026-05-23 10:43)

Lai Ka-ying, Hong Kong's first astronaut who has been selected to be a payload specialist for Sunday's Shenzhou-23 spaceflight mission, said on Saturday she felt very honoured and thankful to be chosen. "I will do my best to finish all the work, and take on the responsibility, as an astronaut, to make contributions to the development of our motherland, without letting down the people of Hong Kong and our motherland," Lai said at a press conference at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. Prior to her selection, Lai, who has a doctorate in

computer forensics, worked as a superintendent in the Hong Kong police force. Having grown up in Hong Kong, she said, the Lion Rock ethos of never giving up resonates with the spirit of the manned spaceflight as both require courage to take on challenges and determination to see them through to the end. Lai said everyone will be able to shine and reach their dreams as long as one holds their country close to their hearts and contribute to the nation. She also expressed her gratitude to the nation for the opportunity to fulfill her dream and for the support provided by the SAR government. Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Sun Dong led a delegation to attend the send-off ceremony in Jiuquan in Gansu for the Shenzhou-23 manned spaceflight mission. In the delegation are Undersecretary for Security Michael Cheuk and Commissioner for Innovation and Technology Ivan Lee. Edited by Azam Khan

- [Hung Shui Kiu park 'getting interest from top firms'](#) (2026-05-23 09:42)

The newly appointed chairman of the Hung Shui Kiu Industry Park's board of directors, Jeffrey Lam, said a number of firms have shown interest in joining the industrial park under the Northern Metropolis project. Lam, who is also an executive councillor, is set to assume his post on June 1. Speaking on a Commercial Radio show, Lam said he has been in touch with companies in various sectors, such as medical, food, new energy and big data. He also said warming relations between the United States and China, following the meeting between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump in Beijing, have boosted confidence among companies in using the SAR to tap into the Asian market. "We did receive different inquiries from overseas firms, including from Europe and America," Lam said. "They are all well-established companies and from different industries. Of course, we want to accommodate their demands. "We won't say everything is for free. We hope that we can offer them attractive terms, such as on land leases or sales, as well as other amenities." The premise is we hope they will establish roots in Hong Kong and can contribute to Hong Kong's economy and other areas." Lam hopes some companies will have decided to set up shop at the park by the middle of next year. He described the HK\$10 billion injection from the government to the park as a "shot in the arm", saying the board will use it for various purposes such as infrastructure and equipment purchases. Separately, ahead of Chief Executive John Lee's first official visit to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia early next month, Lam hopes the delegation will seek for more business opportunities through exchanges with different industries and government officials. He said the SAR can also help mainland enterprises tap into Central Asia and suggested opening up direct flights between both regions. Edited by Azam Khan

- [Jordan fire 'shows need for race on subdivided units'](#) (2026-05-23 08:30)

Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho on Saturday said implementation in line with Basic Housing Units Ordinance requirements for subdivided flats must be pursued with determination. Her comments came after a fire broke out in a subdivided flat on the 13th floor of Man Yuen Building in Jordan shortly before 11pm on Thursday, killing one and injuring four others. Speaking on a radio programme, Ho said the flat in which the fire broke out was approximately 48 square metres and had been divided into nine rooms. "The fire safety hazard is very

worrying, and it is very easy to cause a fire when there are electricity leaks, wires and clutter soclose to each other," she said. "So in the apartment, there are one or two people in eachsubdivided unit, which means there are over a dozen people in that unit alone. "The situationinvolves very high risks when you think about the thick smoke and the casualties it may cause. "We must be determined, and everyone in society must pitch in, to ensure that theimplementation of the ordinance proceeds smoothly and orderly." Ho said that since theordinance was rolled out on March 1, authorities have received nearly 12,000 applications forbasic housing status by owners of more than 3,300 subdivided residential units. She expectedapplication numbers to continue to rise when the one-year registration period comes to an endand urged subdivided flat owners to register as soon as possible. Ho added that two sampleunits will be available in Kowloon city to clearly show owners the "very basic and simple"requirements set by the government. Edited by Azam Khan

- [Call for light housing switch from subdivided flats](#) (2026-05-23 06:03)

Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho said the queue for public housing units will continue to drop, with light public housing that was rolled out in 2024 continuing to play a significant role. Speaking on a radio programme, she called on those people who are currently living in subdivided flats with poor conditions to consider applying for light public housing scheme units. " For light public housing, the average waiting time is around three years," Ho pointed out. "Units located in the New Territories or extended urban areas have a waiting time of only about two years. "People who live in subdivided flats that are in a really poor condition, such as those that have safety, fire, and hygiene issues, should consider applying under our scheme." Ho said her bureau would also speed up traditional public housing supply – both rental ones and those under the Home Ownership Scheme – so residents can have a place to stay permanently. She said more than half of government-subsidised housing built in the future would be located in the Northern Metropolis given the ample land supply in the area. Ho also said the first two phases of two public housing estates in the area – Kwu Tung and Fanling North – would be completed by the end of this year, providing 5,000 and 3,000 units, respectively. The second phases of both estates will be completed next year. The average waiting time for public housing units now stands at 4.7 years, the lowest in eight years. Edited by Azam Khan

- [10 hurt as turbulence hits Cathay flight from Brisbane](#) (2026-05-23 04:38)

Ten people were slightly injured on a Cathay Pacific flight returning to Hong Kong from Brisbane, Australia, early on Saturday due to air turbulence. Responding to media enquiries, the flagship carrier said flight CX156 arrived in the SAR at 6.45am, and medical personnel immediately boarded the plane to assess the conditions of those feeling unwell. Six cabin crew members and four passengers sustained minor injuries in the incident, the airline said. Eight of them were sent to hospital. The airline said it would continue to closely monitor their condition and provide assistance when needed. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Licences 'right game plan for claw, pinball machines'](#) (2026-05-23 04:29)

Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Alice Mak on Saturday said a government plan to require claw and pinball machine operators to obtain licences will benefit both consumers and operators. Under the proposal, any gaming device that involves prizes, odds, and potential addiction risks must obtain an individual Amusements with Prizes Licence (AWPL). Mak said on an RTHK radio programme that Hong Kong currently has 2,000 claw machines and hundreds of pinball machines that are yet to be licensed. “For the pinball machines, currently, we estimate that there are about 200 operators in the market,” she said. “Right now, three operators have already applied for the AWPL, and we are processing several, quite a number of applications now. “We believe that with our review, more pinball machine operators will apply for this AWPL so that they can operate and run in a regulated environment and to protect the interests of the consumers.” As for claw machines, Mak said under the plan, managers of arcades with such coin-operated machines are responsible for obtaining AWPLs before renting them out. She noted that many arcades with claw machines are unstaffed, describing this as “not ideal” because consumers are unable to file a complaint if a machine is faulty. All licence holders have to put up addiction warnings and their contact information on the machines, she stressed. Mak also pointed out that claw machines are addictive, citing the Ping Wo Fund, which helps people with gambling issues, as having received requests for assistance by people fighting an obsession with the game. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [CCTV: Hongkonger selected for national space mission](#) (2026-05-22 14:36)

A female police officer has made history by becoming the first Hongkonger selected for a national spaceflight mission, CCTV reported on Friday. According to the broadcaster’s military channel, the officer will be joining the upcoming Shenzhou 23 mission. She was chosen from the fourth batch of preparatory astronauts, who were selected following a nationwide recruitment drive in 2024. Ten preparatory astronauts were selected in the 2024 intake, including eight pilots and two payload specialists – one each from Hong Kong and Macao. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Govt to accelerate Hong Kong airport's expansion](#) (2026-05-22 13:08)

The government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to reinforce Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub, Acting Financial Secretary Michael Wong said on Friday. Speaking at the opening reception for the airport's Terminal 2, Wong said the government will continue accelerating the expansion of the SAR's aviation network, enhancing connectivity with the Greater Bay Area, and advancing the development of an airport city. To proactively align with national strategies and deepen Hong Kong's participation in the GBA, he said the government will maintain a close relationship with the Airport Authority and the aviation industry. Wong noted that the airport handled 61 million passengers last year, a year-on-year increase of 15 percent. He said if the upward trend continues, passenger traffic is expected to soon return to the peak level recorded in 2018. At the same event, the chairman of the Airport Authority Fred Lam said the revamped terminal's design prioritises efficiency and passenger comfort. He said it leverages technology extensively to enable efficient self check-in, self bag

drop and smooth immigration clearance, adding that T2 is seamlessly linked to the AirportExpress, with additional traffic lanes outside the building to prevent congestion. He said that arrival facilities there are expected to be commissioned next year. The chairman also noted that a talented workforce is needed to help the airport expand. An expo and recruitment fair will be held for two days starting on Saturday, offering more than 4,000 job vacancies. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [HK Electric to hike fuel surcharges by 20pc from June](#) (2026-05-22 11:01)

HK Electric announced on Friday it will increase fuel surcharges by 20 percent for customers from next month, citing higher oil prices. In a statement, the power supplier serving Hong Kong Island and Lamma Island, noted its fuel clause charge (FCC) would rise by around HK\$0.05 to HK\$0.31 per kilowatt-hour in June. It also warned that the current level has yet to "fully capture the changes in fuel costs" due to a "deferred effect", as its charging mechanism is based on the average actual fuel costs over the previous three months. That means June's rates are decided based on the average fuel costs in February, March, and April of this year. "Together with other factors, the higher fuel costs will be progressively reflected in the FCC. A continued increase is therefore expected in the coming months," a company spokesperson said. HK Electric said it will continue to monitor the developments in the global energy market. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [T2 unveils new state of the art bag drop counters](#) (2026-05-22 09:54)

Hong Kong International Airport's Terminal 2 is introducing new, uniquely designed, self-drop bag counters, the Airport Authority said on Friday. The new facility begins operations on May 27. Steven Yiu, the Airport Authority's Executive Director of Airport Operations, said all 68 self-drop bag counters have a "one-touch" design, allowing passengers to complete the entire process with a single touch combined with facial recognition. The system also supports a Smartphone Express Bag Drop service and is equipped with 10 smart cameras. Yiu said the Airport Authority plans to apply for a patent for the design. The new terminal features two entrances to the security checkpoints. Tommy Leung, Executive Director of Engineering and Technical Services of the Airport Authority, said Terminal 2 expected to handle around 30,000,000 passengers per year, with space reserved for further expansion to accommodate 20,000,000 more passengers. Terminal 2 features eight check-in aisles, from P to W, providing a total of 108 counters. Self-service areas, with smart check-in kiosks, are available at aisles R, S, T, V. To enhance passenger experience, the terminal includes an ocean-themed LED display, with additional themes such as a sky concept planned. Transport access has been upgraded, with additional road capacity and improved kerbside layouts aimed at easing congestion. The automated people mover system has also been expanded to connect T2 passengers to boarding gates in T1. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [RTHK wins 11 media accolades](#) (2026-05-22 09:26)

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was awarded on Thursday a total of 11 accolades, comprising one Silver Tower, two Bronze Towers and eight Finalist Diplomas at the New York

Festivals Radio Awards and TV & Film Awards. The Silver Tower, presented under the "Entertainment: Music Special" category of the Radio Awards, went to the "Concert in the Park - A Salute to Love", produced by RTHK Radio 4. Staged on Christmas Eve last year, the concert celebrated the bonds and affinities between composers, conveying messages of love and hope through stirring melodies. The radio drama "Dragon's Return to the Homeland", co-produced by RTHK Radio 1 and the Guangzhou Broadcasting Network, claimed a Bronze Tower. RTHK's Production Services Division also captured a Bronze Tower in the "Craft Films/Production: Use of Technology" category of the TV & Film Awards, in recognition of its innovative integration of extended reality and augmented reality technologies in the special programmes of the 15th National Games of the People's Republic of China, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games. A further eight RTHK programmes received Finalist Diplomas, spanning a diverse range of subjects including humanities documentaries, social issues, sports promotion and in-depth news features. The Director of Broadcasting, Angelina Kwan, said these multiple international honours stand as solid testimony to RTHK's world-class standards in content creation, production craftsmanship and journalistic professionalism. She affirmed that RTHK would continue to uphold its mission as a public service broadcaster, dedicating itself to producing quality programmes that tell good stories of Hong Kong and the country through diverse themes and innovative formats. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Jordan fire wife tells of futile bid to save husband](#) (2026-05-22 08:41)

A survivor spoke on Friday of how she tried to save her husband during a late-night fire in Jordan on Thursday that killed him and injured four others. She was speaking as police officers went to Man Yuen Building to investigate the fire that broke out in a subdivided flat on the 13th floor shortly before 11pm. The wife of the deceased said she and her elderly husband had lived at their unit for more than 10 years. She had just returned to the building when she was told that a fire had broken out. "My neighbours next door told me: 'Hey, your unit is on fire'," she said. "I immediately put down everything I was carrying and rushed upstairs." Once there, she tried pulling her mobility impaired husband – who was lying on the floor – out of the unit but to no avail, despite trying for about 10 minutes. "The head of the bed was on fire. It must've set the pillows on fire. It should be because of [an electrical leakage]. I had not been cooking anything." She also suffered burns to her hands. Yuen, a man who lives a few floors above the couple, said he saw heavy smoke outside the corridor at the time of the incident. He said the firefighters initially asked him and his family to stay inside their flat but soon told them to evacuate. Kowloon West district councillor Vincent Cheng told reporters the space in the flat was very narrow. "There are actually a lot of tenement buildings and subdivided units in Yau Tsim Mong and Sham Shui Po," he said. "This kind of a fire poses certain risks. We understand that the deceased was mobility impaired. Was it the narrow space that made it difficult for him to escape? "I think we have to look into this in future, and I hope the situation with subdivided flats can see improvements as soon as possible." Cheng said that, based on what he was given to understand, the scaffolding mesh covering the building, which is undergoing renovations, is

fire-retardant. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Elim Chan becomes first female to lead SF orchestra](#) (2026-05-22 08:12)

Hong Kong-born conductor Elim Chan was appointed by the San Francisco Symphony on Thursday to become its next music director, starting in September next year. The 39-year-old will be the first female music director in the orchestra's 115-year history and will serve an six-year term. She spoke on an RTHK radio programme on Friday, expressing her gratitude and said that she cannot wait to perform in the city in the future. "I just want to say I'm so grateful for all the audiences in Hong Kong who have supported me through the years in all my concerts for cheering me on even though from far away and I can't wait to reunite with you and at that time I'm bringing San Francisco Symphony to you," she said. Born in Hong Kong, Chan studied at Smith College in Massachusetts and at the University of Michigan and served as principal conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra from 2019 to 2024 and principal guest conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra between 2018 and 2023. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Central Asia trade push 'calls for more air links'](#) (2026-05-22 07:45)

Commissioner for Belt and Road Nicholas Ho on Friday said the city's professional services sectors are expected to get a boost from the government-led trip to Central Asia early next month, but called for more flights to aid the development of ties. The remarks came as Chief Executive John Lee is set to lead Hong Kong's largest-ever delegation, including 60 business leaders from both the SAR and the mainland, to visit Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to explore new opportunities. The two Central Asian nations together account for 80 percent of the region's gross domestic product and are key members of the Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing's signature plan to grow global trade. Speaking on RTHK's BackChat programme, Ho pointed to a "huge potential" for Hong Kong to cooperate with the resource-rich Central Asian region, especially over mining, commodities and artificial intelligence. "Given Hong Kong's capabilities as an international financial centre, we can see that a lot of these high-quality mining companies, natural resource companies, are looking to Hong Kong to raise funds in order to reinvest to carry out more explorations because the natural resources field is extremely wide and some of them are still relatively untapped," he said. "We are [also] seeing that funds being raised are used to build airports and new infrastructure, as they are looking to diversify in the non-mining proportion of their gross domestic product." The energy crisis triggered by the US-Israeli attacks on Iran has, Ho noted, increased the region's strategic importance as more countries look to diversify their resource supply lines. As such, he pointed out, Hong Kong is well placed to offer the region its expertise in green finance, green technologies, as well as green standards and professional services. The city, Ho said, can also partner with the region to build up artificial intelligence and data centre capabilities, at a time when Kazakhstan is pushing for such a centre to be established in the country. "That's also where Hong Kong's professional services, companies and enterprises can benefit," he said. "Particularly in the field of AI development as there's a big debate going on at the moment about being able to generate enough power for

these AI data centres, so somewhere with natural resources would be a great place." Ho also said Hong Kong's strategy of pursuing a "hub-to-hub" model of development could generate enormous economic impact as the city lies at the heart of the Greater Bay Area, which has a population of 87 million, while Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are key centres in Central Asia, with a combined population of 85 million and average economic growth rates of between six and seven percent. He called on authorities to build up air connections with the region – given the current lack of direct flights. "Given there's 80-plus million people there, they want our service providers in Central Asia and yet we still don't have a [direct] passenger flight. I think there's a huge demand there," Ho said. "I think in the future we must definitely explore and drive it." Edited by Tony Sabine

- [HK signs legal agreements with Kazakhstan](#) (2026-05-22 05:55)

Hong Kong and Kazakhstan on Friday signed three bilateral agreements on surrender of fugitive offenders (SFO), mutual legal assistance in criminal matters (MLA) and transfer of sentenced persons (TSP) to foster legal co-operation of the two jurisdictions. "Both Hong Kong and Kazakhstan are committed players in the international efforts to fight crimes. The signing of the agreements on SFO, MLA and TSP today represents an important step forward in legal co-operation between Hong Kong and Kazakhstan," Secretary for Security Chris Tang said at the signing ceremony. Under the Basic Law, the SAR government, with the authorisation of the Central People's Government, make appropriate arrangements with foreign states for reciprocal juridical assistance. The three agreements set out the conditions for the surrender of fugitive offenders under both jurisdictions and allowing refusal if the penalty includes death; enable comprehensive judicial cooperation — including locating persons, serving documents, gathering evidence, executing search and seizure orders, and assisting in asset confiscation; and allow convicted individuals to serve sentences in their home countries. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Chances of Ebola coming out of Africa are 'low'](#) (2026-05-22 04:31)

An expert on infectious diseases on Friday said that only travellers coming from two northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo provinces – where there is an Ebola outbreak – carry an extremely high risk of bringing in the disease to the SAR. Lau Yu-lung, chairman of the scientific committee on vaccine preventable diseases at the Centre for Health Protection, told an RTHK radio programme that people from the rest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) do not pose a high risk. He said the World Health Organisation had classified the risk of a global spread as low. "Under the current assessment, in Africa, particularly central Africa, the risk of the outbreak spreading is extremely high," Lau said. "However, the risk of it becoming a pandemic at the international level is low. "So I think the message to the public is that we do not have to panic." The government has raised the outbound travel alert to "red" for the DRC, urging Hong Kong residents to avoid non-essential travel there. Lau said the move is "very appropriate" and that he does not expect any resident to head there with the alert in force. There is neither a cure nor a vaccine for the current outbreak caused by Bundibugyo virus, he said, and only a conventional public health strategy can be used to tackle Ebola. The

Centre for Health Protection has set up broadcast arrangements at the airport to urge travellers who have visited the DRC or Uganda in the past 21 days to declare their travel history to officers upon arrival for further health assessments. There are also temperature checks and health screenings for passengers coming from Ethiopia – through which travellers coming from Africa usually transit. However, the move cannot absolutely prevent travellers from bringing in the disease if those who have visited the DRC or Uganda do not make that travel history known upon arrival, Lau added, or if symptoms of fever onset have yet to show. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Fire kills one in Jordan subdivided unit](#) (2026-05-22 01:08)

Firefighters are investigating a fire which killed one man and hurt four others at a flat in Jordan on Thursday night. The Fire Services Department received the alarm at 10:49pm reporting a blaze in a unit on the 13th floor of Man Yuen Building. One hose and two apparatus teams were deployed to combat the blaze, which was largely extinguished approximately one hour later. Around 300 residents evacuated on their own or with assistance from firefighters to safe areas. "The affected unit, measuring 6 metres by 8 metres, had been subdivided into nine smaller units", Assistant Divisional Officer Tso Kwong-chi told a press briefing at the scene. Tso said the fire originated in the innermost unit, where firefighters discovered a body of a 71-year-old man. Two men and two women were rescued from the scene with injuries. Tso added that scaffolding had been erected around the building's exterior. In the early stages of the fire, he said firefighters had taken steps to suppress flames from the outside, preventing further spread. A Rapid Response Team later inspected the building's fire safety systems, confirming they were fully operational, Tso said. The fire alarm had sounded promptly at the outset, and the building held a valid annual inspection certificate. Edited by Azam Khan

- [Tseung Kwan O illegal fuel station busted](#) (2026-05-21 21:37)

The Police and Fire Services Department on Thursday raided a suspected illegal petrol station in Tseung Kwan O. During the operation at an industrial estate on Chun Yat Street, officers seized about 1,500 litres of petrol along with refuelling equipment. Preliminary investigations suggest the vehicle involved had been operating for about a week, and that it was using an instant messaging app to take orders. A 35-year-old man was detained in connection with the case. The Fire Services Department will apply to the court to confiscate the petrol, which has a market value of about HK\$50,000. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Lawmakers set for historic week-long visit to capital](#) (2026-05-21 11:31)

The entire Legislative Council is set for a week-long study tour to Beijing this July, in what will be the first time the whole of Legco visits the capital together. Writing on social media, Legco President Starry Lee said the itinerary would run from July 19 to 25, describing the upcoming visit as "extensive and well-organised." It includes a visit to the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office, as well as field trips to look at the latest developments in "new quality productive forces", such as aerospace, new energy transport and artificial intelligence. Lee stressed the

delegation would have the opportunity to study the nation's legislative and law enforcement structures. The SAR lawmakers will also learn about the history and development of the Communist Party of China and its experience on grassroots community management, she added. By studying the nation's latest advancements across various sectors, Lee said the tour would equip lawmakers to help the government draw up Hong Kong's first ever five-year plan, ensuring the SAR could better integrate into national development. Legco's House Committee is set to discuss details of the tour on Friday. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [HK inflation steady in April, rising 1.7pc](#) (2026-05-21 10:53)

Hong Kong's overall consumer prices rose 1.7 percent year on year in April, lower than market expectations, and matching the number recorded in March. Data released by the Census and Statistics Department on Thursday also showed the city's underlying inflation, or the annual rate netting out effects of government's one-off relief measures, stood at 1.6 percent, also same as in March. By categories, prices of electricity, gas, and water rose the most, up by 5.5 percent year on year during the period, while prices for public transport increased by 4.3 percent. Prices of alcoholic drinks and tobacco also went higher, rising by 2.3 percent while housing rose by one percent. Meanwhile, prices of durable goods declined by 1.9 percent and that of clothing and footwear dropped 0.3 percent. Commenting on the figures, a government spokesperson noted that while prices of fuel-related items continued to accelerate, other items were in check, therefore helping balance the overall inflation figures, which remained "moderate". "Looking ahead, as international oil prices remain elevated, the corresponding feed-through process to fuel-related components in consumer prices should continue in the coming months," the spokesperson said. "The final impacts would hinge on the evolving situation in the Middle East. Yet, price pressures from other fronts are generally contained, which should help rein in the potential upward pressure on overall inflation." The city's headline annual inflation rate has remained steady for three months in a row. Earlier, the government raised its headline overall inflation forecast for this year to 2.6 percent, up from the 1.8 percent projected in February's budget, citing higher global energy prices. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Building checks find dozens of fire alarms on blink](#) (2026-05-21 10:20)

The Fire Services Department on Thursday said it found dozens of fire alarm systems in 1,500 buildings it inspected across the city that were not working properly. Carried out in the first two months of the year, the operation, codenamed Outpost, covered residential and mixed-use buildings, including some that were undergoing major renovations. More than 2,500 fire hazard abatement notices were issued after officers found fire alarm systems malfunctioning at 53 buildings. Acting senior divisional officer (policy) Law Kin-san said the compliance period for such notices was halved from the usual 60 days to ensure that those in charge carried out remedial measures as soon as possible. "Although this kind of fire hazard abatement notices has a shorter compliance date, we have a compliance rate of over 90 percent," he said. "It means the occupiers or the owners ... are able to rectify this." Law said prosecutions have also been initiated over violations involving fire safety installations at 75 buildings, including not

conducting annual checks for equipment. Law described the operation as effective, adding the department has extended the operation by two years starting in April to cover another 5,000 old residential and mixed-use buildings that are undergoing major works involving the use of scaffolding. He said officers would ensure that fire safety installations at buildings that are not targeted under the operation are up to par. “We still have various kinds of operations or routine duties for the Fire Services Department to monitor their situation, [to] monitor whether they have performed any inspection to their fire service installations,” Law said. “We will carry out a lot of audits to make sure the registered fire service installation contractors are doing their job properly and professionally.” Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Lee says HK offers 'first-class' finance platform](#) (2026-05-21 09:51)

Chief Executive John Lee on Thursday said Hong Kong welcomed the use of the city's "first-class" financial platform by global investors to achieve greater success amid geopolitical uncertainties as well as an energy crisis. Speaking at a World Finance Forum event, he noted the SAR, as the world's third largest financial centre, was striving to become the world's largest cross-border wealth management centre. Total asset and wealth management businesses reached HK\$35 trillion by 2024, while capital inflows exceeded HK\$350 billion in 2025, more than double year on year, which "demonstrate global investors' confidence in the city", Lee said. "We must take the initiative amid the current complex and volatile international environment," he told event participants. "Hong Kong will continue to leverage its unique advantage of having the strong backing from the motherland while connecting the world to build bridges for global dialogue. " We'll expand multilateral cooperation and share the fruitful achievements of stability and growth with the world." Lee also said the city is exploring new growth drivers by expanding its gold and commodities market ecosystem while boosting its high-tech industries. The city's first-ever five-year plan that's being drafted, he added, would also contribute to the nation's financial growth. Echoing Lee, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui said the city was also working on improving post-trade efficiency as well as building new business opportunities around digital assets, family offices and treasuries. Hui added he would join Lee soon for a trip to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in early June to explore opportunities for cooperation in finance, trade and innovation between Central Asia and the SAR. The event that Lee and Hui were attending, the Ninth World Finance Forum Annual Conference and Dialogue of Continents 2026 High-Level Seminar, was co-hosted by the organising committee of the World Finance Forum. With a theme focusing on the current financial landscape, the event's participants included government officials, leading firms and members of academia. Edited by Tony Sabine

- ['Consider real-world demand in issuing licences'](#) (2026-05-21 09:34)

The government needs to take real-time data on door-to-door ride-hailing services and the need to avoid transportation disruptions, Uber said on Thursday in calling for a higher initial quota to be set for licences for the sector. Officials have been collecting views from car-hailing platforms and the taxi trade before deciding how many ride-hailing licences to issue, Chief Executive John

Lee said this week, adding that the government will take into consideration factors such as people's travel needs and road capacity to strike the right balance. According to a submission by the Transport and Logistics Bureau to Legco earlier, opinion remained divided among stakeholders, with different taxi operators suggesting anywhere from several thousand to at least 10,000 licences, while ride-hailing platforms called for an even higher number. Andrew Byrne, Uber's global head of public policy, said a cap of between 10,000 and 15,000 would be too low. "Our request is to take into account the real-world demand and level of service that people provide right now," he said. "And so, we have over 30,000 drivers who operate in Hong Kong who provide rides. A significant number of them are part-time and really value that flexible work opportunity. "We do think that if the government wants to avoid major disruption to the service that people in Hong Kong love and value, then they should absolutely consider the real-world starting point now when they consider making their decisions in the future." Uber also said licences should go first to drivers already relying on ride-hailing for a living, rather than being distributed through a lottery system. And it called on the government to setup a platform-managed blanket insurance policy, rather than requiring drivers to buy their own commercial insurance. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Legco passes motion on a 'blissful' N. Metropolis](#) (2026-05-21 08:53)

Lawmakers on Thursday passed a motion which discussed ways to ensure that the living space provided in the Northern Metropolis would be sufficient for future residents. The debate also looked at ways to make overall life in the mega project attractive for residents, workers and visitors alike, under the guise of building a 'blissful' metropolis. During the Legco meeting, Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn stressed that while the administration's earlier work had ensured there would be sufficient land for future development, more in-depth planning was needed to enhance the mega project. "The Northern Metropolis has now moved to another stage. We need to bolt down to the specifics and focus on detailed design and implementation," she said. "At this stage we must not just ensure the quantity of housing production and floor area. We should also focus on the design of community facilities, the timing, as well as their quality. We need to take a micro-perspective in taking forward these tasks." The debate also centred on whether room existed for further increases in the minimum size requirement for private and public housing units in general. Linn said officials needed to take into account a number of factors for consideration. "We need to consider the cost and return for developers. We also need to consider that society has diverse needs, people from all walks of life have different requirements of flat size, as well as the affordability of potential buyers," she said. The development chief added there might be a knock-on effect on the property market whenever the administration decides to lay down new indicators on minimum size requirements for flats, noting such an impact must be gauged carefully. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [FEHD sees red as mossies reach 'extensive' proportions](#) (2026-05-21 06:29)

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said on Thursday it is stepping up efforts to fight mosquitoes after their breeding rate reached "extensive" proportions in more areas, with Tai Wai especially seeing a spike. The move came days after the FEHD released the third-batch results of its Gravidtrap Indexes, which look at how many specific monitoring devices are found with breeding mosquitoes, for 19 surveyed areas. According to the results, six of the areas – Ho Man Tin, Yau Tong and Cha Kwo Ling, Lam Tin and Sau Mau Ping, Wong Tai Sin West, Tai Wai, as well as Ma Wan and Sham Tseng – saw their index exceeding 20 percent, indicating the distribution of mosquitoes is "extensive" and requires "alerts". Tai Wai was found to have the highest mosquito breeding rate at 46 percent. Commenting on the findings, senior superintendent Hung Sai-kit said the latest levels of the Gravidtrap Indexes were actually "more or less similar" to that in the past, though last year's situation was better possibly because of less rainfall. Officials, he added, are rolling out more measures in regions rampant with mosquitoes, especially Tai Wai, after inspecting private housing estates, housing compounds, schools and parks. "We found there were some plots or housing compounds with mosquito breeding sites, and so we immediately took enforcement action," he said on an RTHK radio show. "We have also dealt with some management companies. For example, if we find standing water that encourages mosquitoes to breed, we issue notices to them, requiring them to drain the water as soon as possible," he added. Hung also noted that typically the rates for measuring the presence of mosquitoes would spike between April and September and peak in April and May. He added that authorities have been using new traps, large sprayers and other technologies, such as the robotic dogs, to fight mosquitoes. Also speaking on the show was Chan Tan-tan, a district councillor at Sha Tin West, who noted that Tai Wai's spike might be due to there being more construction projects, such as road and building construction, recently. "Some construction sites are prone to accumulate water, which would then become breeding sites for mosquitoes. We have received reports not only from ordinary citizens but also construction workers, saying that there are really a lot of mosquitoes," he said. "There are also bamboo baskets or holes in water barriers on roads that could also accumulate water and might be overlooked by the cleaning and management firms. "As a result, they became breeding grounds for mosquitoes." Chan called on authorities to use more advanced technologies to control the mosquito population, such as drones or artificial intelligence-equipped tools, pointing to their use in Singapore and certain regions in the Greater Bay Area. Edited by Edmond Fong

- ['AI won't lead to massive job losses right away'](#) (2026-05-21 06:24)

The chief technology officer of the Hong Kong Productivity Council said he doesn't see massive job cuts by local businesses – at least in the short term – despite the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI). Lawrence Cheung also said corporations should not rush into adopting AI but instead plan for its strategic use over the longer term. The impact of AI on the workforce came under further scrutiny after Standard Chartered announced it would slash thousands of jobs and HSBC's chief executive said generative AI would both destroy and create jobs in the financial sector. As the Productivity Council held an event on Thursday showcasing AI solutions

for businesses, Cheung said AI is unlikely to significantly lower employment in Hong Kong in the immediate term. He cited similar fears in the past when people claimed the internet would kill jobs. "I do not see a cliff in terms of the unemployment problem because I think for corporations to use AI in a big manner, it will be a slow process because it's not only changing people's habit in using AI, we are also talking about changing the business process, and it will take a while." Cheung added that employees will be retrained and learn new skills over time. "The impact will be there, but it's not in terms of losing a lot of jobs, but there would be a change in the job nature, a change in the way they do things." He said particularly for banks and professional firms, it's important to strike a balance between achieving operational efficiency now and meeting their future needs. "If you are reducing the intake of new interns or new trainees, then in 10 years' time there will be a significant lack of experienced people, and people need to be built up, it cannot just be developed overnight." Cheung said businesses need to have a long-term strategic approach towards the use of AI, rather than simply "diving" into it. "AI is developing so quickly, there are a lot of things that are still changing very rapidly... (and) in terms of how humans will react to AI, that is very much unknown. "In some areas like in the West, some people are really turned off by AI in terms of AI providing services. So we do not know how that would pan out." As for employees, he called on them to take a proactive approach in learning AI skills, and even advise their companies on related issues. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Second return trips begin for seven Wang Fuk blocks](#) (2026-05-21 05:29)

People displaced by the Wang Fuk Court fire braved the rain to return in batches to the seven blocks directly affected by last year's blaze for a second time starting on Thursday to salvage what they could. Many of them turned up with suitcases, trolleys and backpacks, a month after their first return. One of the residents, surnamed Lau, said she hoped to find items on behalf of her children this time. "Last time, we retrieved valuables. This time we want to pick up things for the kids, such as their toys," she said. "This incident has also had a major impact on children, not just adults, because they have no way of returning home again." Lau said her children don't understand why they cannot return even though the flat wasn't damaged in the blaze. Another resident, surnamed Ho, who had lived in the Tai Po residential estate since 1983, told RTHK that she wanted to bid farewell to her flat after it had been severely damaged. She was asked which spot was the dearest for her. "Every spot comes with memories," Ho said. "As we, whether adults or children, have lived here for years, you will still treasure each area very much and want to take another look. "This time, I will look even more closely at every spot. There isn't much we can take with us. But I just want to go up again and reminisce about everything." Residents at Wang Yan, Wang Sun and Wang Tai houses can return to their homes during designated time slots till Saturday. Wang Kin and Wang Cheong blocks will open between Sunday and Tuesday, followed by Wang Tao and Wang Shing houses from Wednesday to Friday. Like with the first time, no more than four residents can go up to the flats and they can stay for up to three hours. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Hong Kong battered by heavy rainfall](#) (2026-05-20 21:38)

Hong Kong has seen heavy rainfall overnight, with the Observatory issuing the red rainstorm warning at 2.40 am before replacing it with the amber warning at 5.15 am. It warned of heavy rain in the northern part of the New Territories, especially around Sheung Shui, Ta Kwu Ling, and Sha Tau Kok. The Drainage Services Department said 90 emergency response teams had been called in to inspect or clear flood water. It said, as of 3 am, seven flooding cases had been confirmed and six had been resolved. It said it was currently working on the remaining cases in Ping Che and Fanling and that it had deployed two powerful drainage robots. The Observatory also issued a special landslip warning. Edited by Robert Kemp

- [Statue Square Gardens to partly close for tunnel works](#) (2026-05-20 14:37)

The Development Bureau on Wednesday said part of Statue Square Gardens will be closed for four years to facilitate the proposed construction of a pedestrian tunnel connecting Central MTR Station to a new open space at the Central Harbourfront. The bureau said construction is scheduled to begin no later than early 2027 and will take about four years. Writing on a social media post, it said that the construction site for the tunnel will be located in Statue Square Gardens near the northern end of Chater Road, and it will not impact the Cenotaph and Statue Square nearby. The bureau emphasised that during the construction, developers will ensure that the pedestrian walkway nearby will remain clear and keep the surrounding areas clean. As for the construction of the new open space, the bureau said the first-phase of construction is expected to finish next year, while the rest will be completed by 2032. Officials will report on the project's latest arrangement to the Central and Western District Council in the middle this year. Edited by Aaron Tam

- ['Uzbekistan seeks more cooperation with Hong Kong'](#) (2026-05-20 14:02)

Hong Kong can soon see more cooperation with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, as Chief Executive John Lee is set to lead a delegation to Central Asia next month. It will be the largest delegation so far for the current term administration, and it will consist of government officials and more than 60 high-level business representatives. The Central Asia trip would also mark Lee's first official visit there. Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau said that Uzbekistan hopes to step up business cooperation with the city. He said that the country has already set up a business centre here, and signed agreements with the SAR in areas ranging from minerals to airport operations during the prime minister's visit to Hong Kong earlier. Yau noted that Uzbekistan is a very big country in Central Asia. "It has a population of some 30 million, which accounts for a large proportion of the 80 million people in Central Asia," he said. "Its GDP growth is also very robust – at about 7.7 percent last year. Its trade with Hong Kong also increased by 13 percent." Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui who travelled to Uzbekistan earlier this month said that representatives from the country's central bank have expressed interest in utilising Hong Kong to make trades at the Shanghai Gold Exchange. "We can work with [Uzbekistan] to see how they can join trading there. And at the same time, develop Hong Kong's gold trading ecosystem and value chain," he said. "Under global changes, different economies in Asia have to collaborate and promote

regional growth together.” Deputy Secretary for Justice Horace Cheung said the Tashkent International Arbitration Centre in Uzbekistan already has in-depth cooperation with the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre in co-managing cases. “Hong Kong has an extensive experience in international arbitration proceedings, while Tashkent International Arbitration Centre in Uzbekistan is very familiar with the countries and regions of the Commonwealth of Independent States and their culture,” he added. Edited by Aaron Tam

- ['HK\\$30m needed for Wang Chi House repairs'](#) (2026-05-20 11:35)

It is understood that HK\$30 million in repair costs are needed for Wang Chi House – the only block at Wang Fuk Court that was not affected by November’s inferno. At the second online briefing held by Hop On Management – the company appointed to oversee affairs at Wang Fuk Court – on Wednesday, the firm said the block suffered damage, and initial estimates showed that renovation works would take around nine months to complete. But the actual cost and time will be confirmed after a formal tender process. The firm said that the fire safety system at Wang Chi House requires a comprehensive inspection, maintenance and restoration before it can be used again. Repairs are also required for the block’s lightning protection, electricity, fixed-line telecommunications and television signalling systems, as well as stairwells and water tanks. Checks, meanwhile, are required for its surveillance systems and water pipes. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Substantial rise in illicit fuelling: customs chief](#) (2026-05-20 10:41)

The Customs and Excise Department said illicit fuelling activities increased significantly in April from a year ago, due mainly to higher international fuel prices. Commissioner Chan Tsz-tat said most of the activities were carried out at remote places in the New Territories. “In the past few months, we have seized a total of 15 vehicles. Eight of them – six private vehicles and two trucks – were allegedly involved in cross-boundary transport of motor spirit to Hong Kong. We will also apply to the court for confiscation,” Chan said. “Apart from the eight vehicles, there were seven other vehicles that were allegedly involved in illicit fuelling and seized by us.” The customs chief called for amendments to the law so authorities could crack down on the illicit trade more effectively. Separately, Chan believes a ban on the possession or use of alternative smoking products in public since April 30 – including vapes, e-cigarettes and heated tobacco – would ease smuggling activities, given the drop in demand. Speaking to the media as the three-day 27th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference drew to a close, the customs and excise commissioner said the SAR was unanimously endorsed by members to carry on as the vice-chair for another two years to 2028. The nomination is pending endorsement by the WCO’s Customs Cooperation Council sessions next month. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [HKUST to train Uzbekistan civil servants](#) (2026-05-20 07:58)

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) says it plans to train hundreds of Uzbek civil servants in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and drone systems under a new

strategic partnership aimed at strengthening educational ties between Hong Kong and Central Asia. An agreement signed with Uzbekistan's El-Yurt Umidi Foundation – a state-backed body operating under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan – establishes both undergraduate scholarships and executive education programmes for government officials from the Central Asian nation. Under the memorandum of agreement formalised at the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the foundation will sponsor high-achieving Uzbek undergraduates to study at HKUST across disciplines including science, engineering, business, humanities and interdisciplinary programmes. The two parties are developing executive training courses lasting one to six months for high-potential civil servants from government departments, corporate strategy functions, higher education institutions, research centres and think tanks. The foundation plans to select and sponsor hundreds of civil servants to attend a series of executive programmes at HKUST by the end of this year. The training will focus on areas critical to Uzbekistan's digital transformation, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital forensics, robotics and drone systems. HKUST Provost Professor Guo Yike said the partnership supports Hong Kong's goal of becoming an international education hub. "Our partnership with the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation fully embodies the university's mission to drive knowledge exchange and cultivate future leaders," he said. "This not only supports Uzbekistan's economic and talent development but also enriches our campus with greater cultural diversity." Established in 2018, the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation has sponsored more than 1,900 students to pursue undergraduate to doctoral programmes in G20 countries, with over 500 students currently receiving support overseas. Gulnoza Ismailova, executive director of the foundation, described the agreement as "a strategic investment in the long-term sustainability, intellectual potential and future of the New Uzbekistan". "Uzbekistan is implementing large-scale reforms aimed at building an open, modern and knowledge-based economy, where investment in education and youth is viewed as a strategic national priority," she said. During the visit to Uzbekistan, HKUST representatives also attended an international conference, meeting senior government officials and institutional leaders to explore further cooperation in engineering, advanced technology, business education and industrial internship opportunities. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Govt continues oversight of cargo fuel surcharges](#) (2026-05-20 06:12)

Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan on Wednesday said the government will continue to monitor changes to cargo fuel surcharges to ensure transparency. Since the start of last year, airlines have been allowed to set their own cargo fuel surcharge levels or choose not to levy one at all for flights departing from Hong Kong. At a Legislative Council meeting, the DAB's Ben Chan asked whether officials could establish a mechanism to link surcharge adjustments directly to international fuel prices. He said some airlines significantly increased fuel surcharges this year and this made Hong Kong's cargo industry less competitive. In response, the transport secretary said the government has been speaking to airlines and industry representatives in view of the higher fuel prices brought on by the Middle East conflict. "Over the past two months, the government has held multiple meetings with local airlines and

arranged two joint meetings between local airlines and the cargo industry to better understand the situation and urge local airlines to strengthen communication with the trade," she said. "As aviation fuel prices have eased slightly recently, several local airlines have made two rounds of downward adjustments to their cargo fuel surcharges. "The government will continue to closely monitor adjustments to fuel surcharges to ensure the process remains reasonable and transparent." Commercial sector lawmaker Erik Yim asked whether the government could offer short-term subsidies or tax relief for air freight forwarders and cross-boundary e-commerce and logistics companies. Mable Chan said the cargo industry's concerns are not merely about operating costs, but also the lack of shipping capacity to handle sudden surges in demand. She said officials will seek ways to assist them, such as by exploring talks with both local and non-local airlines. The transport chief also pointed out that fuel accounts for 30 percent of airlines' total operation costs, saying it is vital to make sure they can sustain reliable services and maintain normal operations. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Learner drivers causing traffic jams, says lawmaker](#) (2026-05-20 04:57)

A lawmaker on Wednesday called on the Transport Department to review the city's driving test routes, saying slow-moving learner drivers are making traffic jams worse. Learner drivers practice with their instructors on dozens of test routes across the territory before taking the road test to get a licence. Speaking on RTHK's In The Chamber, legislator Lau Chi-pang said he has received complaints from residents in some areas that learner drivers are obstructing other vehicles on the road. He said that as population and traffic patterns change, the department should consider adjusting test routes. "I went to Happy Valley to study the traffic patterns. I saw why traffic doesn't move sometimes and there's a long queue. I realised it's because learner drivers are moving at a very slow speed," he said. "It's the same problem in Ho Man Tin. In both areas, the issue is that when these routes were first set up for learners or for the driving test, the population and traffic flow were very different from today. But for decades, nothing has changed." Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [HKU develops two-drug therapy for leukaemia](#) (2026-05-20 04:09)

Researchers from the University of Hong Kong say they have developed a combination therapy that could help patients with an aggressive form of leukaemia achieve remission and become eligible for life-saving bone marrow transplants. The treatment, called QUIZOM, uses two drugs to target a common genetic mutation known as FLT3 which is found in about 30 percent of acute myeloid leukaemia cases. Patients with this mutation face a high risk of the cancer returning after treatment. In a clinical trial involving 40 patients aged 23 to 81 whose cancer no longer responded to chemotherapy, the new combination led to composite complete remission in more than 83 percent of cases. It also reduced the risk of relapse and helped 13 patients proceed to bone marrow transplantation. Anskar Leung, chair professor at the university's department of medicine, said the therapy works by blocking cancer cell growth while also activating the patient's own immune system to fight the disease. "When we first started it, we didn't expect any change in the immune system but we did a lot of laboratory studies and

showed that if you combine the two drugs together, you actually activate the immune system,” said Leung, who led the study. “We also identified, based on the omics studies and single-cell transcriptomics, that the T cells of these patients, particularly the responders, they actually show an immune activation. “So it’s a phenomena that we kind of identified through this research, and we had a bit of laboratory data to show that this kind of immune activation is important in clearing out the leukaemic cells.” He described this as a dual benefit, similar to getting chemotherapy and immunotherapy at the same time. The combination has completed a phase 2 clinical trial, with plans for a third round. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Nearly 11,000 units apply for basic housing status](#) (2026-05-20 01:12)

Nearly 11,000 applications have been made by owners of subdivided flats to recognise their properties for rental purposes more than two months since a regulatory regime came into force. Most of these units are located in Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Wan Chai, Eastern and Kowloon City districts, the government said. The Basic Housing Units Ordinance, which took effect on March 1, specifies that subdivided homes can only be let out after being recognised as basic housing units. Applicants must appoint professionals to inspect if the dwellings meet certain safety and size standards. These include a minimum floor area of eight square metres, a floor-to-ceiling height of at least 2.3 metres and a separate toilet, on top of rules for fire safety, lighting and ventilation. After registration, landlords are given 36 months to conduct necessary works, during which the flats can continue to be let out. Officials estimate that works for 70 percent of such properties would cost HK\$25,000 to HK\$50,000 each. Common modifications include installing fire extinguishers and stand-alone fire detectors, as well as equipping individual flats with water and electricity meters. Another 30 percent of such units are deemed to be of lower standard, and Under Secretary for Housing Victor Tai said owners have a choice to make. "For subdivided units of poorer quality, owners may need to consider the costs and decide whether they want to continue operating. We leave this decision to the owners," Tai said. "As previously mentioned, whether dealing with water leaks or other issues requiring renovation, these substandard situations need improvement, which is exactly what we are seeking." Authorities said they also received four applications for direct accreditation, and if successful each would be granted a five-year permit. Tai noted that these flats either entail fewer modifications or were recently bought and turned into subdivided units. He added that around 3,800 transitional housing units are ready to accommodate residents of subdivided units with short-term rehousing needs. Two subdivided flats, acquired by the Urban Renewal Authority under a redevelopment project in Kowloon City, have been converted into basic housing "show flats". Tai said interested groups can pay a visit after making an appointment. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [HK to boost Central Asian ties in upcoming visit](#) (2026-05-19 13:36)

Hong Kong is strengthening its role as a financial and legal bridge to Central Asia, with Chief Executive John Lee announcing on Tuesday that he will lead a delegation to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan next month. The upcoming visit builds on growing ties between Hong Kong and the

region, including a landmark dual listing by a tungsten mining giant and the issuance of offshore renminbi "dim sum" bonds by Kazakhstan's development bank, both signs of expanding financial cooperation. Lee described the upcoming trip as the largest overseas delegation of his term so far, both in scale and scope. It will include government officials and more than 60 senior business representatives, surpassing last year's Middle East visit. The trip will also mark his first official visit to Central Asia since taking office, and his fifth mission tied to the Belt and Road Initiative. Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau noted that President Xi Jinping launched the initiative in 2013 during a visit to Kazakhstan. "Therefore, Kazakhstan plays a very important role in the Belt and Road Initiative," Yau said on an RTHK programme. "Moreover, the country's energy and mining sectors are very robust." Recent developments highlight the region's growing importance, particularly in natural resources. Last year, a company behind Central Asia's largest tungsten project chose to list simultaneously in Hong Kong and Kazakhstan. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui said the decision reflected the SAR's strengths as an international financial hub. "An important reason why they chose to list in Hong Kong is the city's international character and connectivity with global capital," he said. "As an international financial centre, Hong Kong helps them attract international capital. At the same time, the country itself has high-quality enterprises – this is a perfect match." Meanwhile, financial links continued to deepen with the Development Bank of Kazakhstan issuing a three-year 2 billion yuan offshore renminbi bond in Hong Kong last September. Kazakhstan has also established the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), a special economic zone operating under common law with tax incentives – features that align closely with Hong Kong's own legal system. Deputy Secretary for Justice Horace Cheung said this creates a natural basis for collaboration. "They have set up the AIFC where civil and commercial matters can be handled under common law through a common law court. This represents a key opportunity for cooperation with Hong Kong," he said. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Hydrogen energy push for HK, Shenzhen and Shantou](#) (2026-05-19 10:41)

Researchers are proposing a hydrogen energy corridor be established between Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Shantou. The director of Chinese University's Centre for Social and Political Development Studies, Victor Zheng, says Shantou provides cheap hydrogen energy that Hong Kong can use as well as export, largely reducing the costs of fuel. He said building the Northern Metropolis with its focus on big data will require much energy down the road. "We think the future industry for Hong Kong is AI and big data so... energy is the most critical element for the successful development of the Northern Metropolis." Zheng said a proposal has been sent to the SAR chief executive and related bureaus that comes as the government drafts Hong Kong's first five-year plan. The suggestion came in a policy advocacy forum on Tuesday at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. The forum is part of the International Hydrogen Development Symposium starting from Monday. Zheng said Hong Kong can help supply hydrogen energy to the region and to the world and raise capital for major energy projects. The most important thing right now, he added, is gathering policy support, hopefully from the three regional governments. "The most difficult issue is that at this moment, not only

the Hong Kong government but also the Shenzhen, Shantou government still haven't[formulated] such kind of policies... if we don't have government [backing] we can't go further."Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Construction of Tung Chung West Station on track: MTR](#) (2026-05-19 08:49)

The MTR Corporation said on Tuesday that it expects the main structure for the future Tung Chung West Station to be completed in the first half of 2027, while tunnel boring works will be done in the coming quarter. Head of Project Delivery for Lantau Lee Ka-leung said this is in line with the schedule of completing the project in 2029. He said that since the underground station is very close to residential areas, the railway operator has adopted an unconventional top-down construction method to minimise nuisance and speed up the process. “On the time needed, compared to the bottom-up construction method, the advantage is that after we complete the concourse on the middle floor, we can work on the inner structure of the upper concourse and the excavation work for the lower floors at the same time,” he said. As for the cost, Lee said it was slightly higher than the conventional method, as the top-down one has higher requirements for ventilation, management and logistics. But he stressed that the additional cost required was already calculated in the budget. The railway operator has also adopted a 1,000-tonne tunnel boring machine to perform U-turns in place for the first time as it constructs two tunnels connecting Tung Chung and Tung Chung West stations. Lee said this minimises the impact on road traffic caused by transporting machines, and avoids loud noises and strong shaking caused by adopting the usual drill and blast method. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Elderly woman injured in Kowloon Bay car accident](#) (2026-05-19 08:31)

Police said a car struck an elderly woman in Kowloon Bay on Tuesday morning, leaving her seriously injured. Officers said they received a report around 11am that a woman in her eighties had been hit by a vehicle near the Auxiliary Police Headquarters on Wang Chiu Road. The victim was rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital. According to authorities, the car involved caught fire after the collision, but firefighters immediately extinguished the flames upon arriving at the scene. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Air-conditioning worker falls to death](#) (2026-05-19 08:15)

An air-conditioning worker died on Tuesday afternoon after falling from a residential building while installing a unit in Kowloon City. Police said they received a report around noon that a male worker in his thirties was working outside a mid-level flat at a housing estate on Nga Tsing Long Road. He is thought to have lost his footing before plunging from the building. The man was rushed to Kwong Wah Hospital where he was later pronounced dead. The Labour Department said it has launched an investigation into the cause of accident. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- ['HK ideal place for French investors to diversify'](#) (2026-05-19 07:12)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan has urged French investors and companies to make use of Hong Kong to expand their portfolios and businesses amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainties. The call came as he arrived in Paris on Monday as part of a visit to Europe. Upon arrival, he met Chinese Ambassador to France Deng Li and exchanged views on China-France and China-Europe relations, as well as the latest developments in Hong Kong. Chan also met a group of representatives from the French Asset Management Association as well as industry to promote collaborations on investments between the two regions. "For French investors seeking both capital security and investment returns, Hong Kong is an ideal destination for asset diversification with its advantages under 'One Country, Two Systems'," he told the representatives. "It is an opportune time for French financial institutions to leverage Hong Kong's advantages to expand their asset and wealth management businesses in Asia." Chan also noted Hong Kong's steady economic growth last year and in the first quarter of this year, with two major credit rating agencies as well as the International Monetary Fund offering "positive assessments" on the city's fiscal policies. He added that the asset management industry in the SAR has reached nearly 3.9 trillion euros, and that the Greater Bay Area, with a population of 87 million, also has "substantive demand" for offshore asset allocation. Separately, the finance minister met representatives from Asia Centre Paris, a think tank that focuses on geopolitical strategies, international relations, as well as governance and economy. He told them that the "One Country, Two Systems" principle is here to stay, which makes the SAR the best "gateway" for global capital to access the mainland market. "In recent years, apart from continuously developing trade and finance, Hong Kong has been actively nurturing the innovation and technology industry, and promoting the development of emerging industries such as artificial intelligence and biomedicine," Chan said. "The vast market of the Greater Bay Area and the development of emerging and future industries will create broader application scenarios and development space for European products and enterprises." Chan also noted the ongoing trend for mainland firms to set up factories and expand in Europe through Hong Kong. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [HK 'to raise Ebola alert if there's wider outbreak'](#) (2026-05-19 06:00)

The Centre for Health Protection said on Tuesday it would only further raise its alert level for the Ebola outbreak in Africa if there were wider transmissions overseas or if Hong Kong recorded any imported cases. The comments came as the SAR government earlier stepped up precautions and activated its "alert" response to the outbreak, though that was the lowest level among its three-tier mechanism, which also comprises "serious" and "emergency". Speaking on an RTHK radio programme, the head of the centre's communicable disease branch, Albert Au, again assured the public that risks to Hong Kong remained low, as the epidemic mainly occurred in certain areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda and had not evolved into a cross-continental outbreak. But the government would continue to monitor the need to upgrade its response level, he said, adding that authorities attach great importance to the issue. "If we find the outbreak has escalated overseas, such as the epidemic situation having worsened in these two countries and spread to more African countries or even other states, or

if unfortunately Hong Kong itself records the first confirmed imported case from abroad, then we might raise the [response] level to 'serious' because the risks have increased," Au said. "In a worst-case scenario, if there are signs the virus has already spread within the local community or there are local infections of unknown origins, we'll raise the alert to the highest 'emergency' level." The outbreak is suspected to have caused at least 100 deaths and nearly 400 infections as of Monday, with the virus being a rare strain known as Bundibugyo, which has no proven vaccines or treatment. The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, and the SAR government has implemented a series of measures, including health screenings for passengers arriving on flights from Africa, to guard against imported cases. Noting that the average fatality rate from Ebola outbreaks is generally around 50 percent and the illness has an incubation period of up to 21 days, Au called on residents to avoid going to the affected regions unless it is absolutely necessary. "If you really must go, make sure to take protective measures, including always paying attention to personal hygiene and not coming into contact with any wild animals and avoiding visiting hospitals there," he said. "And if you develop symptoms such as a fever and vomiting within 21 days, you must seek medical help at emergency rooms as soon as possible, and inform the doctors that you've been to those affected regions." Ebola is transmitted to humans through close contact with blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [HK finds its next growth frontier in Central Asia](#) (2026-05-19 05:16)

A landmark renminbi bond issued by Kazakhstan in Hong Kong last year signals a new reality that Central Asia's most dynamic economies are turning to the city for finance, logistics and expertise. As Kazakhstan and neighbouring Uzbekistan pursue economic modernisation and diversification, Hong Kong is emerging as a notable partner in finance and logistics. To further cultivate ties, Chief Executive John Lee will lead a delegation of officials, as well as business leaders from the SAR and the mainland, on a visit to the Central Asian nations next month. While Kazakhstan relied traditionally on its oil and mineral reserves, it has been diversifying its industries as part of economic reforms. Data from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) showed that Kazakhstan's oil and gas sector made up 11.9 percent of national GDP last year, compared to nearly 20 percent in 2010. Alongside this shift, the TDC said there is keen demand for modern infrastructure, finance and technology. One key conduit is the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), which operates as a special economic zone and practises common law. The TDC said the AIFC has already attracted over US\$21 billion in investment since its inception in 2018. As of the first half of 2025, 14 Hong Kong companies and 725 Chinese firms are registered there. "Hong Kong and AIFC do share the common law together, so that's easy for Hong Kong financial sector or professional services to tap into the Kazakhstan market," TDC principal economist Alice Tsang said. "The AIFC also have an encouraging fintech development in there. So I think Hong Kong fintech companies can actually establish common developments in Kazakhstan, in AIFC, and this also helped the digitalisation of the government policy from Kazakhstan." The Development Bank of Kazakhstan's issuance of a 2 billion yuan "dim sum bond" in Hong Kong last September further cements the SAR's role as a top offshore

renminbi hub. Meanwhile to the south, Uzbekistan is undergoing an even more dramatic overhaul. Under its "2030 strategy", the country is eyeing accession to the World Trade Organisation within this year, a move which would greatly slash trade barriers. As part of that push, the Uzbek government is liberalising markets, creating special economic zones and promoting digital governance – all of which put Hong Kong's fintech, smart city, and ESG advisory services in high demand. "Uzbekistan is striving to develop the light industries, so I think Hong Kong companies can get a full ... advantage by establishing or actually collaborate with the factories or companies in Uzbekistan to develop their products over there," Tsang said. "At the same time, Uzbekistan is also striving to develop [the] made-in-Uzbekistan brand, and this will help Hong Kong companies if they are interested to expand their products in Central Asia or in the European market. "That will be a first-time mover to seek collaboration with the local Uzbekistan companies to tap in different markets." Bilateral trade between Hong Kong and Central Asia has been growing -- SAR exports to the region reached US\$313.4 million in 2025, with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan accounting for more than half. Both countries share pressing needs for logistics, infrastructure funding and sustainability solutions, the TDC said, as it tries to match Hong Kong's expertise in capital markets and gold-trading, as well as global connectivity to potential customers there. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [CE to visit Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan in June](#) (2026-05-19 03:51)

Chief Executive John Lee announced on Tuesday that he will lead a delegation to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan early next month on his first official trip to Central Asia. Speaking ahead of the weekly Executive Council meeting, Lee said Kazakhstan is the SAR's largest trading partner in Central Asia, while Uzbekistan is a major economic growth engine. The region is working to diversify its economy, he said, and there are plenty of opportunities to work with Hong Kong. On top of further opening up new markets to lay the foundation for long-term trade relations, the CE said he also aims to promote closer ties between governments through meeting top officials of the two countries during the visit. The visit is also intended to construct a hub-to-hub cooperation model, Lee added. "Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are the two major countries in Central Asia – they are the main gateways for foreign capital entering the region. Hong Kong is the gateway for foreign capital into East and Southeast Asia," he said. "By strengthening cooperation between these two hubs, we can establish a hub-to-hub cooperation model and create a new pathway connecting Central Asia with East and Southeast Asia." Lee went on to say that collaboration with the two countries will benefit Hong Kong's economy, trade and service sectors, and create more employment and value-added opportunities in the SAR. Lee said the delegation consisting of government officials and more than 60 high-level business representatives – over half from Hong Kong and the rest from the mainland – is the biggest ever and covers the widest range of representatives in the current term government, and is "much larger" than the one he led to the Middle East last year. The delegation will visit local businesses and infrastructure to explore new cooperation and trading opportunities, he added. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Lee confident Sino-US stability benefits Hong Kong](#) (2026-05-19 03:19)

Chief Executive John Lee said on Tuesday he is confident that a constructive China-US relationship will bring stability and certainty to Hong Kong's trade and economic development. His remarks came after President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart, Donald Trump, agreed to build a "constructive relationship of strategic stability" during talks in Beijing last week. "Hong Kong is an externally oriented economy susceptible to the influence of the main market," Lee said. "More certainty and stability in the market will greatly reduce the impact of external turbulence on Hong Kong, allowing Hong Kong to focus more on building a vibrant economy, pursuing development and construction, and improving people's livelihoods," he said. "The positive outcomes of this summit meeting between the two heads of governments have given me even greater confidence in Hong Kong's positive future development." Follow a major summit last week, Xi and Trump also reached a consensus in their economic and trade discussions, covering areas such as tariff arrangements, cooperation in trade and investment, market access and purchase of items. Lee said the consensus reached by the two leaders would also be beneficial to Hong Kong-US trade. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Govt still seeking views on ride-hailing cap: CE](#) (2026-05-19 03:17)

The government will keep collecting views from car-hailing platforms and the taxi trade before deciding how many ride-hailing licences to issue, Chief Executive John Lee said on Tuesday. Lee was asked before an Executive Council meeting how the number will be set amid concerns over not having enough vehicles for ride-hailing services or the impact on the taxi trade. The chief executive said officials will take into consideration a number of factors in order to strike the right balance. "First, address the public travel needs so that their riding experience remains more or less the same. Second, take into account Hong Kong's unique circumstances, including road capacity and the fact that nearly 90 percent of daily passenger trips are made using public transport services. Third, establish a mechanism to monitor actual market operations and data, conduct dynamic assessments and reviews," he said. After considering views from all parties and the relevant data, officials will submit subsidiary legislation to the Legislative Council within the first half of this year, Lee added. Edited by Thomas McAlinden