



HONG KONG SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 23, 2026 - May 30, 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 23, 2026 - May 30, 2026)

Executive Summary

During the period of May 23 to May 30, 2026, Hong Kong's security posture remained primarily shaped by the ongoing implications of its recently amended National Security Law (NSL) and Safeguarding National Security Ordinance (SNSO), alongside a strong focus on cybersecurity and counter-terrorism preparedness. Diplomatic tensions with the United States persisted following the expanded police powers under the NSL, while Hong Kong actively positioned itself as a key facilitator in China's global governance initiatives and regional economic cooperation. The city's economy demonstrated robust export growth, particularly in AI-related electronics, yet remained sensitive to broader geopolitical and trade uncertainties. Overall, Hong Kong continued to navigate a complex security landscape characterized by tightened internal controls and evolving regional dynamics.

Key Security Developments

- Ongoing Implications of National Security Law Amendments

Recent amendments to the National Security Law (NSL) implementation rules, gazetted on March 23, 2026, continued to be a significant security development. These amendments empower Hong Kong police to compel individuals under national security investigation to provide passwords or decryption methods for electronic devices, with refusal carrying penalties of up to one year imprisonment and a HK\$100,000 fine. The changes also expanded property confiscation mechanisms and broadened the definition of "foreign agent," significantly impacting civil liberties and increasing compliance risks for international businesses and individuals operating in or transiting through Hong Kong.

- US Security Alert and Diplomatic Fallout

Following the NSL amendments, the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong issued a security alert on March 26, 2026, warning that refusing to provide passwords for electronic devices is now a criminal offense for anyone, including U.S. citizens, in Hong Kong or transiting through Hong Kong International Airport. In response, Beijing

summoned the U.S. top envoy to Hong Kong on March 29, urging the U.S. to cease interference in Hong Kong and Beijing's internal affairs. This exchange highlighted persistent diplomatic friction surrounding Hong Kong's legal framework.

- Heightened Focus on Cybersecurity and AI Security

Hong Kong continued to solidify its role in cybersecurity and AI security, with the "DiCyFor & AI Security Summit Hong Kong 2026" being a prominent event in the year, exploring topics like digital forensics and Zero Trust strategies. The Digital Policy Office, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Police Force and HKCERT, co-organized the "Build a Secure Cyberspace 2026" webinar on May 15, 2026, to educate the public on cyber risks. A technical seminar on "AI Strategy in Practice" was also held on May 30, 2026, underscoring the city's commitment to addressing evolving cyber threats. The Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance, effective January 1, 2026, further mandates enhanced cybersecurity standards for essential services across eight critical sectors.

- Regional Counter-terrorism Cooperation Exercise

The "Counter Cyber and Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026," codenamed "STEALTHNET," concluded on April 16, 2026, demonstrating Hong Kong's commitment to regional security cooperation. Coordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force, the exercise involved over 380 participants from Interpol, Macao Judiciary Police, Singapore Police Force, Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, and the Korean National Police Agency. It simulated terrorist financing scenarios and cross-border cyber and physical attacks against financial, aviation, and healthcare systems, enhancing intelligence sharing and coordinated response capabilities.

- Hong Kong's Role in China's Global Governance Initiative

The Global Prosperity Summit 2026, held in Hong Kong from May 19 to 20, highlighted the city's expanding role as a "bridge for exchange" and a regional growth driver within China's Global Governance Initiative and APEC. Ambassador Han Zhiqiang, vice-president of the China Public Diplomacy Association, emphasized Hong Kong's importance in facilitating international exchanges and integrating into the country's overall development, especially ahead of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen and the Finance Ministers' Meeting in Hong Kong later in the year.

- IMF Assessment of Hong Kong's Economic Resilience and Risks

The IMF Executive Board concluded its 2026 Article IV Consultation discussions with Hong Kong on May 22, 2026, noting the economy's continued recovery supported by strong exports and financial market activity. However, the report also highlighted that the outlook remains subject to downside risks due to Hong Kong's high exposure to geopolitical and trade tensions, global financial volatility, and a potential slowdown in the technology cycle. The IMF stressed the importance of Hong Kong's role as a "super-connector" in an increasingly fragmented global environment.

- Shangri-La Dialogue and US-China Dynamics

The Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's premier defense summit, took place in Singapore from May 29-30, 2026. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth delivered a keynote address, striking a milder tone on China and Taiwan compared to the previous year, emphasizing a "stable equilibrium" and "quiet strength" in the Indo-Pacific. However, China's Defense Minister Dong Jun was notably absent for a second consecutive year, which analysts viewed as a sign of China's rising power and its preference to avoid direct confrontation in such forums. This dynamic indirectly influences Hong Kong's geopolitical standing.

- EU's Tougher Stance on China Trade Policy

On May 29, 2026, the European Commission agreed on a tougher new approach to trade relations with China, aiming to defend its industries from a "new China shock". This policy shift, which may involve new instruments to compel companies to diversify suppliers and ramp up safeguard measures, reflects the EU's "de-risking" strategy. Such developments could have implications for Hong Kong as a major entrepot for merchandise trade between the EU and mainland China.

- Robust Export Growth Amidst Geopolitical Concerns

Hong Kong's exports of goods recorded a significant year-on-year increase of 42.9 percent in April 2026, driven by robust global demand for artificial intelligence-related electronics products, with data released on May 28, 2026. Exports to Asian markets, the United States, and the European Union all saw notable gains. Despite this positive economic indicator, government spokespeople warned that heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East could pose a salient risk by disrupting supply chains and undermining global demand.

- Hong Kong Overtakes Switzerland in Wealth Management

A study by the Boston Consulting Group, published on May 28, 2026, revealed that Hong Kong surpassed Switzerland for the first time in cross-border wealth management in 2025, managing \$2.95 trillion of overseas assets. This achievement, driven by mainland China inflows and strong market activity, was welcomed by the Hong Kong government as a reflection of the city's appeal as an international financial center amidst geopolitical tensions.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Hong Kong's security developments during this period are deeply intertwined with broader geopolitical shifts, particularly the evolving relationship between China and major global powers. The continued tightening of the National Security Law, as evidenced by the March 2026 amendments and the subsequent U.S. security alert,

has solidified Beijing's control over the Special Administrative Region, further eroding the "One Country, Two Systems" framework in the eyes of Western nations. This has led to persistent diplomatic friction with the United States, which views these measures as a degradation of civil liberties and a risk to foreign companies and individuals.

Despite these tensions, Hong Kong actively sought to reinforce its role as a "super-connector" and a hub for international cooperation, particularly within China's "Global Governance Initiative" and APEC. The Global Prosperity Summit in May 2026 underscored Hong Kong's strategic importance in facilitating exchanges between China and the world, aiming to leverage its unique position for regional growth and stability. This dual approach—tightening internal security while promoting external economic engagement—reflects China's broader strategy of asserting its influence while maintaining economic ties.

The Shangri-La Dialogue, held at the end of May, highlighted the complex dynamics in the Indo-Pacific. While the U.S. adopted a more measured tone towards China, the underlying concerns about Beijing's military buildup and its stance on Taiwan remained prominent. China's absence from the highest-level defense discussions signals a growing confidence in its regional power, potentially leading to a more assertive posture in areas like the South China Sea, which could indirectly impact maritime security and trade routes vital to Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the European Union's move towards a tougher trade policy with China, driven by a "de-risking" strategy, could present challenges for Hong Kong's role as a trade gateway, potentially affecting its economic prosperity and its ability to attract foreign investment from European partners.

Military and Defense Analysis

Hong Kong's defense is primarily the responsibility of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Garrison in Hong Kong. The local security forces, primarily the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), focus on internal security, law enforcement, and counter-terrorism. During the reporting period, there were no indications of significant shifts in the PLA Garrison's force posture or modernization programs directly related to Hong Kong. Instead, the emphasis remained on enhancing the capabilities of local law enforcement.

The "Counter Cyber and Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026" (STEALTHNET) in April showcased the HKPF's and ICTU's advanced capabilities in responding to hybrid threats, including cyber and physical attacks, and terrorist financing. This multi-agency, cross-border exercise with regional partners like Interpol, Macao, Singapore, and Korea demonstrates a commitment to intelligence sharing and

coordinated rapid response, crucial for safeguarding critical infrastructure such as financial, aviation, and healthcare systems. The exercise also involved a cybersecurity company, highlighting the increasing integration of private sector expertise in defense against cyber threats.

Defense spending trends for Hong Kong itself are not publicly detailed as a separate military budget, given its status as a Special Administrative Region. However, the focus on strengthening counter-terrorism capabilities, intelligence gathering, and cybersecurity, as outlined in the Commissioner's Operational Priorities for 2026, indicates continued investment in these areas. The implementation of the Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance further underscores the government's commitment to bolstering digital resilience across essential services. While Hong Kong does not engage in independent defense acquisitions or arms deals, its internal security forces are continuously modernizing their equipment and training to address evolving threats. Maritime security for Hong Kong Port and registered ships remained at Level 1, indicating a stable, routine security environment.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Hong Kong is expected to continue the robust enforcement of its National Security Law and Safeguarding National Security Ordinance. This will likely lead to further scrutiny of individuals and organizations deemed to be undermining national security, potentially resulting in additional arrests or legal actions. The diplomatic tensions with the United States and other Western nations over these laws are unlikely to abate, with continued warnings and potential retaliatory measures, though direct economic sanctions against Hong Kong itself may remain targeted rather than broad. Domestically, the focus on cybersecurity will intensify, driven by ongoing conferences and the full implementation of critical infrastructure protection measures. Economically, Hong Kong will strive to maintain its strong export performance, particularly in the technology sector, while closely monitoring global trade conditions and geopolitical stability, especially in the Middle East.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: A critical flashpoint remains the interpretation and application of the NSL and SNSO, particularly concerning data access, "state secrets," and the definition of "foreign agents," which could ensnare more foreign businesses and individuals. This could exacerbate diplomatic tensions and potentially impact Hong Kong's status as an international financial hub. Regionally, the Taiwan Strait remains a significant flashpoint, with any escalation between China and the U.S. having profound implications for Hong Kong's stability and economic outlook. The South China Sea disputes also pose a risk, potentially disrupting maritime trade routes and increasing regional military posturing. Furthermore, the increasing sophistication

of cyber threats, especially those leveraging AI, presents a constant risk to Hong Kong's critical infrastructure and financial systems.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include statements and actions from the U.S. and EU regarding Hong Kong's autonomy and human rights, particularly any new advisories or sanctions. Observing trends in foreign direct investment and the presence of international businesses in Hong Kong will provide insights into confidence in the city's legal and operating environment. The frequency and nature of national security-related arrests and prosecutions will indicate the intensity of law enforcement. Monitoring developments in China's relations with major powers, including the outcomes of high-level dialogues and trade negotiations, will be crucial. Lastly, tracking the success of Hong Kong's cybersecurity initiatives and its ability to deter and respond to cyberattacks will be important for assessing its digital resilience.

Strategic recommendations: Hong Kong should prioritize transparent communication regarding the application of its security laws to mitigate international concerns and rebuild trust with foreign businesses and governments. While upholding national security, efforts should be made to clearly delineate the scope of these laws and ensure due process to safeguard Hong Kong's reputation as a rules-based society. Strengthening multilateral and regional cooperation in cybersecurity and counter-terrorism, beyond traditional partners, can enhance collective resilience against hybrid threats. Economically, Hong Kong should continue to diversify its growth drivers and leverage its unique position to facilitate trade and investment, actively promoting its role in global initiatives while adapting to evolving international trade policies.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: HK Free Press

- [Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth says US seeks ‘stable equilibrium’ with China in Asia](#) (2026-05-30 04:56)

By Matthew Walsh and Ludovic Ehret Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth struck a measured tone towards China at a major defence forum on Saturday, noting “rightful alarm” over Beijing’s military build-up but saying the United States sought a “stable equilibrium” in Asia. Hegseth’s headline speech at Singapore’s Shangri-La Dialogue, which brings together top defence officials and experts [...]

- [Defrocked Shaolin abbot given 24 years in prison for embezzlement](#) (2026-05-30 04:29)

The former head of China’s famed Shaolin Temple was sentenced to 24 years in jail for crimes including embezzlement and bribery that spanned three decades, a court said on Friday. Liu Yingcheng, who as abbot went by the name Shi Yongxin, was removed from his post in July 2025 for “extremely” bad behaviour. He was [...]

- [Hong Kong’s ‘shoebox’ flat reform leaves low-income residents in limbo](#) (2026-05-30 02:30)

By Catherine Lai Hong Kong resident Lisa Lau put on a costume drama as she settled on the bed that occupies much of her tiny apartment, trying to take her mind off a looming eviction. Subdivided flats like Lau’s three-square-metre (32-square-feet) home — made by splitting up an apartment into smaller units — are being [...]

- [China blasts ‘illegal’ Japan-Philippines sea border talks](#) (2026-05-29 12:55)

China expressed strong opposition on Friday to a decision by Japan and the Philippines to start maritime border negotiations, calling the talks “illegal” and claiming exclusive control over the waters concerned. The two island nations announced on Thursday they would start formal talks “to delimit the maritime boundary” of an economic zone and continental shelf [...]

- [Hong Kong court upholds veteran journalist’s conviction for obstructing police](#) (2026-05-29 10:12)

A Hong Kong court has upheld the conviction and sentence of a journalist and former head of a press union for obstructing police while reporting. Veteran journalist Ronson Chan began serving his five-day sentence on Friday after Deputy High Court Judge Lily Wong upheld a lower court’s conviction over an incident in September 2022, when [...]

- [Chinese leaders skip Asia defence summit headlined by US](#) (2026-05-29 08:19)

By Jan Hennop and Matthew Walsh Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth is the headline speaker at Asia's premier defence summit opening Friday, but China's top officials aren't expected despite weighty questions like Taiwan and the war in Iran. Beijing's defence minister is to skip the three-day Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore for the second year running, which [...]

- [Hong Kong swelters as temperatures exceed 36°C; rain to bring temporary respite this weekend – Observatory](#) (2026-05-29 07:23)

Hong Kong sweltered on Friday, with temperatures exceeding 36 degrees Celsius in the northern New Territories by mid-afternoon. Acting Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) Choy Chun-wing told RTHK on Friday that minimum temperatures remained at, or above, 28 degrees Celsius over the past six days – matching a record seen in mid-May [...]

- [Woman denies bribing Hong Kong immigration officers over permanent residency application](#) (2026-05-29 06:09)

A woman has denied charges of offering bribes to Hong Kong immigration officers over a permanent residency application and obstructing anti-graft officers in the execution of their duties. Wang Subing, an unemployed 36-year-old, appeared at the Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts on Thursday, Ming Pao reported. She was charged with one count of offering an advantage [...]

- [Traveller jailed and fined after attempting to smuggle cigarettes in stockings](#) (2026-05-29 04:12)

A traveller has been sentenced to six weeks in prison and fined HK\$1,800 after attempting to smuggle cigarettes under his stockings while crossing the border from mainland China. The 49-year-old man received his sentence at the Fanling Magistrates' Courts on Thursday, one day after he was intercepted at the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control [...]

- [Ex-HKUST professor sentenced to 20 weeks in jail for bribery in student admission case](#) (2026-05-28 23:30)

A former professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has been sentenced to 20 weeks' imprisonment over bribery to secure the admission of a mainland Chinese student to the university. Liu Hongbin, who served as a chair professor at HKUST when the bribery took place, was sentenced on Thursday at the [...]

- [Civil servants may get up to 4.12% pay rise as gov't plans appraisal revamp in October](#) (2026-05-28 10:49)

The Hong Kong government could raise civil servants' salaries by up to 4.12 per cent this year and plans to introduce a revamped appraisal system for its employees in October, a minister has said. Secretary for Civil Service Ingrid Yeung said on Thursday that the tentative results of the 2026 Pay Trend Survey suggested a [...]

- [Chinese dissident to be moved to South Korean immigration detention, police say](#) (2026-05-28 09:41)

A Chinese dissident who fled to South Korea this week in a rubber boat will be transferred to an immigration detention centre, police told AFP on Thursday. Dong Guangping, a 68-year-old former policeman, has been a thorn in Beijing's side for advocating political reform and human rights and served multiple prison stints over the years. [...]

- [2026 HKFP Reader Survey: Help shape our coverage... and win HKFP merch](#) (2026-05-28 09:41)

HKFP's 2026 Reader Survey will help us to shape and prioritise our news coverage over the coming two years, and guide how we invest donor money. Take part before June 5 for a chance to win an HKFP goodie bag including a tote, t-shirt, keyring, mug, stickers and an HKFP deer. A winner will be [...]

- [Hong Kong smoking rate falls to record low 8.5% but misses WHO target](#) (2026-05-28 06:28)

The Department of Health has said Hong Kong's smoking rate dropped to a record low of 8.5 per cent, but it fell short of the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended target. "Hong Kong's smoking rate has continued to decline from 23.3 per cent in the early 1980s to 8.5 per cent in 2025, hitting a [...]

- [Hongkong Post seeks HK\\$4.6 billion gov't bailout amid record loss](#) (2026-05-28 05:21)

Hongkong Post has applied to the legislature for a HK\$4.6 billion government bailout to support its operations in the next three years and to cover the refurbishment of the Air Mail Centre. According to a paper submitted by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau to the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Economic Development on Wednesday, [...]

- [Chinese dissident flees to South Korea on rubber boat](#) (2026-05-28 04:03)

By Kang Jin-kyu A Chinese dissident who has long been a thorn in Beijing's side has escaped to South Korea on a rubber boat, his lawyer confirmed on Wednesday, after repeated attempts to flee China. Dong Guangping, a former policeman who was imprisoned for his activism, was found by South Korean authorities on Monday night [...]

- [Hong Kong beats Switzerland in global wealth management, study shows](#) (2026-05-28 03:35)

Hong Kong has overtaken Switzerland for the first time in cross-border wealth management, according to a study by the Boston Consulting Group published on Wednesday. Based on the volume of foreign capital under management in 2025, there were US\$2.95 trillion of overseas assets in Hong Kong compared with US\$2.946 trillion in Switzerland. The study said [...]

- [Hong Kong justice chief urges staff to report sources of claims against top prosecutor](#) (2026-05-28 02:35)

A Hong Kong official has confirmed that the justice minister sent an internal memo urging department staff to provide information on the sources of allegations of a top government prosecutor's misconduct. Deputy Secretary for Justice Horace Cheung confirmed on Wednesday the existence of the internal memo sent by Secretary for Justice Paul Lam on Tuesday. [...]

- [Tai Po fire: Residents say 'no choice' but to accept buyback as deadline looms](#) (2026-05-27 23:30)

Some Wang Fuk Court residents have said they “are given no choice” over the government's plan to buy back their flats, urging authorities to reconsider rebuilding the fire-hit estate on site. Residents continued to return to the housing complex in Tai Po on Wednesday, half a year after the massive fire in November, which killed [...]

- [Re-elected Tibet-in-exile government leader sworn in](#) (2026-05-27 07:23)

Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama prayed as the leader of the elected government of Tibetans in exile was sworn in for a second term on Wednesday. The India-based Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) — condemned by China as “nothing but a separatist political group” — is a key institution for the exiles, especially after the [...]

- [Ex-Hong Kong police inspector jailed for 30 months over HK\\$1.4 million bribery](#) (2026-05-27 05:00)

A former senior police inspector has been jailed for 30 months over misconduct in public office and accepting HK\$1.4 million in bribes in exchange for leaking case details and dropping an investigation into a suspect. During sentencing on Tuesday, Deputy District Judge Terence Wai reprimanded former chief inspector of police Ho Siu-tung, 40, “for undermining [...]

- [French luxury department store shuts doors in Beijing after 13 years](#) (2026-05-27 04:32)

Major French luxury department store Galeries Lafayette closed its first China flagship branch on Wednesday, over a decade after opening, pointing to sluggish domestic consumption and shifting spending habits. A steady stream of shoppers browsed for last-minute deals as employees packed away unsold merchandise and mannequins on the penultimate day of Galeries Lafayette operations in [...]

- ['Make or break' for Hong Kong's Aftermath, as music venue appeals for support to settle accumulated back rent](#) (2026-05-27 03:45)

Central music venue The Aftermath has appealed for support as it seeks to settle accumulated back rent as part of a newly negotiated lease agreement with its landlord. The community space opened seven years ago on Wyndham Street as a hub for independent artists, underground music, comedy, theatre and film screenings. But having weathered the [...]

- [HKFP Lens: Keith Macgregor captures Hong Kong's dazzling neon legacy in new volume and exhibition](#) (2026-05-27 02:00)

Keith Macgregor's newly published volume on Hong Kong's neon-drenched streets captures the city ablaze with colour and reflection. *City of Lights*, published by Blue Lotus Editions, will showcase Hong Kong's neon heritage with images from the 1990s and 2000s. See also: 'It's disappearing very fast': Hong Kong's fading neon heritage shines a spotlight on the [...]

- [NGO PETA offers HK\\$10,000 reward over suspected mutilation and killing of Hung Hom cat](#) (2026-05-27 01:20)

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is offering a HK\$10,000 reward for information that may lead to the conviction of who may be responsible for the apparent mutilation and killing of a pet cat. The cat was suspected to have died from poisoning in Hung Hom after having its tail severed, according to [...]

- [Hong Kong gov't begins public consultation on fire safety reforms after Tai Po fire](#) (2026-05-26 23:30)

The Hong Kong government has launched a public consultation on proposed amendments to the city's fire safety law, six months after the deadly blaze at Wang Fuk Court housing estate in Tai Po. According to a government statement on Tuesday, the one-month consultation aims to enhance "public safety, regulatory coherence, enforcement effectiveness and accountability," as [...]

- [US strikes fuel concern over Iran deal talks; China urges both sides to respect truce](#) (2026-05-26 12:26)

By AFP teams in Tehran, Dubai, Beijing and Mecca US forces launched overnight strikes on missile sites in southern Iran and boats they said were trying to lay mines in Gulf waters, sending oil prices higher Tuesday and fuelling tension as diplomats sought a deal to end the war. The international benchmark Brent crude jumped [...]

- [Electricity bills to hit short-term peak in August, says Hong Kong energy adviser](#) (2026-05-26 10:46)

Hong Kong's electricity bills are expected to hit a short-term peak in August due to the Middle East conflict, an energy advisory chair has said. Hong Kong's current electricity tariff has yet to reflect the impact of the Middle East conflict, which broke out in late February, Simon Wong, chair of the government's Energy Advisory [...]

- [China tech giant Huawei touts new chipmaking technology to sidestep US restrictions](#) (2026-05-26 09:13)

Chinese tech giant Huawei said on Monday it had developed a new way of making semiconductors that could get around its US-enforced lack of access to the most advanced

chipmaking equipment. Huawei has been at the centre of a geopolitical standoff in recent years after Washington warned its equipment could be used by the Chinese [...]

- [Patriotic carnival to return to site of Hong Kong's Tiananmen crackdown memorial vigil](#) (2026-05-26 06:23)

For the fourth year in a row, Hong Kong's Victoria Park – historically the site of annual candlelight vigils to remember the victims of the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown – will host a patriotic food carnival on June 4. The fourth edition of “Hometown Market” will be held from June 3 to 7 at Victoria Park, [...]

- [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 [...]

Source: RTHK English News

- [‘Controls on illicit tobacco products going smoothly’](#) (2026-05-30 05:29)

Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau on Saturday said the government would enter a new phase in its crackdown on illicit cigarettes and vapes, as part of its tobacco control measures laid out after a public consultation was conducted in 2023. A series of short, medium, and long-term measures were planned following the consultation, Lo said, which included 10 tobacco control measures rolled out in the beginning of this year. From April 30, the possession or use of alternative smoking products, such as vapes, e-cigarettes or heated tobacco in public has been prohibited. Speaking to reporters after attending a radio programme, Lo said the measures so far had been effectively implemented, and the next step would be to focus on duty stamps and uniform packaging. "These will be fully implemented by the end of next year, and there are very important counter measures against illicit smoking products," he said. "After all these measures, we will start implementing possible measures against all additives in tobacco products — which in fact attracts the younger generation, as well as a lot of women, into nicotine addiction," he added. The minister said the administration would then look into other medium and long term goals, such as charging those smoking while walking. Hong Kong logged an "historic low" smoking prevalence rate at 8.5 percent in 2025, missing the original target set at 7.8 percent. Lo said the SAR's goal was set in accordance to the World Health Organisation's

initiative in reducing 30 percent of the global smoking rate, but the organisation postponed the target by three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [No management fees' impact seen in fire-safety move](#) (2026-05-30 05:14)

Secretary for Security Chris Tang on Saturday said a proposal to hold property management firms responsible for fire-prevention measures would not have a major impact on the fees that they charge. His comments came as the government proposes, in the wake of the Wang Fuk Court inferno in November, amendments to the Fire Services Ordinance that are currently undergoing a one-month public consultation. Among the changes it is looking at is introducing a responsible persons' regime for the maintenance and inspection of fire services installation and equipment. Under the proposal, property management companies would have the statutory responsibility of arranging for fire alarm system inspections to be carried out at least once every six months and fire drills every year. Speaking on an RTHK radio programme, Tang said such a changeover would not incur high costs. "The cost of carrying out a test of the fire alarm is very low when compared with management fees. The cost is also very low for carrying out a fire drill," he said. "Our new requirement this time does not involve a commitment of new resources, so we believe it should not have a major impact on management fees." He stressed that if firms are penalised due to violations of these fire-safety codes, they should not pass the cost on to homeowners. The government is also proposing that fire service installation contractors have to renew their licences every five years instead of, as under the existing regime, their registration being permanent. Tang said the move is necessary because the licences of contractors can currently be revoked only if they commit serious violations, making the existing benchmark very high. He also said the police have received 142 reports of suspected thefts so far at the Tai Po estate. "In 48 of the cases – almost 40 percent – we recovered the items immediately," Tang said. "In about 20 percent of the cases, the flats involved were severely damaged, so we and the homeowners believe the items might have been burnt. "In 30 percent of the cases, the residents could not say exactly what [the items] were, so it was hard to follow up. "But in 16 of the cases, we think it could not be determined whether [the items] were stolen or not." He added that officers are actively investigating the cases. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [CE welcomes lawmakers' findings on five-year plan](#) (2026-05-29 13:21)

Chief Executive John Lee on Friday welcomed findings by lawmakers relating to Hong Kong's first five-year plan. Lee was briefed on the findings of a thematic research and opinion gathering report submitted by the Subcommittee on Hong Kong's Work to Actively Dovetail with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, along with Legco president Starry Lee and others. The report aims to help the government formulate the five-year blueprint. The chief executive thanked lawmakers for their efforts and consultative work. Lee said he was delighted and encouraged to see the executive and legislative branches working closely together and jointly committed to delivering the city's first-ever five-year plan. The CE said the blueprint will align with the opportunities brought by the country's 15th Five-Year Plan, providing clear directions for the

SAR's social and economic development in the next five years. The subcommittee held its fourth meeting earlier in the day, summarising the research conducted and views collected. Lawmaker Stanley Ng, who chairs the subcommittee, said it engaged with more than 4,000 people and received about 570 written submissions in the past month, having contacted various sectors and invited experts, community groups and stakeholders to participate. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [CUHK Medical Centre loan repayment deal 'a triple win'](#) (2026-05-29 09:59)

The opening up of beds at a private hospital run by the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for use by public healthcare system patients is a triple win, Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau said on Friday. The move is part of a repayment deal for a loan made by the government for the development of the CUHK Medical Centre in Sha Tin. It will see the centre allocate 120,000 inpatient bed days over a 15-year period till 2037 to repay interest on the HK\$4.033 billion building loan, with the principal set to be repaid in March next year. At a Legislative Council health panel meeting, Lo said the deal would allow Hospital Authority patients to receive faster treatment as well as enjoy services at the private hospital at public healthcare rates and reduces the financial burden on the university, which is planning to help the centre repay the loan. He told lawmakers the authorities have agreed to allow the centre to repay the principal by March, ahead of the 2028 deadline that had been agreed after the centre twice sought repayment extensions. The interest due under the loan is a different matter. Under the original agreement, the HK\$4.033 billion loan was interest-free for the first five years starting from March 2017, with the government starting to charge interest at a floating rate since 2022. "Even though it has not repaid the principal, it will not pay the interest early either. The interest for these five years, from 2022 to 2027, will be fulfilled through services – specifically, the 120,000 in-patient bed days," the health secretary said. University Council chairman John Chai told lawmakers that the institution plans to offer a loan to the centre or provide a guarantee that allows it to secure bank loans. While the council has yet to make the final decision on the issue, he assured lawmakers that it will not take money away from funds that have been designated for other specific purposes. "Between 2024 and 2025, the investment returns from CUHK's reserves were insufficient," Chai said. "A CUHK dedicated fund saw a more favourable increase. Therefore, CUHK is considering using the portion of the fund not earmarked for specific purposes to provide a loan to CUHK Medical Centre." Lo said the university, CUHK Medical Centre and the Hospital Authority would sign a memorandum of understanding to further step up cooperation so as to highlight the centre's role as a non-profit teaching hospital in the city's healthcare system, as well as its role as a bridge connecting both the public and private healthcare sectors. The move will also showcase the centre's commitment to promote sustainable development of healthcare services that offers the public more choices. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [CE to lead group on Central Asia visit from May 31](#) (2026-05-29 08:31)

Chief Executive John Lee is set to lead a government delegation to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan from May 31, as part of efforts to deepen trade with Central Asia and explore new opportunities. The delegation, the largest of its kind in the current term of government, will include more than 40 local business and professional representatives, as well as representatives from 30 mainland enterprises. They come from various industries and sectors, spanning business, finance, legal services, construction and engineering, logistics, innovation and technology (I&T), manufacturing and the automotive industry. In a statement on Friday, Lee said Central Asia enjoys "rapid economic development, abundant natural resources, and immense market potential", and Hong Kong aims to strengthen cooperation with the region in areas including finance, trade, infrastructure, I&T and green development. "The delegation will further harness Hong Kong's unique advantages under the 'one country, two systems' principle in connecting the mainland and the world, support mainland enterprises in going global, and capitalise on complementary strengths," the statement read. Various officials are also joining the trip, including Deputy Secretary for Justice Horace Cheung, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau, Director of the Chief Executive's Office Carol Yip and Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry Lilian Cheong. The group will first visit Kazakhstan, before going to Uzbekistan for three days from June 3. Lee will meet senior government officials from the two countries to enhance high-level communication, and will lead the delegation on visits to firms and facilities to explore collaboration opportunities. The CE noted that while Kazakhstan accounts for over 60 percent of the regional economy and is the SAR's largest trading partner in Central Asia, Uzbekistan is the most populous country in the region and is also a key partner of Hong Kong. During Lee's absence, Chief Secretary Eric Chan will be acting chief executive. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Student arrested over blade found in bus seat](#) (2026-05-29 07:05)

Police on Friday said they had arrested a 14-year-old student suspected of hiding a blade between seats on a double-decker bus. On Wednesday, a passenger reported finding a 13cm-long cutter – with its blade extended by 1cm – wedged between seats on a Citybus service bound for Admiralty. No injuries were reported. Inspector Lee Yan-hon said a male teenager was arrested in Aberdeen on Thursday on suspicion of possessing an offensive weapon and attempted wounding. The student was released on bail. Last Saturday, a passenger reported that she had been pricked by a sewing needle hidden in the backrest of a seat on a Citybus service. Lee said police do not believe the two cases are related. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [N Metropolis 'cries out for top-notch civic icon'](#) (2026-05-29 06:15)

The quality of a government complex proposed to be built in Kwu Tung North should be high, as befits an investment in Hong Kong's civic pride and its being a flagship for the Northern Metropolis, said a member of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Land Conservation on Friday. Barry Wilson's remarks came after a HK\$9.9 billion development plan was proposed for a 35-storey office block that would see the middle and upper floors primarily used for

government offices and the ground and lower levels housing community facilities such as a district library, a post office and a kindergarten. Speaking on an RTHK radio programme, he said the building was important as it would be the "civic icon" for the Northern Metropolis. Wilson said the building should prioritise quality and functionality as it will become the centre of "a 15-minute walkable transit-oriented design community" and stressed a need on the part of the government to balance costs with community needs. "This is a building we hope will be around in a hundred years that society will be proud of, that society will have used endlessly and will have proven good value for money," he said. Addressing concerns over the proposed costs of the project, Wilson believed that the investment will be worth it in the long term. "If we're going to attract talent, if we're going to attract business, if we're going to attract tourists, if we're going to create civic pride and create cohesive communities, I think it wouldn't be outrageous to spend a bit more," he said. He noted that the suggested building plan of 380 parking spaces could be reduced in a walkable neighbourhood environment, saying that might be an area where cost savings could be made. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Lawmakers get hundreds of submissions on 5-year plan](#) (2026-05-29 06:07)

A Legco subcommittee tasked with supporting the government's efforts to create Hong Kong's first five-year plan has engaged with more than 4,000 people and received about 570 written submissions in the past month, its chairman Stanley Ng said on Friday. Ng said the Subcommittee on Hong Kong's Work to Actively Dovetail with the National 15th Five-Year Plan has held four meetings and 99 consultation sessions during this period. "We have actively contacted different sectors, and invited experts, community groups, and stakeholders to participate extensively. We have listened to the voices of the grassroots and gathered professional insights, which allowed us to gain suggestions that have a broad coverage, are highly targeted and are substantive," he said. "This would provide the foundation and support for the government to formulate a five-year plan that resonates with public opinion." Ng said the subcommittee will submit a report on its findings to the government. A public consultation exercise for the five-year plan is expected to begin this quarter. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Hot nights may streak to new record this May day](#) (2026-05-29 04:20)

A new record for the longest streak of hot nights for May could be set if the temperature hits 28 degrees Celsius on Friday night. There have been six consecutive hot nights since Saturday, tying the record for the longest continuous period of hot nights in May since records began at the observatory. "Actually, looking back at May in previous years, we usually start to see some hotter weather," acting assistant director of the observatory Choy Chun-wing told an RTHK programme. "If we look back around April and May, there have been some very hot days, so, it's not particularly early this year for the heat to begin." Choy said the heat is expected to continue on Friday, with maximum temperatures of around 35 degrees in urban areas and one to two degrees higher in the New Territories. The observatory predicts that Friday's maximum UV index will be approximately 11, indicating an extremely high level of intensity. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [HK industries ride on Central Asia trip to forge ties](#) (2026-05-29 01:22)

Two industrial trade bodies that will be travelling to Central Asia as part of a delegation led by Chief Executive John Lee say they see similarities between the region's rapid development and China's opening up four decades ago. Anthony Lam, chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI), described Central Asia as a developing frontier booming with opportunities. He said Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the two largest economies in the region, are both paring down their reliance on natural resources and turning to digital industries, light manufacturing and green technology. "Hong Kong is poised to supply them with these opportunities and technology," Lam said. "They consider themselves developing [countries]. As what we did when China just opened 40 years ago, Hong Kong participated a lot and benefited a lot from the opening of the Chinese economy." Lam identified several areas where Hong Kong's expertise could prove useful in Central Asia. These include medical-related investments and supplies which could serve the region's population of over 80 million people. On the other hand, Lam was keen to explore collaboration with Uzbekistan's fur and leather industry. "They eat a lot of meat, so they've got a lot of leather. Leather then relates to furniture and the shoe industry," he explained, suggesting potential supply chain extensions from Central Asia to Hong Kong. Wingco Lo, president of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong (CMA), was optimistic about meeting the trip's objectives, one of which is to identify business opportunities in innovation, technology, manufacturing, green development and trade. But he also struck a pragmatic tone, pointing to various challenges awaiting Hong Kong businesses. "Their languages — they use Russian and local dialects. We have to adapt to cultural differences, especially those that are Islamic countries," he said. Financial infrastructure presents another obstacle. "The financial infrastructure may not be that mature," Lo said. "Different financial services and exchange currency rates may be very fluctuating." Logistics, too, remain a work in progress. "The logistics infrastructure is now building up. We hope after they build this up, it will be better for us to set up manufacturing there," he said. On the other hand, Lo pointed to demographic advantages, including low labour costs and a young population. "They have enough manpower with young generations, which will help our manufacturers to settle there." Both Lo and Lam view Lee's upcoming visit to Central Asia as a critical step in establishing sustained ties with the region. "Hong Kong is being a super connector — to the outside, to China, and also to Central Asia. This is a great opportunity for Hong Kong companies to participate in the development and growth of Central Asian countries," Lam said. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [Banking sector looks to fund Central Asia's boom](#) (2026-05-28 14:16)

Bank of China (Hong Kong) said on Thursday the local banking industry is ready to act as a major financial services provider for Central Asia's booming economy. A senior executive from the lender representing the Hong Kong Association of Banks will join Chief Executive John Lee's delegation when he visits Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan next week. BOCHK deputy chief executive Stephen Chan, who's acting chairman of the Association of Banks, said the economies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have exponential growth potential and are willing to seek external cooperation. Chan pointed out that both countries are advancing large-scale infrastructure

projects in the areas of transportation and energy. As an international financial centre, the SAR can serve their long-term funding needs, he said. "Construction for highways and airports can span 20 to 30 years," he said. "The SAR's financial institutions can also provide various financing solutions, such as by arranging syndicate loans or issuing offshore bonds, to support the implementation of these projects." Chan noted that the SAR – being the world's largest offshore renminbi hub – can also facilitate the use of yuan in cross-border trades and investment in Central Asia. "These services include the provision of offshore renminbi cash management and settlement service, as well as trade finance services and supply chain finance," he said. "It is fair to say that the demand spans all dimensions, from capital accounts to current accounts." Chan added that during the visit, the Association of Banks would seek to engage in exchanges with local government departments, financial institutions and businesses to gain a deeper understanding of the latest government policies and market demand there. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Principal in swearing case submits resignation](#) (2026-05-28 13:45)

The principal of a school in Tuen Mun who allegedly verbally abused a security guard during a school trip to Singapore has tendered his resignation. In an interview with Dot Dot News, Lee Cheuk-hing issued a public apology over the incident. He said as a school leader, he should have led by example and exercised restraint under all circumstances. Lee added that he will fully cooperate with all arrangements and investigations by the school's governing body and the Education Bureau. He was suspended earlier this week after an online video purportedly showed him swearing at a security officer. The incorporated management committee of San Wui Commercial Society Secondary School said Lee submitted his resignation on Thursday. Former lawmaker Edmund Wong, who is an independent manager of the committee, stressed that the welfare of students is their top priority. He said the committee will hold a meeting in the next one or two days to decide whether to accept Lee's resignation. "There are various factors to be considered whether to accept the request to resign, such as whether school operations will be significantly affected, and whether the decision meets the expectations of students and parents," he said. Wong added that an internal probe is still under way and a report will be submitted to the Education Bureau once the investigation is concluded. The Education Bureau, for its part, said it has been notified by the school of the principal's resignation. It added that it will provide appropriate support to ensure normal school operations are maintained and the well-being of students is protected. Meanwhile, the Home Affairs Department said Lee has offered to step down from his positions on the Tuen Mun Northwest Area Committee and a care team. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Relief for the elderly amid scorcher](#) (2026-05-28 11:27)

The current heat wave gripping Hong Kong has helped highlight the significance of a project offering help to the elderly through personalised interventions and heat-relief supplies. According to the Observatory, a new record of hot nights for May could be set if the temperature hits 28 degrees Celsius or more in the following nights. There have already been

five consecutive hot nights since Saturday, and the current record for the month stands at six. On Thursday, Sheung Shui recorded a maximum temperature of 37 C. It's expected to be extremely hot again on Friday, with the mercury rising to 35 C in urban areas and 37 C in the New Territories. The “Beat the Heat” project, launched by four institutions, has so far helped more than 1,500 elderly in Yau Tsim Mong and Kwun Tong cope with extreme heat. Running from March 2024 to February 2027, the project is co-organised by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the university's Jockey Club Institute of Ageing, the Christian Family Service Centre and the Hong Kong Red Cross. As part of the scheme, social workers, nurses and community volunteers provide home visits and education on heat knowledge, assess heat risks, and recommend practical changes to matters such as electric fans, curtains, decluttering and personal hydration, with the average age of the elderly being 77. In Yau Tsim Mong, project participants receive a map of hot and cool spots, heat-relief supplies and minor home upgrades. In Kwun Tong, seven cooling stations have been set up in public housing estates, offering air-conditioning and elderly-friendly facilities. Eric Lai, co-principal investigator of the project from the university, said significant improvements in heat-health knowledge and quality of life were registered in project participants, including an increased likelihood of cooler comfort at home, better self-rated health and reduced heat-related symptoms. “One of the most common misconceptions that we have encountered during public education is about the perception of heat, with many of them feeling that the [ambient] temperature is not hot,” Lai said. “That's quite common because it is a natural ageing process that, as we grow older, we have a decreased sensitivity to the environment, so even when the environment is, by young people's standard, hot, but older people might not feel it is so.” Lai said that is why the project group has been distributing thermometers to the elderly so that they can tell when their homes need to be dehumidified, ventilation has to be improved and air-conditioners need to be turned on – even when they do not feel hot. He added that if discomfort caused by hot weather was not promptly addressed, it might cause heat cramps or heat exhaustion. Wong, who has been living in Yau Tsim Mong for 10 years, said he could not sleep well during summers due to the heat. Project volunteer helped by installing LED lights, getting him a dehumidifier and alleviating clutter in his residence. “It reached 35 to 36 degrees Celsius at night back then, but it's only 27 to 28 degrees now,” Wong said. Based on findings, Lai said, the project group will develop a community service protocol next year with the aim of integrating it into existing district services. To cope with heat, he reminded people to stay hydrated even if they did not feel thirsty in summer. Lai also urged people to keep their homes well ventilated. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [3,600 buildings in line for IoT fire-detection system](#) (2026-05-28 10:11)

The Fire Services Department is seeking to expand usage of the Internet of Things (IoT) fire detection system to about 3,600 buildings in Hong Kong following satisfactory results in a pilot scheme. The scheme saw wireless integrated detection systems installed in common areas and within all units in 10 buildings of no more than six storeys high during a three-month period, with fire extinguishers provided on each floor. Upon detecting carbon monoxide and heavy

smoke up to certain levels, detectors would trigger a fire alarm and send signals directly to the Fire Services Communications Centre. The system has achieved 100 percent uptime with no false fire alarms sounding off during the pilot scheme period, as well as a component operational rate of 99.95 percent. Speaking at a press briefing on Thursday, division officer Simon Sze, who works on building improvement strategy and special operations, said the system would serve, from now on, as an alternative to the currently adopted fire hose reel and manual fire alarm system – which is subject to structural and space constraints. He also said the IoT system can report suspected fire incidents quicker, helping to save lives. "If a fire breaks out and heavy smoke accumulates, the detectors will activate after 60 seconds and trigger the reporting process, and firefighters will start to arrive at the scene," Sze said. "As for reporting the incident manually, this is subject to different situations, such as whether the incident occurred at night when everyone is asleep, or if there is anyone in the unit. "It is difficult to compare directly how quickly a fire will be noticed, but we believe the automatic detection system can report a fire quicker." Sze said a fire drill, carried out as part of a performance test, showed that the system "met expectations". In case of a malfunction, a central monitoring system is in place for all detectors via the service provider, enabling maintenance and repair work to be carried out within a short period of time, he said. Sze said installation fees of the IoT system was about HK\$200,000 per building, about one-third the cost of traditional fire-safety systems. He also pointed out that the IoT system is also subject to yearly checks by the department and will have to follow current reporting protocols in case of a system shutdown. Edited by Edmond Fong

- ['Pay levels in recent years should also be considered'](#) (2026-05-28 09:20)

Some lawmakers said the government should take into consideration the impact of salary freezes for civil servants in recent years when deciding their pay this year. The latest pay trend survey – released on Thursday – pointed to a pay rise of 4.12 percent for senior staff, 2.64 percent for middle-rank and 1.17 percent for juniors. It's one of six major factors that will be taken into account when the Executive Council makes the final pay decision, which also includes the state of the economy, cost-of-living changes, staff pay claims, civil service morale and the government's fiscal position. Unionist legislator Chau Siu-chung said the latest pay trend findings were in line with expectations. He pointed out that in the past six years, civil servants have experienced three pay freezes and two pay rises that were lower than the survey findings, and that their salary adjustments lagged behind the private sector. "After the pay freeze last year, [the city] has actually experienced two years of inflation. Salary can be frozen, but inflation won't be frozen. Two years of inflation have added up to as much as 3.8 percent," he said.

"So I think that, on top of taking reference to the pay trend survey result, I hope the government can, after considering other factors, offer an increment for civil servants that is slightly higher than the findings." Chau, of the Federation of Hong Kong & Kowloon Labour Unions, said such a move would help maintain morale among civil servants and prevent their salary gap with the private sector from widening. DAB legislator Nixie Lam also said civil service salaries had not caught up with inflation or private sector pay. She added that when it comes to

a pay decision, the government needs to adopt a prudent approach in ensuring the city is financially sound in the long run while making sure the quality of public services is sustainable. Tsoi Koon-lung, president of the Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association, said it's too early to comment on the possible increment because the Executive Council will make a final decision later. "The figure appears to be pretty good, but what matters most is whether this number will be endorsed. Regardless of whether the figure is high or low, we must ensure it is derived through rigorous scientific methodology and is reliable," Tsoi said. "Whether the result is favourable or not, if we confirm it was obtained through strict scientific procedures, we must accept it as one of the key factors for consideration." Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Pay rises of up to 4.12pc in frame for civil servants](#) (2026-05-28 07:43)

A private pay trend survey that the government references in deciding civil service pay rises points the way to increases of up to 4.12 percent. The findings – drawn up from the pay trend survey of about 155,000 workers from 104 private companies – suggested pay rises of 4.12 percent for seniors, 2.64 percent for middle-ranking staff and 1.17 percent for juniors. In announcing the survey results on Thursday, Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung stressed that the figures are only one of the six major factors that would be taken into account when the Executive Council makes the final pay decision for more than 170,000 civil servants in the city. The other factors are the state of the economy, cost-of-living changes, staff pay claims, civil service morale and the government's fiscal position. "As in past years, after having the net pay trend indicators, we will do an analysis of the other five factors that the Executive Council has to take into account, and then we will present our analysis to the Executive Council to enable the council to make an informed and a balanced and most appropriate decision," Yeung said. "As for social sentiment, I think public reaction, public acceptance of the proposed policy decision is a factor that the Executive Council will take into consideration in making every decision, not only this one. So this is a given." Yeung went on to say that she will meet civil service representatives next week to gauge their views. She also announced that a revised appraisal system would be implemented starting October 1 to better evaluate the performance of civil servants. Yeung said around five to 10 percent of all staff would be deemed underperformers and not be granted a salary increment. "We have considered similar practices in other jurisdictions as well as considered the actual situation in government departments in coming up [with] this decision and coming up to deciding on this percentage." The move will allow department heads to establish effective management teams, Yeung added. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [RTHK, Thai public broadcaster ink cooperation deal](#) (2026-05-28 07:40)

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Thai Public Broadcasting Service to explore further partnership opportunities across Southeast Asia. The agreement – signed in Bangkok by Director of Broadcasting Angelina Kwan and Thai Public Broadcasting Service chief Vanchai Tantivitayapitak – will see the two networks collaborate on news, current affairs and joint on-location cultural productions. The memorandum also outlines

plans to promote joint productions, the exchange of production teams for on-location filming, talent training and staff exchanges. Kwan said the signing of the MOU will help deepen RTHK's ties with Association of Southeast Asian Nations broadcasters and elevate its international communication capacity. She noted that RTHK has already established cooperation agreements with public broadcasters in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam and will continue to seek partnerships with other networks across the region. During her visit to Bangkok, Kwan also met with the management of Nation Group – one of Thailand's largest media companies – to learn about the media landscape there and explore opportunities for collaboration. Edited by Aaron Tam

- ['Hidden disengagement raises student dropout risk'](#) (2026-05-28 07:09)

An NGO on Thursday called on schools to be more proactive when it comes to lowering the risk of secondary school dropouts. Researchers from the Hong Kong Christian Service polled nearly 2,000 secondary school students between February and March this year and found that one in 12 students were at risk of what they described as hidden disengagement – when pupils attend school but display withdrawn or passive behaviour. The NGO's service head of children and youth service, Susanne Choi, said students with hidden disengagement are more likely to drop out. "Dropping out is a gradual process that unfolds over time," she told RTHK. "Hidden disengagement often serves as a crucial yet easily overlooked warning sign before [a] student completely detaches from school." Choi said there are a few behavioural indicators that can be easily seen among students with hidden disengagement at school. "They may spend recess or lunch time alone in school, [be] tardy, absent, or leave early... and also have zero extracurricular participation in school. "These elements reflect a student's sense of belonging, school involvement and overall psychological safety," she added. The survey also revealed that hidden disengagement stems from a mix of factors. "In our findings, bullying in school, students with special educational needs and emotional distress are the major factors leading to hidden disengagement of students," Choi said. She added that schools should do more to identify these traits earlier and proactively approach these students. "If the hidden disengaged behaviour has not been addressed earlier, the students may be losing their connection to school, motivation to learn and peer support, gradually distancing themselves from the campus environment," she said. Choi suggested that schools should enhance one-on-one peer support, organise social group workshops and offer individual counselling for students with hidden disengagement. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Govt fully supports HK International Commercial Court](#) (2026-05-28 04:37)

The administration said it will fully support the establishment of the Hong Kong International Commercial Court (HKICC), which would further enhance the city's competitiveness on the global stage and development of the SAR's legal and dispute resolution services. The Judiciary on Thursday announced its plan to establish the specialist division of the High Court to strengthen Hong Kong's position as both an international financial centre and a leading international dispute resolution hub, thus aligning with the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan. It will

solely handle complex, high-value international and cross-border commercial disputes. In a statement, Chief Executive John Lee said the court will contribute new and greater strength to the country's high-level opening up, while further promoting the development of international commercial rules. "The National 15th Five-Year Plan explicitly outlines the initiatives of accelerating the development of the system and capacity for the rule of law in foreign affairs, improving mechanisms for international commercial mediation, arbitration, and litigation... as well as deepening its development as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre," he said. "The HKSAR is the only common law jurisdiction in the country. Hong Kong's commercial and trade laws based on common law are internationally compatible, and well-trusted by international businesses or investors. "The establishment of the HKICC fully demonstrates Hong Kong's unique advantages under 'one country, two systems' of enjoying strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world," he added. Lee also said the establishment of the commercial court following the International Organization of Mediation headquartered in Wan Chai will provide global enterprises or investors with diversified and comprehensive options for dispute resolution, under the current complex and volatile geopolitical landscape. Meanwhile, Secretary for Justice Paul Lam said the court will make significant contributions through its jurisprudence to the development of international commercial law. He said judges presiding over the cases will also include those with high prestige and experience in such cases from other common law jurisdictions. Lam added that the court meets the needs and expectations of the country, Hong Kong, and the international business community, and will also bring new opportunities for the legal sector in the SAR. The court is set to be established within the coming year, with preparatory work already under way. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Construction site halts work after accident](#) (2026-05-28 01:57)

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) on Thursday demanded a contractor of a construction site in Sham Shui Po suspend lifting operation and carry out safety checks after a worker died during a sewage system upgrade. The worker was injured during a lifting operation at the construction site on Yen Chow Street at about 8.30 am on Wednesday. He was sent to Princess Margaret Hospital for treatment and was certified dead at about 11.30 pm. The contractor was also instructed to carry out a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident. The department said it will render full assistance to relevant departments in their investigations. The director of the Drainage Services, Ringo Mok, expressed his deepest condolences to the family of the deceased and requested the contractor to provide them with appropriate assistance. Edited by Azam Khan

- [HKEX touts inclusivity in wooing Central Asia listings](#) (2026-05-28 00:39)

Hong Kong's stock exchange operator says its proven track record of dealing with companies from non-common law jurisdictions makes the SAR an ideal location for Central Asian firms to raise funds. The stock exchange's diversified pool of liquidity, boasting an average daily turnover of HK\$276 billion this year, should also attract firms seeking dual or secondary listings

overseas, the bourse operator added. Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX) CEO Bonnie Chan will be part of Chief Executive John Lee's upcoming delegation to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Under HKEX's listing regulations, only issuers listed in the 20 recognised stock exchanges around the world may apply for a secondary listing in Hong Kong. Speaking to the press ahead of her departure on Sunday, Chan was asked if there are plans to recognise stock exchanges in Central Asia as well. "Definitely. We want to deepen our collaboration with not only stock exchanges and partners in Central Asia, but I would say, you know, broadly across the board," she said. "We want to make sure that we are a very accessible market when it comes to global companies wanting to explore accessing a deeper capital raising platform." Johnson Chui, HKEX's Head of Global Issuer Services, revealed he had recently returned from a week-long trip to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. He said the dual primary listing last year of mining firm Jiaxin International Resources in Hong Kong and Astana could set the tone for Central Asian enterprises looking to raise funds in the SAR. "Off the back of that, clearly it was taken notice by relevant parties and stakeholders in Central Asia," he said. "In my prior trip a couple of weeks ago, various entities have also raised questions and interest and really wanted to just increase their knowledge on the Hong Kong market, and how they could tap the market, whether it's through dim sum bonds or potentially dual listings." Chan added that while 40 percent of HKEX's daily turnover is attributed to technology shares, the exchange prides itself on its inclusivity and would do its best to connect capital with investment opportunities.

Edited by Aaron Tam

- [HK tops world in cross-boundary wealth management](#) (2026-05-27 23:49)

Hong Kong has overtaken Switzerland for the first time in cross-border wealth management, according to a study by the Boston Consulting Group published on Wednesday. Based on the volume of foreign capital under management in 2025, there were US\$2.95 trillion of overseas assets in Hong Kong compared with US\$2.946 trillion in Switzerland. The study said Hong Kong's greater volume – up 10.7 percent on the previous year – was driven by inflows from the Chinese mainland, strong IPO activity, and equity market gains. Switzerland saw a 7.6-percent increase in the same period. Cross-border wealth flows intensified in 2025 despite geopolitical tensions and trade uncertainties, increasing by 8.4 percent to reach US\$15.7 trillion worldwide, as investors sought to diversify their assets. "We are seeing wealth creation, cross-border capital flows, and investment ecosystems increasingly concentrate into a smaller number of globally connected hubs," said Michael Kahlich, a co-author of the study, from BCG in Zurich. "Hong Kong's rise reflects the growing gravitational pull of Asian wealth and capital markets." The report further projects that, from 2025 to 2030, the cross-boundary wealth managed by Hong Kong will grow by 9 percent on average annually and maintain first place globally. Switzerland, though, remains a key financial centre, offering stability and neutrality in an uncertain geopolitical context, the study said. Financial Secretary Paul Chan noted that the national 15th Five-Year Plan "clearly supports Hong Kong in strengthening its functions as an international asset and wealth management centre". He added that accelerating demand for asset and wealth management in the Mainland and Asia is expected to open up greater room for

development for Hong Kong's asset and wealth management sector. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Christopher Hui, said the administration would strive to reinforce Hong Kong's competitive advantages as a leading asset and wealth management centre. "While global economic gravity shifts eastward, geopolitical tensions further highlight Hong Kong's role as a safe harbour, reflecting Hong Kong's appeal as an international financial centre," Hui said. (RTHK/AFP) Edited by Cecil Wong

- [HK\\$4.6bn to boost Hongkong Post operations](#) (2026-05-27 13:42)

The government said on Wednesday that it plans to pour in HK\$4.6 billion from the Capital Investment Fund to support Hongkong Post (HKP) over the next three years. The amount is to be injected into the Post Office Trading Fund. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said it remains difficult for the trading fund to support HKP's operations due to changes in the international landscape and increasing operational costs, even though it has carried out a number of measures to increase revenue and reduce expenditure. It expects the fund's cash reserves to only cover HKP's operating expenses for less than a year based on current mail volume trends as well as revenue and expenditure forecasts. "The proposed capital injection is a short-term financial solution necessary for the continued operation of HKP such that public postal services are not affected," the paper wrote. The HK\$4.6 billion injection also includes HK\$510 million required for the refurbishment of the Air Mail Centre that is expected to be completed by the end of 2029 at the earliest. The bureau said that the existing centre – that has operated for almost three decades – requires major maintenance works, adding that there are limited spare parts for its mail sorting system. A next-generation centralised material handling system will be installed at the refurbished centre so that operations can be more cost-effective. It will also integrate with the Customs and Excise Department's postal clearance system, and incorporate smart and digital processing capabilities to enhance overall efficiency. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [HK tops world in cross-border wealth management](#) (2026-05-27 12:08)

Hong Kong has overtaken Switzerland as the world's largest cross-border wealth hub for the first time, fuelled by capital inflows from the mainland as well as a fundraising boom in the city, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). In its 2026 Global Wealth Report, the group noted that wealth managers booked US\$2.95 trillion worth of international assets in the SAR last year, up almost 11 percent year on year. That narrowly surpassed Switzerland's US\$2.94 trillion in cross-border wealth during the same period, which rose by 7.6 percent year on year. Both Hong Kong and Singapore are projected to continue growing as cross-border booking centres at around nine percent annually through 2030, compared with an expected six percent average for Switzerland over the same period. This, BCG projects, would widen the gap between the SAR and Switzerland to almost US\$600 billion by 2030, supported by the mainland's strong manufacturing capacity, a revival in the SAR's initial public offering (IPO) market, as well as Asia's rapidly growing wealth. "Hong Kong is cementing its role as China's gateway to global markets, though that same concentration ties its trajectory tightly to

economic and regulatory developments on the mainland,” the authors said.

“[Meanwhile], geopolitical uncertainty reaffirms Switzerland’s role as a core global booking centre, attracting flight-to-safety flows from more volatile regions such as the Middle East,” BCG said, adding that Switzerland would continue to draw clients from all regions. Commenting on the report, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said the country’s national 15th Five-Year plan clearly indicated support for Hong Kong to strengthen its role as an international asset and wealth management centre, which also is the backbone of the city’s “finance plus” strategy. He added the rapid development in industries including innovative technologies and artificial intelligence has led to an increase in wealth and he believes the demand for wealth management services on the mainland and throughout Asia would continue to grow, which would benefit relevant industries in the city. He said the SAR government would continue to seize opportunities to consolidate the city’s status as a global financial centre and attract more wealthy individuals and family offices to set up shop here. According to the report by BCG, cross-border wealth globally rose 8.4 percent to US\$15.7 trillion last year, driven by increasing demand for geographical diversification. (Additional reporting by Reuters) Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Calls for greater transparency in permit-quota review](#) (2026-05-27 10:51)

A think tank said on Wednesday that the government should provide more details on how often it plans to adjust a quota system for ride-hailing permits to offer the market greater transparency. Authorities have proposed rolling out up to 10,000 permits in the first phase. Assistant research director Jason Leung from the Our Hong Kong Foundation described it as “a prudent quota, but a tight one”, given the city’s 18,000 licensed taxis. Leung also said the government should offer the public more information about the quota review system. “To make that review clause credible, it should pre-commit to specific and measurable figures,” he said. “For instance, if citywide peak-hour booking success rates drop below a defined threshold, or if average waiting times exceed a set benchmark, at which point the quota is automatically, or there’s a mechanism for it to be raised. “So a regular, perhaps quarterly review, guided by objective metrics, would give passengers and platforms the confidence that the 10,000 number is not a completely unchangeable one, that it can be adjusted in the future based on real-life metrics.” The government has proposed a HK\$1.2 million annual licence fee for platform operators, which Leung said is not a significant amount for larger operators offering hundreds of thousands of trips each month. “It can be easily absorbed into operational costs, so it’s not a barrier to a major operator. “But if you are talking about smaller operators or new entrants to the market, it could be potentially burdensome, especially for emerging platforms with limited revenues.” He said the government could set up a tiered or revenue-linked fee structure to allow smaller platforms to operate. On top of monitoring operational data to be shared by platforms, Leung said authorities should track the metrics of taxi in evaluating how they perform, so as to better assess whether ride-hailing services and cabbies co-exist. Edited by Edmond Fong

- ['WHO gives high score to HK's tobacco control efforts'](#) (2026-05-27 10:40)

Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau on Wednesday said the city would continue to study various tobacco control policies, after the World Health Organisation (WHO) gave "high scores" to the city's efforts in recent years. The remarks came after the global body last week awarded its "World No Tobacco Day Award" to Lo, in recognition of the city's tobacco control progress, while raising public awareness over the harms from smoking. "World No Tobacco Day" falls on May 31, and the WHO selects individuals or organisations each year from members of each of the six WHO regions that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in tobacco controls for the award. Speaking in an exclusive interview with RTHK, Lo noted the city's smoking rate fell from 9.1 percent in 2023 to 8.5 percent last year, and that the city's efforts in regulating alternative tobacco products have been successful. "Actually this award is definitely not for one individual, it's a recognition of Hong Kong's efforts in controlling tobacco, especially the work done in recent years," he said. "Of course managing the overall smoking rate is one of their considerations, but [they also look at whether] there are also new innovative measures or control measures for alternative products, such as e-cigarettes. These are their focus areas," he added. Separately, the health minister said the implementation of the city's current 10 tobacco control measures has been smooth over the past few months. This includes banning the possession or usage of alternative tobacco products such as vapes in public areas, a regulation which took effect at the end of last month. Lo said authorities have already ramped up inspections at smoking hot spots, and recorded 39 violation cases over the past month — all from local citizens who possessed a small amount of alternative tobacco and were fined. "We pay attention particularly to crowded areas and areas where we have observed a large number of people using alternative smoking products in public spaces, such as footbridges. These are the areas where we'll ramp up inspections and monitoring," he said. "But we don't want to require a large number of staff from the anti-smoking department to chase after people to issue warnings in these areas. We hope that our citizens will develop a mindset to obey the law so that the number of warning tickets issued will gradually decrease," he added. Lo also noted since the import of alternative cigarettes was prohibited in 2022, the city has so far seen nearly 4,000 violations, with half of the cases being successfully prosecuted. Looking ahead, Lo said the city would continue to refer to policies recommended by WHO as well as that elsewhere to further manage smoking, such as the "smoke-free generation" legislation in the UK, which bans the sale of tobacco products to people born after January 2009. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [LPG subsidy to start on Sunday](#) (2026-05-27 08:18)

The government announced on Wednesday said a two-month fuel subsidy for taxis, minibuses and school vans running on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will start on Sunday. It said that oil companies will offer a HK\$0.50 discount for each litre of LPG at all 66 filling stations, and there's no need to apply or register. "The temporary measure aims to alleviate the operating costs of local passenger transport commercial vehicles which primarily use LPG as fuel, and reduce the pressure for fare increases," a government spokesman said in a statement. About 16,900 cabs, 3,440 minibuses and 170 school buses stand to benefit. Oil companies must submit weekly reports to the government as well as auditing arrangements upon the end of the subsidy

period. They are also required to keep complete and accurate books and records. " TheTransport Department has steered the oil companies in completing the necessary systemenhancements and testing to ensure smooth implementation," the spokesman added. Edited byEdmond Fong

- ['Ride-hailing services to complement cabbies'](#) (2026-05-27 07:28)

Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan on Wednesday said she believes the proposed regulatory regime for ride-hailing services will complement the taxi industry. The government has proposed issuing up to 10,000 vehicle permits in the first phase. Chan expects to invite interested platforms to file applications as soon as August this year, and they could start operating as soon as the end of November. She stressed that she wants the regime to be rolled out gradually. "As a start, we would like to take a prudent, careful approach to ensure that our proposed regulatory regime will be achieved and implemented in a safe, smooth and progressive manner," Chan said. She noted that Hong Kong's situation is unique – about 90 percent of the residents opt for public transportation – but the government also values the public's travel experience. Chan believes that ride-hailing platforms could also include taxis to offer appointment services. The current cap, she said, was proposed after balancing various considerations. But Chan added the government would adjust the quota when necessary by closely monitoring the operational data from ride-hailing platforms. "Once we issue licences for one or two or more platform operators in future, we will impose requirements for the operators to submit and share and store the relevant operational data, and to share it with the Transport Department," she said. "I believe that our mechanism and our review should be based on data and should take into account the various operating indicators." Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Smoking rate hits historic low in HK: govt](#) (2026-05-27 07:00)

The Department of Health on Wednesday said the current smoking rate of Hong Kong stands at 8.5 percent, marking the lowest number of smokers on record. Manny Lam, head of the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office, attributed the decline to the government's multi-faceted approach in introducing tobacco control measures over the years. "Among all these years, we continued to introduce new measures, such as [in] 2024, we introduced the 10 tobacco control measures and most of them have already been implemented," Lam said. "We expect there will be a continuing decrease in the smoking prevalence in the coming years." The department also noted that nearly 40 percent of smokers smoke flavoured cigarettes and the situation was prevalent among females and younger adults. "Flavoured cigarettes have a very significant effect in attracting females and also our young generation to start smoking and to continue to use these products because these flavours will reduce the harshness of the smoke. "Evidence also showed that people who use flavoured cigarettes will [find it] more difficult to stop smoking," Lam added. Lam said the department is working out measures to ban flavoured cigarettes. "We already have a plan to introduce a ban on flavoured cigarettes after the implementation of the coming measures including the plain packaging and also the duty stamp

for the cigarettes,” Lam said. The chairman of the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health, Henry Tong, added that flavoured cigarettes are “sugar-coated poison” .

“Flavoured cigarettes are really poisonous and harmful to people, but they have a sugar coat.

“The people who smoke [flavoured cigarettes] don’t notice and they actually feel that because of the sugar coat and the flavour, the harm is smaller, which is completely misleading,” Tong said. Tong suggested there is a need for better education and enforcement in banning flavoured cigarettes in Hong Kong. As in previous years, the department has also launched its “Quit in June” campaign, aiming to encourage and support smokers in their efforts to quit. Measures include the distribution of free one-week trial packs of nicotine replacement therapy drugs as well as Chinese medicine ear points patches. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Home prices reach two-and-a-half-year high](#) (2026-05-27 05:12)

Home prices in Hong Kong rose to their highest levels in two-and-a-half years in April, with a top industry figure attributing it to rising buyers' confidence and ample capital inflows, along with easing geopolitical tensions. Figures released by the Rating and Valuation Department on Wednesday showed the city's official home price index rose for the 11th consecutive month to 316.6, the highest since October 2023. April's figure was up 10.5 percent year on year, whereas the pace of growth on a monthly basis halved to 0.9 percent. Eddie Kwok, executive director of valuation and advisory services at property consultancy firm CBRE Hong Kong, said the increase came on the back of rising confidence among buyers, with strong transaction momentum seen in the first-hand market. "The first-hand residential market is exhibiting robust absorption rates. Sustained demand has shifted pricing power back to developers, as seen in the recent price increases in their new project launches," Kwok said. He also pointed to the city's steady and ample capital inflows that continued to support the residential market while boosting overall economic activities. Kwok added that investors saw easing threats from ongoing geopolitical conflicts as the risks have largely been factored in. He believes home prices would continue to grow, and rise by between 8 and 10 percent this year. Prices rose by 5.7 percent in the first four months of the year after climbing 3.6 percent in 2025. Still, the index remained around 20 percent below its all-time high of 398.1 in September 2021. Meanwhile, rents in April once again scaled new heights, with the rental index reaching 203.4. The figure, which was almost 5 percent higher from the same period a year ago, has gone up for the sixth straight month. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Airport T2 'off to smooth start'](#) (2026-05-27 04:24)

The airport's Terminal 2 opened amid fanfare on Wednesday, with the Airport Authority saying things were going smoothly. The authority expects 4,200 travellers to use the terminal on its first day of operations. T2 allows travellers to check in, clear immigration and undergo security checks, before proceeding to Terminal One for departure. "Our passengers [were] very happy and we have some 'wow effects' in the terminal, I think they were [like] 'wow'," the authority's chief executive, Vivian Cheung, told reporters. "We have a lot of LED, animation, and new designs emphasising technology, and we have our in-house design for self-check in system,

which only requires 45 seconds to go through the entire process. "We want to help the airlines to migrate to a full-automation process, which will actually help passengers have better experiences and also reduce the labour needs." Cheung noted the first flight using T2 was operated by Hong Kong Airlines and left for Shanghai Pudong International Airport at around 8am. Six other carriers, including AirAsia, are set to begin using T2 from Thursday. By June 10th, the number of airlines is expected to go up to 15, with HK Express the last to relocate. T2 was closed in 2019 for reconfiguration as part of the three-runway project before its reopening. It's expected to handle around eight million passenger trips in its first full year of operations before rising to some 30 million per year. Its dedicated departure concourse and boarding gates are scheduled to open at the end of next year. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Govt 'reining in costs of Kwu Tung North complex'](#) (2026-05-27 03:25)

Permanent Secretary for Development Doris Ho on Wednesday said steps have been taken to help reduce the estimated construction cost of a government complex in Kwu Tung North as part of the Northern Metropolis project. The government is proposing a HK\$9.9 billion plan to build a 35-storey office block, with the middle and upper floors primarily used for government offices, while the ground and lower floors will house a district library, a post office, a kindergarten and welfare facilities. Under the proposal, there will be a separate eight-storey complex that will house a 1,000-seat fencing arena, a community hall and a public medical clinic. The plan will help drive the development of Kwu Tung North, Ho said on an RTHK programme. "Its scale is enormous – comparable to the combined size of our current government headquarters and Legislative Council Complex in Tamar," she said. Ho said she noted concerns from some lawmakers about the estimated cost of the project during a Legco panel meeting on Tuesday. She said the government had looked into ways to save costs in the design stage, and decided to use a new construction method to help lower the price tag. "Using modular assembly can save time – and time is money – so this is already a cost-saving measure." Another measure is that this time, we are not doing excavation work as we have done previously, for example when building parking facilities. By skipping that this time, we expect to save both construction costs and time," she said. Construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2026, with the first phase of the project due to be completed in 2029. Edited by Edmond Fong

- ['CE's Central Asia trip to boost HK medical tech'](#) (2026-05-27 01:13)

A Hong Kong company that produces 3D-printed metal implants is confident that Chief Executive John Lee's upcoming trip to Central Asia will lead to a collaboration agreement that will bring cutting-edge medical technology to patients in the region. Koln 3D Technology (Medical) uses metal 3D printing to create custom bone implants that surgeons insert into patients' bodies, helping treat rare bone diseases that otherwise have no cure. The technology was first applied on a patient in Hong Kong 10 years ago. Since 2022, the company has participated in the treatment of 12 bone cancer patients in Kazakhstan. It has now received official approval to export metal implants there. Haoran Sun, the company's chief technology

officer, said bringing SAR-developed products into Central Asia will boost the reputation of the Hong Kong brand across the region. "We will have more cases and potential local manufacturing centres in Kazakhstan because they actually have a quite good foundation of industrial systems so we can build the sites there," he said. "Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have very good foundations and large populations. The income levels and medical service levels are good. But previously, they could only seek overseas brands or even go to South Korea for medical services. I think we can bring the standard of Hong Kong technologies and clinical services to both countries – and not only to them, but to all the other Central Asian countries." Sun advised firms looking to tap into the Central Asian market to invest time and understand the local culture. "I think in Central Asia, because we have so many barriers in language and culture - we're so different - so we need to know each other first," he said. "So I think when you have patients, we need to understand their diversity and also their background, their medical services, procedures. And once we build this understanding and trust, we can gradually increase. And once we build the correlation, there will be very strong support for future collaborations." The company's founder and CEO Edmond Yau said his team will continue to work with universities in Hong Kong to overcome challenges in implant technology. It's also looking to innovate, including the creation of "micro-channels" inside 3D-printed bones which can store slow-release medicine for treatment and sterilisation purposes. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [Govt proposes a cap of 10k ride-hailing permits](#) (2026-05-26 14:57)

The government announced on Tuesday it proposed to issue 10,000 ride-hailing vehicle permits in the first phase, and that interested parties can apply for them in the third quarter of this year. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council, the government said it believes that under the driver-vehicle pairing arrangement, most drivers will continue to operate in a part-time mode, similar to the current situation. It also expects that due to the rise in costs – such as for permit fees and insurance, as well as the rise in service demand under the regulation – some drivers will be working longer hours. If each ride-hailing driver works an average of six hours and manages to complete two trips per hour, they can carry out 12 trips a day on average. The government said that this means that 10,000 ride-hailing vehicles can offer about 120,000 trips per day, which is comparable to the current demand for such services. It believes a cap at 10,000 is a prudent, stable and an appropriate approach. It explained this would not change the current passenger experience, and would balance considerations regarding road resources and the public transport ecosystem, allowing the ride-hailing regulatory regime to be implemented smoothly. The government also proposed to charge an annual service licence fee of HK\$1.2 million. As for a vehicle permit that will remain valid for no more than 12 months, it plans to charge HK\$1,560, and another HK\$410 for a five-year driving permit. It expects to issue the permits gradually, starting from the end of November at the earliest so that licensed platforms can kick-start preparatory work. By August 22 next year, all platforms have to be licensed. Authorities say they would make adjustments to the quota if necessary. The government will table four pieces of subsidiary legislation relating to the regulation of ride-hailing services

before the Legislative Council on Wednesday. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Principal involved in swearing incident suspended](#) (2026-05-26 14:02)

The principal of a school in Tuen Mun has been suspended after an online video allegedly showed him verbally abusing a security guard during a school trip to Singapore. The incorporated management committee of San Wui Commercial Society Secondary School made the decision after the incident last week sparked public concern. The incident was reportedly triggered by a parking dispute. The committee convened a meeting on Tuesday to address the incident. Former lawmaker Edmund Wong, who is also an independent manager of the committee, said they decided that the vice-principal will take over for now. “This principal’s words and deeds indeed have fallen short of the public’s expectations. Therefore, the committee also decided to suspend the principal from his duties, and let the vice-principal fill in for the principal, so as not to affect the school’s operation,” he said. “We expect the suspension will last till we submit an investigation report to the Education Bureau. Upon submission, we will explain the matter to the public and other stakeholders as soon as possible.” Wong said he believes there could be various reasons leading to the incident. Perhaps there was miscommunication among parties involved in the incident, including the security guards and drivers, causing a verbal altercation, Wong said, adding he believes there is always room for improvement. Wong said the incident would impact the school’s reputation, but believes that parents and the public will understand that it is an isolated incident. Given that the school has a long history, Wong added that he believes the committee can restore the public’s confidence. The company the security guards in Singapore work for have filed a report to the police, according to media reports there. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [HK issues first Very Hot Weather Warning of 2026](#) (2026-05-26 11:19)

The Hong Kong Observatory issued the first Very Hot Weather Warning of the year on Tuesday, as the mercury went past 33 degrees Celsius in multiple places in the SAR. While some residents relied on eating ice cream to keep cool, one child told RTHK that she was prepared for the heat. “I am already sweating from taking a few steps,” she said. “I put on sunglasses as well as a vest.” Her mother said they braved the heat in order to go watch a movie at the cinema before school resumes tomorrow. A tourist from Shenzhen said she did not expect Hong Kong to be this hot, but added that the weather was similar across the border. Meanwhile, the first Amber Heat Stress at Work Warning of the year was also issued, meaning that heat stress in some work environments was high. It was also the first time it was issued since the Labour Department decided to include nine more monitoring stations at King’s Park starting on April 20. The observatory has one monitoring station there. A heat warning will take effect if any four of the 10 stations indicate a need for the warning’s issuance. A street cleaner surnamed Li said one way to prevent heatstroke is to drink more water and take rests whenever necessary. “I felt hot as it’s over 30 degrees.” she said. “But it’s fine as long as I drink more water. There’s no any other way as it will definitely be hot working in this industry.” The observatory expects the very hot weather to persist in the next few days, before the SAR sees showers and isolated

thunderstorms later this week. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [CLP Power to hike fuel fees by another 5.4pc in June](#) (2026-05-26 11:01)

Hong Kong's main power supplier, CLP Power, said on Tuesday it is raising fuel costs for a third consecutive month – increasing prices by 5.4 percent in June. In a statement, the company announced that fuel costs for next month would be set at HK\$0.42 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), up from the HK\$0.40 per kWh for May. The city's other utility firm, HK Electric, last week announced it was hiking June fuel costs by 20 percent from May due to the Iran war. HK Electric had also warned that higher costs are expected in the coming months, as the current levels have yet to fully capture the changes in fuel costs. While HK Electric supplies energy for Hong Kong Island and Lamma, CLP Power serves Kowloon, the New Territories and Lantau Island, covering more than 80 percent of the city's population. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [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 numbers 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 Temple Water 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, Temple Water has been actively looking to promote electrolyzers, 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 -- Temple Water 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 powerplants, 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 Lai left for training on the mainland, Lee asked about her daily life at the training centre. Lai described her schedule as packed and the training truly demanding, but said she's ready for departure and confident in completing the mission. "I have never been away from Hong Kong for 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 their studies there. Sun noted that Lai completed the demanding training in just over a year and met the standards required for a space mission. Meanwhile, Yeung said that she believes Hong Kong's more than 170,000 civil servants share a deep sense of pride and honour over Lai's achievement. 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 Hong Kong 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 Hong Kong 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 Hong Kong'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 so close to each other," she said. "So in the apartment, there are one or two people in each subdivided unit, which means there are over a dozen people in that unit alone. "The situation involves 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 the implementation of the ordinance proceeds smoothly and orderly." Ho said that since the ordinance was rolled out on March 1, authorities have received nearly 12,000 applications for basic housing status by owners of more than 3,300 subdivided residential units. She expected application numbers to continue to rise when the one-year registration period comes to an end and urged subdivided flat owners to register as soon as possible. Ho added that two sample units 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