



HONG KONG SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 26, 2026 - June 02, 2026

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

Executive Summary

Hong Kong's security landscape from May 26 to June 02, 2026, was primarily shaped by ongoing implications of its stringent national security framework and heightened regional military activities. Key developments included the continued enforcement of amended National Security Law (NSL) rules, which expand police powers over digital devices for all individuals, including visitors and those in transit. Regionally, a Beijing-based think tank reported a significant increase in military presence and activities by non-U.S. extra-regional countries in the Western Pacific, including the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea. Concurrently, Chinese carrier drills were tracked east of Luzon, underscoring a dynamic military environment in the broader Indo-Pacific. Diplomatic tensions with the United States persisted, with China and Hong Kong firmly rejecting a U.S. report criticizing the city's autonomy. Cybersecurity threats remained a significant concern, with a previous report highlighting a record increase in incidents and the rise of AI-driven attacks.

Key Security Developments

- Expanded National Security Law Enforcement Powers

On March 23, 2026, significant amendments to Hong Kong's National Security Law (NSL) implementation rules came into effect, expanding police authority. These changes make it a criminal offense to refuse to provide passwords or decryption assistance for electronic devices and grant authorities expanded powers to seize and retain personal devices in national security cases. These rules apply broadly to residents, visitors, and individuals transiting through Hong Kong International Airport, including U.S. citizens, raising concerns about privacy and data protection for international businesses and individuals.

- Increased Extra-Regional Military Activity in Western Pacific

A report released on May 26, 2026, by the Beijing-based South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative, detailed a significant expansion of military presence and activities by non-U.S. extra-regional countries (primarily from Europe, Oceania, and Canada) in the Western Pacific during 2025. The report noted 48 warships from these nations operated in the region for 610 ship-days, averaging nearly two ships on patrol daily, and approximately 1,500 military aircraft sorties, with a focus on areas like the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea.

- Chinese Carrier Drills East of Luzon

From May 26 to May 29, 2026, a Chinese aircraft carrier strike group, led by the Liaoning, conducted drills in the Pacific Ocean, specifically tracked east of Luzon. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) confirmed on June 2, 2026, that it was verifying these exercises after Japan flagged 170 air sorties, indicating a notable Chinese military presence and activity in the region.

- Persistent Diplomatic Tensions with the United States

China and the Hong Kong government continued to express strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to the U.S. State Department's 2026 report on Hong Kong, which was released on April 16, 2026. Beijing and Hong Kong officials condemned the report as unwarranted interference in internal affairs, a smear campaign, and an attempt by the U.S. to "use Hong Kong to contain China". They reiterated Hong Kong's constitutional duty to safeguard national security and uphold the "one country, two systems" framework.

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

The Global Prosperity Summit 2026, held in Hong Kong from May 19-20, highlighted the city's expanding role in international and regional cooperation within China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) and APEC. Ambassador Han Zhiqiang, vice-president of the China Public Diplomacy Association, emphasized Hong Kong's position as an "international metropolis connecting China and the world" and a "bridge for exchanges between civilisations".

- Cybersecurity Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection

The "Hong Kong Cybersecurity Outlook 2026" report, released on January 28, 2026, by the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT), revealed a record high of 15,877 cybersecurity incidents in Hong Kong during 2025, marking a 27% year-on-year increase. The report identified AI-driven attacks, weak AI governance, supply chain vulnerabilities, and over-reliance on cloud infrastructure as top risks for 2026. Furthermore, the Protection of Critical Infrastructure (Computer Systems) Ordinance, which took effect on January 1, 2026, imposes obligations on designated critical infrastructure operators to secure their systems.

- Counter-Terrorism Joint Exercise

On April 16, 2026, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), in collaboration with Interpol and police forces from Macao, Singapore, and South Korea, conducted the "Counter Cyber and Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026" (codenamed "STEALTHNET"). The exercise simulated terrorist financing scenarios and cross-border cyber and physical attacks against critical infrastructure, including financial, aviation, and healthcare systems, involving explosive devices and drones. This demonstrated enhanced regional cooperation and preparedness against hybrid terrorist threats.

- Economic Resilience Amidst Geopolitical Shifts

Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, Paul Chan Mo-po, stated on April 27, 2026, that ongoing geopolitical restructuring is not a threat but a catalyst for Hong Kong's evolution as a "super-connector" and major trade center. Economically, Hong Kong's GDP grew by 5.9% in Q1 2026, driven by technology exports and domestic demand. However, Finimize reported on June 1, 2026, that mainland Chinese investors were net sellers of Hong Kong equities in May, marking the first month of net outflows since June 2023.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Hong Kong's security developments during this period are deeply intertwined with broader geopolitical shifts and regional dynamics, primarily reflecting the ongoing assertiveness of Beijing and the city's evolving role under the "one country, two systems" framework. The expanded enforcement powers of the National Security Law, particularly concerning digital devices and extraterritorial application, reinforce Beijing's control over Hong Kong and further align its legal and intelligence environment with that of mainland China. This tightening grip has drawn strong criticism from Western nations, notably the United States, leading to persistent diplomatic friction and accusations of interference in China's internal affairs. The U.S. State Department's 2026 report on Hong Kong, which Beijing and Hong Kong vehemently rejected, exemplifies this ongoing ideological and political standoff.

Regionally, the increased military activities in the Western Pacific, as highlighted by the Chinese think tank report, signal a more complex and potentially volatile strategic landscape. The presence of non-U.S. extra-regional countries' warships and aircraft, particularly in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, indicates a sustained effort by these nations to assert their presence and uphold a "rules-based international order," often in coordination with U.S. operations. China views these activities as targeting its interests, further escalating tensions in critical maritime zones. The recent Chinese carrier drills east of Luzon further underscore Beijing's growing naval capabilities and its projection of power in the wider Pacific, directly impacting regional security perceptions, especially for countries like the Philippines.

Hong Kong's participation in initiatives like the Global Prosperity Summit 2026, where it was positioned as a "super-connector" and a platform for China's Global Governance Initiative, illustrates Beijing's strategy to leverage Hong Kong's international standing to promote its vision for a multipolar world order. This dual role—as a city under tightening national security control and a hub for international dialogue—presents a nuanced geopolitical dynamic. While Beijing seeks to integrate Hong Kong more deeply into its national development plans, the city's unique international connections are simultaneously utilized to advance China's global diplomatic agenda. The economic resilience of Hong Kong, despite geopolitical headwinds, remains a critical

factor in its strategic importance, though shifts in investment patterns, such as mainland investors becoming net sellers of Hong Kong equities, warrant close monitoring.

Military and Defense Analysis

Hong Kong, as a Special Administrative Region of China, does not maintain its own independent military force. Its defense is the responsibility of the People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison. Therefore, military and defense analysis for Hong Kong primarily revolves around the broader Chinese military posture and how it impacts the city's security, as well as the internal security forces of Hong Kong.

The period under review highlights China's increasing military presence and capabilities in the Western Pacific. The report on non-U.S. extra-regional military activities in 2025, released on May 26, 2026, underscores the dynamic and contested nature of the maritime domain surrounding Hong Kong. While not directly involving Hong Kong's immediate defense, these activities in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea contribute to a heightened regional security environment that indirectly affects Hong Kong's strategic context. The tracking of the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning leading a flotilla east of Luzon from May 26-29, 2026, is a direct indicator of China's naval modernization and its ability to project power further into the Pacific. This demonstrates a continued focus on developing a blue-water navy capable of operating beyond China's immediate coastal waters.

Domestically, Hong Kong's defense posture is characterized by its robust internal security apparatus, primarily the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF). The "Counter Cyber and Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026" (STEALTHNET), conducted on April 16, 2026, showcased the HKPF's capabilities in responding to hybrid terrorist threats, including cyber and physical attacks on critical infrastructure. The involvement of international partners like Interpol and regional police forces from Macao, Singapore, and South Korea indicates a commitment to regional counter-terrorism cooperation and intelligence sharing, which is crucial for a global financial hub like Hong Kong. The ongoing implementation of the Protection of Critical Infrastructure (Computer Systems) Ordinance, effective January 1, 2026, further strengthens Hong Kong's defense against cyber threats targeting essential services.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Hong Kong is likely to experience continued enforcement and adaptation to the recently amended National

Security Law implementation rules. This will likely lead to further legal challenges and international scrutiny, particularly regarding data access and privacy for foreign entities and individuals. Diplomatic tensions with Western nations, especially the U.S., are expected to persist, with both sides reiterating their positions on Hong Kong's autonomy and national security. Economically, Hong Kong will continue to navigate global geopolitical shifts, aiming to leverage its "super-connector" role while integrating more deeply into China's national development plans. The cybersecurity threat landscape will remain elevated, with a focus on AI-driven attacks and supply chain vulnerabilities, necessitating ongoing vigilance and investment in defense mechanisms.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: A critical flashpoint remains the extraterritorial application of the National Security Law, particularly its implications for international businesses and individuals traveling through or operating in Hong Kong. Any high-profile cases involving foreign nationals or companies under these expanded powers could significantly escalate diplomatic tensions and impact Hong Kong's status as an international business hub. Regionally, the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea will continue to be areas of heightened military activity and potential miscalculation, with increased presence from both Chinese and extra-regional forces. While direct military conflict involving Hong Kong is unlikely, any escalation in these areas would have significant economic and security repercussions for the city. Cybersecurity incidents, particularly those targeting critical infrastructure or financial institutions, pose a persistent and evolving risk, given the reported increase in sophisticated attacks.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of NSL enforcement actions, especially those involving foreign entities or sensitive data, and any further amendments or interpretations of the law. Observe statements and actions from major international bodies and governments regarding Hong Kong's autonomy and rule of law. Track economic indicators, such as foreign direct investment, capital flows, and the performance of the Hang Seng Index, particularly in response to geopolitical events. In the military domain, monitor naval and air force movements in the Western Pacific, particularly in and around the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, for any unusual deployments or exercises. Finally, closely follow cybersecurity threat intelligence and reports from HKCERT for emerging attack vectors and vulnerabilities.

Strategic recommendations: Hong Kong authorities should prioritize clear communication and transparency regarding the implementation of national security laws to mitigate uncertainty for international businesses and visitors. Continued investment in advanced cybersecurity defenses and international cooperation against cyber threats is essential to protect critical infrastructure and maintain financial stability. Diplomatically, Hong Kong should seek to balance its integration with

mainland China's strategic initiatives with efforts to preserve its unique international character and legal traditions, fostering dialogue with concerned international partners. For businesses and individuals operating in or transiting through Hong Kong, a thorough understanding of the updated national security laws and their implications for digital privacy and data security is paramount.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: HK Free Press

- [Environmental NGO urges stronger climate policies as Hong Kong faces extreme summer heat](#) (2026-06-02 05:10)

An environmental NGO has urged the Hong Kong government to prioritise the climate crisis and strengthen its climate adaptation policies, as the city is expected to endure an extremely hot summer this year. Friends of the Earth said on Monday that as May drew to a close, Hong Kong and many parts of the world [...]

- [Huge state subsidies give China unfair edge over foreign rivals, OECD says](#) (2026-06-02 04:35)

Chinese companies in 15 key industrial sectors received vastly more state support than their international competitors between 2005 and 2024, according to an OECD report released on Monday. The 15 sectors received US\$108 billion in 2024 alone, according to data compiled by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in its Manufacturing Groups and Industrial [...]

- [Hong Kong gov' t proposes 180 transitional housing units for evicted 'shoebox' flat tenants](#) (2026-06-01 23:30)

The Hong Kong government has proposed allocating up to 180 “reserve units” of transitional housing to tenants evicted due to the “shoebox” flat reform. Victor Tai, undersecretary for housing, said on Monday that the reserve units would only be provided under “very exceptional circumstances,” such as tenants evicted by landlords of subdivided flats and those [...]

- [Taiwan' s opposition leader hopes to 'gain deeper trust' from US](#) (2026-06-01 09:42)

Taiwan' s main opposition leader said Monday she hopes to “gain deeper trust” from the United States, before departing for the country where she is expected to be grilled over her party' s stance on China and defence spending. Kuomintang chairwoman Cheng Li-wun' s trip comes two months after her “peace” visit to Beijing, where she met Chinese [...]

- [China accuses Japanese defence minister of 'baseless' claims](#) (2026-06-01 09:01)

China accused Japan' s defence minister on Monday of spreading “baseless” claims and sowing confusion, a day after he took a veiled swipe at Beijing. Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi had pledged on Sunday to keep strengthening Japan' s military and warned China was expanding its capabilities without sufficient transparency. His comments follow a months-long

diplomatic spat between [...]

- [Gov't-appointed administrator of fire-hit estate applies to court to delay owners' meeting deadline](#) (2026-06-01 08:19)

A Hong Kong company appointed by the government to administer the fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court has asked the Lands Tribunal to postpone a statutory deadline for holding a homeowners' meeting. Hectar Pun, a lawyer representing Hop On Management, told the tribunal on Monday that the firm had faced challenges in verifying signatures and finding venues [...]

- [Officers stop brawl among remand prisoners at Sai Kung's maximum security facility](#) (2026-06-01 08:00)

Correctional officers stopped 10 detainees from attacking two others at Sai Kung's maximum security Pik Uk Correctional Institution on Sunday, with all those involved being held in custody ahead of court hearings. At around 1.13pm, 10 remand prisoners, aged between 17 and 20, attacked two 19-year-old remand prisoners, the government said in a statement late [...]

- [Vandals break into Tiananmen crackdown museum in US, founder says](#) (2026-06-01 06:19)

The Tiananmen crackdown museum in Los Angeles was broken into and vandalised over the weekend, according to its co-founder Wang Dan. "This morning, volunteers at the June Fourth Memorial Museum discovered upon arriving at work that the museum's main gate had been vandalized and graffitied. We have already reported it to the police," said Wang [...]

- [16 of 142 lost property reports at Wang Fuk Court may involve theft, security chief says](#) (2026-06-01 06:14)

Hong Kong authorities cannot rule out theft in 16 of 142 lost property reports filed by residents of the fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court housing estate, the security minister has said. Secretary for Security Chris Tang said on an RTHK programme on Saturday that in 48 cases, the police and the residents were able to retrieve [...]

- [NGO warns hot weather can worsen air quality, urges gov't action on pollutants and cooling measures in hot districts](#) (2026-06-01 04:45)

NGO Green Power has urged the Hong Kong government to better regulate ozone precursors as hot weather exacerbates air pollution across the city. Chemical compounds – such as nitrogen oxides, methane, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and carbon monoxide – form ground-level ozone by reacting in the lower atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone [...]

- [Beijing grants freer access to Hong Kong and Macau yachts in Greater Bay Area](#) (2026-05-31 23:30)

The central government has greenlighted yachts from Hong Kong and Macau to enter nine mainland Chinese cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) without customs guarantees and with

temporary ship registrations. The State Council said on Friday that the pilot scheme came into effect the same day. The nine cities are Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, [...]

- [HKFP Lens: Dragon and lion dances bring Tam Kung Festival to life in Shau Kei Wan](#) (2026-05-31 08:03)

The streets of Shau Kei Wan turned into a sea of colour last Sunday as local communities celebrated the Tam Kung Festival with a vibrant street procession in honour of the Taoist maritime deity. Lion and dragon dance troupes, martial artists and acrobats paraded along Shau Kei Wan Main Street East, from the Factory Street [...]

- [‘Totally hooked’ : Hong Kong takes aim at claw machine addiction](#) (2026-05-31 08:00)

By William Patterson Claw machine lover Neiki Lee carefully lowers the metal jaws of a crane with a joystick into a pool of prizes, only to have the small toy slip from its clutches again and again. Dozens of stores filled with claw machines have sprung up on streets and in malls across Hong Kong’ s [...]

- [Japanese defence chief takes swipe at China at security meet](#) (2026-05-31 03:53)

Japan’ s defence minister took a veiled swipe at China on Sunday, pledging to keep strengthening the military despite Beijing’ s criticism of Tokyo’ s increasingly muscular security stance. Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Japan has quickened its pivot towards a more proactive defence policy, further shaking off — with US encouragement — its pacifist outlook in place [...]

- [Taiwanese drone exports soar on Ukraine war](#) (2026-05-31 02:30)

By Allison Jackson and Joy Chiang Taiwan’ s drone exports are taking off, fuelled by the war in Ukraine, as Taiwanese companies seek a stake in the fast-growing global market for unmanned aerial vehicles. Low-cost drones used for reconnaissance and strikes are in high demand as governments around the world boost defence spending in the face [...]

- [Investigation: Illegal firings, cancelled visas and lack of healthcare – how domestic workers facing critical illness are left in limbo](#) (2026-05-31 01:00)

Nancy, a Filipino domestic worker in Hong Kong, squints her eyes for the camera as her right arm holds her employers’ younger daughter tight. The toddler beams, legs thrown around her nanny’ s hips. “My baby,” Nancy sobs as she scrolls through old pictures with one hand, while dabbing her wrinkled face with a crumpled white [...]

- [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-foot) 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 [...]

Source: RTHK English News

- [Yacht tourism boom on horizon as sailing curbs eased](#) (2026-06-02 05:56)

A new policy aimed at allowing yachts from Hong Kong and Macao to enter or exit nine mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area will be a massive catalyst for growth in yacht tourism, said David Norton, vice commodore of Hong Kong Royal Yacht Club, on Tuesday. His remark came after the SAR on Saturday welcomed the State Council's approval of exemption from the requirement of a guarantee and implementation of temporary ship nationality registration, enabling yachts from both SARs to access the nine mainland cities. Speaking on RTHK's Backchat programme, Norton said there used to be great financial and administrative hurdles in the past in trying to get boats across the border in the mainland or Hong Kong for yacht races and sailing events. "It's very difficult for them to bring their boats into China and for our members to get their boats to attend events in the Chinese mainland, so this [new policy] is a massive boost, and the opportunities for cruising around the beautiful Guangdong coast is also a very interesting prospect," he said. It will also bring greater convenience and more opportunities for yachters to explore the region, Norton added. He also said the industry was looking forward to more details of the scheme being made available and the city becoming a focal point for people who wish to enter Chinese mainland waters. Speaking on the same programme, Dennis Kwok from the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education said the policy will have spillover effects for other industries as well. "Not only will the owners travel, they might have their guests, their business partners, and also the maintenance crew, everything

that will provide a lot of economic benefits to the tourism industry in Hong Kong," said the head of the department of hospitality at the institute's campuses in Chai Wan and Haking Wong. Although yachts travelling to Hong Kong might not be great in number, Kwok said, they have a major impact on tourism branding and make the city more unique. He also said a recent proposal for an operational merger for China Ferry Terminal and the Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal was timely as passenger throughput at these two checkpoints had dropped by 6.5 percent last year. He suggested that one of the ferry terminals be used as an additional location to serve yacht tourists. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [ID-limbo baby concern rises over 'Save Lily' couple](#) (2026-06-02 04:38)

Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun said the government is highly concerned about the controversial case involving a couple who refused DNA testing required for their baby's birth certificate following a home birth in Hong Kong. Speaking after an event on Tuesday, Sun said he hoped a health check and assessment of the baby boy, as well as a meeting with the parents, could be arranged as soon as possible. He said relevant departments have been following up on the case. "From last Thursday, we have been using different methods to get in touch with the parents and family involved," Sun said. "Our social workers had waited outside their home at various times of the day. They waited until late on one occasion. "We had also left different contact methods for the parents to reach us. "It wasn't until yesterday that our social workers were finally able to get in touch with the parents through email." The incident sparked concern over the internet after the couple opened a social media page called "Save Lily" in the hope of taking back their second daughter – who was born at home in Finland in 2021 and did not have a birth certificate – after she was put under a formal care order when the family was in Sweden in 2023. The couple then returned to Hong Kong and gave birth to their third son, Danny, at home. Speaking on a radio programme on Tuesday, the father, Tsang, said he and his partner have submitted a statement of self-delivery of birth at home. But the couple have not registered Danny's birth within 42 days of delivery – as required under the law – and refused DNA testing to verify their biological relationship with the infant, citing religious reasons. Tsang said he and his partner are unwilling to undergo such testing, saying that DNA information is highly sensitive, and hope to know the reasons for the required procedures. Sun said the Immigration Department would follow up on the issue regarding Danny's birth certificate and that it had also reached out to the Chinese embassy in Sweden through the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong to follow up on Lily's case. He also said the administration has a comprehensive mechanism for handling matters when it comes to child welfare and will take steps to address the situation as quickly as possible while taking into account all relevant factors. Sun added that appropriate support would be forthcoming should the family express any need for it. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Officials apologise over school places SMS error](#) (2026-06-02 04:35)

The Education Bureau apologised on Tuesday for mistakenly sending text messages to parents who applied for a school place for their children through this year's primary one central

allocation. The bureau said the mistake was down to a system error, meaning results of the allocation were sent a day earlier than scheduled. It called on parents to disregard the messages, adding that it has promptly fixed the problem. A total of 16,345 children took part in this year's primary one central allocation. Their parents will be informed of the results on June 3 and 4. According to the bureau, more than 14,000 children were given one of their top three choices of school, with an overall satisfaction rate of 93.6 percent. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Bus driver arrested after cyclist killed in Kwai Chung](#) (2026-06-02 01:00)

Police arrested a bus driver on suspicion of dangerous driving causing death after a cyclist was killed in an accident in Kwai Chung on Monday afternoon. The driver, 60, is being detained. Police received a report at about 2.50pm that a bus hit a man riding a bicycle while travelling along Tung Chi Street, turning right towards Shek Yam Road. The cyclist, 60, was said to be trapped under the bus before being extracted and rushed to hospital with multiple injuries. He was taken to Yan Chai Hospital in an unconscious state and later transferred to Princess Margaret Hospital. He was certified dead at 6:08pm. An investigation is underway and the police are calling for witnesses to come forward. Edited by Nazvi Careem

- [MOUs signed during Lee's visit to Kazakhstan](#) (2026-06-01 14:08)

Chief Executive John Lee on Monday witnessed the signing of a number of memoranda of understanding on his first full day of visit to Kazakhstan. The MOUs were signed during Lee's tour of the Astana Hub – Kazakhstan's premier technology and innovation park – and the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC). These included an agreement between Hong Kong's Belt and Road Office and Kazakhstan's Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development; separate deals between the Astana Hub and Cyberport, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks and the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park; as well as an agreement between InvestHK and the AIFC. The chief executive met with Deputy Kazakh Prime Minister and Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development Zhaslan Madiyev at the Astana Hub. Noting that 2026 has been designated Kazakhstan's "Year of Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence," Lee described the Astana Hub as a regional innovation cluster and invited Kazakh tech firms to consider setting up operations in Hong Kong. He outlined Hong Kong's own I&T ambitions, pointing to global digital competitiveness rankings and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou innovation cluster. The CE highlighted infrastructure projects in the Northern Metropolis that aim to deepen industry-research integration. Lee also visited the AIFC where he met with its governor, Renat Bekturov. The day was packed with other high-level meetings and site visits as Hong Kong pushes to deepen economic, financial and innovation ties with Central Asia. Lee met with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who reiterated Kazakhstan's role as a gateway on the Belt and Road and stressed Hong Kong's ability to connect the mainland with global markets. Noting that Kazakhstan is Hong Kong's largest trading partner in Central Asia, the chief executive emphasised mutual opportunities stemming from the country's push to diversify its economy. Lee also held talks with Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of National Economy Serik Zhumangarin, where the two sides exchanged views on deepening economic cooperation. Joining the chief executive's delegation is a Henan firm that specialises in mining development and trading of mineral products and is among the mainland enterprises seeking closer ties with Kazakhstan. Speaking at an exchange session, Henan Yudi Technology Group chairman and party committee secretary Yu Jiyun said his company has taken part in geological exploration projects in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and it wants to further boost cooperation with Kazakhstan because it doesn't have mining rights there. "Kazakhstan has rich mineral resources and offers vast development opportunities. Also, Kazakhstan is closely connected with China's Xinjiang. Cooperation between the two sides offers natural geographical advantages." Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Towngas in talks with govt to raise gas prices](#) (2026-06-01 10:42)

Towngas on Monday said it is in discussions with the government to raise gas fees due to the latest energy price spikes caused by the conflict in the Middle East. Peter Wong, the managing director of Hong Kong's sole gas provider, told a press conference that the prices of naphtha, which accounts for about 40 percent of the raw materials for producing gas, has doubled since the start of the year. "We are currently under pressure to raise charges and we're in close communication with the government over the extent of the price increase. It's also because of the rise in energy prices and inflation," he said. "As to when a decision will be made, It's up to the government. But if we look back to two years ago, our previous price increase was implemented on August 1," he added. Wong, however, did not give a timeline on when the prices would go up. He noted that the firm has so far saved more than HK\$20 billion on fuel costs for local customers because of its long-term "take or pay" contract with a supplier in Australia to secure natural gas. Under their 25-year agreement, signed in 2006, the Australian firm would supply natural gas to Towngas for fixed prices during the period. Towngas has also started negotiations with the Australian supplier over the new prices of their contract as the current one is set to expire in 2031, but "it's difficult to assess the new pricing", Wong said. Separately, he forecast that the city's total gas consumption would decline by three percent year-on-year in the first half of the year, partly because of the high temperatures that has reduced residential demand. But he added that the decline is likely to be smaller for the full year, pointing to a recent increase in gas consumption in the hotel and catering sectors. Meanwhile, Wong expressed optimism over the Northern Metropolis development, noting the company is laying pipelines to meet the demand of the expected additional 1.5 million residents and commercial users there. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [HK delegation finds 'tremendous' Kazakh opportunities](#) (2026-06-01 09:12)

A delegation led by Chief Executive John Lee has wrapped up a productive meeting in Kazakhstan, with business leaders describing the talks as "a very good start" and flagging strong mutual interest in investment and cooperation. The delegation participated in the Roundtable Forum on Economic Development, Trade and Investment Opportunities on Monday morning. Jeffrey Lam, chairman of the Hung Shui Kiu Industry Park's board of directors, said the

delegation met with numerous companies and representatives from Kazakhstan who showed keen interest in investing in Hong Kong — while also seeking to attract Hong Kong firms to invest in their markets. "We felt the opportunity invested here is tremendous," he said. Lam, who is also an executive councillor, added the delegation is looking forward to hosting Kazakh counterparts in Hong Kong, potentially helping them set up factories, family offices or regional headquarters that could serve as a platform to expand into the mainland and other Asian countries. He said discussions from the forum covered a wide range of sectors, from industry to gold trading. Lam confirmed he would be signing several memoranda of understanding (MOUs), including a joint cooperation agreement with the largest business chamber in Kazakhstan and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. Another MOU in the technology sector, he said, is also planned. "The MOU will breed a lot of cooperation in areas of manpower exchange, information exchange, so on and so forth," he said.

"Business chambers, they are very important to trading." Meanwhile, Frederick Ma, chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, described the presentations from Kazakh partners as "very interesting," spanning logistics, hotel operations and other industries. "There are lots of opportunities for Kazakhstan and Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland to cooperate," Ma said. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to get to know each other much better." Ma revealed that Kazakh partners are already planning a conference and roundtable in Hong Kong in mid-June, adding the delegation looks forward to a closer relationship between the two sides. He praised the chief executive's decision to lead such a large group to Central Asia, calling it "wonderful" as it allows businesspeople from Hong Kong and the mainland to mingle with their Kazakh counterparts. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Yuan Gujie named liaison office deputy director](#) (2026-06-01 08:38)

The State Council on Monday announced the appointment of Yuan Gujie as deputy director of Beijing's liaison office in Hong Kong. Liu Guangyuan, meanwhile, has stepped down from the post. Yuan served in various positions before this current appointment, including her position as deputy head of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Guangdong Provincial Committee and secretary of the Political and Legal Commission of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee. Veteran diplomat Liu was the ambassador to Kenya and Poland, and served as the commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the SAR. Meanwhile, Liu Songlin has taken the post as secretary-general of the liaison office, succeeding Wang Songmiao, according to the liaison office website. Edited by Tony Sabine

- ['New HKUST medical dean brings experience'](#) (2026-06-01 07:36)

Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau on Monday said the newly appointed founding dean of the city's third medical school possesses relevant experience. The government welcomed the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's appointment of physician-scientist King Li, who had the same role at Carle Illinois College of Medicine of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the United States. Li possesses "invaluable practical experience" in establishing a new medical school, Lo said. "I look forward to the HKUST's medical school

continuing to smoothly advance the relevant preparatory work under his leadership, including the recruitment of the teaching and research team, the formulation of teaching programmes, and participation in the overall planning of the Ngau Tam Mei campus and the new integrated teaching and research hospital, deepening collaboration with local healthcare institutions and teaching partners, as well as full co-operation with the Medical Council of Hong Kong throughout the accreditation exercise for the curriculum,” Lo said. He stressed that establishing a third medical school is important for Hong Kong’s healthcare system. Secretary for Education Christine Choi said she hopes Li will lead the medical school to develop a forward-looking and internationally oriented education model with his global vision and connections in the international medical community. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [High value placed on Central Asia trip: CE](#) (2026-06-01 05:34)

Chief Executive John Lee began his first day of activities in the Kazakh capital, Astana, on Monday. In the morning, a group photo was taken of the delegation, which was described as the largest of its kind in the current term of the SAR government. The photo included Deputy Secretary for Justice Horace Cheung, Financial Services Secretary Christopher Hui, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau and around 70 business representatives from Hong Kong and the mainland. Speaking to the delegation, Lee said Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan authorities attach great importance to the visit. Lee said he would meet senior officials of the two countries. He stressed the importance of teamwork and urged delegation members to stay energetic and keep their spirits high to deliver good results on the trip. In a social media post, Lee also said the 70-strong delegation brings together industry elites from various sectors in Hong Kong and the mainland. “We will jointly explore the vast potential of Central Asia, gain in-depth insights into this vibrant emerging market, exchange ideas through cross-sectoral interactions, and achieve win-win outcomes through complementary strengths,” he said. Lee added that the visit would boost long-term economic and trade cooperation between Hong Kong, the mainland and Central Asia. Lee will stay in Kazakhstan until Wednesday before heading to Uzbekistan. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [King Li appointed as dean of HK’s third medical school](#) (2026-06-01 04:54)

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has appointed renowned physician-scientist Professor King Li as the founding dean of its school of medicine, with his tenure beginning on Monday. HKUST said the appointment follows a rigorous global search that involved reviewing over 100 candidates across North America, Asia-Pacific and Europe. The university said Li was selected for his exceptional track record in academic leadership, medical education, biomedical innovation, as well as his experience in founding a new medical school. Li previously served as the founding dean of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from 2016 to 2021, an institution widely regarded as a pioneer in engineering-based medical education. During his time there, he developed a technology-oriented curriculum and led the college’s early graduating cohorts achieve a 100 percent pass rate in licensing examinations. Li also received the Gold Medal of the Association

of University Radiologists and holds 20 issued patents across the United States, Australia and Europe. Born and raised in Hong Kong before emigrating to Toronto as a teenager, Li said he is deeply honoured to return and contribute to a place where his roots lie. “In the beginning, I have never thought about coming back to Hong Kong,” he said. “But when President Ip approached me and presented me with something that I cannot refuse – the ability to contribute to a very, very important task that can influence not just locally, but potentially the entire country and the world, is something I can't really turn down.” He also pointed to the critical urgency of reforming Hong Kong's healthcare delivery through technology to cope with a rapidly ageing demographic. “It's something that is urgent and it's something I have done before. I see that the opportunity here is actually larger because we have an entire country that has already decided to head in this direction. We are actually working together, not against the entire country,” he said. When asked about how familiar he is with the SAR healthcare landscape, Li noted that he had maintained close ties with the local medical community throughout his time in the US, stressing that he will also be supported by a highly capable team on the ground. The President of HKUST, Professor Nancy Ip, said the university is honoured to welcome Li, saying his leadership will be central to building a globally competitive and locally relevant medical school. She added that the institution looks forward to working alongside the city's other two medical schools. “As Dean Li mentioned earlier, we already have two outstanding medical schools in Hong Kong and our new medical school will work with them collaboratively” she said. “Together, all three medical schools will elevate the standing of the medical schools in Hong Kong in the international community.” HKUST plans to commence its four-year graduate-entry medicine and surgery programme in the 2028-29 academic year. Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Robots take dispensing load at community health centre](#) (2026-06-01 04:16)

The Hospital Authority has said its smart warehouse management system which uses automated robots has successfully streamlined the handling of medicine, freeing up pharmacists to focus on patient care. The system was implemented in late 2024 at the North District Community Health Centre, where robots carry designated drug shelves to workstations at the centre's warehouse to replenish drugs. This means pharmacists no longer need to search for and transport drugs. The authority's chief pharmacist William Chui pointed out that the time required for retrieving medicine has decreased from 20 minutes to only a few minutes. "If the pharmacists engage in the storage of the drugs, or other [logistical] or technical operations, they would spend less time on patients directly, so that's why we introduced this smart warehouse management system," Chui said. "It can provide more time for pharmacists, healthcare professionals or dispensers to take care of our patients. "The second benefit of introducing this new smart system is to ensure or enhance the medication system, and also for increasing the storage space by 20 percent," he added. Betty Leung, the pharmacy department manager at the North District Hospital – which also uses some of the medicine from the North District Community Health Centre – explained that the system has eliminated the need to reserve space for trolleys used for carrying medicine, increasing storage capacity. She also pointed out that

there is a backup plan if the system fails. "We can call for a 24-hour support, and worse come to worst, we can revert to our old mechanism of having staff going into the drug store to get the drugs." She added that the system also monitors the medicine inventory in real time, which would ensure no drugs would be used past their expiry date. Leung also said there are plans to expand the use of the smart warehouse management system. "In [health facilities that will be redeveloped], or new hospitals, new clinics, we can deploy this warehouse system to enhance the service." Edited by Aaron Tam

- [Economy shows resilience as AI electronic exports boom](#) (2026-06-01 03:27)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan said on Monday Hong Kong's economy remained resilient when it moved into the second quarter. This, he said, followed robust growth of 5.9 percent in gross domestic product in the first quarter. Speaking at a meeting of the Legislative Council's financial affairs panel, Chan said the SAR saw year-on-year growth in merchandise exports of nearly 43 percent in April, driven by export of AI-related electronics products. The city also welcomed more tourists in April and during the Labour Day Golden Week holiday, in addition to seeing improvements in the labour market. However, Chan warned of uncertainties brought about by the Middle East stalemate. "Although the conflict has limited impact on Hong Kong's economy, it has pushed up international oil prices and inflation pressure," he said. "The ceasefire agreement between the US and Iran is not on solid ground. If tensions escalate again, it is expected to exacerbate volatility in global financial markets, weaken external demand and pose downside risks to global and local economic outlook. "But strong global demand for advanced electronics and AI-related products is expected to help boost exports." Chan also said Hong Kong exports of services would remain robust with tourism booming, cross-border financial activities thriving and demand for business services remaining stable. He also urged the retail and catering sectors to transform themselves to match new consumption trends. "Consumption patterns have changed and people's expectations are different from before," Chan said. "As a result, some of the big traditional restaurants may find it difficult to survive in the current environment if they continue with their past practices," he said. "At the same time, however, there are distinctive shops and cafes opening up in many districts, and some of them are doing well. Therefore, we encourage the industry to transform." Chan said the government would offer assistance in funding and training to aid in the sectors' transformation. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [CE arrives in Kazakhstan to begin Central Asia visit](#) (2026-05-31 15:10)

Chief Executive John Lee and his business and trade delegation on Sunday arrived in the Kazakh capital, Astana, kicking off a visit to Central Asia aimed at boosting bilateral ties. Lee was greeted at the airport by Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of National Economy Assan Darbayev and Minister Counsellor of China's Embassy in Kazakhstan Cheng Kefan. The delegation, described as the largest of its kind in the current term of the SAR government, includes more than 40 representatives from Hong Kong's business and professional sectors, along with about 30 executives from mainland enterprises. Lee said on social media that the trip marks the second

time that Hong Kong and mainland representatives have joined forces to “go global” together, covering the broadest range of industries to date. “Hong Kong and Central Asia enjoy vast scope for collaboration,” he said. During the visit, Hong Kong is set to sign multiple memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with Central Asian nations and seal numerous cooperation projects among public and private institutions and enterprises from Hong Kong and the mainland, and the two host countries. Lee expressed confidence that the mission will strengthen cross-sector exchanges, create new trade corridors and unlock emerging market opportunities between Hong Kong and the Central Asian region. The group will spend three days in Kazakhstan before heading to Uzbekistan on Wednesday. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Development chief points to greater use of drones](#) (2026-05-31 08:57)

Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn said on Sunday that the government is planning to introduce high-performance drones to boost efficiency and safety in public works and emergency response. These would include models capable of carrying heavy loads and equipped with robotic arms. “With their high mobility and ability to quickly gather information from high altitudes, drones play a role in various fields and application scenarios, including aerial surveillance, disaster relief and patrol support,” she wrote on her blog. “Now, drones can be combined with artificial intelligence for in-depth analysis, further enhancing departmental efficiency.” She said the government is exploring broader drone applications, such as transporting building material and tools at construction sites and infrastructure projects. Linn also suggested the use of drones for slope maintenance, where they could send repair supplies to hard-to-reach areas. The development chief added that drones have overcome physical barriers and captured high-definition images of remote areas, as well as illegal rooftop structures and illegal building renovation works. The initiative is tied to the government’s “Regulatory Sandbox X” under the low-altitude economy framework. In April, four pilot projects involving non-traditional aircraft were selected for phased testing, including a Development Bureau project in collaboration with industry players focused on aerial lifting operations. Linn said the authorities are also studying the use of drones for routine maintenance of infrastructures such as dams, reservoirs and surrounding slopes. She also noted that field trials are expected to begin soon. Edited by Edmond Fong

- ['Rich cooperation potential with Central Asia'](#) (2026-05-31 07:42)

Commissioner for Belt and Road Nicholas Ho said Hong Kong and Central Asian countries have great cooperation potential, with the SAR’s total merchandise trade with the region rising by 27 percent in 2025 compared with 2020. His remarks came as a delegation led by Chief Executive John Lee headed to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on Sunday to strengthen cooperation and explore new opportunities. In an interview with the Information Services Department, Ho said Hong Kong could further explore cooperation with the region in various areas. “Number one is natural resources. These state-owned companies are looking for a platform, a market to list their companies and to fundraise. Hong Kong can empower that,” he said. “Second is green development. Hong Kong has a comprehensive green economic engine, from green

finance to green industry, green technologies, green standards and green professional services;with these, we can help Central Asian countries to reach carbon neutrality a lot sooner.

“Third is digital economy. Many Central Asian countries are driving AI and digital development, and they are hoping that Hong Kong can help them get there faster.” Ho also said the hospitality business in Hong Kong could help develop tourism infrastructure in Central Asia which has rich tourism assets. The commissioner, who is also a member of the delegation, added the trip could further boost economic and trade development between the SAR and the two countries, exploring new markets and enhancing communication. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [HK must take advantage of global capital flows: FS](#) (2026-05-31 05:47)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan on Sunday said Hong Kong must take advantage of global capital flows that are currently being driven by geopolitical uncertainties and rapid advances in artificial intelligence. Writing in his weekly blog, Chan said a global wealth report released last week addressed the two challenges and opportunities that Hong Kong faces. "Amid intensifying geopolitical turbulence and the sweeping wave of artificial intelligence, capital is being reallocated at an unprecedented scale," he wrote. "Unilateralism and regional conflicts have introduced significant uncertainty to the global economic outlook, prompting capital to accelerate its shift toward a stable and reliable safe haven. "Meanwhile, breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, which shows vast development potential, are attracting substantial inflows of investment into relevant fields." Chan also noted the report estimated that Hong Kong's cross-boundary wealth management assets grew by 10.7 percent year-on-year to about HK\$23 trillion, surpassing Switzerland to become the world's top cross-boundary wealth management centre. The report also projected annual growth of around nine percent for the city's wealth management sector through to 2030. Chan described the figures as a "vote of confidence" in Hong Kong's institutional framework and investing environment. The finance chief also noted the city's assets and wealth management business had exceeded HK\$35 trillion, according to the Securities and Futures Commission's annual report. He said the city's asset management sector had significant growth, with assets under management doubling, while the number of licensed asset managers had nearly doubled to over 2,200. Chan added that retail sales figures for April, set to be released this coming week, are expected to maintain solid growth, marking the 12 consecutive month of increases. He said it reflected the steady recovery of the retail sector. Edited by Tony Sabine

- ['Exchanges with Shenzhou astronauts in the pipeline'](#) (2026-05-31 04:46)

Technology minister Sun Dong on Sunday said the government was in talks with mainland authorities to arrange a real-time chat between Hong Kong students and Shenzhou-23 astronauts in space, including the city's first-ever payload specialist Lai Ka-ying. The government also hopes the astronauts can visit the SAR after their return, he said, adding the trip could take place in the first half of next year at the earliest. Speaking on a TVB programme, Sun said Lai's selection to the mission was inspiring to Hong Kong people. "I think Ka-ying's selection has given Hong Kong a very good start," he said. "Her appointment has been praised by everyone

– besides her professional background, she is also a mother of three and is friendly ... people feel that she is just an ordinary person like us, and I think this is inspiring for many people.” Sun added that Lai was selected because of her outstanding academic ability, exceptional physical condition and mental toughness, as well as her hardworking attitude. The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry hopes Hong Kong can nurture more astronauts in the future with the development of the aerospace industry. “We need to begin cultivating a group of outstanding young scientists who are passionate about aerospace and willing to strive for its advancement,” Sun said. “We must accelerate the construction of our international innovation and technology hub, so that the country can gain a better understanding and confidence in Hong Kong’s innovation and technology capabilities.” Sun went on to say that Hong Kong would allocate resources precisely to facilitate national space missions. The SAR could also help the country in international exchanges and collaboration, he added. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [HK lawyers can flourish in Central Asia: Law Society](#) (2026-05-30 23:34)

Hong Kong's legal professionals are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between the different legal systems used in the city and Central Asia, according to the president of the Law Society of Hong Kong. Roden Tong will be part of Chief Executive John Lee's delegation to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. While Hong Kong practises common law under "One Country, Two Systems", most Central Asian jurisdictions follow civil law traditions. Speaking to RTHK ahead of the trip, Tong said Hong Kong's legal sector could play a "pivotal role" in facilitating investment between the two markets — pointing to a little-known common law enclave in the heart of Central Asia. He was referring to the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) in Kazakhstan that opened in 2018. "They adopt common law within the AIFC," Tong said. "That is quite very similar to Hong Kong." The AIFC features an independent court system whose judges are predominantly from the United Kingdom, creating a legal environment Tong described as "very equivalent to Hong Kong". The president revealed the Law Society has been building ties with the region since 2016, and signed a memorandum of understanding with the AIFC in 2022. "Hopefully during this delegation, on this occasion, we can further explore more business opportunities for the entire business sector," he said. Tong drew parallels with Dubai, where its international financial centre also operates under a common law system — a model Hong Kong legal professionals have already navigated successfully. For Central Asian companies looking to invest in Hong Kong and access the mainland Chinese market, Tong said the city's legal infrastructure offers several distinct advantages. Hong Kong's dual-language capability — English, Cantonese and Mandarin — provides certainty and predictability for international businesses, he said, particularly in dispute resolution, arbitration and mediation. Tong also pointed to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (Cepa), where overseas companies partnering with Hong Kong firms can adopt common law in the Greater Bay Area — complete with tax incentives. The recent establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation (IOMed) headquarters in Hong Kong adds another layer of appeal as well, Tong said. The Law Society recently met with Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui and

IOMed Secretary-General Teresa Cheng to discuss creating a specialised mediation panel for commodities trading. "This is something that, if at the end of the day, there's any disputes or even in the contractual formulation... Hong Kong legal professionals can actually play this pivotal role," Tong said. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [HK eyes logistics, finance role in Central Asia](#) (2026-05-30 23:29)

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) is urging local businesses to seize the abundant opportunities in Central Asia, as Chief Executive John Lee set off to the landlocked region on Sunday with dozens of high-level business representatives. The delegation will first visit Kazakhstan before heading south to Uzbekistan. In an interview with RTHK ahead of the trip, Bruce Pang, TDC's Director of Research, said that the resource-rich region opens up new supply chain corridors for Hong Kong, while the city can offer its expertise in logistics, finance and technology. "Most of the Central Asian countries are looking to upgrade their logistics systems, facilities and capacity," Pang said, noting that Hong Kong companies possess the "know-hows, knowledge and talent pools" in this field. The SAR's capital markets are equally attractive to Central Asian nations — Pang noticed companies are utilising various facilities to raise funds in Hong Kong, including IPOs and the issuance of dim sum bonds. He highlighted a recent dual listing of a mining firm in Hong Kong and Astana stock exchanges, while there are reports that Kazakhstan's state railway operator is eyeing a debut in the SAR. On research and development, Pang believed Central Asia's ambitious plans for digitalisation and artificial intelligence align with Hong Kong's strengths. "Hong Kong will be one of the hubs for research and development powerhouses," he said, adding that the city's talent pools can help the region meet its technology and ESG standards. He also believed Central Asia can help Hong Kong better position itself in the changing global trade landscape. "In the past several years ... more companies are using Central Asia as a gateway," Pang explained, noting the region is becoming a critical transit hub for goods moving between the East and West. The SAR duty visit signalled a strategic pivot, he said, while the TDC encouraged the local business community to view Central Asia not just as a source of commodities, but as a frontier market for high-value services. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [Trio critically ill after 'suspicious' Mid-Levels fire](#) (2026-05-30 09:49)

A fire at a flat in Mid-Levels on Saturday left three people in a critical condition, with the authorities describing the blaze as "suspicious". Firefighters were called to Regal Crest on Robinson Road shortly before 11am. They found an unconscious woman in a guest bedroom, and a man and a woman who had collapsed in the ensuite bathroom of the master bedroom. All three had inhaled smoke and two also had burns to their hands. "When firefighters entered the scene, they found that the entrance was blocked by a sofa, and it was relatively difficult for them to enter the flat. They later found that the doors of the corridor and master bedroom were locked from inside," said assistant divisional officer Mo Shan-hoi. "Firefighters found two origins of fire in the master bedroom," Mo added. Around 50 people fled to safety from the building during the fire. Police said they were also investigating the blaze, with government

laboratory and forensic staff heading to the scene to look for evidence. Edited by ThomasMcAlinden

- [Civil service reviews 'to start with some grades'](#) (2026-05-30 07:19)

An enhanced appraisal system for civil servants will only cover some grades in the first stage, Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung said on Saturday. The revised system will be implemented starting October 1, under which about five to 10 percent of those deemed to have underperformed would not be granted a salary increment. Yeung told a television programme that a review would be conducted after two years to see if any adjustments needed to be made to the system as well as decide on the number of civil service grades to be included in the second stage of the system's implementation. The government, she added, is ultimately aiming to have all civil servants appraised under the system. "Our first phase does not cover all grades, but all departments have to participate," Yeung said. "Every department, based on their size, has to nominate one or two grades to participate. "These two grades must be from the core of the department, meaning that they carry out its core duties." Yeung was asked whether the move would affect cooperation within the civil service and morale as staff attempt to be the top performers. "In terms of morale, I think if an appraisal is too lenient, then it will affect the morale of those workers who really performed well," she said. "They may strive to perform well but if they get ratings that are equal to those colleagues who have a significant gap with them, this quite affects morale." Implementation of the enhanced appraisal system comes amid the recent release of pay trend survey findings – which the government references in deciding the pay rises for more than 170,000 civil servants in the city – that point the way to possible salary increments of 4.12 percent for seniors, 2.64 percent for middle-ranking staff and 1.17 percent for juniors. While the Executive Council has yet to make the final decision, as the result is only one of the factors that it has to consider, Yeung stressed that the government has to provide attractive salary levels in order to be able to compete with the private sector for talents and retain their services. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [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 a "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 include 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 banking 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. "The Transport Department has steered the oil companies in completing the necessary system enhancements and testing to ensure smooth implementation," the spokesman added. Edited by Edmond 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 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 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