



# HONG KONG SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

## AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 27, 2026 - June 03, 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.

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## Executive Summary

Hong Kong's security landscape from May 27 to June 03, 2026, was primarily shaped by escalating cybersecurity threats and the ongoing implications of its national security legislation. Financial regulators, including the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), issued urgent warnings regarding sophisticated AI-driven cyberattacks, prompting enhanced defense measures across the financial sector. Concurrently, the city continued to navigate the diplomatic fallout from its recently amended National Security Law (NSL) implementation rules, which grant expanded police powers and have drawn international criticism, particularly from the United States. While military activities remained routine with scheduled firing practices, Hong Kong actively promoted its role as a key international financial and diplomatic hub, even as its legal framework increasingly aligns with mainland China's national security objectives. These developments underscore a complex environment where economic stability is pursued amidst tightening security controls and persistent geopolitical tensions.

## Key Security Developments

- Heightened Cybersecurity Warnings for Financial Sector

On June 2, 2026, Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) issued a circular urging licensed firms, especially internet brokers and virtual asset-trading platforms, to bolster their cybersecurity defenses against increasingly advanced and targeted AI-driven cyber threats. This warning followed a significant 27% increase in cyberattack incidents in Hong Kong in 2025, reaching 15,877 from 12,536 in 2024, according to the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre. The SFC emphasized that AI enables attackers to exploit weaknesses more rapidly and execute large-scale phishing and social engineering attacks.

*\*Significance:* This highlights a critical and immediate threat to Hong Kong's vital financial infrastructure, necessitating a proactive and robust cybersecurity posture to protect client assets and maintain market integrity.

- HKMA and DPO Launch AI Cyber Resilience Initiatives

Following the SFC's warning, on June 3, 2026, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) reminded authorized institutions to review their cyber defenses against frontier AI models, which can independently identify software flaws and lead to faster, more frequent breaches. The HKMA is establishing a Task Force on AI-Driven Cyber

Risks and developing a Cyber Resilience Testing Framework. Additionally, on June 2, 2026, the Digital Policy Office (DPO) unveiled new AI-related cybersecurity initiatives for the latter half of the year, including a "Secure AI@Work Enablement Campaign" and an "AI x Cybersecurity Challenge" to enhance public and organizational awareness and talent development. A Sectoral Code of Practice for critical infrastructures also came into effect on June 2, 2026.

*\*Significance:\** These coordinated efforts by financial regulators and the DPO demonstrate a strategic recognition of the evolving and sophisticated nature of AI-powered cyber threats, aiming to build collective resilience and expertise within the city's critical sectors.

- Routine Military Firing Practices Announced

On May 20, 2026, the Hong Kong government announced scheduled firing practice sessions for June 2026 at two military sites: the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range. Dates within the reporting period included June 1, 2, and 3. Red flags or lamps are hoisted in the firing areas to warn the public against entry for safety reasons.

*\*Significance:\** These are routine military exercises by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison, indicating standard operational readiness and training activities, and do not suggest any unusual security escalation.

- Ongoing Diplomatic Tensions over National Security Law Amendments

The implications of the March 23, 2026, amendments to Article 43 of the National Security Law (NSL) continued to resonate. These amendments empower Hong Kong police to demand passwords and decryption assistance for electronic devices in national security investigations without a warrant, and criminalize non-compliance. On March 29, 2026, China's Foreign Ministry Office in Hong Kong summoned the US Consul General to protest a US security alert warning its citizens about these new rules, urging the US to cease interference in Hong Kong's internal affairs.

*\*Significance:\** These events underscore the persistent international scrutiny and diplomatic friction surrounding Hong Kong's national security framework, which critics argue erodes fundamental freedoms and due process, while Beijing asserts its sovereign right to maintain national security.

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

The Global Prosperity Summit 2026, held from May 19-20 and reported on May 29, emphasized Hong Kong's expanding role as a "bridge for exchange" and a strategic hub for advancing APEC cooperation and China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI). Ambassador Han Zhiqiang, Vice President of the China Public Diplomacy Association, outlined Hong Kong's key role in facilitating international exchanges and promoting China's vision for a multipolar world order.

**\*Significance:\*** This reflects Beijing's strategy to leverage Hong Kong's international connectivity and financial standing to promote its global diplomatic and economic agenda, positioning the city as a crucial interface between China and the wider world.

- Hong Kong Becomes World's Largest Cross-Boundary Wealth Management Center

On May 27, 2026, the Boston Consulting Group's 2026 Global Wealth Report announced that Hong Kong had surpassed Switzerland to become the world's largest cross-boundary wealth management center, managing \$2.95 trillion in offshore wealth. The report projects continued annual growth of 9% for Hong Kong's cross-boundary wealth through 2030. Financial Secretary Paul Chan attributed this to Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" advantages, free economic policies, and stable investment environment.

**\*Significance:\*** This economic achievement reinforces Hong Kong's status as a global financial hub, attracting significant capital inflows despite geopolitical uncertainties and the tightening security environment. However, the report also noted that Hong Kong's trajectory is closely tied to mainland China's economic and regulatory developments.

- Continued Suppression of Tiananmen Square Commemorations

On June 1, 2026, Human Rights Watch reported that Victoria Park, the traditional site for annual commemorations of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, has continued to host a "patriotic food carnival" around the massacre dates since 2022. This follows the banning of the annual vigil since 2020 and the forced closure of its organizer, the Hong Kong Alliance, and its June 4 Museum in 2021.

**\*Significance:\*** This indicates the ongoing and systematic suppression of public dissent and historical memory under the national security framework, further eroding freedoms of assembly and expression in Hong Kong.

## Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Hong Kong's security developments during this period underscore its increasingly integrated yet complex position within China's broader strategic ambitions and the evolving global order. The intensified focus on cybersecurity across its financial sector, driven by warnings from the SFC and HKMA, reflects a regional and global trend of increasing digital threats, particularly those leveraging advanced AI. This positions Hong Kong as a critical node in the global financial system that must continuously adapt its defenses, impacting its reputation as a secure business environment. The proactive measures, including task forces and testing frameworks, are crucial for maintaining confidence, especially as the city aims to solidify its status

as the world's largest cross-boundary wealth management center.

Diplomatically, Hong Kong remains a flashpoint in US-China relations. The ongoing international criticism of the National Security Law (NSL) and its recent amendments, particularly the expanded police powers to access electronic devices, continues to strain relations with Western powers. The US State Department's 2026 Hong Kong Policy Act Report and China's strong condemnation of it highlight a persistent ideological divide and Washington's continued concern over the erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy and freedoms. This dynamic reinforces the perception of Hong Kong as a battleground for competing values, with implications for foreign investment and the city's ability to attract international talent.

Regionally, Hong Kong's active participation in promoting China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) and its role in APEC cooperation, as highlighted by the Global Prosperity Summit 2026, signals its strategic importance to Beijing. By positioning Hong Kong as a "bridge for exchange" between China and the world, Beijing seeks to leverage the city's unique international character to advance its vision for a multipolar global order. This integration into China's broader diplomatic and economic strategy means Hong Kong's stability and perceived autonomy will continue to be closely watched by regional neighbors and major global powers, influencing broader strategic alignments and economic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

## Military and Defense Analysis

Hong Kong's military and defense posture is primarily defined by the presence of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison, which is responsible for the city's defense. During the reporting period, the only publicly announced military activities were routine firing practices at the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range from June 1-3, 2026. These exercises are standard operational procedures aimed at maintaining the readiness and training of the garrison forces. They do not indicate any unusual force buildup or strategic shifts but rather reflect the continuous training cycle of the PLA.

Defense spending and modernization programs for Hong Kong itself are not independently reported, as its defense is a responsibility of the central Chinese government. The PLA Garrison's capabilities are integrated into the broader PLA command structure and benefit from its modernization efforts. While specific details on the garrison's force posture or new acquisitions are not publicly disclosed for this period, the routine nature of the firing drills suggests a consistent, albeit low-profile, military presence focused on internal security and territorial defense within the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. The emphasis on internal security is further underscored by the extensive powers granted to local law enforcement under the

National Security Law, which effectively extends Beijing's security apparatus into the city's governance.

## Outlook and Forecast

**Short-term trends (1-3 months):** In the immediate future, Hong Kong will likely continue to experience an elevated threat from AI-driven cyberattacks, particularly targeting its financial institutions. The warnings from the SFC and HKMA, coupled with the DPO's new initiatives, suggest a sustained focus on enhancing cybersecurity resilience. We can expect more public-private collaborations, awareness campaigns, and potentially new regulatory guidelines to emerge in response to these threats. Diplomatically, the friction with Western nations, especially the US, over the National Security Law and its implementation will persist. Statements and reports from international bodies and foreign governments will likely continue to scrutinize Hong Kong's legal and human rights environment, leading to further condemnations from Beijing.

**Critical flashpoints and risk areas:** A critical flashpoint remains the application and interpretation of the National Security Law, particularly the expanded police powers concerning electronic devices. Any high-profile cases involving foreign nationals or businesses under these new rules could significantly escalate international tensions and impact business confidence. The cybersecurity vulnerability of critical infrastructure, especially financial and virtual asset platforms, presents another significant risk. A major successful cyberattack could severely disrupt Hong Kong's economy and international standing. Furthermore, any attempts to commemorate sensitive historical events, such as the Tiananmen Square anniversary, will likely continue to be suppressed, potentially leading to localized civil society actions and further international criticism.

**Indicators to monitor:** Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and sophistication of reported cyberattacks against Hong Kong entities, particularly those in the financial sector. The nature of enforcement actions under the National Security Law, especially concerning data access and "foreign agent" definitions, will be crucial. Observe any further diplomatic exchanges or retaliatory measures between Hong Kong/Beijing and Western governments. Additionally, the statements and actions of international business chambers and foreign consulates regarding the operating environment in Hong Kong will provide insights into business confidence and potential capital outflows.

**Strategic recommendations:** For businesses operating in Hong Kong, it is imperative to urgently review and upgrade cybersecurity protocols, especially those related to AI-driven threats and data protection, in light of the new regulatory warnings and the

expanded NSL powers. Companies should also conduct thorough legal and compliance assessments regarding data handling, employee digital privacy, and potential obligations under the NSL, particularly concerning requests for electronic device access. From a diplomatic perspective, international stakeholders should continue to advocate for the protection of fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in Hong Kong, while seeking avenues for constructive dialogue with Beijing on the implications of its security policies for the city's international status.

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: HK Free Press

- [Over 90% of Hong Kong organisations use AI tools despite training and policy gaps, survey finds](#) (2026-06-03 04:48)

More than 90 per cent of Hong Kong companies, schools, and NGOs have incorporated artificial intelligence (AI) into their workflows, according to a survey. According to a survey of 800 organisations conducted by the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC), 94 per cent said they had used AI tools. Among those, 63 per cent [...]

- [Solomons PM says to review 2022 security pact with China](#) (2026-06-03 03:39)

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Matthew Wale said Wednesday he would be “reviewing” his country’s secretive 2022 security pact with China, which rattled Canberra and Washington. Asked about that pact alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the Solomons leader said he had been “praying and fasting” about the Chinese security deal and it would be examined [...]

- [Hong Kong’s John Lee hails stronger ties with Central Asia, inc. direct flights to Kazakhstan and business link-ups](#) (2026-06-02 23:30)

Chief Executive John Lee has announced that Hong Kong’s links to Central Asia will be strengthened with expanded visa-free arrangements and direct flights to Kazakhstan. Lee was speaking to reporters in the Kazakh capital of Astana on Tuesday during an official visit with business leaders. Hong Kong already has visa-free arrangements with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and [...]

- [2 pilots dead in Taiwan’s military training plane crash](#) (2026-06-02 13:16)

Taiwan’s air force suspended training flights on T-34 planes after one aircraft crashed during a simulated engine failure exercise on Tuesday, killing the two pilots on board. The single-engine propeller plane went down at 8:08 am (0008 GMT) at the northern end of the runway at Gangshan Air Base in the island’s southern port city [...]

- [Hong Kong couple arrested for child neglect after refusing DNA test for ‘free birth’ son](#) (2026-06-02 12:02)

A Hong Kong couple have been arrested for child neglect after refusing to allow their baby boy, who was born without any medical record, to undergo a DNA test for birth registration. Security minister Chris Tang told journalists on Tuesday afternoon that the couple, who said they were the parents of an infant named Danny, [...]

- [Tai Po fire: Court denies estate administrator's bid to postpone owners' meeting](#) (2026-06-02 08:34)

A Hong Kong court has dismissed the bid of a government-appointed administrator of the fire-hit Wang Fuk Court to extend the deadline to hold a meeting with homeowners. In Tuesday's judgment, Judge Gary Lam, presiding officer of the Lands Tribunal, denied Hop On Management's application to delay a statutory deadline to hold an owners' general [...]

- [Hong Kong's Education Bureau apologises for sending early SMS on Primary One allocation results](#) (2026-06-02 07:35)

Hong Kong's Education Bureau (EDB) has apologised for mistakenly sending the Primary One allocation results via SMS one day early, urging parents to ignore the message. The EDB said on Tuesday that an "operational error" in setting up a system-controlled text-messaging function led to the sending of the Primary One results via SMS on Tuesday [...]

- [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 [...]

## Source: RTHK English News

- [Same result for pupils despite school place SMS error](#) (2026-06-03 04:34)

Some parents on Wednesday said they received the same result for their children who applied for a school place through the primary one central allocation system, even though a text message was mistakenly sent a day ahead of schedule due to a system error. According to the Education Bureau, a total of 16,345 pupils took part in this year's primary one central allocation – about 86.2 percent, or more than 14,000 of them, were given their top three choices. Combined with discretionary places, the overall satisfaction rate stood at 93.6 percent. Some parents, including a man surnamed Chung, decided to go door-knocking at their preferred school even though his daughter was allocated the top choice in the school net they live, consistent with the text message mistakenly sent earlier. He said the text message that the bureau sent out a day ago did not affect his plan at all. "When I got the text message, I was shocked. But the Education Bureau sent another message to tell us to disregard it," Chung said. "But it didn't make a difference to my plans because I had already planned to go door-knocking at another school net." A mother surnamed Choi said she decided to try her luck by door-knocking, after her child was allocated their fifth choice of school — the same result as communicated by a text message she received a day ago, which was dated erroneously. That message, sent out on Tuesday, stated the year as 2025, while the one released on Wednesday was dated 2026. "I was mentally prepared, as I expected the result to be the same," she said. "Getting the result a day earlier – or a day later – made no difference to my preparatory work, as I had prepared in advance." Polly Chan, principal of Yaumati Catholic Primary School (Hoi Wang Road), said only a few parents contacted her school earlier over the text message (SMS) error. "Just a few families asked about the earlier SMS notification. They wanted to know whether the result was [an] official confirmation or just a false message," she said. "I don't think we

have any chaos and confusion on the ground because our frontline staff were well-prepared.” She added the school had a quota of 10 to 13 spots for door-knocking parents, meaning that about 30 pupils will compete for a place. The bureau reminded parents to register their child with the school allocated during school hours on June 9 or 10. “If they are unable to complete the registration procedures on the above dates due to important matters, they should contact the person-in-charge of registration at the school allocated in advance to make alternative arrangements. Otherwise, they will be considered to have given up the school place allocated,” a spokesman added. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [Child neglect case 'mind-boggling': lawmaker](#) (2026-06-03 03:51)

A lawmaker on Wednesday called a controversial child neglect case "mind-boggling", saying he couldn't understand how the parents would leave their newborn without a birth certificate or any medical records. The parents were arrested on Tuesday after the case went viral online as they refused DNA testing to prove their relationship with the baby, who they said was under home birth. Speaking on an RTHK programme, Peter Koon, who chairs Legco's social welfare panel, says the baby's safety is what matters most – and a court could issue a protection order if the parents are found unfit to care for him. "Following the issuance of a child protection order, the baby could be sent to a facility that specialises in caring for newborns," he said. "As for who becomes the guardian, that really depends on the court's order. But theoretically, temporary guardianship could be granted to the Director of Social Welfare." Speaking on the same programme, Patrick Ip, a paediatrics professor at the University of Hong Kong, said he's worried about the baby's health. "This case makes me uneasy. The parents had two other children — neither went smoothly. One of them died young. Was there a problem with the way they cared for them?" he questioned. "For this newborn without a birth certificate, there's no way to get proper vaccinations or health monitoring. This is very far from ideal." The Social Welfare Department said it is seeking a protection order for the infant from the court, adding it will come up with a plan that puts the baby's health and interests first. Edited by Tony Sabine

- [HK can be key renewable energy hub: Kazakh expert](#) (2026-06-03 02:25)

Researchers in Kazakhstan say Hong Kong's sound financial system, infrastructure and regulatory regime make it an ideal partner and fund-raising hub for green energy projects. Chief Executive John Lee will conclude his duty visit to Kazakhstan on Wednesday night, before continuing his Central Asian tour in Uzbekistan. The visit by the SAR delegation comes as Kazakhstan accelerates its decarbonisation drive, having committed to the Paris climate change treaty and a 2060 carbon neutrality target. "Our government is putting more effort on that. We have a lot of projects going on," said Nurxat Nuraje, head of the renewable energy lab at National Laboratory Astana. With petroleum reserves expected to be depleted within 50 years, he said the Kazakh government is "paying more attention to develop new technology like renewable energy technology". Nuraje, who attended the International Hydrogen Development Symposium in Wan Chai last month, believed there is plenty of room for cooperation. "We learned that Hong Kong has become a very important hub for the development of hydrogen

and renewable energy," he said. "Hong Kong has a very good transportation system, also a capital investment system." Fellow researcher Yerbolat Magazov went further, suggesting Hong Kong look into developing a trading mechanism for green hydrogen. "The actual role of Hong Kong as a hub would be to make it not as an energy material, but as a valuable asset," he said. "Special frameworks, taxonomy, legislation — so hydrogen can be traded as a stock material." Their laboratory in the Kazakh capital has already demonstrated the potential of clean energy, after building a system last year that converts solar energy into hydrogen. Mainland company Zhejiang H2-Bank Technology was a key partner, supplying critical components such as electrolyzers and hydrogen storage systems. But Magazov acknowledged they need to drive down costs before green hydrogen can really take off. It remains three to five times more expensive than "grey" hydrogen, which is derived from fossil fuels. "The biggest problem is bankability," he said. "Lots of people have lots of money, but they need to be sure that in the future, green hydrogen will be profitable. Right now, if you calculate, it's a non-profitable thing." This, according to Magazov, is where the Hong Kong brand comes into play. "If Hong Kong trusts this country, everyone can also trust. That allows future investors to put money and investments into this particular market," he said. With global energy markets remaining volatile, Magazov felt that Central Asia and China should forge closer ties. "It's better to make allies which are close to each other," he said. "China, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries should bring together. In the future, if something happens, we'll be independent of others." Edited by Raymond Yeung

- [TDC chair eyes Uzbekistan opportunities in next stop](#) (2026-06-02 22:13)

With the chief executive and his delegation wrapping up the Kazakhstan leg of his Central Asia mission, Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) chairman Frederick Ma said he now turns his focus to Uzbekistan, expressing strong expectations for reciprocal deals and new collaboration models during the upcoming visit. Ma described the Kazakhstan stop as "very meaningful," noting it's the birthplace of the New Silk Road where President Xi Jinping first announced the Belt and Road Initiative at a landmark speech delivered at Nazarbayev University in 2013. He also pointed to the signing of 43 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and the launch of direct flights between Hong Kong and Almaty next year, saying the visit had opened "a lot more doors for Hong Kong and Chinese mainland businesses." Turning to Uzbekistan, the TDC chief outlined clear goals for the next leg. "We will meet again many government officials as well as entrepreneurs in that country," he said, noting that Uzbek senior leaders had visited Hong Kong a few weeks ago. "This is a very good way to reciprocate their visit." While Ma did not disclose specific MoUs being pursued for Uzbekistan, he confirmed he was looking forward to the trip – his first to the country, compared with three previous visits to Kazakhstan. On potential collaboration models, Ma pointed to growing financial linkages with Central Asia. He revealed that at least one portfolio company of the region's sovereign fund is expected to list in Hong Kong, following in the footsteps of Kazakh entities using Hong Kong's bond and equity markets. A mining company dual-listed in Hong Kong and Astana last year, he added. The Uzbekistan visit is set to build on this momentum,

with Ma signaling that the TDC sees Central Asia as a long-term engagement priority. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [HK, Kazakhstan forge 'hub-to-hub' partnership: CE](#) (2026-06-02 14:01)

Chief Executive John Lee has proposed a strategic “hub-to-hub” cooperation model with Kazakhstan, aiming to link the Central Asian nation’s regional reach with Hong Kong’s access to Asian markets. The proposal came during the second day of Lee’s visit to the country. Meeting with Kazakh Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov, Lee highlighted the growing economic weight between the two sides. He noted that Hong Kong was Kazakhstan’s 10th-largest net investor globally and the fourth-biggest in Asia at the start of this year. Lee said Hong Kong enjoys the unique advantages of having strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world under the “one country, two systems” principle. He proposed that Kazakhstan serve as Hong Kong’s gateway to the Central Asian market, while Hong Kong would act as Kazakhstan’s springboard into East and Southeast Asia. The visit has already yielded significant commercial and diplomatic momentum, with Lee announcing that Hong Kong and Kazakhstan have agreed to accelerate exploratory discussions on a Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement and an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. During a meeting with Nurlan Zhakupov, CEO of Kazakhstan’s national sovereign wealth fund Samruk-Kazyna, Lee described Hong Kong as a stable and secure investment haven. He noted that the city ranked first globally in funds raised through initial public offerings in the first quarter of this year, positioning it as an ideal listing destination for the fund’s diverse portfolio of assets. He encouraged projects under the fund to list in the city to diversify investment risk. Earlier on Tuesday, the CE visited Baiterek National Investment Holding, a key financial operator of the Kazakh government. He encouraged the company to leverage Hong Kong’s financial system and professional services for cooperation in infrastructure financing, bonds and green finance. Lee extended an invitation for the firm to explore development potential in the Northern Metropolis. He also held talks with Minister of Trade and Integration Arman Shakkaliyev on deepening bilateral trade, logistics and financial technology cooperation. Lee emphasised Hong Kong’s status as the world’s fifth-largest merchandise trading entity and its commitment to free trade and multilateralism. He suggested that as Kazakhstan works to expand its role as a regional trading hub through digital commerce and market modernisation, the SAR could serve as a critical gateway for Kazakh enterprises looking to enter the mainland and broader Asian markets. The chief executive is scheduled to continue his visit in Kazakhstan on Wednesday before heading to Uzbekistan on the second leg of his tour. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Hop On's bid to delay owners' meeting rejected](#) (2026-06-02 13:33)

The Lands Tribunal on Tuesday rejected a request by the management company appointed to oversee Wang Fuk Court affairs to postpone an owners’ meeting. Responding to inquiries, the Home Affairs Department said Hop On Management will try its best to facilitate a meeting and safeguard the rights of all homeowners. The department stressed that Hop On has been

carrying out its duties according to the law, and that it had sought to delay the meeting mainly because it needed more time to carry out relevant preparatory work. It added that the government will study the ruling which touched on the interpretation of the Building Management Ordinance. The tribunal pointed to difficulties in issuing meeting notices and holding meetings, and recognised efforts by the Home Affairs Department and Hop On in this regard, according to the department. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [Coach apologises over alleged slapping incident](#) (2026-06-02 11:39)

A basketball coach of a secondary school in Siu Sai Wan has apologised over a suspected case of corporal punishment. Secretary for Education Christine Choi said officials will follow up on the incident. A video circulating online purportedly showed the coach, Yung Kam-wah, holding the hand of a student and forcing him to slap himself in front of other youngsters. Writing on social media, Yung, who is also a former SAR basketball team player, apologised to the student. He admitted he should not have penalised anyone in this way under any circumstances. Yung said he would deeply reflect on the matter and promised not to repeat the mistake, noting that the incident caused discomfort and harm to the students. He also said he would cooperate with all investigations. In a statement, the incorporated management committee of Hon Wah College said the incident happened during 2023/2024 academic year. The committee said it has suspended the duties of Yung and launched an investigation. The police have been notified as well. The committee added that it has reached out to the affected student and arranged assistance. The school has issued a letter to all parents, offering assistance and support to students in need. Speaking to reporters, Choi said the Education Bureau attaches great importance to the incident and contacted the school immediately after the incident came to light. “We will also strictly follow up on the matter, and request the school to submit a report as soon as possible to give a detailed account of the incident,” she said. “We will also keep close contact with the school to provide appropriate assistance.” Choi added that the bureau offers guidelines to schools on teachers’ conduct and the management of coaches who are hired externally. She made it clear the welfare of students should always be the top priority. Edited by Edmond Fong

- [HKTDC seals three agreements in Kazakhstan](#) (2026-06-02 10:29)

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) on Tuesday signed memoranda of understanding with three organisations in Kazakhstan. The individual agreements were made with Atameken, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan; Satbayev University, a leading technical university in Almaty; and the Association of Consulting and Trading Companies. Chief Executive John Lee and Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Economy Serik Zhumangarin witnessed the exchange of documents at a luncheon. Zhumangarin said he is confident that the partnership between the two sides will deepen in the future. “Overall, the visit of the esteemed John Lee and the entire delegation is a practical confirmation of mutual trust, business interests and readiness to move towards the implementation of concrete projects,” he said. “I am confident that today's meeting will

become an important step towards launching new joint projects, attracting investments and expanding business ties.” Several business entities among the delegation also signed individual memoranda of understanding with their counterparts in Kazakhstan, covering sectors such as finance, asset management, aviation, media, agriculture and new energy. A number of the agreements were signed by state-backed investment bank China International Capital Corporation Limited (CICC) as well as their Kazakh partners, including one with the Sovereign Wealth Fund Samruk-Kazyna. The Hong Kong Airport Authority and Cathay Pacific also secured operational agreements with Almaty International Airport. Cathay announced that it plans to operate three direct flights per week connecting Hong Kong to Almaty, starting in the first quarter of next year. The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Federation of Hong Kong Industries and Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce also secured deals. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Celebrations breathe more fire into dragon boat races](#) (2026-06-02 09:22)

A record number of teams will join this month's Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races as the event is upgraded to mark its 50th anniversary, organisers said on Tuesday. The Hong Kong Tourism Board and Hong Kong China Dragon Boat Association said the races between June 27 and 28 will have more than 220 teams and 4,500 competitors from 16 regions and countries, including Indonesia which will make its debut. As part of the golden jubilee celebrations, there will be an invitational cup featuring six local fishermen teams competing in wooden dragon boats, while the winners of nine main events will also battle it out for the title of "ultimate champions". The races in Victoria Harbour are part of a 13-day Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Festival that will be held at the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade between June 19 and July 1. Other activities will include cultural heritage workshops, such as rice dumpling and fish net making, and a virtual reality dragon boat paddling experience. “With the event entering the golden jubilee, we have jointly upgraded the event as the International Dragon Boat Festival,” tourism board chairman Peter Lam said. “Not only will the duration of the event be extended, the scale of the races is larger than previous years. The entertainment experience will also be enhanced to make the event more appealing.” Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Police arrest couple in 'unregistered birth' saga](#) (2026-06-02 08:38)

A man and a woman have been arrested on suspicion of child neglect over a baby said to have been left without a birth certificate following a home birth. The couple's story sparked debate online after they spoke about attempts to be reunited with another child that was placed in foster care in Sweden a number of years ago. The pair have refused to provide a DNA sample in order to obtain a birth certificate for a baby boy in their care after failing to register a birth within the timeframe set out in law. Security Secretary Chris Tang said police found the couple and the child in Cheung Sha Wan on Tuesday. The boy was to be taken to hospital for a health check, Tang said. “The mother has not yet provided any records of prenatal care or medical examinations, and refused to provide a DNA sample. She has not even provided any photos of herself while pregnant,” the minister told reporters. “The individuals claiming to be the parents

have never taken him to hospital for a physical examination." Tang added that he hopes the couple will quickly provide proof of their relationship to the boy. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [Direct flights from HK to Kazakhstan set for next year](#) (2026-06-02 07:26)

Chief Executive John Lee on Tuesday said the city's push to deepen connectivity with Central Asia is already bearing fruit, as he announced progress on direct flights to Kazakhstan alongside moves to make visa arrangements more convenient for travellers. Speaking to reporters in Astana during his first official visit to Central Asia, Lee said a Hong Kong-based airline will begin direct flights to Kazakhstan's biggest city Almaty in the first quarter of next year, significantly cutting travel time between the two places. He added that the new route will also provide access to other Central Asian, Eastern European and Caucasus regional destinations. In a statement, the SAR's flagship carrier Cathay Pacific announced plans to launch direct flights to Almaty in the first quarter of 2027. "The airline plans to operate three flights per week using an Airbus A330-300 widebody aircraft, which will be the only direct service linking Hong Kong and Kazakhstan," the airline said. Alongside the aviation breakthrough, Lee confirmed that the SAR is working to substantially extend visa-free access for Hongkongers in Central Asia. The SAR already has visa-free arrangements with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, allowing stays of between 10 and 30 days. But Lee said his target is to extend the visa-free period to 30 days for all three nations. "We and the Kazakh government both agree that this is definitely one of our goals. We have already exchanged some further information with the two governments, and everyone is working hard to work toward this target," he said. "We hope that by this year, we can reach the final agreement." He added that Uzbekistan has also signalled its agreement to the proposal following communications before the delegation's departure, Lee added. Once agreements with these countries are finalised, the SAR government will seek to facilitate easier entry for the remaining two Central Asian countries. On Wednesday, Lee is scheduled to visit Astana's Nazarbayev University, where President Xi Jinping first proposed the concept of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013. The chief executive said Hong Kong and Kazakhstan can enhance collaboration on education. "The Education University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, they will be developing a working relationship with the Nazarbayev University, to further expand the collaboration between the higher education institutions of the two places," he said. Lee will conclude his stay in Kazakhstan on Wednesday before travelling to Uzbekistan, describing the Astana leg alone as a significant breakthrough – with 43 memoranda of understanding in areas such as economic and trade cooperation, investment, and green finance expected to be signed in the country. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

- [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 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 industries 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 developed], 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 Thomas McAlinden

- [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 an "historic low" smoking prevalence rate at 8.5 percent in 2025, missing the original target set at 7.8 percent. Lo said the SAR's goal was set in accordance to the World Health Organisation's initiative in reducing 30 percent of the global smoking rate, but the organisation postponed the target by three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Edited by Tony Sabine

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

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

involved were severely damaged, so we and the homeowners believe the items might have been burnt. "In 30 percent of the cases, the residents could not say exactly what [the items] were, so it was hard to follow up. "But in 16 of the cases, we think it could not be determined whether [the items] were stolen or not." He added that officers are actively investigating the cases. Edited by Tony Sabine

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

Chief Executive John Lee on Friday welcomed findings by lawmakers relating to Hong Kong's first five-year plan. Lee was briefed on the findings of a thematic research and opinion gathering report submitted by the Subcommittee on Hong Kong's Work to Actively Dovetail with the National 15th Five-Year Plan, along with Legco president Starry Lee and others. The report aims to help the government formulate the five-year blueprint. The chief executive thanked lawmakers for their efforts and consultative work. Lee said he was delighted and encouraged to see the executive and legislative branches working closely together and jointly committed to delivering the city's first-ever five-year plan. The CE said the blueprint will align with the opportunities brought by the country's 15th Five-Year Plan, providing clear directions for the SAR's social and economic development in the next five years. The subcommittee held its fourth meeting earlier in the day, summarising the research conducted and views collected. Lawmaker Stanley Ng, who chairs the subcommittee, said it engaged with more than 4,000 people and received about 570 written submissions in the past month, having contacted various sectors and invited experts, community groups and stakeholders to participate. Edited by Edmond Fong

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

The opening up of beds at a private hospital run by the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for use by public healthcare system patients is a triple win, Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau said on Friday. The move is part of a repayment deal for a loan made by the government for the development of the CUHK Medical Centre in Sha Tin. It will see the centre allocate 120,000 inpatient bed days over a 15-year period till 2037 to repay interest on the HK\$4.033 billion building loan, with the principal set to be repaid in March next year. At a Legislative Council health panel meeting, Lo said the deal would allow Hospital Authority patients to receive faster treatment as well as enjoy services at the private hospital at public healthcare rates and reduces the financial burden on the university, which is planning to help the centre repay the loan. He told lawmakers the authorities have agreed to allow the centre to repay the principal by March, ahead of the 2028 deadline that had been agreed after the centre twice sought repayment extensions. The interest due under the loan is a different matter. Under the original agreement, the HK\$4.033 billion loan was interest-free for the first five years starting from March 2017, with the government starting to charge interest at a floating rate since 2022. "Even though it has not repaid the principal, it will not pay the interest early either. The interest for these five years, from 2022 to 2027, will be fulfilled through services – specifically, the 120,000 in-patient bed days," the health secretary said. University Council chairman John Chai told lawmakers that the institution plans to offer a loan to the centre or provide a guarantee that allows it to secure

bank loans. While the council has yet to make the final decision on the issue, he assured lawmakers that it will not take money away from funds that have been designated for other specific purposes. "Between 2024 and 2025, the investment returns from CUHK's reserves were insufficient," Chai said. "A CUHK dedicated fund saw a more favourable increase. Therefore, CUHK is considering using the portion of the fund not earmarked for specific purposes to provide a loan to CUHK Medical Centre." Lo said the university, CUHK Medical Centre and the Hospital Authority would sign a memorandum of understanding to further step up cooperation so as to highlight the centre's role as a non-profit teaching hospital in the city's healthcare system, as well as its role as a bridge connecting both the public and private healthcare sectors. The move will also showcase the centre's commitment to promote sustainable development of healthcare services that offers the public more choices. Edited by Thomas McAlinden

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

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

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

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

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

The quality of a government complex proposed to be built in Kwu Tung North should be high, as befits an investment in Hong Kong's civic pride and its being a flagship for the Northern Metropolis, said a member of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Land Conservation on Friday. Barry Wilson's remarks came after a HK\$9.9 billion development plan was proposed for a 35-storey office block that would see the middle and upper floors primarily used for government offices and the ground and lower levels housing community facilities such as a district library, a post office and a kindergarten. Speaking on an RTHK radio programme, he said the building was important as it would be the "civic icon" for the Northern Metropolis. Wilson said the building should prioritise quality and functionality as it will become the centre of "a 15-minute walkable transit-oriented design community" and stressed a need on the part of the government to balance costs with community needs. "This is a building we hope will be around in a hundred years that society will be proud of, that society will have used endlessly and will have proven good value for money," he said. Addressing concerns over the 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 incorporates smart and digital processing capabilities to enhance overall efficiency. Edited by Aaron Tam

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

Hong Kong has overtaken Switzerland as the world's largest cross-border wealth hub for the first time, fuelled by capital inflows from the mainland as well as a fundraising boom in the city, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). In its 2026 Global Wealth Report, the group noted that wealth managers booked US\$2.95 trillion worth of international assets in the SAR last year, up almost 11 percent year on year. That narrowly surpassed Switzerland's US\$2.94 trillion in cross-border wealth during the same period, which rose by 7.6 percent year on year. Both Hong Kong and Singapore are projected to continue growing as cross-border booking centres at around nine percent annually through 2030, compared with an expected six percent average for Switzerland over the same period. This, BCG projects, would widen the gap between the SAR and Switzerland to almost US\$600 billion by 2030, supported by the mainland's strong manufacturing capacity, a revival in the SAR's initial public offering (IPO) market, as well as Asia's rapidly growing wealth. "Hong Kong is cementing its role as China's gateway to global markets, though that same concentration ties its trajectory tightly to economic and regulatory developments on the mainland," the authors said. "[Meanwhile], geopolitical uncertainty reaffirms Switzerland's role as a core global booking centre, attracting flight-to-safety flows from more volatile regions such as the Middle East," BCG said, adding that Switzerland would continue to draw clients from all regions. Commenting on the report, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said the country's national 15th Five-Year plan clearly indicated support for Hong Kong to strengthen its role as an international asset and wealth management centre, which also is the backbone of the city's "finance plus" strategy. He added the rapid development in industries including innovative technologies and artificial intelligence has led to an increase in wealth and he believes the demand for wealth management services on the mainland and throughout Asia would continue to grow, which would benefit relevant industries in the city. He said the SAR government would continue to seize opportunities to consolidate the city's status as a global financial centre and attract more wealthy individuals and family offices to set up shop here. According to the report by BCG, cross-border wealth globally rose 8.4 percent to US\$15.7 trillion last year, driven by increasing demand for geographical diversification. (Additional reporting by Reuters) Edited by Tony Sabine

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

A think tank said on Wednesday that the government should provide more details on how often it plans to adjust a quota system for ride-hailing permits to offer the market greater transparency. Authorities have proposed rolling out up to 10,000 permits in the first phase. Assistant research director Jason Leung from the Our Hong Kong Foundation described it as "a prudent quota, but a tight one", given the city's 18,000 licensed taxis. Leung also said the government should offer the public more information about the quota review system. "To make

that review clause credible, it should pre-commit to specific and measurable figures," he said. "For instance, if citywide peak-hour booking success rates drop below a defined threshold, or if average waiting times exceed a set benchmark, at which point the quota is automatically, or there's a mechanism for it to be raised. "So a regular, perhaps quarterly review, guided by objective metrics, would give passengers and platforms the confidence that the 10,000 number is not a completely unchangeable one, that it can be adjusted in the future based on real-life metrics." The government has proposed a HK\$1.2 million annual licence fee for platform operators, which Leung said is not a significant amount for larger operators offering hundreds of thousands of trips each month. "It can be easily absorbed into operational costs, so it's not a barrier to a major operator. "But if you are talking about smaller operators or new entrants to the market, it could be potentially burdensome, especially for emerging platforms with limited revenues." He said the government could set up a tiered or revenue-linked fee structure to allow smaller platforms to operate. On top of monitoring operational data to be shared by platforms, Leung said authorities should track the metrics of taxi in evaluating how they perform, so as to better assess whether ride-hailing services and cabbies co-exist. Edited by Edmond Fong

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

Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau on Wednesday said the city would continue to study various tobacco control policies, after the World Health Organisation (WHO) gave "high scores" to the city's efforts in recent years. The remarks came after the global body last week awarded its "World No Tobacco Day Award" to Lo, in recognition of the city's tobacco control progress, while raising public awareness over the harms from smoking. "World No Tobacco Day" falls on May 31, and the WHO selects individuals or organisations each year from members of each of the six WHO regions that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in tobacco controls for the award. Speaking in an exclusive interview with RTHK, Lo noted the city's smoking rate fell from 9.1 percent in 2023 to 8.5 percent last year, and that the city's efforts in regulating alternative tobacco products have been successful. "Actually this award is definitely not for one individual, it's a recognition of Hong Kong's efforts in controlling tobacco, especially the work done in recent years," he said. "Of course managing the overall smoking rate is one of their considerations, but [they also look at whether] there are also new innovative measures or control measures for alternative products, such as e-cigarettes. These are their focus areas," he added. Separately, the health minister said the implementation of the city's current 10 tobacco control measures has been smooth over the past few months. This includes banning the possession or usage of alternative tobacco products such as vapes in public areas, a regulation which took effect at the end of last month. Lo said authorities have already ramped up inspections at smoking hot spots, and recorded 39 violation cases over the past month — all from local citizens who possessed a small amount of alternative tobacco and were fined. "We pay attention particularly to crowded areas and areas where we have observed a large number of people using alternative smoking products in public spaces, such as footbridges. These are the areas where we'll ramp up inspections and monitoring," he said. "But we don't want to

require a large number of staff from the anti-smoking department to chase after people to issue warnings in these areas. We hope that our citizens will develop a mindset to obey the laws 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