



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 12, 2026 - March 19, 2026

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

Executive Summary

During the period of March 12-19, 2026, China's security posture was defined by significant defense budget increases, accelerated military modernization, and heightened activities around Taiwan. Beijing announced a 7% rise in its 2026 defense budget, signaling a continued commitment to transforming the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into a modern force by 2035, with a notable shift towards nuclear submarine capabilities. Concurrently, PLA air activities intensified around the Taiwan Strait, and formations of maritime militia vessels in the East China Sea were interpreted as blockade rehearsals, escalating regional tensions. Diplomatically, China engaged in extensive efforts to de-escalate the Middle East conflict while expressing optimism for improved relations with the United States, despite ongoing trade disputes and a potential delay in a high-level summit. Domestically, new cybersecurity legislation and an ethnic unity law underscored Beijing's tightening control over digital spaces and minority populations.

Key Security Developments

- Defense Budget Increase and Strategic Spending

China announced a 7% increase in its 2026 defense budget, bringing the total military expenditure to 1.91 trillion yuan, or approximately \$277 billion USD. This marks the 11th consecutive year of single-digit growth, though it still significantly exceeds the country's projected economic growth target of 4.5% to 5%. The Pentagon, however, estimates China's actual military expenditures could be substantially higher, potentially reaching \$526 billion, as significant funds are believed to be dispersed among other budget items related to technological development and infrastructure.

- Accelerated Military Modernization under 15th Five-Year Plan

The 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), which officially began in January 2026, aims to lay a solid foundation for achieving comprehensive socialist modernization in China by 2035. This plan includes a focus on technological self-reliance through the development of artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, and hypersonic anti-missile technologies. The modernization program envisages a 40% reduction in ground forces in favor of strengthening the Navy, missile weaponry, and aviation, with an expected doubling of China's nuclear arsenal to over 1,000 warheads by 2030.

- Emphasis on Political Loyalty and Anti-Corruption in PLA

On March 7, 2026, President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of fully leveraging the unique strengths of enhancing political loyalty in the military and called for concerted efforts to advance the modernization of national defense and the armed forces. Speaking at a plenary meeting of the PLA and People's Armed Police Force delegation, Xi warned that "there must be no place in the military for those who are disloyal to the Party, nor any place for corrupt elements," indicating a continued focus on purges within the military leadership.

- Shift Towards All-Nuclear Submarine Fleet

The US Navy's intelligence chief, Rear Admiral Mike Brookes, testified on March 12, 2026, that China is undertaking a major shift toward building an all-nuclear submarine fleet. This move is part of a broader effort to strengthen its undersea warfare capabilities and expand blue-water naval power, with China having expanded submarine production infrastructure across three major shipyards, tripling construction hall capacity. This development could extend China's strategic reach into the Indian Ocean and enable continuous ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) patrols for second-strike nuclear capability.

- Renewed PLA Air Activity Around Taiwan

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported a significant resumption of PLA air force activities around the island. On March 16, 2026, Taiwan detected 26 Chinese military aircraft, concentrated in the Taiwan Strait, within a 24-hour period. This followed a brief, unexplained absence of more than two weeks in PLA air activity, which observers suggested might have been to create a calmer atmosphere ahead of a planned visit by former U.S. President Donald Trump to China.

- Maritime Militia Formations in East China Sea

Satellite images and data confirmed that in the first week of March 2026, 1,200 Chinese fishing vessels, believed to be part of the Chinese Maritime Militia (PAFMM), formed two parallel lines in the East China Sea, about 186 miles from Taiwan, holding a static formation for 30 hours. This follows similar large-scale formations observed since December 2025 and is widely interpreted by analysts as a maritime blockade rehearsal or a simulation of pre-invasion operations against Taiwan.

- Bellicose Rhetoric Towards Taiwan

China's 2026 government work report, presented at the annual "Two Sessions" legislative meeting, used more combative language regarding Taiwan than in previous years. The report changed the phrase "oppose Taiwan independence" to "crack down on Taiwan independence," reflecting Beijing's expanding coercive efforts against Taiwan following the election of President William Lai Ching-te.

- China-US Relations: "Landmark Year" Amidst Tensions

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed optimism that 2026 could be a "landmark year" for China-US relations, anticipating a summit between President Xi Jinping and former US President Donald Trump in Beijing later in March. However, on March 16, 2026, President Trump suggested his planned trip to China might be postponed if Beijing does not assist in reopening the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting a renewed flashpoint in the bilateral relationship.

- Active Diplomacy on Middle East Conflict

China engaged in extensive diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the ongoing US-Israeli war against Iran. Between March 1 and 12, 2026, Foreign Minister Wang Yi held 12 phone calls with counterparts from various countries, including Russia, Oman, Iran, France, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, urging an immediate cessation of military activities and a return to dialogue. China also provided \$200,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance to Iran.

- Strengthening China-Russia Strategic Partnership

Foreign Minister Wang Yi reaffirmed the "rock-solid" nature of the China-Russia relationship, emphasizing strategic independence, mutual trust, and close coordination in major international and regional affairs. A report on March 18, 2026, by the US-based nonprofit Action for Democracy, indicated that China and Russia "sit at the center of global authoritarian collaboration," jointly involved in approximately half of all recorded authoritarian cooperation, including tech sharing and propaganda. Furthermore, China and Russia discussed boosting transport links, including the use of the Arctic shipping route, to secure resilient supply chains amidst Middle East conflict disruptions.

- New Cybercrime Prevention and Control Law

China's Ministry of Public Security published a 68-article Draft Law on Cybercrime Prevention and Control on January 31, 2026. If enacted, this bill would consolidate and formalize existing restrictive practices, expand authorities' ability to trace user activity across platforms, and grant problematic extraterritorial reach, allowing punishment of overseas entities for information deemed to harm Chinese interests. This follows amendments to the Cybersecurity Law that came into effect on January 1, 2026, which expanded state support for AI development while tightening compliance obligations and increasing penalties for violations.

- Ethnic Unity Law

On March 12, 2026, China adopted the "Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress" law, which critics argue will further President Xi Jinping's push to assimilate ethnic minorities. This legislation codifies the elevation of Mandarin Chinese in education and warns against outside interference in ethnic affairs, with critics suggesting it will erode educational and religious freedoms in regions like Tibet and Xinjiang.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's security developments during this period have significant geopolitical ramifications, particularly for regional stability and its relationships with major global powers. The increased defense budget and accelerated military modernization, especially the push for an all-nuclear submarine fleet, signal China's determination to project power further afield and challenge existing maritime balances. This is likely to fuel an arms race in the Indo-Pacific, compelling countries like Japan to further increase their defense spending and capability development, as seen with Japan's projected 9 trillion yen defense budget for 2026. The intensified military activities and bellicose rhetoric around Taiwan, including PLA air incursions and maritime militia "blockade rehearsals," directly threaten cross-strait stability and raise the specter of kinetic conflict.

The complex dynamics of US-China relations remain a central theme. While China expressed a desire for a "landmark year" and prepared for a summit between Xi Jinping and Donald Trump, the potential delay of Trump's visit over the Strait of Hormuz issue underscores the fragility of this relationship and the deep-seated disagreements. China's active diplomacy in the Middle East conflict reflects its growing global interests, particularly in energy security and protecting its Belt and Road Initiative investments. Its calls for de-escalation and humanitarian aid to Iran, while not providing direct military support, position Beijing as a significant, albeit cautious, player in a volatile region.

The deepening China-Russia strategic partnership is another critical dynamic. Foreign Minister Wang Yi's assertion of a "rock-solid" relationship, coupled with discussions on bolstering transport links and the Arctic shipping route, highlights a growing alignment aimed at countering Western influence and creating alternative global supply chains. A report indicating China and Russia as central to global authoritarian collaboration suggests a concerted effort to advance repression and challenge democratic norms worldwide, with implications for global governance and human rights.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military and defense posture is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by sustained high-level investment and a clear strategic vision. The officially declared 7% increase in the 2026 defense budget to \$277 billion, while presented as modest, is widely believed by external analysts, including the Pentagon, to be significantly understated, with actual spending potentially reaching \$526 billion. This substantial investment underpins the PLA's modernization programs, aiming for a "fully modern

force by 2035." A key strategic shift is the planned 40% reduction in ground forces, reallocating resources to strengthen the Navy, missile weaponry, and aviation, reflecting a move away from quantitative superiority towards qualitative technological advancement.

The most striking capability development highlighted this period is the reported shift towards an all-nuclear submarine fleet. This ambitious program, supported by tripled construction hall capacity across three major shipyards, will significantly enhance China's strategic deterrence, blue-water naval power, and ability to conduct sustained operations far from its shores, including in the Indian Ocean. The focus on technological self-reliance in areas like AI, quantum sensing, and hypersonic anti-missile technologies is central to this modernization, aiming to enhance the PLA's ability to withstand international pressure and threats, particularly in the South China Sea and around Taiwan. However, ongoing purges within the PLA leadership, which have seen 36 generals and lieutenant generals removed since 2022, raise concerns about internal stability, equipment procurement issues, and overall readiness for high-intensity conflict, despite the rapid modernization efforts. President Xi Jinping's emphasis on political loyalty within the military underscores the Party's determination to maintain absolute control over the armed forces amidst these reforms.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to maintain its assertive stance in the Taiwan Strait and East China Sea, with continued PLA air and naval activities, potentially including further maritime militia formations, serving as demonstrations of force and rehearsals for potential contingencies. Diplomatic engagement with the United States will remain a critical, albeit volatile, area, with the outcome of the anticipated Xi-Trump summit (if it proceeds as planned) setting the tone for bilateral relations. China will continue its diplomatic efforts regarding the Middle East conflict, aiming to protect its energy interests and project an image of a responsible global power advocating for stability. Domestically, the implementation of the new cybercrime law and the ethnic unity law will likely lead to increased state control over digital spaces and further pressure on ethnic minorities.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint, with any miscalculation or escalation of military activities carrying a high risk of conflict. The South China Sea also presents ongoing risks due to competing territorial claims and the potential for confrontations with regional states and external powers. The US-China relationship, particularly over trade, technology, and Taiwan, will continue to be a source of tension, with the potential for economic or diplomatic disputes to quickly escalate. The Middle East conflict could indirectly impact China's energy security and regional stability, potentially drawing Beijing into more complex

diplomatic or security challenges. The internal stability of the PLA, given the ongoing purges, could also be a risk factor, potentially affecting military effectiveness or decision-making.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and scale of PLA military exercises and gray zone activities around Taiwan and in the South China Sea. The rhetoric and actions from both Beijing and Washington regarding the Xi-Trump summit will be crucial in gauging the trajectory of US-China relations. Developments in China's nuclear submarine program and other advanced military capabilities will provide insights into its long-term strategic ambitions. Furthermore, monitoring the enforcement of the new cybersecurity and ethnic unity laws will reveal the extent of tightening domestic control and its implications for human rights and international business. The nature and extent of China-Russia cooperation, particularly in military and technological spheres, will also be important for understanding the evolving global power dynamics.

Strategic recommendations: For international observers and policymakers, it is crucial to maintain a clear understanding of China's military modernization trajectory, distinguishing between official pronouncements and actual capabilities. Continued diplomatic engagement with Beijing on regional security issues, while firmly upholding international law and norms, is essential to manage potential flashpoints. Strengthening alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, coupled with enhancing regional defense capabilities, can serve as a deterrent against coercive actions. Furthermore, closely monitoring China's technological advancements, particularly in dual-use technologies, is vital to assess their implications for global security and to inform counter-proliferation efforts. Finally, advocating for greater transparency in China's defense spending and military doctrine remains a critical long-term objective.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: BBC China

- [The Iran war is causing a global energy crisis - can China withstand it?](#) (2026-03-18 23:31)

With oil supply disrupted, Beijing's oil reserves and renewable energy push are being put to the test.

- [Chinese national charged for trying to smuggle 2,000 ants from Kenya](#) (2026-03-18 05:54)

Zhang Kequn was found with the large consignment of ants in his luggage at a Nairobi airport.

- [What have US allies and China said about sending ships to the Strait of Hormuz?](#) (2026-03-17 16:35)

US allies have either pushed back or remained cautious on Trump's initial request to send ships to the crucial oil route.

- [Trump seeks to delay China summit due to Iran war](#) (2026-03-16 23:51)

The escalating war in Iran has overshadowed much of the US' foreign policy objectives

- [Chinese retailer rivalling Amazon launches in UK](#) (2026-03-16 13:29)

Joybuy, which has distribution centres in Luton and Milton Keynes, is entering six European markets.

- [Xi's anti-corruption drive began 14 years ago. Why are the purges still going?](#) (2026-03-13 23:08)

Critics say Xi's purges reveal a ruthless drive for absolute loyalty and total control of the military.

- [Chinese national arrested over attempt to smuggle 2,000 queen ants from Kenya](#) (2026-03-12 08:43)

The suspect had packed some ants in test tubes while others were concealed in tissue paper rolls, prosecutor says.

- [China approves 'ethnic unity' law requiring minorities to learn Mandarin](#) (2026-03-12 08:41)

The law states that children should be taught Mandarin before kindergarten, until the end of high school.

- [What did we learn from China's biggest political meeting?](#) (2026-03-12 08:10)

BBC correspondents give us their biggest takeaways from China's National People's Congress.

- [Bodies of two Chinese backpackers found in Australian floodwaters](#) (2026-03-12 04:03)

The pair had been reported missing on Tuesday after failing to reach their destination.

Source: CGTN

- [China-Europe Railway Express fuels an open world economy](#) (2026-03-19 03:33)

China-Europe Railway Express fuels an open world economy

- [Chinese envoy: Middle East is being pushed toward a dangerous abyss](#) (2026-03-19 03:00)

A senior Chinese diplomat said on Wednesday that China is deeply concerned that the entire Middle East is being pushed toward a dangerous abyss.

- [US Senator: Allies no longer believe US is a 'dependable partner'](#) (2026-03-18 22:25)

U.S. Democratic Senator from Virginia Mark Warner is raising alarms over what he describes as a major shift in global alliances, warning that traditional partners like Canada and the United Kingdom are now pursuing trade deals with China amid growing doubts about U.S. reliability.

- [Kenya explores Juncao technology to boost resilient food systems](#) (2026-03-18 16:33)

A national capacity-building workshop, themed Promoting Juncao Technology for Resilient Food Systems, Poverty Eradication, and Climate Adaptation in Kenya, kicked off in Nairobi from March 17 to 19, bringing together agricultural experts, government officials, and local farmers to explore how the Chinese-developed Juncao technology can address Kenya's pressing agricultural challenges and enhance climate resilience.

- [German session of 'China in Springtime' event held in Düsseldorf](#) (2026-03-18 15:54)

German session of 'China in Springtime' event held in Düsseldorf

- [Peng Liyuan calls for global action against TB](#) (2026-03-18 15:44)

Peng Liyuan, wife of Chinese President Xi Jinping and also the World Health Organization (WHO) goodwill ambassador for tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS, on Wednesday called for international support and participation in global TB prevention and treatment.

- [China's tech trial links space computing with OpenClaw, humanoid robot](#) (2026-03-18 15:05)

In a milestone fusion of three frontier technologies, a Chinese lab has recently successfully demonstrated remote, intelligent control of ground-based humanoid robots using OpenClaw and computing power from orbit.

- [Tencent says AI bet pays off as core businesses outpace industry](#) (2026-03-18 14:46)

Chinese tech giant Tencent reported a 14% year-on-year increase of revenue, with AI beginning to deliver measurable gains.

- [Chinese mainland outlines 5-year cross-Strait integration measures](#) (2026-03-18 14:45)

A Chinese mainland spokesperson on Wednesday detailed steps to implement the Taiwan-related section of the country's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), pledging to advance cross-Strait peaceful development and integration while expanding opportunities for Taiwan residents and businesses.

- [Interventional combination therapy: New hope for liver cancer patients](#) (2026-03-18 14:32)

New clinical evidence confirms that combining interventional procedures with targeted therapies can effectively control large, complex liver tumors, as demonstrated by patients maintaining a high quality of life for over eight years. This "bench-to-bedside" model integrates AI-guided robotics and original medical devices to redefine standards of care for unresectable liver cancer.

- [China's Fuxing high-speed train gets an automated bath](#) (2026-03-18 14:15)

China's Fuxing high-speed train gets an automated bath

- ['Flower-viewing+' tourism boosts rural consumption across China](#) (2026-03-18 13:49)

'Flower-viewing+' tourism boosts rural consumption across China

- [Lai's bid to reverse process of China's reunification doomed to fail](#) (2026-03-18 12:38)

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said on Wednesday that the Taiwan authorities led by Lai Ching-te brazenly used the false narrative of Japanese aggressors to whitewash Japan's aggression and colonial rule, which constitutes a grave affront to history and despicable betrayal to the nation.

- [China to maintain communication with US on Trump's visit](#) (2026-03-18 12:38)

China will continue to maintain communication with the US side regarding President Donald Trump's China visit, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

- [Japan 'crying thief' over China's defense budget, spokesperson says](#) (2026-03-18 12:31)

China has released information regarding the specifics of the country's 2026 defense budget, making public its size, composition, and allocation and leaving no room for doubt, a Chinese defense ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

- ['Peach blossom flood' paints spring spectacle at Hukou Waterfall](#) (2026-03-18 12:25)

'Peach blossom flood' paints spring spectacle at Hukou Waterfall

- [China Coast Guard patrols territorial waters of China's Diaoyu Dao](#) (2026-03-18 11:22)

China Coast Guard patrols territorial waters of China's Diaoyu Dao

- [Wang Yi urges end to casualties, losses in Middle East conflict](#) (2026-03-18 11:09)

China's top diplomat Wang Yi on Wednesday called for an end to casualties and losses in the conflict in the Middle East, pledging China's mediation efforts toward a ceasefire.

- [Xi's books on economy, student interactions debut in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-18 10:43)

The first volume of Selected Works of Xi Jinping on Economy, along with two volumes of Xi Jinping and University Students, made their debut in China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on Wednesday.

- [Xi calls for enhanced cooperation with Turkmenistan in multiple fields](#) (2026-03-18 10:19)

China and Turkmenistan should expand the scale of cooperation in the natural gas sector, and elevate trade and investment levels, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in Beijing on Wednesday.

- [Boao mandate: How China is weaving a shared future for Asia-Pacific](#) (2026-03-18 09:45)

Boao mandate: How China is weaving a shared future for Asia-Pacific

- [China, Turkmenistan should carry forward friendship, deepen ties: FM](#) (2026-03-18 09:23)

China and Turkmenistan should carry forward friendly tradition, firmly support each other, and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday.

- [Philippine actions won't shake China's resolve to safeguard its rights](#) (2026-03-18 09:21)

Philippine actions won't shake China's resolve to safeguard its rights

- [Queens of the battlefield: Female warriors of the Shang](#) (2026-03-18 08:13)

Queens of the battlefield: Female warriors of the Shang

- [Number of registered Nanjing Massacre survivors falls to 21](#) (2026-03-18 07:56)

Guan Shunhua, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 101, according to the Memorial Hall of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders in east China's Jiangsu Province. Her passing leaves only 21 registered survivors of the atrocity still living.

- [Scientists discover exotic proton-like particle](#) (2026-03-18 07:21)

Scientists announced the discovery of a new heavy, proton-like particle in experiments with the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's most powerful particle accelerator, at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) on Tuesday.

- [The hidden 'crown jewel' of Hainan desserts: Mango rice rolls](#) (2026-03-18 07:19)

When Cantonese rice rolls meet tropical mango, something magical happens. You get this clever dessert from Qionghai, Hainan.

- [Birds of prey spotted more often in Beijing as ecology improves](#) (2026-03-18 07:18)

Golden eagles and white-tailed eagles have been spotted more frequently on the outskirts of Beijing this past winter and spring, drawing crowds of photographers hoping to capture rare images of the majestic raptors.

- [Kiribati ambassador on China's 15th Five-Year plan](#) (2026-03-18 07:17)

CGTN's Ioana Gomoi sat down in Beijing with David Teaabo, ambassador of Kiribati to China, to discuss China's 15th Five-Year plan and the growing partnership between Kiribati and China.

- [Frontline engineers put the correct performance outlook into practice](#) (2026-03-18 07:14)

Frontline engineers put the correct performance outlook into practice

- [Spring ice melts into a sea of pink and gold](#) (2026-03-18 07:14)

As night falls on Xinjiang's Tekes County, melting spring ice transforms Kelatuohai Lake into a canvas of pink, red and gold.

- [Short, fast, addictive: China's micro-drama takeover](#) (2026-03-18 07:11)

Chinese micro-dramas are taking the world by storm — but there's more to them than meets the eye. From time-travel epics to 25-day shoots, we go behind the scenes with the creators redefining storytelling.

- [Tree-planting drive boosts island ecology in South China Sea](#) (2026-03-18 06:48)

Tree-planting drive boosts island ecology in South China Sea

- [China's space probe uncovers new solar effect on cosmic rays](#) (2026-03-18 06:16)

China's space probe uncovers new solar effect on cosmic rays

- [Zhao Xintong edges Long Zehuang to reach third round at World Open](#) (2026-03-18 05:02)

Zhao Xintong edges Long Zehuang to reach third round at World Open

- [China to hold Zhongguancun Forum from March 25 to 29](#) (2026-03-18 04:27)

China to hold Zhongguancun Forum from March 25 to 29

- [A city's kindness: Passers-by halt traffic to help old man in distress](#) (2026-03-17 15:06)

A city's kindness: Passers-by halt traffic to help old man in distress

- [Wang Yi: Broad consensus reached at China-Vietnam '3+3' dialogue](#) (2026-03-17 14:57)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Tuesday that China and Vietnam reached a broad consensus at the first ministerial meeting of the China-Vietnam "3+3" strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defense and public security.

- [Chinese premier signs decree to revise social organization regulations](#) (2026-03-17 14:18)

Chinese premier signs decree to revise social organization regulations

- [China trains 'tech matchmakers' to turn innovation into economic power](#) (2026-03-17 14:17)

China is accelerating efforts to cultivate a new generation of "tech matchmakers" to speed up the commercialization of scientific breakthroughs, as it seeks to turn its expanding research strength into a more powerful driver of economic growth.

- [China issues guidelines to advance child-friendly development](#) (2026-03-17 14:05)

China has rolled out guidelines to advance child-friendly development across society, aiming to better protect minors' lawful rights and interests and promote children's healthy, all-round growth, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said on Tuesday.

- [China, Vietnam hold meeting to advance cooperation](#) (2026-03-17 12:51)

The 17th meeting of the China-Vietnam Steering Committee for Bilateral Cooperation was held in Hanoi on Tuesday.

- [CCG says it expels Japanese boat for intrusion into Diaoyu Dao waters](#) (2026-03-17 12:28)

The China Coast Guard (CCG) said on Tuesday that its vessels lawfully expelled a Japanese fishing boat that intruded into the territorial waters of China's Diaoyu Dao on Monday.

- [Turkmenistan's Berdimuhamedov arrives in Beijing for goodwill visit](#) (2026-03-17 11:14)

Turkmenistan's Berdimuhamedov arrives in Beijing for goodwill visit

- [Alibaba launches AI agent platform for firms after OpenClaw craze](#) (2026-03-17 10:49)

Alibaba on Tuesday launched an artificial intelligence platform for enterprises targeting automation, intensifying competition in China's rapidly evolving AI agent market following the OpenClaw craze that has gripped the country's tech sector.

- [Health Talk | Dai medicine: Healing power from the rainforest](#) (2026-03-17 09:35)

In this episode of CGTN's Health Talk, we explore this gift from the rainforest, speak with Dai medicine healers and discover how traditional ethnic healing shines with vitality in the new era as the wisdom of Dai medicine meets modern medicine in Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

- [China expands cross-border trade facilitation pilot cities](#) (2026-03-17 09:25)

China will expand its pilot cities for a cross-border trade facilitation campaign to 45 in 2026, up from 25 in 2025, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said on Monday.

- [Shoushan stone carving shines at jewelry and jade craft culture event](#) (2026-03-17 08:47)

A stall dedicated to promoting Shoushan stone carving culture stole the spotlight at a recently concluded jewelry and jade craft culture festival in Beijing, drawing visitors from all walks of life.

- [Mount Kailash in the Year of the Horse](#) (2026-03-17 08:19)

Located in Burang (Pulan) County of Ngari Prefecture in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, Mount Kailash, the main peak of the Kailas Range, remains snow-capped throughout the year.

- [Beijing: US clarifies a Trump visit to China not linked to Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 08:18)

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that the United States has clarified that a visit to China by US President Donald Trump is not linked to the issue of shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, reiterating that both sides are in communication on the date of the visit.

- [Melodies across the Wall: A US musician's first day in Beijing](#) (2026-03-17 08:11)

From a boat ride on the Liangma River to a spontaneous concert on the Great Wall, American musician Aron turned his first day in Beijing into a musical journey.

- [China opposes EU's unilateral sanctions against Chinese entities](#) (2026-03-17 08:06)

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday that China firmly opposes illegal unilateral sanctions imposed by the European Union (EU) against Chinese entities.

- [Experts discuss right to development at UN Human Rights Council](#) (2026-03-17 07:59)

Chinese and international experts discussed strategies for inclusive development and advancing the right to development at a recent side event held during the 61st session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

- [China to offer humanitarian assistance to Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq](#) (2026-03-17 07:37)

China has decided to offer emergency humanitarian assistance to Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq in the hope of easing the humanitarian plight faced by local people.

- [Bessent denies reports Trump delayed China visit over Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 07:32)

Bessent denies reports Trump delayed China visit over Strait of Hormuz

- [Dongyu Island: Hainan's dreamy river-and sea oasis](#) (2026-03-17 07:25)

Since 2002, Dongyu Island has been the permanent venue for the Boao Forum for Asia. In 2023, it earned the title of National Tourist Resort and went 100% green with its energy use, officially running on near-zero carbon.

- [A stronghold for snow leopards emerges in Xinjiang](#) (2026-03-17 07:24)

Snow leopards are quietly thriving in northwest China. A recent survey estimates that about 205 snow leopards live in and around the Tomur Peak National Nature Reserve, including roughly 130 individuals within the reserve itself.

- [Fan Zhendong to join Borussia Düsseldorf in German league next season](#) (2026-03-17 06:20)

Fan Zhendong to join Borussia Düsseldorf in German league next season

- [Zhao Xintong beats Han Fuyuan 5-0 to reach main draw at WST World Open](#) (2026-03-17 06:18)

Zhao Xintong beats Han Fuyuan 5-0 to reach main draw at WST World Open

- [China brushes aside Italy 10-3 at World Women's Curling Championship](#) (2026-03-17 06:17)

China brushes aside Italy 10-3 at World Women's Curling Championship

- [Hong Kong to host 2026 WIC Asia-Pacific Summit in April](#) (2026-03-17 05:54)

The 2026 World Internet Conference (WIC) Asia-Pacific Summit is set to take place in China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from April 13 to 14, it was announced at a press conference on Tuesday.

- [Bessent denies reports Trump delayed China visit over Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 05:49)

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday that media reports suggesting any delay in US President Donald Trump visiting China was due to the president's demand that China help reopen the Strait of Hormuz were "completely false."

- [John Lee: Hong Kong formulating 1st five-year plan at full speed](#) (2026-03-17 05:31)

Hong Kong is formulating its first five-year development plan at full speed, John Lee, chief executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said on Monday.

- [Chinese scientists discover 'zero-pollution' microbial herbicide](#) (2026-03-17 04:58)

Chinese scientists discover 'zero-pollution' microbial herbicide

- [China boosts natural resource support for major projects](#) (2026-03-17 04:55)

China boosts natural resource support for major projects

- [How China-US medical synergy is outrunning the 'biological clock'](#) (2026-03-17 02:22)

How China-US medical synergy is outrunning the 'biological clock'

- [China urges joint efforts for Afghanistan's stability, development](#) (2026-03-17 01:45)

It is imperative that the Afghan government and the international community maintain communication, work in the same direction, gradually address each other's legitimate concerns, and help Afghanistan achieve lasting stability, development and prosperity, a Chinese envoy said on Monday.

- [Vietnam's Party chief meets with senior Chinese officials](#) (2026-03-17 01:06)

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee To Lam on Monday met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong and Minister of National Defense Dong Jun, who were in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi to attend the first ministerial meeting of the China-Vietnam "3+3" strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defense and public security.

- [The Paris talks: A new dynamic in China-US economic diplomacy](#) (2026-03-17 01:00)

The most significant outcome of the Paris talks was not any single deliverable, but rather a shared commitment to maintaining stable bilateral tariff levels and avoiding the tit-for-tat escalation that had defined much of the past several years.

- [Ministerial meeting of China-Vietnam '3+3' strategic dialogue held](#) (2026-03-17 00:53)

The first ministerial meeting of the China-Vietnam "3+3" strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defense and public security was held in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi on Monday.

- [Vietnamese PM meets with senior Chinese officials](#) (2026-03-17 00:46)

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong and Minister of National Defense Dong Jun in Hanoi on Monday.

- [He Lifeng meets with French Finance Minister Roland Lescure](#) (2026-03-16 17:59)

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met with French Finance Minister Roland Lescure on Monday after China-US economic and trade talks concluded in Paris.

- [China, US hold in-depth talks on economic, trade issues](#) (2026-03-16 16:06)

China, US hold in-depth talks on economic, trade issues

- [Senior Chinese official briefs media after economic and trade talks with US](#) (2026-03-16 15:09)

Senior Chinese official briefs media after economic and trade talks with US

- [Shenzhou-21 crew completes second series of extravehicular activities](#) (2026-03-16 15:03)

Shenzhou-21 crew completes second series of extravehicular activities

- [Li Chenggang: China expresses opposition over US Section 301 investigations](#) (2026-03-16 14:48)

Li Chenggang: China expresses opposition over US Section 301 investigations

- [Li Chenggang: Both sides agree to keep tariff levels stable](#) (2026-03-16 14:34)

Li Chenggang: Both sides agree to keep tariff levels stable

- [Chinese trade representative Li Chenggang speaks to media after talks with US negotiators in Paris](#) (2026-03-16 14:27)

Chinese trade representative Li Chenggang speaks to media after talks with US negotiators in Paris

- ['Panda of birds' returns to central China reserve after 9 years](#) (2026-03-16 14:21)

'Panda of birds' returns to central China reserve after 9 years

- [China mediates between Afghanistan, Pakistan to ease border tensions](#) (2026-03-16 13:39)

China's Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs Yue Xiaoyong shuttled between Afghanistan and Pakistan from March 7 to 14 to mediate recent conflicts between the two neighbors.

- [China builds comprehensive groundwater monitoring system](#) (2026-03-16 13:22)

China builds comprehensive groundwater monitoring system

- [China, US discuss establishing bilateral working mechanism](#) (2026-03-16 13:14)

China, US discuss establishing bilateral working mechanism

- [China says Paris trade talks with US in-depth, candid, constructive](#) (2026-03-16 12:41)

The trade and economic delegations of China and the United States held in-depth, candid and constructive exchanges over the past day and a half, a senior Chinese official said on Monday.

- [CGTN poll on China-Europe Railway Express](#) (2026-03-16 12:28)

CGTN poll on China-Europe Railway Express

- [China's special envoy on Middle East issue meets with Kuwait's FM](#) (2026-03-16 12:27)

China's special envoy on the Middle East issue, Zhai Jun, met with Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in Kuwait City on Sunday.

- [China-US economic and trade talks underway in Paris](#) (2026-03-16 09:21)

China-US economic and trade talks underway in Paris

- [CMG's consumer gala warns of AI manipulation in search results](#) (2026-03-16 09:08)

CMG's consumer gala warns of AI manipulation in search results

- [Oracle Red Bull Racing eyes business potential in Chinese market](#) (2026-03-16 09:05)

Oracle Red Bull Racing eyes business potential in Chinese market

- [China urges halt to military actions in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-16 08:59)

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian on Monday addressed the escalating tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and nearby waters, noting they have disrupted international cargo and energy trade routes while undermining regional and global peace and stability.

- [China, US 'in communication' with each other regarding Trump's visit](#) (2026-03-16 08:00)

China and the United States are in communication with each other regarding US President Donald Trump's China visit, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

- [Shaping Spring: Creative Qingming Guo delight eyes and plates](#) (2026-03-16 07:21)

As the Qingming Festival approaches, a beloved seasonal snack is returning to the table – this time shaped by creative hands into delicate, eye-catching works that are almost too beautiful to eat.

- [How China's opening up creates global growth opportunities](#) (2026-03-16 07:13)

China's commitment to expanding its institutional opening up is garnering significant international attention, with highlights in both the 2026 Government Work Report and the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030).

- [How seawater desalination strengthens China's blue economy](#) (2026-03-16 06:54)

How seawater desalination strengthens China's blue economy

- [China-US agricultural cooperation: From soy to sustainability](#) (2026-03-16 06:48)

China and the US have shared long-standing practical cooperation in agriculture, with soybean as a cornerstone of this partnership across research, production and trade.

- [China's Kuaizhou-11 Y7 rocket launches eight new satellites](#) (2026-03-16 06:45)

China's Kuaizhou-11 Y7 carrier rocket on Monday launched eight new satellites from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

- [China's trade-in policy drives 323 bln yuan in consumer sales in 2026](#) (2026-03-16 06:18)

China's consumer goods trade-in program has generated more than 300 billion yuan (about \$43.5 billion) in sales so far this year.

- [Antonelli claims first win in Shanghai, extends hot start for Mercedes](#) (2026-03-16 05:35)

Antonelli claims first win in Shanghai, extends hot start for Mercedes

- [China qualifies for 2026 FIBA Women's World Cup in advance in Wuhan](#) (2026-03-16 05:28)

China qualifies for 2026 FIBA Women's World Cup in advance in Wuhan

- [China Crafted | Sacred Shang: Fu Hao and vessels of ritual and power](#) (2026-03-16 02:38)

Sacred Shang is an immersive virtual exhibition that introduces crafts from China's Shang Dynasty (c. 1600 BC-1046 BC) through the story of Fu Hao – Shang queen, military general, high priestess and beloved wife of King Wu Ding.

- [China's retail sales up 2.8% in first two months, NBS says](#) (2026-03-16 02:01)

China's retail sales up 2.8% in first two months, NBS says

- [National leader of the Turkmen people to visit China from March 17 to 19](#) (2026-03-16 01:25)

National leader of the Turkmen people to visit China from March 17 to 19

- [China says US Section 301 probe severely disrupts global trade order](#) (2026-03-16 01:01)

China's Ministry of Commerce on Monday criticized the United States for launching a Section 301 investigation targeting China and dozens of other economies over alleged failures to ban imports made with "forced labor," calling the move a typical act of protectionism that seriously disrupts the international trade order.

- [Chinese FM meets with Vietnamese counterpart](#) (2026-03-16 00:10)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung in Hanoi on Sunday.

- [CPC Central Committee, State Council hail Winter Paralympics team](#) (2026-03-15 15:08)

CPC Central Committee, State Council hail Winter Paralympics team

- [China successfully launches the satellite Yaogan-50 02](#) (2026-03-15 14:50)

China successfully launches the satellite Yaogan-50 02

- [China maps out ambitious space plans in 15th Five-Year Plan](#) (2026-03-15 14:30)

China maps out ambitious space plans in 15th Five-Year Plan

- [China's bus network connects farmers to urban markets](#) (2026-03-15 14:30)

China's bus network connects farmers to urban markets

- [Full text: Report on work of NPC Standing Committee](#) (2026-03-15 14:12)

Attached is the full text of the Report on the Work of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

- [Xi's article on quality marine economy development to be published](#) (2026-03-15 10:15)

An article by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on promoting the high-quality development of the marine economy will be published on Monday.

- [China, US hold economic, trade talks in Paris](#) (2026-03-15 09:26)

China, US hold economic, trade talks in Paris

- [Video: Chinese delegation arrives at venue in Paris for economic, trade talks with US](#) (2026-03-15 09:05)

Video: Chinese delegation arrives at venue in Paris for economic, trade talks with US

- [China, US start economic, trade talks in Paris](#) (2026-03-15 09:01)

China, US start economic, trade talks in Paris

- [Youth pick: Hanfu, tradition in motion](#) (2026-03-15 08:58)

Think historical costumes belong in museums? Think again.

- [Chinese delegation arrives at venue in Paris for economic, trade talks with US](#) (2026-03-15 08:53)

Chinese delegation arrives at venue in Paris for economic, trade talks with US

- [China Weekly News Quiz: March 9-15, 2026](#) (2026-03-15 06:48)

Do you know what happened in China last week? Take our weekly news quiz to test your knowledge and get up to speed on the latest developments in case you missed something.

- [Insider picks: The Chinese dramas you can't miss](#) (2026-03-15 06:28)

The 2026 China TV Drama Industry Conference has kicked off in Shenzhen, bringing together the brightest minds in the business. From crime thrillers to historical epics, here's what the pros are obsessed with.

- [Calligraphy bridges Chinese and Arabic cultures](#) (2026-03-15 06:24)

In the heart of the heritage district in Sharjah, the United Arab Emirates, a unique sanctuary of script is bridging the gap between the Middle East and China.

- [Report: AI, green development drive growth of China's home appliance](#) (2026-03-15 06:16)

Artificial intelligence (AI) and green development have emerged as engines driving high-quality growth in China's home appliance sector, according to an industry report.

- [Xi's key quotes on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations](#) (2026-03-15 06:07)

Xi's key quotes on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations

- [Chinese carmakers step up presence at Hungary auto show](#) (2026-03-15 05:57)

Chinese carmakers step up presence at Hungary auto show

- [Photovoltaics power education as Chinese firm helps Laos school reopen](#) (2026-03-15 05:49)

Photovoltaics power education as Chinese firm helps Laos school reopen

- [China wins first cross-country relay gold at 2026 Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-15 05:46)

China wins first cross-country relay gold at 2026 Winter Paralympics

- [China beats South Sudan 86-76 in 2026 FIBA Women's World Cup Qualifier](#) (2026-03-15 05:44)

China beats South Sudan 86-76 in 2026 FIBA Women's World Cup Qualifier

- [China reaches 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup semifinals](#) (2026-03-15 05:39)

China reaches 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup semifinals

- [Why China-US economic and trade ties are mutually beneficial](#) (2026-03-15 05:08)

As the world's two largest economies, China and the United States are set to hold economic and trade talks in France from March 14 to 17.

- [Why global chip titans are inseparable from Chinese market](#) (2026-03-15 04:40)

Why global chip titans are inseparable from Chinese market

- [First test run completed for 2026 humanoid robot half marathon](#) (2026-03-15 04:35)

The first practice test for the highly anticipated 2026 Yizhuang humanoid robot half marathon, scheduled to kick off on April 19 in Beijing, was successfully completed early on Sunday morning.

- [China, Vietnam to hold 10th border defense friendship exchange](#) (2026-03-15 02:46)

China and Vietnam will hold their 10th border defense friendship exchange in mid-March, the Chinese Ministry of National Defense announced on Sunday.

- [CGTN Poll: China's GCI brings stability to turbulent world](#) (2026-03-15 02:43)

As the international community, amid complexity and turbulence, is going through unpredictable and profound changes, China's Global Civilization Initiative brings stability to a turbulent world. A survey jointly conducted by CGTN and Renmin University of China through the New Era International Communication Research Institute, covering 12,302 respondents from 41 countries around the world, shows that respondents speak positively of the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China. They generally believe that the core concepts of the

Initiative, such as respecting the diversity of civilizations and promoting the common values of humanity, are of greater practical significance amid the current international situation.

- [How China's new nature reserve regulations reshape human-nature ties](#) (2026-03-15 02:09)

How China's new nature reserve regulations reshape human-nature ties

- [China issues guidelines to enhance professional social work workforce](#) (2026-03-15 01:01)

China's central authorities have issued a set of guidelines to strengthen the development of the professional social work workforce, as part of broader efforts to improve public services and social governance.

- [China in Springtime: China's Development Opportunities for the World](#) (2026-03-14 21:49)

The media event “China in Springtime: China's Development Shared Opportunities for the World” hosted by China Media Group, was held in New York on March 13.

- [China's Alibaba Cloud wins tech clients in Mexico](#) (2026-03-14 18:57)

Cloud computing and artificial intelligence are rapidly changing how software is built, and in Mexico, Chinese technology is boosting that transition.

- [China in Springtime: China's Development Opportunities for the World](#) (2026-03-14 18:57)

A high-level dialogue between Chinese representatives and American business leaders was held in New York on Friday, March 13. The event, called “China in Springtime: China's Development Opportunities for the World,” focused on the outcomes of China's Two Sessions meetings and explored opportunities for cooperation between the United States and China.

- [Global South Voices: High-quality growth & global governance](#) (2026-03-14 15:05)

Global South Voices: High-quality growth & global governance

- [Full text: Report on national economic, social development plan](#) (2026-03-14 14:49)

Full text: Report on national economic, social development plan

- [Mainland slams Lai Ching-te's secessionist remarks](#) (2026-03-14 13:44)

The Chinese mainland on Saturday condemned Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te for making secessionist remarks advocating “Taiwan independence” and challenging the one-China principle.

- [China's first private-invested nuclear power project connected to grid](#) (2026-03-14 12:59)

China's first private-invested nuclear power project connected to grid

- [How head-of-state diplomacy steers China-US economic and trade ties](#) (2026-03-14 12:46)

Following the previous five rounds of economic and trade talks held in Geneva, London, Stockholm, Madrid and Kuala Lumpur between May and October 2025, China and the United States are set to hold a new round of talks, scheduled for March 14-17, in Paris, France, demonstrating that dialogue and cooperation remain the correct way forward for the two countries.

- [China steps up prosecution of counterfeit and substandard goods crimes](#) (2026-03-14 10:38)

Chinese prosecuting agencies prosecuted 18,376 people in 2025 for crimes involving the production and sale of counterfeit or substandard goods, the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) said Saturday.

- [China's Liqing-2 rocket engine completes long-range test](#) (2026-03-14 10:30)

China's Liqing-2 rocket engine completes long-range test

- [Graphics: China sets key development targets in 15th Five-Year Plan](#) (2026-03-14 09:58)

Chinese lawmakers on Thursday approved the outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) for national economic and social development at the closing meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, setting a comprehensive framework for China's development over the next five years.

- [15th Five-Year Plan: AI, elderly care and green development](#) (2026-03-14 08:56)

The outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for China's national economic and social development has recently been approved at the closing meeting of the 4th session of the country's top legislature. CGTN's Yang Yan spoke with delegates about their thoughts on what the plan means for their focus areas.

- [Spring in full bloom: Wuzhishan's floral fantasy](#) (2026-03-14 08:55)

Vibrant bougainvillea bursts into full bloom and dances in the wind across Wuzhishan, Hainan Province, lighting up the whole mountain town with vivid colors.

- [China's 15th FYP highlights digital intelligence and human development](#) (2026-03-14 08:17)

China on Friday officially unveiled the outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development, setting a slew of targets with high-quality development high on the agenda.

- [Director Yuen Woo Ping on crafting the epic "Blades of the Guardians"](#) (2026-03-14 07:30)

CGTN's Yu Hanyi sat down with legendary martial arts choreographer and director Yuen Woo Ping for a look inside the action movie "Blades of the Guardians", and how he shapes stories one sword stroke at a time.

- [Nezha drags game-addicted Monkey King away from Black Myth: Wukong](#) (2026-03-14 07:29)

When your friend refuses to step outside, determined to defeat every boss in Black Myth: Wukong on the way to Platinum, drastic measures may be required.

- [Ancient Manting Park shines with cultural charm](#) (2026-03-14 07:23)

Manting Park in Xishuangbanna, southwest China has a history of more than 1,300 years, making it the oldest park in the region.

- [China's high-quality development: Opportunities for Africa](#) (2026-03-14 06:48)

China's high-quality development: Opportunities for Africa

- [Graphics: China's 2026 Spring Festival travel rush hits 9.4 bln trips](#) (2026-03-14 06:42)

Graphics: China's 2026 Spring Festival travel rush hits 9.4 bln trips

- [China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System to undergo in-orbit upgrade](#) (2026-03-14 06:32)

China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System to undergo in-orbit upgrade

- [China's second large cruise ship float marks marine economy surge](#) (2026-03-14 04:48)

China's second large cruise ship float marks marine economy surge

- [Full text: Report on the Work of the Government](#) (2026-03-14 03:17)

Full text: Report on the Work of the Government

- [Hometown to horizon](#) (2026-03-14 03:05)

Hometown to horizon

- [Chinese FM calls for dialogue between Afghanistan, Pakistan](#) (2026-03-14 00:03)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that the issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan can only be resolved through dialogue and consultation.

- [THE QUESTION BEHIND GRAVES OF MINAB](#) (2026-03-13 16:15)

Over 160 children. One school. A question the world is asking. On February 28, an elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, was bombed. According to Iranian media reports, over 160 students, aged 7 to 12, died in the bombing. Beneath the rubble, parents wailed in despair, while across the world, people are asking the same question: Who bombed the school?

- [Chinese FM Wang Yi holds phone conversation with Dutch counterpart](#) (2026-03-13 15:14)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that both China and the Netherlands being committed to promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in an open and pragmatic spirit is in line with the common interests of the two sides.

- [Xi Jinping's key quotes on the well-being of people with disabilities](#) (2026-03-13 14:57)

Xi Jinping's key quotes on the well-being of people with disabilities

- [How China turns decades of green reform into green code](#) (2026-03-13 14:55)

How China turns decades of green reform into green code

- [Backgrounder: What came out of five rounds of China-US trade talks](#) (2026-03-13 14:20)

A new round of China-US economic and trade talks is set to take place in Paris, France, marking the latest step in a series of negotiations aimed at stabilizing one of the world's most significant bilateral economic and trade relationships.

- [World's first smart elder-care robot station opens in Beijing](#) (2026-03-13 14:09)

World's first smart elder-care robot station opens in Beijing

- [Chinese premier chairs State Council executive meeting](#) (2026-03-13 14:04)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Friday presided over a State Council executive meeting that approved the State Council's key work division plan for 2026.

- [China's first pharmacy robot goes into service in Beijing](#) (2026-03-13 13:06)

China's first pharmacy robot goes into service in Beijing

- [China imposes anti-dumping duties on Japan and Canada](#) (2026-03-13 12:42)

China will impose anti-dumping duties on imports of halogenated butyl rubber originating in Japan and Canada after a final ruling found that the products were dumped, causing material injury to the domestic industry, the Ministry of Commerce said on Friday.

- [Award-winning documentary 'Architecture Intelligence' returns](#) (2026-03-13 12:18)

Award-winning documentary 'Architecture Intelligence' returns

- [China's 2026 Spring Festival travel rush sees record 9.4 billion trips](#) (2026-03-13 12:17)

The inter-regional passenger trips across China during the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush (from February 2 to March 13), also known as Chunyun in Chinese, finished on March 13 with its total number reached a record of 9.4 billion, according to data from the Ministry of Transport.

- [China reiterates its opposition to US arms sales to Taiwan region](#) (2026-03-13 10:32)

China's position of firmly opposing the US arms sales to China's Taiwan region is consistent and clear, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

- [China Red Cross to offer \\$200,000 in emergency relief to Iran](#) (2026-03-13 10:16)

The Red Cross Society of China has decided to provide the Iranian Red Crescent Society with \$200,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance, Guo Jiakun, spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Friday.

- [China approves world's first invasive BCI medical device](#) (2026-03-13 10:13)

China approves world's first invasive BCI medical device

- [Our Long March: The Third Crossing of the Chishui River](#) (2026-03-13 10:01)

From March 16th to 17th, 1935, under the command of Mao Zedong and others, the Central Red Army crossed the Chishui River for the third time near Maotai Town in Guizhou Province. This action by the Red Army was a typical feint, with the main force deliberately appearing to be crossing the Yangtze River to the north, drawing the pursuing troops to the Gulin area in southern Sichuan Province.

- [Our Long March: Four Crossings of the Chishui River Memorial Tower](#) (2026-03-13 10:01)

Standing atop Zhushapu in Maotai Town, the Memorial Tower commemorates the four crossings of the Chishui River by the Central Red Army during the Long March (January 29 to March 22, 1935). The tower is 25 meters high, symbolizing the 25,000-li Long March.

- [New online show in Chengdu taps into booming pet economy](#) (2026-03-13 09:00)

A new variety show focused on China's rapidly growing pet economy is set to explore how pet culture is reshaping urban life and consumer trends.

- [Chinese ministers attend first China-Vietnam '3+3' strategic dialogue](#) (2026-03-13 08:46)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Minister of Public Security Wang Xiaohong, and Minister of National Defense Dong Jun will attend the first ministerial meeting of the China-Vietnam "3+3" strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defense and public security from March 15 to 17 in Vietnam.

- [Silent majesty of Jiangbulake's pastures a natural masterpiece](#) (2026-03-13 08:13)

Nestled in the heart of Xinjiang, Jiangbulake is renowned for its lush summer pastures. However, its snowy season transformation offers a completely different, yet equally stunning spectacle.

- [Visa-free entry boosts cruise tourism in Shanghai as Luminara arrives](#) (2026-03-13 08:11)

A new ultra-luxury cruise ship made its first visit to the Chinese mainland this week, docking along the illuminated banks of the Huangpu River in Shanghai.

- [A new highlight of Lhasa's cultural and tourism integration](#) (2026-03-13 08:09)

Zongjiao Lukang Park, aka Longwangtan Park, is located in Lhasa, just north of the Potala Palace. Zongjiao Lukang Park has become an ideal spot for leisure, exercise, and sightseeing.

- [China says US 301 trade probe is typical unilateralist act](#) (2026-03-13 07:06)

China urges the United States to correct its erroneous approach and return to the correct path of resolving issues through dialogue and consultation, said a spokesperson of China's Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

- [How China's unified national market boosts its economy](#) (2026-03-13 07:02)

Building a unified national market aims to remove regional barriers, improve the nationwide flow of resources and create a more efficient and predictable business environment. Analysts say it will unlock greater economic potential and provide more opportunities for the world.

- [From quantity to quality: China's high-tech approach to tree planting](#) (2026-03-13 06:51)

China's tree-planting drive is entering a new phase shifting from planting more trees to building healthier, higher-quality forests, with digital technology and artificial intelligence playing a growing role.

- [Chinese envoy attends Chilean president's inauguration](#) (2026-03-13 06:49)

Chinese envoy attends Chilean president's inauguration

- [China's Middle East envoy urges safeguarding civilians, shipping lanes](#) (2026-03-13 06:09)

China's special envoy for Middle East affairs on Thursday called for the protection of civilians and shipping lanes on Thursday, urging an immediate halt to military actions as regional tensions escalate.

- [China and US to hold economic, trade talks in France on March 14-17](#) (2026-03-13 05:31)

China and the United States will hold economic and trade talks in France on March 14-17, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce announced on Friday.

- [Apple to lower commissions on in-app purchases in China](#) (2026-03-13 05:10)

Apple has announced that it will cut its commissions on in-app purchases that apply to the Chinese mainland starting March 15, 2026.

- [Chasing Muqam – Episode 6: In the Valley of Grapes](#) (2026-03-13 04:56)

Chasing Muqam – Episode 6: In the Valley of Grapes

- [HKSAR govt actively aligns with national 15th FYP: chief executive](#) (2026-03-13 04:26)

John Lee, chief executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said on Thursday that Hong Kong will actively align with the outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan to

contribute to further deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization.

- [Symposium held in Taipei to mark Sun Yat-sen's 160th birth anniversary](#) (2026-03-13 04:23)

A symposium to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Sun Yat-sen was held in Taipei on Thursday.

- [China launches two test satellites for Earth observation](#) (2026-03-13 02:11)

China launched two new satellites from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in its southwest Sichuan Province on Friday.

- [China launches new group of internet satellites](#) (2026-03-13 00:36)

China launched a group of internet satellites from the Hainan commercial spacecraft launch site in south China's Hainan Province on Friday.

- [Int'l passenger train from China to DPRK arrives in Pyongyang](#) (2026-03-13 00:35)

An international passenger train from the city of Dandong in northeast China's Liaoning Province to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) arrived in Pyongyang on Thursday.

- [Reuters: China's mediation eases Pakistan-Afghan clashes](#) (2026-03-12 14:57)

Reuters: China's mediation eases Pakistan-Afghan clashes

- [Chinese FM Wang Yi holds phone talks with Cuban counterpart](#) (2026-03-12 14:50)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday held a phone conversation with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla at the latter's request.

- [NPC deputy: Small chip drives gains in Yangtze ecological protection](#) (2026-03-12 14:22)

NPC deputy: Small chip drives gains in Yangtze ecological protection

- [AWE 2026: Shanghai's visa-free gateway reimagines the global tech expo](#) (2026-03-12 14:14)

AWE 2026 runs March 12-15 in Shanghai as Asia's largest home appliance and consumer electronics expo, featuring 1,200 exhibitors across 170,000 square meters at SNIEC and the Oriental Hub with 30-day visa-free entry for international visitors.

- [Chinese foreign minister holds phone talks with Egyptian counterpart](#) (2026-03-12 14:03)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday called on all parties to urge those involved in the current conflict in the Middle East to cease military operations as soon as possible and prevent the situation from further escalation.

- [How China's 'talent dividend' will power growth in 15th FYP period](#) (2026-03-12 13:31)

The 15th Five-Year Plan for national economic and social development sets out how China plans to unleash the "talent dividend" to support its next stage of high-quality development.

- [Running without fear: How Beijing's streets offer safety for women](#) (2026-03-12 12:35)

Running without fear: How Beijing's streets offer safety for women

- [2026 Two Sessions: Confidence from the Great Hall of the People](#) (2026-03-12 12:27)

2026 Two Sessions: Confidence from the Great Hall of the People

- [Xi replies to letter from teachers, students of a French school](#) (2026-03-12 12:25)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has replied to a letter from teachers and students of the Chinese language class at an international school in France's Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, extending his best wishes to them and to all teachers and students of the school.

- [M5.3 quake hits China's Taiwan region](#) (2026-03-12 12:22)

M5.3 quake hits China's Taiwan region

- [Minister: China's marine economy grows as ocean industries expand](#) (2026-03-12 12:14)

Minister: China's marine economy grows as ocean industries expand

- [China to step up legal efforts to further improve business environment](#) (2026-03-12 10:49)

China will focus on enhancing legal regulations to further improve the business environment this year, Chinese Minister of Justice He Rong said on Thursday.

- [China travel: A smooth journey for global visitors](#) (2026-03-12 09:59)

As China's visa-free policies expand and travel services continue to improve, more tourists are discovering the country in ways that are easier and more accessible than ever before.

- [China to accelerate research on AI legislation this year, justice minister says](#) (2026-03-12 08:28)

China to accelerate research on AI legislation this year, justice minister says

- [A rooftop guardian's story: Meet Chiwen from Xixia Imperial Tombs](#) (2026-03-12 08:24)

Along the sweeping roof ridges and upturned eaves, small mythical creatures quietly stand guard. Often called rooftop beasts, these decorative figures were believed to ward off evil spirits and protect the wooden structures from disasters.

- [China rejects US political manipulation under cover of 'overcapacity'](#) (2026-03-12 08:23)

China opposes the United States using the so-called "overcapacity" as a pretext for political manipulation, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday, after the United States

reportedly announced it will launch trade investigations into 16 trading partners including China.

- [China's forest, grass coverage rate surpasses 56%](#) (2026-03-12 08:02)

China's forest, grass coverage rate surpasses 56%

- [Li fire dance: Hainan's ancient fire ritual](#) (2026-03-12 07:59)

Feel the heat and heartbeat of Hainan's Li fire dance – where dancers leap and spin through flying sparks in a breathtaking display of courage.

- [How data-driven intelligence is making China healthier](#) (2026-03-12 07:29)

How data-driven intelligence is making China healthier

- [Residents hug a 120-year-old tree in the Wuhan conservation campaign](#) (2026-03-12 07:28)

In Wuhan, central China, residents gathered in a city park to greet a very special neighbor – a Chinese hackberry tree that has stood there for 120 years.

- [Seminar delves into AV artistry behind life and loves of Cao Xueqin](#) (2026-03-12 07:24)

A seminar exploring a new film depicting the romantic life of Cao Xueqin, the novelist who penned the Chinese literary classic *A Dream of Red Mansions*, was recently held in Beijing. Directed and written by Mei Zi, the film represents China's first cinematic portrayal of the literary icon, exploring his profound love for three women.

- [Chinese envoy urges Lebanese-Israeli ceasefire at UN Security Council](#) (2026-03-12 07:18)

Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, on Wednesday urged the international community to make joint efforts to push for a Lebanese-Israeli ceasefire as soon as possible.

- [China Popcast: Short vertical dramas take over mobile screens](#) (2026-03-12 07:16)

Short vertical dramas have taken over feeds and mobile screens. American actor Christopher Boidy and Beijing Film Academy Associate Professor Mu Ling discuss the fast-paced fiction phenomenon and why it's so addictive.

- [Chinese President Xi Jinping attends closing meeting of national legislature's annual session](#) (2026-03-12 06:59)

Chinese President Xi Jinping attends closing meeting of national legislature's annual session

- [China's national legislature holds closing meeting of annual session](#) (2026-03-12 06:58)

The 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature, held the closing meeting of its fourth session on Thursday.

- [China marks Tree-Planting Day as 'Green Great Wall' expands](#) (2026-03-12 06:56)

China marks Tree-Planting Day as 'Green Great Wall' expands

- [Holding up half the sky: Women at China's Two Sessions](#) (2026-03-12 06:20)

Holding up half the sky: Women at China's Two Sessions

- [Record-size offshore wind turbine jackets delivered to Europe](#) (2026-03-12 06:00)

Record-size offshore wind turbine jackets delivered to Europe

- [How do China's logistics and e-commerce work so well together?](#) (2026-03-12 05:43)

How do China's logistics and e-commerce work so well together?

- [China takes opening win over Mali in FIBA Women's World Cup qualifiers](#) (2026-03-12 05:27)

China takes opening win over Mali in FIBA Women's World Cup qualifiers

- [Drink, move, screen: The simple blueprint for healthier kidneys](#) (2026-03-12 05:10)

Observed annually on the second Thursday of March, World Kidney Day falls on March 12 this year. The 2026 theme, "Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet," calls for a unified global response to kidney disease and its environmental intersections.

- [Chinese Gaming Language: A Syntax for a New Gaming Universe](#) (2026-03-12 04:18)

You might never have heard of "Wuxia Punk". As new phenomena arise, so does the need for words to describe them. China's game developers have been making serious attempts at incorporating important Chinese cultural elements into their gaming universe.

- [Where Chinese automakers have gained the most ground in Europe](#) (2026-03-12 03:22)

Where Chinese automakers have gained the most ground in Europe

- ['Raise a lobster' in China: Behind the OpenClaw Mania](#) (2026-03-12 01:39)

'Raise a lobster' in China: Behind the OpenClaw Mania

- [China's top political advisor visits press representatives](#) (2026-03-12 00:32)

China's top political advisor Wang Huning on Wednesday visited representatives of the press who covered the fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Source: China Defense Blog

- [Offline 3x weeks for vacation and other R&R;](#) (2026-03-15 06:42)

see you back online in mid April 2026

- [Insufficient Firepower Phobia \(IFP\) Photo Of The Day: Walk the beat with papasha](#) (2026-03-14 19:57)

p.p1 {margin: 0.0px 0.0px 12.0px 0.0px; font: 15.0px 'Ginto Copilot Variable'; color: #26221f}span.s1 {letter-spacing: 0.1px}A fun Chinese internet meme resurfaces every now and then, and “Insufficient Firepower Phobia” is one of the more entertaining. The meme plays on the historical sentiment: China fought outgunned in most her previous conflicts and the experience left a deep imprint on their

- [UMS Thalun Min is getting media attention in China](#) (2026-03-13 23:42)

When the Myanmar Navy launched its 3500 ton naval combatant, UMS Thalun Min in Dec 2024, it is getting alot of Chinese media attention ([link](#)) with some even coined "mini Type054". Now with UMS Thalun Min commissioned on March 8 2026, its Chinese equipped naval systems finally came to light. What we could tell are: SR2410C Export Radar C-802 anti-ship missile

- [6th Destroyer Flotilla, South Sea Fleet March 13th Update](#) (2026-03-13 19:07)

The two newly commissioned Type 055 destroyers (hulls 109 and 110) have now been assigned to the 6th Destroyer Flotilla. Prior to their arrival, the flotilla consisted of four Type 052C, two Type 052D, and three Type 052DG destroyers—nine Type 052 series ships in total. Friday, November 14, 2025 PLAN Update Of The Day: Repair of DDG164 Type 052D

- [R500CJ unmanned helicopter spotted on a Type075 Amphibious Landing Helicopter Dock LHD](#). (2026-03-13 03:10)

The AR500CJ is credited as one of China’ s first unmanned military helicopters ([link](#)), though it also has clear civilian applications, and its debut attracted media attention ([link](#)). It was one display at the September 3rd 2025 parade as well. Seeing the platform deployed aboard an Amphibious Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) in full PLAN livery represents a logical next step in its

- [A new remote controlled weapon system now in service](#) (2026-03-12 02:20)

One thing about observing the PLA is that, at times, new weapon systems enter service with surprisingly little attention. Take their latest remote controlled weapon station, for example. It’ s quietly replacing the older 12.7 mm HMG mounts on many APCs and artillery observation vehicles, yet most observers barely notice.LB16 3512 translates into 5th Company, 3rd Battalion, 204th Heavy Armored

Source: China | The Guardian

- [Inside China’ s robotics revolution](#) (2026-03-19 05:01)

How close are we to the sci-fi vision of autonomous humanoid robots? I visited 11 companies in five Chinese cities to find out Chen Liang, the founder of Guchi Robotics, an automation

company headquartered in Shanghai, is a tall, heavy-set man in his mid-40s with square-rimmed glasses. His everyday manner is calm and understated, but when he is in his element – up close with the technology he builds, or in business meetings discussing the imminent replacement of human workers by robots – he wears an exuberant smile that brings to mind an intern on his first day at his dream job. Guchi makes the machines that install wheels, dashboards and windows for many of the top Chinese car brands, including BYD and Nio. He took the name from the Chinese word guzhi, “steadfast intelligence”, though the fact that it sounded like an Italian luxury brand was not entirely unwelcome. For the better part of two decades, Chen has tried to solve what, to him, is an engineering problem: how to eliminate – or, in his view, liberate – as many workers in car factories as technologically possible. Late last year, I visited him at Guchi headquarters on the western outskirts of Shanghai. Next to the head office are several warehouses where Guchi’s engineers tinker with robots to fit the specifications of their customers. Chen, an engineer by training, founded Guchi in 2019 with the aim of tackling the hardest automation task in the car factory: “final assembly”, the last leg of production, when all the composite pieces – the dashboard, windows, wheels and seat cushions – come together. At present, his robots can mount wheels, dashboards and windows on to a car without any human intervention, but 80% of the final assembly, he estimates, has yet to be automated. That is what Chen has set his sights on. Continue reading...

- [Looking for leverage: China keeps close eye on US politics after summit delay](#) (2026-03-18 15:25)

Beijing seeks to decipher effect of Iran war on US midterms and best way to apply pressure when Trump meets XiThe White House said on Wednesday that China had agreed to postpone Donald Trump’s visit to Beijing, as war in the Middle East rages on, complicating the US president’s position at home and abroad. China has not yet commented on the delay to the highly anticipated trip, in which Trump and the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, will meet in person for the first time since October. Trump previously said he hoped to delay the trip, originally scheduled to run from 31 March to 2 April, for “five or six weeks”. Continue reading...

- [Trump is being schooled on the limits of US power – but he is a slow learner | Rafael Behr](#) (2026-03-18 07:00)

Last year it was China’s answer to tariffs, now it’s Iran’s retaliation to airstrikes – ‘America First’ keeps foundering on global economicsDonald Trump is teaching the world a lesson, but not the one he thinks. The attack on Iran was meant to be a dazzling display of military supremacy. It has instead illuminated chinks in the US’s armour. The US president’s formidable arsenal cannot summon up an insurrection from Iran’s tyrannised and leaderless opposition. It cannot force merchant ships to run a gauntlet of missile and drone attacks in the strait of Hormuz. The government in Tehran and the facts of geography that give it leverage over global trade are unchanged. Trump’s exasperation is showing. He urges tanker crews to “show some guts” by sailing into harm’s way. He calls on Nato members to provide naval chaperones and accuses them of cowardice and ingratitude for refusing. He comes across as

peevish and flustered. Impotence is not a good look in a potentate. Continue reading...

- [Rise and fall of Prince Group raises awkward questions for Cambodia](#) (2026-03-17 22:00)

Indictment and arrest of Prince Group founder Chen Zhi has sparked questions about scam industry' s alleged ties to political elite, and integrity of government crackdownA giant golden clam shell, illuminated by lurid neon lights and filled with playing cards and red dice, once glowed nightly on the facade of Sihanoukville' s Jin Bei casino. Today, the casino' s gaudy signage is covered by sheets, and its doorway blocked by a Chinese sign that reads "under renovation". The casino in the Cambodian resort city was once emblazoned with the name Jin Bei, a company US prosecutors have accused of running scam compounds on behalf Prince Group, which an October indictment alleged was one of Asia' s largest transnational criminal organisations. Continue reading...

- [Trump seeks to delay China summit as Vance denies 'wedge' over Iran war](#) (2026-03-16 23:52)

Pair attempt to strike united front amid reports vice-president skeptical over US-Israeli attack on IranDonald Trump revealed that he had asked China to delay his forthcoming visit to Beijing while the war with Iran was continuing, as he attempted to strike a united front on Monday with his vice-president JD Vance, who is believed to have been skeptical over attacking Tehran' s regime. Appearing together with Vance for the first time in two weeks, Trump said he did not think the conflict – which started on 28 February after the US and Israel opened hostilities – would be over this week but predicted victory would be achieved soon. Continue reading...

- [Trump' s threats to Nato reveal glaring absence of any strategy on Iran](#) (2026-03-16 18:04)

White House seems to have failed to anticipate that Tehran would fight back by trying to impose costs on the westMiddle East crisis – live updatesIf there was a moment when the absence of a US strategy on Iran was exposed, then this was it. Donald Trump demanded on Saturday that the UK, China, France, Japan and others participate in a naval escort for oil tankers through the strait of Hormuz. Despite launching the attack on Iran, with Israel, the White House does not seem to have fully anticipated what was likely to follow. Iran had few good military options for fighting back, but attacking US bases, US allies and merchant shipping in the Gulf was the most obvious response – to try to impose costs on the west. Continue reading...

- [Iran' s Hormuz blockade is its most powerful card against Trump and Israel. It won' t back down easily | Jack Watling](#) (2026-03-16 15:49)

By imposing massive costs on the global economy, the Iranian government hopes to cause the US to back downThe US and Israeli decision to attack Iran has sent economic shockwaves around the world. About 20% of global oil supplies have been effectively blocked from transiting the strait of Hormuz since Iran began attacking ships, resulting in a huge jump in oil prices. Militarily, while the United States has the firepower to significantly reduce Iran' s capacity to strike ships in the strait, it is unlikely to be able to eliminate the threat

entirely. Reopening the strait, therefore, is not only a question of military capabilities but of diplomacy, and to negotiate it is necessary to understand what each party to the conflict is trying to achieve. Continue reading...

- [China ‘still communicating’ with US over Trump visit despite talk of delay](#) (2026-03-16 15:25)

US president hinted that his trip could be put on hold if Beijing failed to help secure the strait of Hormuz. Middle East crisis – live updates. China says it is in communication with the US about Donald Trump’s planned visit to Beijing, despite hints from the US president that he might delay the trip if his prospective hosts do not help to unblock the strait of Hormuz. China’s foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said: “Head-of-state diplomacy plays an irreplaceable strategic guiding role in China-US relations. The two sides are maintaining communication regarding President Trump’s visit to China.” Continue reading...

- [Trump claims he has ‘absolute right’ to impose new tariffs after supreme court blow](#) (2026-03-16 05:09)

US supreme court has ‘ransacked’ the country, president argues, in wake of its ruling against his trade agenda. Donald Trump has claimed he has “the absolute right” to impose new tariffs after the US supreme court ruled many of the import duties he imposed last year were illegal. The president attacked the court in a late night broadside on Sunday, accusing it of having “unnecessarily RANSACKED” the US – and failing to show him sufficient loyalty. Continue reading...

- [Trump’s call for allied deployment to strait of Hormuz meets muted response](#) (2026-03-15 16:24)

UK and Japan among countries that are considering options but yet to commit warships to blockaded shipping route. Middle East crisis – live updates. Countries including the UK, Japan, China and South Korea have said they are still considering their options but without making commitments after the US president, Donald Trump, urged them to send warships to the strait of Hormuz to secure the vital shipping route. In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump called on the UK, China, France, Japan, South Korea and other countries to send ships to the waterway, the world’s busiest shipping route, which is being violently blockaded by Iran. Continue reading...

- [Apple cuts China App Store commission fees after government pressure](#) (2026-03-13 16:37)

The move, which lowers fees to 25%, is a breakthrough for Chinese developers Tencent and ByteDance. Sign up for the Breaking News US email to get newsletter alerts in your inbox. Apple announced late on Thursday it would lower the commission fees collected in its App Store in mainland China. The move follows pressure from regulators in the tech company’s second-largest market, as well as global scrutiny of its payment requirements. Fees for in-app

purchases and paid transactions will be lowered to 25% from 30% starting on Sunday, Apple said in a statement on its blog for developers. Continue reading...

- [Mining' s toxic timebomb: dams full of poisonous waste are dotted around the world. What happens when they burst?](#) (2026-03-13 05:00)

While tailings dams are meant to last for ever, extreme weather events are making many unstable – with devastating consequences for nature and humans. As soon as the barrier broke, a flood of poison brought death to the river. Gushing through the fragile wall built to hold back mining waste in Zambia' s copper belt in February 2025, more than 50m cubic litres of acid and heavy metals poured into the Chambishi stream – a tributary of the Kafue River, the country' s longest waterway. Thousands of lifeless fish rose to the surface as a plume of acid floated downriver, leaving dead crocodiles and other wildlife in its wake. Continue reading...

- [The kill line v Chinamaxxing: a window into how China and the US see each other](#) (2026-03-13 02:42)

In China, one social media trend hangs on the idea that a life in the US is always one step from disaster, while another in the US has gen Z revelling in Chinese lifestyle hacks. Across two online worlds that are normally splintered, over the last few months there has been a mirroring of sorts. On TikTok and Instagram, young people are diving into the joys of Chinese culture – from drinking hot water to playing mahjong – all under the banner of “Chinamaxxing”. On the Chinese internet, however, the US is losing its decades-long grip on soft power, and is instead being replaced by a darker trend: the kill line. The kill line is a dangerous place to be. In gaming, the term refers to the point at which a player' s strength is so depleted that one more blow could lead to total wipeout. In China, the term refers to the risks that come with daily life in the US. Continue reading...

- [Fears about nuclear war are reaching a fever pitch. Another grim sign of the times | Judith Levine](#) (2026-03-12 15:22)

News stories are weighing nuclear risk as experts muse on the possibility of global warfare. Intimations of world war three – the big one, nuclear Armageddon – didn' t arise yesterday. But they got more urgent when Donald Trump was elected the second time. In December 2024, Newsweek published a map of the “safest US states to live during nuclear war”. The article was not reassuring. “Nowhere is truly ‘safe’ ” from such consequences as “contamination of food and water supplies and prolonged radiation exposure”, said the senior policy director of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. Another expert noted that “even a ‘small’ nuclear war would ... kill at least a billion people”. And since 28 February, when the US and Israel began their bombardment of Iran, chatter about a world war has spiked, with everyone from anonymous social media users to Harvard policy wonks weighing in. Continue reading...

- [If oil price shocks weren' t bad enough, Trump' s war could have other unintended consequences | Adam Hanieh](#) (2026-03-12 14:00)

China consumes around 90% of Iran's oil exports, so could be forced to rely on alternative suppliers – particularly Russia. With the US-Israeli war against Iran in its second week, energy markets are in turmoil. On Thursday, the price of Brent Crude Oil topped \$100, only slightly lower than the \$119 peak per barrel on Monday. These swings have focused attention on key energy choke points such as the strait of Hormuz, where about one-fifth of the world's shipped oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) passes each day. This shutdown of the strait will be felt in people's everyday lives for months to come, particularly in the form of spiralling household bills. But oil prices alone do not capture the full economic significance of the conflict. Continue reading...

- [China's rubber-stamp parliament set to approve 'ethnic unity' law](#) (2026-03-12 00:00)

New legislation will require schools to use Mandarin by default, taking priority over minority ethnic languages such as Tibetan, Uyghur and Mongolian. China's National People's Congress (NPC), the state legislature, will vote on Thursday on a suite of new laws agreed at this year's annual two sessions gathering, including a piece of legislation that will diminish the role of minority ethnic languages in the education system. NPC delegates are expected to approve a new ethnic unity law, along with a new environmental code and the 15th five-year plan, the economic planning document for 2026-2030. Delegates have spent the last week debating Beijing's proposed bills, which they are all but certain to approve. The NPC, which is often described as a rubber-stamp parliament, has never rejected an item on its agenda. Continue reading...

Source: China - Foreign Policy

- [China's Hormuz Problem](#) (2026-03-17 19:47)

Beijing must navigate an oil crunch and fragile diplomacy with Washington.

- [Trump Seeks Help to Reopen Hormuz. Europe Says No.](#) (2026-03-16 21:47)

After months of bashing allies, the White House finds itself fighting largely alone.

- [BRICS Meets Reality in the Middle East War](#) (2026-03-16 16:21)

It's the latest case study in the persistent failure of transnational solidarity.

- ['Made in America' Should Accept Chinese Investment](#) (2026-03-16 11:00)

Private Chinese capital is being locked out of mutually beneficial opportunities.

- [What China's Five-Year Plan Says About Its Economy](#) (2026-03-13 15:41)

A growth target of 4.5 percent is the lowest in decades.

- [How to \(Not\) Be a Pacific Power](#) (2026-03-12 17:01)

Washington has yet to recognize that mobility is an essential part of regional security.

- [The Irresistible Urge to Invoke World War III](#) (2026-03-12 10:29)

Forget the inflated comparisons. Neither the war in the Middle East nor the Russian invasion of Ukraine ever signaled a global conflagration.

Source: Financial Times China

- [What happened to China's fake Van Goghs?](#) (2026-03-19 05:00)

Dafen once produced 60 per cent of the world's new oil paintings — now this village of copyists is under threat

- [AI is moving from answering questions to taking action](#) (2026-03-19 00:01)

China is likely to be both the testing ground and a leader in the use of agents

- [A guide to Hong Kong's best under-the-radar art spaces](#) (2026-03-18 12:00)

From pop-ups and residencies to cross-gallery 'knots', an alternative scene thrives alongside the city's blue-chip galleries

- [Suspensions grow that China is exploiting FOI laws to gather UK security data](#) (2026-03-18 05:00)

Government figures believe Beijing may be behind a significant proportion of recent requests

- [Shahzia Sikander: 'I've carried the erasure of feminine narratives'](#) (2026-03-18 05:00)

The Pakistani-American artist earned accolades for her boundary-pushing reinvention of miniature painting — then rightwing protesters came for her art

- [EU small parcels tax will not halt flood of Chinese goods, top official warns](#) (2026-03-18 05:00)

Brussels will impose a €3 duty per type of item bought online and shipped into the bloc from July

- [The AI craze that has its claws into China](#) (2026-03-18 03:04)

OpenClaw takes China by storm as local governments encourage creation of AI agents for productivity gains

- [Li Ka-shing builds cash pile as Hong Kong family empire looks to its next deal](#) (2026-03-18 02:59)

CK Hutchison has been selling assets across its portfolio but is unlikely to return capital to shareholders

- [Nvidia restarts manufacturing of AI chips for China](#) (2026-03-17 20:38)

Chief executive Jensen Huang says company received flood of orders and American licences over past two weeks

- [The era of US dominance in economic warfare is over](#) (2026-03-17 15:22)

America has long used sanctions to coerce adversaries, but Iran and China can wield powerful economic weapons too

- [Philip Tinari on growing China's museum audience: 'It's about bringing things in from the outside'](#) (2026-03-17 13:00)

The new head of art at Tai Kwun on Hong Kong's resilience, bringing Matisse to Beijing — and what gets past the censors

- [China is not going to bail Trump out](#) (2026-03-17 11:52)

The US president has a better chance of cajoling help from Nato partners

- [Who ate all the Chinese stock market returns?](#) (2026-03-17 06:00)

China got rich. Less so equity punters.

- [Iran war tests China's oil stockpile](#) (2026-03-17 04:00)

Beijing has driven big increase in reserves of strategic commodities but their scale remains secret

- [FirstFT: Donald Trump asks to postpone Beijing summit with Xi Jinping](#) (2026-03-16 22:23)

Also in today's newsletter: China's JD.com launches European ecommerce service, and Macquarie takes on Australia's retail lenders

- [Trump asks to postpone summit with China's Xi due to Iran war](#) (2026-03-16 22:07)

US president says he needs to remain in Washington because of the conflict in the Middle East

- [Is Hong Kong's art market \(slowly\) bouncing back?](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)

As Art Basel returns to the city, gallerists are adapting to more conservative tastes in straitened times

- [Can the last bamboo artisans of Hong Kong survive the modern age?](#) (2026-03-16 05:00)

The material is an inescapable part of the city's landscape and heritage — but its future is precarious

- [China's economy rebounded ahead of Iran crisis](#) (2026-03-16 04:25)

Beijing warns of geopolitical risks even as key indicators show growth

- [Trump throws US-China reboot off course by saying he could delay Xi summit](#) (2026-03-16 01:37)

President casts doubt on visit with Chinese leader as officials from both countries lay groundwork for improved relations

- [China's answer to Amazon launches rival European ecommerce service](#) (2026-03-16 00:01)

JD.com will launch service under its Joybuy brand after previously trying to crack the market in 2022

- [Trump warns Nato faces 'very bad future' if allies fail to help US in Iran](#) (2026-03-15 23:05)

US president tells the FT in an interview that China summit could be delayed

- [Renewable jet fuel may face price war with China, warns top producer](#) (2026-03-15 05:00)

Neste chief calls for a 'level playing field' following heavy investment

- [Hong Kong plans to 'name and shame' lawyers and auditors for sloppy IPO work](#) (2026-03-13 09:30)

Proposal comes as regulators grapple with influx of Chinese companies looking to raise funds in the city

- [The illicit Iranian oil hiding in plain sight](#) (2026-03-13 05:17)

Shipments provide a vital source of income for Iran and allow China to stock up large reserves

- [Iran war tests Xi's plan to build China's stockpiles](#) (2026-03-13 04:35)

Beijing has driven major increase in strategic commodity inventories but their scale remains unclear

- [India opens the door to China](#) (2026-03-13 01:30)

Also in this newsletter: Middle East war triggers gas shortage

- [Why China's renminbi push matters even if it never rivals the dollar](#) (2026-03-13 00:01)

If renminbi settlement becomes cheaper and more trade migrates, firms will have less need to generate or hold US currency

- [China targets more 'employment-friendly' growth](#) (2026-03-12 13:41)

Shortage of jobs a focus at rubber-stamp parliament even as government doubles down on high-tech sectors

- [Trump’ s choices are only pushing China and Russia closer together](#) (2026-03-12 13:07)

Beijing and Moscow look to one another for energy and economic security amid geopolitical turbulence

- [Hong Kong arrests hedge fund and brokerage staff in \\$300mn insider trading probe](#) (2026-03-12 06:44)

Authorities allege brokers accepted bribes in exchange for information on share placements

- [China’ s forgotten consumers](#) (2026-03-12 06:30)

Plus more on private credit and BDCs

- [Trump’ s Iran folly is handing Xi Jinping weapons in the trade war](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

Despite China being a huge oil importer, US mismanagement will give Beijing the upper hand in upcoming talks

- [Which chokepoint wins in a game of geoeconomic Top Trumps?](#) (2026-03-12 05:00)

It depends on its damage to the target, potential for blowback and durability

- [Inside the labs training China’ s humanoid robots](#) (2026-03-12 01:15)

Network of training farms aims to supply data needed to put ‘brains’ into machines

Source: New York Times China

- [Ozempic Is About to Go Generic in India, China and Canada](#) (2026-03-19 04:00)

In India, China and several other nations, Novo Nordisk is on the verge of losing patent protection for its blockbuster weight loss drug, opening the door for cheaper competing versions.

- [American TikTok Users Are Fantasizing About ‘Being Chinese’](#) (2026-03-18 09:00)

While “Chinamaxxing,” users seem to be processing anxieties about the decline of their own country.

- [China Ramps Up Scrutiny of Meta’ s Acquisition of Manus](#) (2026-03-17 20:45)

The country appears to be cracking down on people linked to the acquisition of Manus, a Singapore company with Chinese roots, as President Trump prepares to visit Beijing.

- [China Is Embracing OpenClaw, a New A.I. Agent, and the Government Is Wary](#) (2026-03-17 16:20)

Excitement about A.I. assistant tools is running into growing concerns about the security risks of software that operates autonomously on user's devices.

- [What the Iran War Means for the U.S.-China Relationship](#) (2026-03-17 05:15)

With the Xi-Trump summit now almost certainly delayed, and tensions rising over the war in Iran, vital issues for both the U.S. and China are also being cast into uncertainty.

- [Trump Officials Look to More Managed Approach to Trade With China](#) (2026-03-16 21:03)

The administration has begun discussing a new “Board of Trade” with China to try to balance what U.S. officials see as an unequal economic relationship.

- [Why Trump's Strait of Hormuz Problem Is Going Global](#) (2026-03-16 14:50)

President Trump is getting little to no support so far for his call that other countries do their part to try to ease an energy crisis prompted by U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran.

- [Trump's Threat to Delay Summit With Xi Casts New Shadow Over China Relations](#) (2026-03-16 11:29)

President Trump warned that he could postpone a meeting set to begin in just over two weeks if China refuses to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

- [Entering War's Third Week, Trump Faces Stark Choices](#) (2026-03-15 22:25)

As the conflict with Iran expands and intensifies, President Trump's options — to fight on, or to move toward declaring victory and pulling back — both carry deeply problematic consequences.

- [After Trump's Call to Send Warships to Strait of Hormuz, Nations Respond With Caution](#) (2026-03-15 17:33)

President Trump has urged China, Britain, France, Japan and South Korea to send warships to help reopen the waterway, even though they were not involved in the U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran.

- [China's Edge in an Oil Shock: Electric Cars and Renewables](#) (2026-03-14 04:00)

Beijing's decades-long push to reduce its dependence on foreign oil with huge investments in clean energy sources like electric vehicles is now paying off.

- [Read Some of John F. Burns's Reporting From Around the World](#) (2026-03-13 19:52)

In a 40-year career as an international correspondent for The New York Times, Mr. Burns had a talent for capturing the sweep of history in intricate detail.

- [China's Plan to Spur Consumer Spending Is a Mirage](#) (2026-03-13 05:00)

China may never be able to realize its longtime promise to shift away from an overreliance on exports.

- [How the War in Iran Could Help China and Change Asia](#) (2026-03-13 04:00)

American officials have said for years that they would prioritize the Indo-Pacific. Now they're moving warships, missiles and air defenses out for a war in the Middle East.

- [Surging Energy Costs Put German Industry 'Really in Danger'](#) (2026-03-13 04:00)

Four years after the Russian invasion of Ukraine sent energy prices soaring, the war in Iran is posing another challenge to efforts to revive European factories.

- [Trump to Target Forced Labor in Global Tariff Scheme](#) (2026-03-12 20:31)

The Trump administration is expected to begin a trade investigation into whether dozens of countries have policies to combat forced labor.

- [China Wants Its Ethnic Minorities to Blend In. Now It's the Law.](#) (2026-03-12 09:16)

Under a new "ethnic unity" law, Mandarin Chinese must now be the language of teaching. Parents must guide their children to love the Communist Party. Neighborhoods should be mixed.

- [Trump's Way of Doing Business With the World May Cost All of Us](#) (2026-03-12 09:03)

Either the budget changes, or America's relationship with the rest of the world does.

- [At China's Big Political Meeting, a Rare Debate About Inequality](#) (2026-03-12 06:38)

China's plan to raise pensions for farmers by less than \$3 a month prompted rare criticism from lawmakers about the country's threadbare social safety net.

Source: South China Morning Post

- [South Korean cafe's US\\$1.35 'toilet without ordering' menu flush with criticism](#) (2026-03-19 06:00)

A social media post showing a cafe charging 2,000 won (US\$1.35) for restroom use without a purchase has sparked heated debate online in South Korea. The image featured a screenshot of a self-order kiosk displaying a menu item reading "restroom use without ordering", priced at 2,000 won per person per visit. The post also drew mixed reactions in an online community for small business owners. One user said the fee was understandable, writing that many people come in just to use the restroom...

- [Leading Chinese remote-sensing scientist Zhang Jinshui dies at 47](#) (2026-03-19 06:00)

Zhang Jinshui, a pioneering scientist in remote sensing who led major R&D programmes in China and was instrumental in enhancing the country's food security with satellite technologies, has died at the age of 47. Zhang, a professor and doctoral supervisor in the faculty

of geographical science at Beijing Normal University, died in Beijing on March 9 following “unsuccessful medical treatment” , according to multiple mainland media reports. Last Wednesday the research institute where he had been...

- [China café offers coffee made with eggs brewed in child urine; considered nutritious delicacy](#) (2026-03-19 06:00)

A coffee shop in China is offering a new type of Americano which includes eggs brewed in child urine, a drink believed to be of nutritional value. The shop in Dongyang city in eastern China’s Zhejiang province recently began to offer the special brew, claiming it was popular. Costing 28 yuan (US\$4) per cup, the outlet sold more than 100 cups a day at weekends. Eggs brewed in child urine are a speciality in Dongyang. Locals believe that child urine, or urine from boys under the age of 10, can...

- [Prolonged Iran war could have ‘serious’ impact on food prices, says UN’s FAO](#) (2026-03-19 06:00)

The United Nations has warned the conflict in the Middle East is sending shock waves from the fertiliser industry to food prices, as countries across the northern hemisphere – including China – enter their spring planting seasons. If the conflict lasts longer than three months, the impact would become “significantly more serious” , affecting input costs in agriculture and disrupting the next planting season with longer-term consequences, chief economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of...

- [Cambodia boosts fuel imports from Singapore, Malaysia amid petrol station closures](#) (2026-03-19 04:55)

Cambodia is importing more fuel from suppliers in Singapore and Malaysia to make up for supply shortfalls from Vietnam and China, its energy minister said on Wednesday, as the US-Israeli war on Iran squeezes fuel availability globally. About a third of the 6,300 petrol stations in the country of nearly 18 million people closed last week due to uncertainty over the impact of the conflict on fuel prices, but only 5.77 per cent are closed currently, Energy Minister Keo Rottanak said. Vietnam and...

- [Hong Kong businessman Jason Poon, 5 others arrested in HK\\$6 million fraud case](#) (2026-03-19 04:28)

Hong Kong businessman Jason Poon Cheuk-hung, his wife and four others have been arrested on suspicion of defrauding an enterprise financing scheme out of HK\$6 million (US\$765,500) during the Covid-19 pandemic, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source confirmed to the SCMP on Thursday that construction businessman Poon, 56, and his 54-year-old wife were among six people arrested the day before for conspiracy to defraud. Police intelligence suggested a surgical mask manufacturer had...

- [Philippine police thwart Roblox-linked school shooting plot by 7 teens](#) (2026-03-19 04:22)

Philippine police have foiled a school shooting and rescued seven students radicalised by “foreigners” online to stage an attack in Laguna province near Manila, as calls grow to enhance parental safeguards against digital threats. Officers rounded up the suspects – five boys and two girls, aged 12 to 17 – on February 2 after receiving a tip-off about the alleged plot they intended to carry out a fortnight later, the Philippine Star reported. The teens, who were turned over to social workers,...

- [Why tiny atomic clocks may hold the key to China mass-producing cheap swarm drones](#) (2026-03-19 04:00)

Timing is everything in modern warfare, where even a nanosecond’s delay can make the difference between hitting or missing a target in a coordinated drone or missile attack. China may now have taken a major step forward in this field with the mass production of the world’s smallest atomic clock – something the researchers behind it say could transform drone warfare, underwater navigation and battlefield communication. Developed by a research team led by Professor Chen Jiehua from Wuhan...

- [AI version of late actor Val Kilmer to co-star in new movie](#) (2026-03-19 03:30)

Actor Val Kilmer will posthumously appear in what First Line Films calls a first-ever performance enabled by generative artificial intelligence in the upcoming film *As Deep as the Grave*, the production company announced on Wednesday. Kilmer, best known for roles in *Top Gun*, *The Doors* and *Batman Forever*, had originally been cast as Father Fintan - a Catholic priest and Native American spiritualist - but was unable to work on set due to complications stemming from throat cancer. He was 65 when...

- [FBI ‘investigating’ top US security official who resigned over Iran war](#) (2026-03-19 03:04)

The FBI is investigating whether Joe Kent, who resigned his position as a top counterterrorism official this week in protest of the Iran war, improperly shared classified information, a person familiar with the matter said Wednesday. The investigation precedes Kent’s resignation Tuesday from his role as director of the US government’s National Counterterrorism Centre, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing FBI inquiry. But it comes as the Justice Department...

- [Japan gets tough against teachers’ sexual misconduct, voyeurism after arrests](#) (2026-03-19 03:00)

Japan’s education ministry has launched a campaign to fight sexual misconduct involving teachers and revised regulations against voyeurism in the wake of seven male educators arrested last year for taking inappropriate videos of students and sharing them on social media. A law aimed at preventing sexual misconduct in the nation’s schools went into effect in 2022, but revisions were introduced as a result of the offences. The ministry intends to update teachers on the rules, including dismissal...

- [China' s global tech push](#) (2026-03-19 02:40)

–

- [‘Unprecedented in spread’ : UK races to contain deadly meningitis outbreak](#) (2026-03-19 02:38)

Britain will roll out meningitis vaccines to students at a university in southeast England after an “unprecedented” outbreak of the disease killed two people while the number of new cases jumped to 20. The UK Health Security Agency said all those affected were young people. A 21-year-old student at the University of Kent and a teenage student at a school in the town of Faversham have died. Six of the nine confirmed cases are group B (MenB), the agency added. It was also aware of a baby with a...

- [World' s ‘happiest’ places revealed as social media weighs on us](#) (2026-03-19 02:17)

Heavy social media use contributes to a stark decline in well-being among young people, with the effects particularly worrying in teenage girls in English-speaking countries and western Europe according to the World Happiness Report 2026 published on Thursday. The annual report, published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford, also found that Finland is the happiest land in the world for the ninth year in a row, with other Nordic countries such as Iceland, Denmark, Sweden...

- [How China opened the door to creating a direct rival to US payment systems](#) (2026-03-19 02:00)

China' s recent changes to the rules governing its global payment system could pave the way for turning it into a genuine alternative to Western networks, according to a new report. Beijing now appears to be moving towards building the Cross-border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) into a global platform compliant with multicurrency settlements and other foreign payment channels, said the study led by Ju Jiandong, a chair professor at Tsinghua University' s PBC School of Finance. Beijing recently...

- [Middle East banks eye Hong Kong as ‘safe haven’ amid Iran threats, InvestHK head says](#) (2026-03-19 01:30)

Middle East banks and wealthy investors are poised to increase their investments in Hong Kong amid geopolitical tensions to diversify their risk and capture growing opportunities in Asia, according to the head of InvestHK, the government agency tasked with attracting foreign investment. A couple of Middle East banks were in the process of setting up offices in Hong Kong with the help of InvestHK, said Alpha Lau Hai-suen, its director general. These additions would strengthen the city' s ties with...

- [Why North Korea' s Kim expects the US to come ‘cap in hand’ for Trump talks](#) (2026-03-19 01:30)

North Korea fired a volley of ballistic missiles on Saturday, just as US officials were in Seoul exploring ways to reopen talks with the regime that launched them. But Kim Jong-un is not waiting by the phone. Instead, analysts say North Korea's supreme leader has set terms that leave little room for negotiation, with a calendar that leaves even less room for a summit. US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Michael DeSombre touched down in Seoul last week and met Jeong...

- [Here's what an executive-led government really means in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-19 01:30)

In my experience, most people misunderstand the concept of “separation of powers”, and so I would not be at all surprised if most people also misunderstand the term “executive-led government”. In the case of separation of powers, the confusion usually arises from the use of the word “separation”. It connotes a meaning of absolute independence or alienation. A better word would have been “division”. The concept of separation of powers focuses on the division of power in a government and how that...

- [Video evidence shows Tai Po fire spread from ground to top in just 90 seconds](#) (2026-03-19 01:24)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. The first of a series of public evidential hearings into a fire that engulfed a residential complex in Hong Kong and killed at least 168 people begins on Thursday, nearly four months after the disaster. Ordered by the city's leader and overseen by a judge-led independent committee, the hearings are meant to “clarify the relevant facts through oral evidence,...

- [China's PLA reveals AI-assisted aerial refuelling tech days after US military tanker crash](#) (2026-03-19 01:00)

The People's Liberation Army has announced a new AI-assisted task dispatch system for China's aerial refuelling tankers, days after a US military tanker crashed in the Middle East. According to the official PLA Daily, the Chinese air force has streamlined its aerial refuelling operations with a smart artificial intelligence (AI) system to improve efficiency and safety. The report on Monday came just days after a US Air Force Boeing KC-135 “Stratotanker” aerial refuelling tanker crashed in...

- [Chinese man lives for 8 years with chopstick stuck in throat, resisting surgery due to fear](#) (2026-03-19 01:00)

A man in China who had a 12cm-long metal chopstick lodged in his throat for eight years recently had surgery to remove the object. The man, surnamed Wang, underwent the surgery at Dalian Municipal Central Hospital in northeastern Liaoning province in early March. His experience has shocked internet users, the Daxiang News reported. Eight years ago, Wang swallowed the chopstick by accident while eating and drinking alcohol. At the time he felt pain but did not have any breathing problems. When...

- [Call for review over how Hong Kong manages wild boars and buffaloes](#) (2026-03-19 00:30)

Animal rights groups have urged Hong Kong authorities to review their culling strategy for wild boars and to install animal bridges and other measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict in urban areas after incidents involving wild boars and a buffalo. They warned that as urban expansion, particularly the Northern Metropolis project, cleared large tracts of land and further eroded wildlife habitat, poor city planning would worsen the situation, endangering more animals. On Tuesday, authorities...

- [Russian hypersonic jets buzz Japan's coast in 'thinly veiled threat'](#) (2026-03-19 00:00)

Russia's defence ministry has released footage of its fighter jets carrying Kinzhal hypersonic missiles conducting exercises over the Sea of Japan, or East Sea, with the move interpreted as a message to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi ahead of her talks with US President Donald Trump in Washington. The video shows a MiG-31 with a Kinzhal missile slung beneath its fuselage, with the ministry saying the aircraft was one of several that carried out manoeuvres off Japan's northern coast....

- [Pop Mart's Labubu headed to big screen in collaboration with Sony Pictures](#) (2026-03-19 00:00)

Chinese toymaker Pop Mart and Sony Pictures Entertainment announced on Thursday a feature film starring Labubu, the company's most popular character. Analysts said the film was a strategic move to extend Labubu's intellectual property (IP) value and support medium-term growth, following the trajectory of global icons like Barbie and Hello Kitty. The film, still in early development, would be a mix of live action and computer-generated imagery, Pop Mart said in a statement. Lung Ka-sing, the...

- [Mexico invites Spain's king to World Cup in sign of thaw](#) (2026-03-18 23:34)

Spain's King Felipe VI has been invited to the 2026 World Cup in Mexico by President Claudia Sheinbaum, the royal palace said on Wednesday, signalling a thaw in relations between the two countries. Diplomatic relations have been strained since 2019, when the Mexican government demanded that the Spanish crown apologise for the abuses committed during the conquest and subsequent colonisation of the Americas in the 16th century. Sheinbaum excluded the king from her inauguration in October 2024...

- [Hong Kong follows Federal Reserve to keep base rate unchanged amid Middle East war](#) (2026-03-18 23:16)

Hong Kong's monetary authority kept its base rate unchanged after a similar move by the US Federal Reserve, as analysts said that the Middle East conflict has added to the uncertainty over the pace of rate cuts this year. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) maintained the city's base rate at 4 per cent on Thursday. Hours earlier, the Fed also kept its target rate in the range of 3.5 per cent to 3.75 per cent, after the second meeting of the Federal Open Market

Committee (FOMC) this...

- [Why Beijing has struggled to rally Asia against Japan over Takaichi's Taiwan remarks](#) (2026-03-18 22:00)

China and Japan's long-standing rivalry has deep historic roots, and relations between the two have taken a significant turn for the worse in recent months. This, the second in a three-part series, looks at whether Beijing overplayed its hand on the Taiwan issue in the face of what is a 'strategic reality' for Japan and how it may leverage its history of Japanese aggression. Find the first part here. More than four months into the bitter chill that has settled over China-Japan relations, the...

- [Fears grow over US drug supply's rising dependence on Chinese ingredients](#) (2026-03-18 21:33)

Beijing's global pharmaceutical push is following a playbook seen in rare earths, semiconductors and electric vehicles, US lawmakers said on Wednesday, as concerns grow over the United States' reliance on Chinese drug ingredients. "China is cornering the market on our medicines – from the supply of generic drugs that Americans depend on every day, to the cutting-edge biotech pipeline that will determine who leads medicine in the years and decades ahead," said John Moolenaar, the chair of the...

- [Europe says no to Trump's Iran demands: 'not our war'](#) (2026-03-18 20:12)

When US President Donald Trump asked countries to join a global effort against Iran and deploy ships to prise open the Strait of Hormuz, whose near closure has held the global economy in a vice, he was rebuffed by some of America's closest allies. Using unusually blunt language, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told his country's lawmakers on Wednesday that he agreed Iran must not be allowed to pose a threat to its neighbours but expressed doubts about the rationale behind the US-Israeli...

- [Iran can still attack US interests, government appears intact, spy chief Gabbard says](#) (2026-03-18 19:34)

Iran's government has been degraded since the war began on February 28, but it appears to be intact and Tehran and its proxies remain capable of attacking US and allies' interests in the Middle East, US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard said on Wednesday. "The regime in Iran appears to be intact but largely degraded by Operation Epic Fury," Gabbard said, referring to the US-Israel military campaign against Iran, in her opening statement to the Senate Intelligence Committee's...

- [US Fed defies Trump to keep interest rates unchanged amid Iran war concerns](#) (2026-03-18 18:52)

The US Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged on Wednesday as expected, in defiance of President Donald Trump as the world's largest economy battles stubborn inflation, weak

labour demand and an “uncertain” outlook due to the war in Iran. The Fed’s 11-1 vote kept rates steady at a range between 3.50 per cent and 3.75 per cent, with officials flagging one expected rate cut by the end of the year. “The implications of developments in the Middle East for the US economy are uncertain,” the...

- [US says mainland China not planning to attack Taiwan in 2027 after threat assessment](#)
(2026-03-18 18:12)

Beijing is unlikely to attack Taiwan next year, given security and economic deterrents, including its belief that an amphibious assault could fail and that the technological, supply chain and investor costs would be huge, according to a US threat assessment released on Wednesday. The intelligence overview appeared to walk back a projection by the Pentagon last year that Beijing wanted to take the self-governing island by force as early as 2027 and comes as US President Donald Trump takes a more...

- [Iran threatens Gulf energy targets after Pars gas field struck, sending oil prices higher](#)
(2026-03-18 17:03)

Iran’s huge Pars gas field was hit on Wednesday in the first reported strikes on Iran’s Gulf energy infrastructure of the US-Israeli war, prompting Tehran to announce it would respond with attacks on oil and gas targets throughout the Gulf. Oil prices shot up after the attack, a major escalation in a war that has already halted shipping from the world’s most important energy-producing region and could now bring lasting damage to its infrastructure. Benchmark Brent crude prices rose around 5...

- [Trump allows foreign ships between domestic ports to stabilise petrol costs amid Iran war](#)
(2026-03-18 16:25)

US President Donald Trump has announced a temporary 60-day suspension of the Jones Act, the century-old law that mandates cargo moving between domestic ports be transported on vessels built, operated and staffed by American citizens or permanent residents. The move comes in response to the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz – a key chokepoint – amid the escalating US-Israeli war against Iran, which has triggered the most severe global oil supply disruption in recent history. The waiver allows...

- [Pakistan to pause Afghan strikes for Eid at request of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey](#)
(2026-03-18 15:39)

Pakistan announced on Wednesday a pause in strikes against Afghanistan, saying the decision was made ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr at the request of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey. In a statement, Pakistan’s information minister Attaullah Tarar said the pause in strikes on “terrorists and their support infrastructure in Afghanistan” would take effect at midnight on Wednesday and remain in place until midnight on Monday. “Pakistan offers this gesture in good faith and in keeping with...

- [2 Hongkongers held after raids on 3 illegal fuel stations amid oil price spike](#) (2026-03-18 15:19)

Hong Kong authorities have raided three illegal fuelling stations and arrested two men, seizing more than 1,800 litres (475.5 gallons) of petrol with an estimated market value of HK\$54,000 (US\$6,891) as oil prices continue to spike amid the widening conflict in the Middle East. The joint crackdown by the Fire Services Department and the Customs and Excise Department in the past week also led to the detention of three vehicles and the arrest of a suspected station operator and...

- [Chaos over Donald Trump' s China trip likely to further test Beijing' s patience with US](#) (2026-03-18 15:00)

Visits to China by foreign leaders are tightly choreographed and meticulously planned affairs, even by the usual standards of international diplomacy. But the chaotic nature of Donald Trump' s White House and his request to delay a planned visit to China in the wake of his decision to attack Iran are widely believed to be causing increasing frustration in Beijing. The South China Morning Post has previously reported that preparations for the visit had been dogged by problems, with the Chinese...

- [Hong Kong securities watchdog urges stock exchange to tighten listing, compliance rules](#) (2026-03-18 14:50)

Hong Kong' s securities regulator on Wednesday recommended strengthening the stock exchange' s regulations to better protect investors following a review of 2024 compliance and enforcement cases. The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) submitted its findings after vetting listed companies' internal control reviews, their handling of late auditor resignations and the processes of the Hong Kong stock exchange' s listing division. The regulator noted that while the stock exchange "had taken steps...

- [Zelensky urges EU to bypass Hungary' s 'blackmail' veto on vital US\\$103 billion loan](#) (2026-03-18 14:35)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday urged the European Union to overcome a veto by Hungary on a €90 billion (US\$103 billion) loan vital for his country. Zelensky, during a visit to Madrid to meet Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, said he considered that the "main issue" of an EU summit to be held Thursday and Friday in Brussels. "We are really counting on the countries and the EU to find ways to resolve this issue," he said. Hungary' s Prime Minister Viktor Orban – Russian...

- [Why tariffs aren' t the biggest factor holding back US-Asean trade](#) (2026-03-18 14:30)

When the Trump administration rolled out sweeping tariffs on "Liberation Day" in April 2025, the reaction across Southeast Asia was swift: markets dipped, supply chains scrambled and governments went into damage control. Governments had a choice: retaliate or negotiate. They negotiated. Southeast Asian countries including Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia have signed

Agreements on Reciprocal Trade with the United States. Those deals lowered tariffs from their peak levels and opened market access...

- [Red Sea fix? China-bound oil tankers tap Saudi plan to bypass Strait of Hormuz](#)

(2026-03-18 14:00)

Saudi Arabia is activating its Red Sea “Plan B” to divert crude via the port of Yanbu, allowing tankers – including Chinese very large crude carriers (VLCCs) – to bypass the Strait of Hormuz, though analysts warn the route has limited capacity. The move comes after Iran effectively closed the strait in response to United States and Israeli military strikes, a conflict now in its third week that has rattled global energy markets. New Vista, a VLCC owned by China Merchants Energy Shipping, had...

- [Iranian women footballers return home after withdrawing Australia asylum bids](#)

(2026-03-18 13:47)

The Iranian women’s soccer team crossed the Turkish border into Iran on Wednesday to complete a fraught return journey from Australia, after five members withdrew asylum claims they had lodged there. Australia had granted humanitarian visas to six players and one support staff member after they sought asylum, saying they feared possible persecution if they returned to Iran. Concerns over their safety surfaced when several players failed to sing the national anthem at a women’s Asian Cup match...

- [Chinese experts assess military decapitation in Iran, Venezuela for lessons closer to home](#)

(2026-03-18 13:37)

Iran’s power structure, succession mechanism and geographic conditions are all factors in its military resilience, despite the decapitation of its leadership by the US and Israel, according to Chinese experts. They also said the United States was unlikely to achieve regime change in Iran without deploying ground forces, a lesson one expert argued Beijing would take into account for any operation on Taiwan. Beginning on February 28, the US and Israel have killed a string of senior Iranian...

- [Hong Kong campsite operator who murdered ‘alien’ girlfriend jailed for life](#)

(2026-03-18 13:20)

A Hong Kong campsite operator has been convicted of murdering his live-in girlfriend and sentenced to life imprisonment after telling police he believed she was an alien, with the judge describing the killing as a “vicious, brutal and savage attack and murder”. A High Court jury of four men and three women on Wednesday unanimously found Tang Lung-fai, 56, guilty of causing the death of Fok Sin-yee, 38, who was also known as Maggie, on or about April 14, 2022. Madam Justice Susana D’Almada...

- [Hong Kong to establish global version of university entrance exam on pilot basis](#)

(2026-03-18 12:47)

Hong Kong's education authorities plan to establish an "internationally benchmarked" version of the city's university entrance exam on a pilot basis to allow foreign students to apply for admission to higher education institutions both locally and in mainland China. They revealed that technical explorations and studies with relevant bodies on developing the international version of the Diploma of Secondary Education (DSE) exam were under way. Secretary for Education Christine Choi Yuk-lin said...

- [Pakistan's fuel smugglers squeezed by rising costs as Iran war hits supply](#) (2026-03-18 12:45)

In Pakistan's southwestern mountains, pickup trucks loaded with plastic cans of fuel smuggled from Iran line dusty roads as youngsters unload the containers, fill smaller cans and strap them onto motorbikes to supply nearby markets. The illicit trade has long thrived in the region but is feeling the knock-on effects of the war which has engulfed the Middle East following US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Supplies coming across the 900km (560-mile) border between Pakistan and Iran have dropped by...

- [China-based Cosco Shipping Ports expects 'limited' impact from Iran conflict](#) (2026-03-18 12:31)

Cosco Shipping Ports, a unit of state-owned giant Cosco Shipping, reported modest earnings growth for 2025, as management expects to expand in emerging markets amid rising geopolitical risks to global trade. Net profit rose 1.1 per cent to US\$312.1 million, and revenue increased 11 per cent to US\$1.67 billion, according to its 2025 results. Total container throughput climbed 6.2 per cent to 153 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). The company's overseas terminals saw strong growth, with...

- [US hawks are wrong: China's rise in science benefits America too](#) (2026-03-18 12:30)

As Chinese science makes great strides, some US China hawks have been sounding the alarm. In their view, Chinese scientific progress is a significant national security threat to the United States, as it signals the relative decline of US scientific dominance and potentially creates dependence on China. In one extreme case of this view, Leland Miller, a senior consultant for the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, declared in a recent interview that China discovering a cure for...

- [Hong Kong more attractive to talent amid Middle East tensions, labour chief says](#) (2026-03-18 12:24)

Hong Kong's labour chief has said geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have made the city, with its relative security and stability, "a more attractive place" for global talent, including those from Gulf countries. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han also highlighted the government's efforts in recent years to attract talent, dismissing concerns that most successful applicants under its schemes were from mainland China. He said that about a fourth of imported workers from...

- [Chinese military set for EU and Nato talks as Iran war reshapes global security picture](#) (2026-03-18 12:22)

A delegation from China's People's Liberation Army will travel to Brussels next week for talks with the European Union and Nato amid heightened concerns over global security caused by the war in Iran. The EU-China Security and Defence Consultations will take place next Tuesday, official sources confirmed, with the talks between Nato and the PLA's Office for International Military Cooperation scheduled for the same week. On the EU side, the talks will be chaired by Benedikta von Seherr-Thoss,...

- [Former Hong Kong lawmaker denies abetting criminal activity in mainland China](#) (2026-03-18 12:00)

A former Hong Kong lawmaker on trial for allegedly inciting subversion has denied abetting criminal activity by supporting mainland Chinese dissidents, accusing Beijing of levelling false charges against them. Prosecutors on Wednesday challenged Lee Cheuk-yan's claim that he had no intention to incite others to overthrow the mainland's communist rule when he called for an end to "one-party dictatorship" as former chairman of the now-disbanded Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic...

- [As Trump ramps up pressure on Cuba, China has 'very limited options'](#) (2026-03-18 12:00)

As Washington steps up rhetoric and pressure on Cuba after its campaign in Iran, Beijing finds itself torn between geopolitical reality and ideological affinity. According to analysts, Beijing has few good options to counter US hegemony in Washington's own backyard, and its response is likely to be constrained to diplomatic opposition and modest humanitarian aid. They said any disruption to global stability ultimately harmed Beijing's interests and did not see prolonged US military action...

- [Hong Kong customs seizes nearly 1,000 smuggled turtles worth HK\\$1 million](#) (2026-03-18 11:45)

Hong Kong customs officers have seized 986 smuggled live turtles worth about HK\$1 million (US\$127,620) from a private car attempting to leave the city, arresting the driver and a passenger. Officers discovered the turtles hidden in seven black plastic bags in the vehicle's boot at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge control point on Tuesday. A 42-year-old driver and a 50-year-old passenger were arrested, a spokesman of Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department said on Wednesday. Both men were...

- [Hong Kong's Airport Authority to develop HK\\$300 million art storage facility](#) (2026-03-18 11:39)

Hong Kong's Airport Authority is partnering with a private company to develop a HK\$300 million (US\$38.28 million) art storage facility set to open next year, as the city looks to cement

its position as a global hub for trading valuable works. Speaking at a contract signing ceremony on Wednesday, authority CEO Vivian Cheung Kar-fay said Hong Kong was the world's second-largest primary art trading market and a leading gateway connecting mainland China with the rest of the world. "By leveraging...

- [China to help Cuba with solar energy amid US oil blockade and total power outage](#)

(2026-03-18 11:30)

China is offering solar energy to Cuba, an old ally left without power amid the US oil embargo, in a show of strength for Chinese renewable-energy credentials and a sign of Beijing's economic footprint in Latin America. Beijing's ambassador to Cuba, Hua Xin, on Monday outlined joint energy projects in progress as part of an effort to ease a "complex power situation" in the Caribbean nation, the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. "China has always maintained that Latin America and the...

- [Hong Kong Tourism Board to woo overnight big spenders, diversify visitor mix](#) (2026-03-18 11:08)

The Hong Kong Tourism Board will allocate three-quarters of its resources to overseas markets this year in a strategic shift aimed at diversifying visitor demographics and attracting more overnight high spenders to the city. The board also revealed on Wednesday that it would launch a new global campaign by the end of April to promote Hong Kong as a unique world city through social media, advertisements on regional broadcasters and billboards in selected countries. "It is not an easy task to...

- [Iranian intelligence minister Esmail Khatib 'eliminated' : Israel's Katz](#) (2026-03-18 10:50)

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Wednesday that the country's forces had killed Iran's intelligence minister Esmail Khatib, adding that the military was authorised to kill any high-ranking Iranian official in its sights without seeking further approval. "Last night, Iran's Intelligence Minister Khatib was also eliminated," Katz said in a statement. The killing of Khatib comes soon after Israel killed Iran's security chief Ali Larijani, and another powerful figure, Gholam Reza...

- [Hong Kong's jobless rate falls by 0.1 percentage point](#) (2026-03-18 10:34)

Hong Kong's jobless rate dipped by 0.1 percentage point over the past three months to 3.8 per cent, with unemployment dropping in the retail, accommodation, and foundation and superstructure sectors. "The sustained growth momentum of the Hong Kong economy should continue to support the overall labour market, though employment situations in some local sectors may still face challenges due to their business performances," Secretary for Labour and Welfare Chris Sun Yuk-han said on Wednesday. The...

- [Global EV uptake expected to accelerate as Iran war causes worldwide petrol price hikes](#) (2026-03-18 10:31)

Turbulence in the global oil market caused by the war in Iran revealed a quiet shift that could reshape global energy security: the rapid rise of electric vehicles. Global uptake of electric vehicle fleets has led to avoided oil consumption rising to the equivalent of 70 per cent of Iran's exports in 2025, according to a new report. Last year, EVs worldwide saved 1.7 million barrels of oil consumption per day. During the same timeframe, Iran exported 2.4 million barrels of oil through the Strait...

- [US trade probes risk alienating Asean, casting doubt on future of deals](#) (2026-03-18 10:28)

The United States' inclusion of Southeast Asian countries among economic partners it intends to investigate for unfair trade practices is expected to push the region further from Washington's orbit. The probes, announced last week, could lead to new levies imposed on countries, based on allegations of forced labour and trade surpluses, even as the Donald Trump administration rails against a Supreme Court ruling that shot down sweeping tariffs imposed earlier. Seven countries from the Association...

- [Iran announces first spy execution since war with Israel, US began](#) (2026-03-18 10:16)

Iranian authorities executed a man convicted of spying for Israel, the judiciary said on Wednesday, in the first such execution announced since the war with Israel and the United States broke out. "The death sentence of a spy for the Zionist regime, who had been providing images and information about the country's sensitive locations to Mossad officers, was carried out this morning," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. Mizan identified the man as Kouroush Keyvani and said he was arrested...

- [Malaysian medical tourism set to benefit from Iran war's impact](#) (2026-03-18 10:13)

Malaysia's medical tourism sector could receive a boost amid the widening conflict in the Middle East as potential patients look for safer alternatives in Asia, according to a private healthcare company. Dubai, the main medical hub in the region, has been under Iranian missile and drone retaliatory attacks since the US and Israel began air strikes on the Islamic Republic on February 28. This could prompt Middle Easterners who are seeking medical treatment to travel to Southeast Asian countries...

- [Ancient Chinese people sentenced to flogging could hire substitutes to endure punishment for a fee](#) (2026-03-18 10:00)

In ancient China there was a unique and quirky profession: if someone committed a crime and was sentenced to flogging, they could hire another person to take the punishment on their behalf. During the Ming dynasty (1368–1644), flogging was a form of punishment in which court officials were publicly beaten with heavy rods. The striking end of the rod was carved into a hammer-like shape and wrapped in iron and sometimes even fitted with barbs, making the punishment extremely brutal. There were...

- [Mystery projectile hits Iran nuclear power complex, highlighting war risks](#) (2026-03-18 09:34)

The UN nuclear watchdog said on Wednesday that Iranian authorities had reported projectile impact on the grounds of the country's only operational nuclear power plant that caused no damage. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "has been informed by Iran that a projectile hit the premises of the Bushehr NPP on Tuesday evening", the Vienna-based agency posted on social media using an acronym for nuclear power plant. "No damage to the plant or injuries to staff reported". Agency head...

- [Southeast Asia's AI data centre gold rush tests power grids in the tropical heat](#) (2026-03-18 09:00)

Singapore sits just one degree north of the equator, where the air rarely drops below 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) and humidity clings year round. It is, by most measures, one of the worst places on Earth to cool a data centre. Yet the city state crams more into its small footprint than almost anywhere else. Home to more than 70 facilities and over 1.4 gigawatts of capacity, Singapore has one of the highest densities of data-centre infrastructure per capita on the planet – a...

- [J-20 fighter jet designer scrubbed from Chinese Academy of Sciences website](#) (2026-03-18 09:00)

The chief designer on the J-20 stealth fighter jet has been removed from the website of China's national research institute, amid a sweeping campaign to stamp out corruption in the defence sector. Yang Wei, 62, had been listed as a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the top academic body for science and technology. But as of Monday, his name was no longer on the site, according to a snapshot from Internet Archive, which seeks to preserve online content. Yang has not appeared in public...

- [Hong Kong to test new campsite booking system amid overcrowding, litter concerns](#) (2026-03-18 08:54)

Hong Kong could introduce pilot schemes for booking campsites in the city before the National Day holiday in October, as authorities revealed that 32 people were prosecuted for offences in Sai Kung's country parks over the Chinese New Year holiday. Secretary for Environment and Ecology Tse Chin-wan told the Legislative Council on Wednesday that most of those prosecuted were non-locals charged with littering. Authorities had earlier said they were looking at implementing a booking system and...

- [China's Tencent pledges new wave of AI investment to build on 2025 profit jump](#) (2026-03-18 08:52)

Tencent Holdings pledged to double its investment in artificial intelligence products and models in 2026, a bigger bet from the tech giant as it gains greater confidence in the technology's

capability to drive future growth across its businesses. The Shenzhen-based company dedicated 18 billion yuan (US\$2.6 billion) to the development of new AI products in 2025, including 7 billion yuan in the fourth quarter alone, said Tencent president Martin Lau Chi-ping at a media briefing on Wednesday. “We...

- [Australian police officer’s ‘perverts’ remark against Indian driver sparks outrage](#) (2026-03-18 08:50)

Distrust in Australian police among Queensland’s Indian diaspora is set to deepen after an officer was caught on body camera hurling expletives at an Uber driver, leading the victim to sue the force in federal court. The officer said, “f*****g Indians, mate, they are a bunch of f*****g perverts” to a colleague in 2023, before they charged the man with committing an indecent act for allegedly masturbating in public, court records showed. A court later quashed the charges because two witnesses...

- [Mainland China says Taiwan can ease Iran energy supply anxiety with peaceful reunification](#) (2026-03-18 08:34)

Authorities in Beijing say peaceful reunification will solve Taiwan’s energy supply fears sparked by the hostilities in the Middle East, emphasising that “the removal of barriers between the two sides of the [Taiwan] strait will ensure the smooth flow of resources”. Chen Binhua, spokesman for Beijing’s Taiwan Affairs Office, said on Wednesday that peaceful reunification would create enormous opportunities for the island’s economic and social development and bring tangible benefits to the people...

- [India’s reopening to Chinese investment reflects strategic pragmatism](#) (2026-03-18 08:30)

In April 2020, as the world struggled with the Covid-19 pandemic and soldiers from India and China moved towards a large-scale border stand-off, New Delhi amended its foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to require prior government approval for all investments from countries sharing a land border with India – a measure directed at China. Nearly six years on, India has changed its FDI policy again. It is a significant move for India-China relations. During the pandemic, the FDI regulation...

- [Bus driver union slams KMB policy to turn off air con when no patrons on board](#) (2026-03-18 08:15)

A Hong Kong bus driver union has hit out at a company’s guidelines asking drivers to save fuel amid surging oil prices by switching off air conditioning when they are not carrying passengers, arguing that such policies pose safety risks. In a statement on Wednesday, the Motor Transport Workers General Union also called on public bus firm KMB to allow for lower air-conditioning temperatures inside compartments to improve the working environment of drivers. “The union believes that the company’s s...

- [China's Geely beats BYD in sales, CATL's profit surges 42%: 7 EV reads](#) (2026-03-18 07:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage on electric and new energy vehicles from the past two weeks to help you stay informed. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Geely beats BYD sales in first 2 months of 2026 to become China's top carmaker Geely Auto has gained the upper hand in mainland China's intensifying automotive sector, as its diverse product line-up pays off after electric vehicle (EV) king BYD suffered a setback following partial...

- [Japanese atomic bomb survivor who hugged Obama in Hiroshima dies at 88](#) (2026-03-18 07:12)

Shigeaki Mori, the Japanese atomic bomb survivor whose hug with then US president Barack Obama at a 2016 remembrance event in Hiroshima went viral globally, has died at the age of 88, just days after warning that the world seems on the brink of another nuclear catastrophe. Tributes have been coming in since Mori died in Hiroshima on Saturday, with many pointing out that as well as being a survivor of the world's first atomic weapon, he was also a keen amateur historian who attracted attention in...

- [Anthony Mason, who helped put top Hong Kong court on the map, dies at age 100](#) (2026-03-18 07:09)

Former Australian chief justice Anthony Mason, who was one of the first non-permanent judges to join the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal and oversaw many of its early key constitutional cases, has died at the age of 100. Tributes from current and former city officials poured in for the late jurist on Wednesday, just a day after he died. Mason is widely considered to have been pivotal in establishing the court's role under Hong Kong's new constitutional order following the city's return to...

- [Investors eye Xi-Trump summit for direction as Hong Kong, China stocks shaken by conflict](#) (2026-03-18 06:59)

The prospect of a meeting between President Xi Jinping and US counterpart Donald Trump has become a focal point for investors seeking some reassurance on growth and stability as the conflict in the Middle East dampens appetite for risk. Investors are awaiting clarity on the summit, viewing it as a potential sign of cooperation that could steady mainland China and Hong Kong equities. The meeting had been scheduled for the end of the month, but the White House said it would be postponed by five or...

- [As 'lobster fever' grips China, Tencent makes OpenClaw-based tool available on WeChat](#) (2026-03-18 06:58)

Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings has integrated its QClaw AI agent as a mini-program in its flagship WeChat app as it pushes to expand adoption of its OpenClaw-based tool. It said QClaw was now accessible as a mini-program inside WeChat after an upgrade on Wednesday that

allowed users to transfer files to their personal computers. QClaw was launched last week as an OpenClaw-based artificial intelligence agent for personal computers that users could control remotely from WeChat on their...

- [Envoy slams Australian radio show for calling Singapore an ‘autocracy’](#) (2026-03-18 06:34)

A recent radio programme by Australia’s national broadcaster made several “baseless claims” about Singapore’s political system, Singapore’s High Commissioner to Australia, Anil Nayar, said on Tuesday. Nayar noted in his response that the programme’s host and several of his commentators called Singapore a “one-party state”, an “autocracy” and “verging now on a flawed democracy”. “They portrayed Singapore’s group representation constituencies (GRCs) – introduced to guarantee minority...

- [Satellite images reveal damage of the widening Middle East war](#) (2026-03-18 06:15)

Satellite images are beginning to be released, giving a glimpse into the toll of the Iran war, with ships ablaze in an Iranian port and destroyed buildings at an American base. Information has so far been scarce about the damage being done across the Middle East, particularly when it’s inside closed military facilities, since the start of the war on February 28. The images come from Planet Labs PBC, a San Francisco-based firm used by media outlets, including Associated Press. Planet Labs has put...

- [Chinese scientists use E coli to fight breast tumours from within in mice study](#) (2026-03-18 06:00)

Chinese scientists have engineered E coli bacteria into a novel cancer therapy that colonises tumours, produces an existing drug on-site and delivers it directly – reducing the toxic side effects of traditional chemotherapy. The research, performed on mice with breast cancer, paves the way for targeted cancer treatments in future, according to the scientists from Shandong University in Qingdao, eastern China. Escherichia coli (E coli) is a group of bacteria commonly found in the gut. While most...

- [Jar burials: a glimpse into ancient China’s compassion, funeral practices for infant deaths](#) (2026-03-18 06:00)

One of the profound tragedies in life is the burial of the youngest among us. In Neolithic China (9,000–1,500 BC), urn burials were often designated for the deceased children and infants. While urn burials for older babies have been extensively studied, there remains little understanding of burial customs surrounding stillbirths, miscarriages, or newborns who passed shortly after birth. A new 2026 study in China revealed that by examining 16 urn burials associated with perinatal deaths from over...

- [West Kowloon Cultural District to host second international cultural summit during Art Week](#) (2026-03-18 05:54)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] The second Hong Kong International Cultural Summit will take place from 22 to 23 March at the West Kowloon Cultural District (WestK), with museum directors, arts administrators and cultural leaders from around the world expected to attend as the city prepares for its annual Art Week. The two-day event will take place at venues across WestK, including the Xiqu Centre, M+ and the Hong Kong Palace Museum. Organised by the...

- [Nepal voted for change. Can its rapper-engineer PM deliver?](#) (2026-03-18 05:40)

Nepal's prime minister-in-waiting came to power on a promise of change. Now he faces the monumental challenge of taking on a system weighed down by corruption and poor governance while meeting the towering expectations of the millions who backed him and his anti-establishment party. Balendra Shah – a rapper, engineer and former mayor of Kathmandu popularly known as Balen – handily defeated former prime minister K.P. Sharma Oli in the election on March 5, with his Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP)...

- [Hong Kong actor Gregory Wong loses appeal against 2019 Legco storming conviction](#) (2026-03-18 05:40)

Hong Kong actor Gregory Wong Chung-yiu has lost an appeal against his conviction and jail sentence of six years and two months for abetting a riot at the Legislative Council Complex during the 2019 anti-government protests. In a written judgment delivered on Wednesday, the Court of Appeal also dismissed the complaints by six others convicted in the high-profile case. The appellants had argued their jail terms of at least four years and 7½ months were manifestly excessive. Wong was among 14...

- [Closing struggling Hong Kong schools 'spares parents from future problems'](#) (2026-03-18 05:19)

Closing struggling Hong Kong schools in the short term will prevent future problems for parents, the education minister has said, warning that the city has already exhausted all mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the shrinking pupil population. Secretary for Education Christine Choi Yuk-lin said on Wednesday that the problem of under-enrolment remained unresolved despite authorities resorting to different "soft-landing" means to support the sector in response to the structural...

- [Cuba's leader vows 'unbreakable resistance' if US tries to take over island](#) (2026-03-18 05:01)

Cuba's leader on Tuesday said the US would face "unbreakable resistance" if it tries to take over the impoverished island nation, as communist authorities scrambled to fix a nationwide electricity blackout. Cuba's government has been under increasingly crushing pressure, with Washington enforcing an oil blockade and openly stating it wants to end the nearly seven-decade-old US stand-off with the one-party communist state. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Cuba's decision announced this week...

- [Delayed US-China summit raises stakes for Takaichi ahead of White House visit](#)

(2026-03-18 04:59)

Thursday's summit between US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi was supposed to see the two leaders sit down in advance of Trump's meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping to ensure the allies were on the same page. Instead, with the US-China summit postponed and the Israel-US war on Iran going full blast, their meeting is likely to find Japan more on the defensive, according to analysts and former government officials. Takaichi will be trying to finesse shifting...

- [The US\\$460 cake testing Malaysia's sweet tooth and wallet: 'even sultan would think twice'](#) (2026-03-18 04:34)

A bakery in Malaysia's Sarawak state has set tongues wagging with its premium cake offerings sold at eye-watering prices, as Muslims countrywide this week stock up on sweets and delectable treats to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr, marking the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. Cakes, chocolates and sweet biscuits are must-haves in the homes of the nation's 20 million Muslims to host family and friends during the festival. Among the favoured snacks are the colourful kek lapis or layered cake, a...

- [HSBC launches US\\$2.5 billion AT1 bond issue in Hong Kong after market standstill](#)

(2026-03-18 04:29)

HSBC Holdings plans to raise US\$2.5 billion by issuing two tranches of additional tier-1 (AT1) bonds, marking the reopening of such offerings after the US and Israel war on Iran rattled global financial markets. The biggest lender in Hong Kong and Europe by assets said in a stock exchange filing before the market opened on Wednesday that it intended to issue the AT1 bonds, officially named perpetual subordinated contingent convertible securities, on March 24 to strengthen its capital. The...

- [Can China still maintain good relations with Gulf states and Iran as fighting escalates?](#)

(2026-03-18 04:00)

Iran's air strikes on the Gulf states have turned the spotlight onto China's dilemma in trying to develop long-term relations with those nations but also with their arch-rival Iran. Strikes on all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members in retaliation for US and Israeli attacks on Iran have hit both American military assets stationed in those countries and civilian infrastructure, including oil refineries. As oil and gas producers, they are also bearing the brunt of the effective closure of...

- [How education develops a pathway for students' lifelong growth](#) (2026-03-18 04:00)

The teachings of philosopher and psychologist John Dewey, who was a major 20th-century education reformer, still resonate with teachers around the world today. He believed that learning is a social, communal process – requiring students to build their own understanding

based on personal experience – and involves a continuous, lifelong journey, rather than merely a means to an end for gaining knowledge for one’s future career. He wrote: “The aim of education is growth: the aim of growth is more...

- [Cathay extends Hong Kong to Middle East flight suspension until end of April](#) (2026-03-18 03:37)

Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways has further extended its suspension of all flights to and from the Middle East until the end of April amid the ongoing conflict in the region. Cathay Pacific said on Wednesday that flights between Hong Kong and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, and between the city and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, will remain suspended until the end of the month. All services between Hong Kong and the Middle East were first suspended on February 28 following a joint...

- [From studio to market: Hong Kong Design Institute’s transdisciplinary path to global design impact](#) (2026-03-18 02:59)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Hong Kong is rapidly consolidating its role as Asia’s premier design and creative hub. By aligning strategic policy with both local and national development plans, the city is attracting investment, fostering cross border collaboration, and scaling creative enterprises. Anchored by institutions such as the HKDI, Hong Kong is cultivating a robust, tech-savvy design workforce that blends rigorous education, industry...

- [Scammers impersonate Hong Kong lawmaker to defraud woman of HK\\$38,000](#) (2026-03-18 02:51)

Hong Kong lawmaker Gary Chan Hak-kan has been impersonated in a scam that defrauded a victim of HK\$38,000 (US\$4,849), with the legislator calling the act despicable. Police said on Wednesday that they received a report from a woman the previous day, stating that she had received a call from a man who allegedly impersonated another person and persuaded her to send money under false pretences. The woman transferred HK\$38,000 to an account specified by the caller but subsequently lost contact with...

- [Plead, hoard, steal: the desperate scramble for cooking gas in India](#) (2026-03-18 02:34)

The smoke rising from Babitha Sivadasan’s kitchen in rural Kerala carries a scent that belongs to her grandmother’s era. “I have started cooking with firewood,” said Babitha, who began rationing her half-empty cooking gas cylinder after failing to secure a refill from her Indian Oil distributor. “The agency hasn’t taken bookings in a week.” As the Iran war enters the third week and cooking gas becomes scarce amid a conflict-driven supply shock, some Indian homemakers are turning to practices of...

- [Asean bets on new framework to remedy ‘uneven’ disaster response](#) (2026-03-18 02:30)

A framework proposed at an Asean ministers' meeting is set to propel disaster management to the top of the agenda for the bloc, further easing cooperation and decision-making in a region facing nearly US\$18 trillion in disaster risk exposure. Analysts say the proposal, if implemented, would help strengthen anticipatory action that could enable the bloc to act even before a formal request from a member state. At the 35th Asean Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting in Manila on March 5, bloc...

- [China adapts C909 jet operations in Laos – a blueprint for Southeast Asia and beyond?](#) (2026-03-18 02:00)

China's leading planemaker is seeking to replicate the C909 regional airliner's success in Laos, drawing on the experience as it steps up its sales pitch in Southeast Asia – a vital step in its effort to eventually rival Boeing and Airbus. The Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac) has ambitious plans in the region and beyond and is laying the groundwork through technical adjustments and regulatory adaptations, according to a company document seen by the South China Morning Post. To...

- [Injured buffalo brings rush-hour traffic to a standstill on Hong Kong highway](#) (2026-03-18 01:33)

A buffalo was hit by a car on a Yuen Long highway on Wednesday morning, leaving the injured animal wandering into traffic and bringing rush-hour traffic in northwestern Hong Kong to a standstill. Dashcam footage circulating online captured the moment the buffalo emerged from roadside shrubbery into the fast lane, where an oncoming vehicle was unable to brake in time. The animal rolled over after hitting the ground and tried to stand up slowly but failed. Following the heavy impact, the buffalo...

- [Hong Kong women's group condemns entry of Tates amid safety and equality concerns](#) (2026-03-18 01:30)

A Hong Kong women's rights group has criticised authorities for allowing controversial British-American influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate, who are facing rape and human trafficking charges abroad, to enter the city, saying the decision contradicts the government's commitment to women's safety. As the brothers continued to publicise their activities in the city, the Rosewood Hong Kong – reported to be hosting them – told the South China Morning Post on Tuesday that it “does not condone...

- [Rescuing a key Confucian text from centuries of ignominy](#) (2026-03-18 01:30)

From around the turn of the century, a revived Confucianism was all the rage. Mainland Chinese academia heavily promoted it. Beijing politicised it as compatible with communist ideology. For state propaganda departments, Confucianism was repackaged as a cultural product for foreign consumption. That wave of interest subsequently died down, along with the closure of many Confucian Institutes around the world. So why study Confucius today? Well, why read any great philosopher? But there is a more...

- [Malaysian police hunt man who punched pregnant wife, rammed her with motorbike](#)
(2026-03-18 01:27)

Malaysian police in Melaka are tracking a 22-year-old man after a video showing him attacking his pregnant wife outside a karaoke centre in Kota Shahbandar went viral on social media. State police chief Deputy Commissioner Dzulkhairi Mukhtar said a report on the incident was lodged by the victim's mother at 1.17am on Monday. He said preliminary investigations showed that the 20-year-old victim was attacked by her husband in front of a family karaoke centre in Kota Shahbandar at about 4am on...

- [Iran vows revenge for security chief Larijani's killing as Israel hunts supreme leader](#)
(2026-03-18 01:20)

Iranian army chief Amir Hatami threatened on Wednesday to launch a “decisive and regrettable” retaliation for the killing of security chief Ali Larijani in an Israeli air strike.

“Iran's response to the assassination of the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council will be decisive and regrettable,” Hatami said in a statement. The Revolutionary Guards, Iran's powerful military force that is separate from the army, said in a statement that it had launched missiles at central Israel “in...

- [Controversy haunts likely death of China's hypersonic weapons expert Fang Daining](#)
(2026-03-18 01:00)

Fang Daining, a key scientist in China's hypersonic weapons programme, has died at the age of 68, according to an image of an obituary notice that began circulating on Chinese social media last week. Early online discussions included claims that Fang, who was also a Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) member, the country's highest academic title in science and technology, suffered an unexpected medical episode during a work trip to South Africa. The South China Morning Post could not confirm the...

- [‘Fat for beef’ : China local drive rewards residents with 0.5kg of meat for same amount of weight lost](#) (2026-03-18 01:00)

The authorities in a grass-roots community in eastern China have trended on social media for its “redundant flesh in exchange for beef” weight-loss initiative targeting local residents. Since the Shanbei Community in Liangxi District, Wuxi, Jiangsu province, launched the creative health campaign on social media on March 9, more than 2,400 people applied to take part within three days, according to the news website The Paper. Internet users have shown immense interest in the move, with many...

- [US aircraft carrier attacking Iran heads back to port after fire incident](#) (2026-03-18 00:33)

The USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier is leaving the fight with Iran and heading back to port, a US official familiar with the matter said, after a fire broke out in its laundry area and left at least two sailors with non-life-threatening injuries. The Ford will travel from its current location in the

Red Sea to Souda Bay, on the Greek island of Crete, according to the official, who asked not to be identified discussing movements that were not public. The ship had stopped in Souda Bay in late...

- [Northern Metropolis land-use laws won't undermine board's authority: experts](#) (2026-03-18 00:30)

Proposed designated laws to streamline land-use approval procedures for the Northern Metropolis megaproject will not undermine the authority of Hong Kong's town planning body, some experts have argued, while urging the government to establish clear key performance indicators (KPIs) to strengthen market confidence. Observers were responding to a package of six subsidiary laws unveiled on Tuesday by the Development Bureau, designed to remove bottlenecks in the large-scale New Territories scheme. A...

- [Will Japan follow Australia's lead and ban children from social media?](#) (2026-03-18 00:00)

A Japanese government agency has opened discussions on imposing a ban on children accessing social media sites, potentially following Australia's lead in prohibiting under-16s from the most popular online platforms. Experts say it is far too early to determine whether the Australian experiment is a success and can be replicated in Japan, although there is a widely held belief that more is needed to limit the negative consequences of unfettered internet access to youth. In January, Japan's...

- [Chinese national and Kenyan associate charged with illegally smuggling ants](#) (2026-03-17 23:31)

A Chinese national and a Kenyan man were charged Tuesday with unlawfully dealing in wildlife species after they were found in possession of hundreds of live ants stored in specialised tubes. The case was the latest focused on the alleged smuggling of ants in the East African country, where authorities last year described a growing trend in the trafficking of ants to markets in Europe and Asia. Officials have not said if the ants are sought after as pets or for other purposes. The suspects,...

- [Chinese banks outpace rivals in Hong Kong wealth growth on IPO boom, capital flows](#) (2026-03-17 23:30)

The wealth management businesses of Chinese investment banks in Hong Kong are growing faster than those of international rivals, as a buoyant initial public offering (IPO) market and rising cross-border flows strengthen their competitive edge. "Chinese investment banks are seeing accelerated growth ... because [their] base is smaller and the current market environment favours them," said Wang Lei, CEO of Huatai Financial Holdings (Hong Kong), in an interview with the South China Morning Post,...

- [Scottish lawmakers reject bill to let terminally ill people end their lives](#) (2026-03-17 23:03)

Lawmakers in the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday rejected legislation that would have made Scotland the first part of the United Kingdom to allow terminally ill adults to end their lives. Members of the Edinburgh-based legislature voted 69 to 57 against a bill that would have let people in Scotland with six months or less to live seek help to end their life. There was one abstention. It came after an emotional debate that lasted around three hours and saw lawmakers tear up and applaud as they...

- [Nvidia is restarting production of China AI chip variant, says CEO Jensen Huang](#) (2026-03-17 22:31)

Nvidia is restarting the production of one of the company's chips that is designed to comply with US export restrictions on China, CEO Jensen Huang said at a press conference on Tuesday. The company had halted manufacturing last year of its H200 chip, which is based on its ageing Hopper technology, because of increasing regulatory hurdles in the US and China, according to a report at the time. Since then, Nvidia has received licences to export the H200 from the US government and has taken...

- [US sounds alarm over China's humanoid robots amid security concerns](#) (2026-03-17 22:00)

US artificial intelligence and robotics firms have urged lawmakers to take action against Chinese robot manufacturers – singling out Unitree Robotics – citing increased competition and national security risks, in a sign that humanoid robots may emerge as a new battleground in the widening US-China tech rivalry. China's speed of advancement in humanoid robots is alarming, and the US government should formulate coordinated policies and strategies to counter Chinese firms' dominance in the...

- [Why Japan thinks China's growing cultural clout is something it needs to counter](#) (2026-03-17 22:00)

China and Japan's long-standing rivalry has deep historic roots, and relations between the two have taken a significant turn for the worse in recent months. This article, the first in a three-part series, looks at how both countries are trying to turn soft power to their advantage in the battle to shape international opinion. The rise of China's soft power has been fuelled by global successes in fields ranging from gaming and films to consumer brands and technology. Success stories range from...

- [Zelensky, Starmer urge continued support for Ukraine as Iran conflict steals focus](#) (2026-03-17 21:43)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called Russia and Iran “brothers in hatred” on Tuesday as he sought support from UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at a time when the Iran conflict has robbed momentum from US-brokered talks to end Russia's invasion of Ukraine. During talks with Starmer at 10 Downing Street, Zelensky urged Ukraine's allies not to forget about his country and suggested the US and others should make use of Ukraine's anti-drone

technology during a Middle East war that has also...

- [Frenzy over AI agent OpenClaw shows the lobster has escaped the pot](#) (2026-03-17 21:30)

In China this month, people have been lining up on streets to install an AI programme on their computers. Some had travelled from other cities. Others had waited for hours for engineers to set it up for them. There were even “birth certificates” given out upon installation. The programme is OpenClaw. Its logo is a red lobster. Chinese internet users quickly coined a phrase for the phenomenon: raising lobsters. The scene looks quirky, even amusing. But beneath the spectacle lies a revealing...

- [US military tracks 23 Chinese port projects in Latin America, general tells Congress](#) (2026-03-17 21:08)

The US military is monitoring 23 Chinese port projects and 12 space-enabling facilities across Latin America and considers every one of them “a potential dual-use asset” that could support Chinese military operations, the top US commander for South America told Congress on Tuesday. General Francis Donovan, head of US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), made the disclosure during a House Armed Services Committee hearing on US military posture in the western hemisphere. Asked by Lance Gooden, a...

- [US House panel subpoenas Pam Bondi to testify in Epstein investigation](#) (2026-03-17 19:29)

A US congressional committee said on Tuesday it has issued a subpoena to Attorney General Pam Bondi to testify behind closed doors in its probe of the late convicted sex criminal Jeffrey Epstein. Bondi faces accusations that the Justice Department has concealed the names of powerful associates of Epstein in its release of millions of documents related to the late financier. Under the subpoena, Bondi would give a sworn deposition to the House of Representatives Oversight Committee on April...

- [Trump confirms delay of Beijing meeting with Xi amid Iran conflict](#) (2026-03-17 19:19)

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said his planned trip to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing will be delayed by “five or six weeks,” as the US-Israel war against Iran continues. “We’re working with China. They were fine with it ... I look forward to seeing President Xi. He looks forward to seeing me, I think,” Trump told reporters at the White House. The Chinese embassy in Washington did not confirm Trump’s timeline and said “China and the US remain in communication on President...

- [Fire at US embassy in Baghdad as security official reports drone and rocket strikes](#) (2026-03-17 18:59)

Several loud explosions were heard on Tuesday evening in Iraq’s capital Baghdad, Agence France-Presse journalists reported, with a security official reporting a drone and rocket attack on the US embassy. In a restaurant in the city, where diners did not react to the initial sounds of the blasts, a witness said he saw detonations caused by the embassy’s air defences

intercepting projectiles. Another witness saw a fire on the edge of the embassy grounds from her balcony, with the blaze also...

- [Northern Ireland's Gerry Adams tells bombings trial he was never in IRA](#) (2026-03-17 17:55)

Gerry Adams, one of Northern Ireland's most prominent political figures, told London's High Court on Tuesday he had never been a member of the paramilitary Irish Republican Army but said he would not distance himself from the group. The ex-leader of Sinn Féin, formerly the IRA's political wing and now the largest party in the Northern Irish Assembly, became the best-known face of the movement seeking to end British rule in Northern Ireland. He later reinvented himself as a peacemaker after...

- [Why US warships' pit stop in Malaysia is raising eyebrows](#) (2026-03-17 15:45)

The apparent docking of two light US combat ships in Penang over the weekend has raised eyebrows among Malaysian government critics regarding the country's position on the US-Israel war on Iran, and questions over the deployment of de-mining vessels thousands of miles from the conflict zone. The USS Tulsa and USS Santa Barbara were seen on Sunday at the North Butterworth Container Terminal, according to social media images and the Financial Times, which cited a US Fifth Fleet spokesperson...

- [Measures to streamline Northern Metropolis land-use procedures unveiled](#) (2026-03-17 15:38)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed designated laws to streamline procedures for changing land use in the Northern Metropolis megaproject, cutting the process from typically nine months to just two. Unveiled by the Development Bureau on Tuesday, the proposed designated legislation comprises six main subsidiary laws designed to remove bottlenecks in the massive scheme near the border with mainland China. They include the establishment of statutory firms and measures to speed up land resumption...

- [Singapore's Lawrence Wong seeks stronger ties with Japan amid global tensions](#) (2026-03-17 15:15)

Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has kicked off his visit to Japan, where he is expected to address strategies with counterpart Sanae Takaichi on enhancing cooperation against a backdrop of economic uncertainty brought on by the Iran war. Both leaders are likely to tread cautiously in discussions to avoid antagonising any superpower, analysts say. The three-day trip, which began on Tuesday, marks Wong's first official visit to Japan since he became Singapore's prime minister in May...

- [US counterterrorism chief quits, says Israel 'trapped' Trump into joining Iran war](#) (2026-03-17 15:10)

A senior US counterterrorism official resigned on Tuesday to protest against the US-Israeli war against Iran and said the Islamic Republic posed no imminent threat to the United States. “I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran,” Joseph Kent, the director of the National Counterterrorism Centre, said in his resignation letter to US President Donald Trump. Kent – a former member of the Green Beret special forces who served 11 combat tours – said: “Iran posed no imminent threat...”

- [Why Trump’s China trip delay could open the door for ‘more substantive’ results](#)
(2026-03-17 15:00)

Beijing has confirmed it remains in communication with Washington about a landmark visit by US President Donald Trump, who has requested to delay the trip by a month due to the US-Israel war on Iran. Chinese analysts characterised the delay as a strategic opportunity to ensure more substantive results. They also suggested the shift in timing was unlikely to derail the momentum towards stabilising ties between the two global powers. The White House previously announced that the trip – the first...

- [Trump claims mystery ex-president backed his war on Iran but no one is owning up](#)
(2026-03-17 14:15)

Twice on Monday, US President Donald Trump said he had wrangled a confession of sorts from an Oval Office predecessor who he said had expressed regret in a private conversation about not attacking Iran the way Trump has been doing for more than two weeks. But there’s just a little problem: representatives for the four living former presidents – three Democrats and one Republican – said none had been in touch with Trump recently. Trump declined to name the former president when reporters asked...

- [15 Hong Kong schools risk closure as falling numbers trigger Primary One ban](#) (2026-03-17 14:10)

Fifteen Hong Kong public primary schools are at risk of closing after being banned from operating subsidised Primary One classes in the coming academic year due to insufficient enrolment, with authorities saying the figure is the highest in recent years. But Secretary for Education Christine Choi Yuk-lin also warned on Tuesday that more closures were expected if school operators refused to plan for mergers. The institutions at risk comprise one government and 14 subsidised schools, with Deputy...

- [China, Russia discuss boosting transport links as Middle East conflict disrupts shipping](#)
(2026-03-17 14:00)

As heightened conflict in the Middle East disrupts global shipping, China and Russia are considering deeper cooperation on logistics – including use of the Arctic shipping route – to secure a more resilient supply chain. At the inaugural China-Russia Logistics Business Forum held in Moscow on Monday, officials and business leaders discussed bolstering transport and infrastructure ties, calling such cooperation essential as geopolitical tensions reshape global

supply chains, Chinese state news...

- [How Nvidia's inference bet at GTC poses a challenge and opportunity for China](#) (2026-03-17 14:00)

Nvidia's latest language processing chip, unveiled at the company's annual artificial intelligence conference, has opened a new frontier in the AI inference arms race, as the booming market for AI agents like OpenClaw presents a complex new reality for China's semiconductor industry, according to analysts. The Nvidia Groq 3 Language Processing Unit (LPU), introduced on Monday at GTC 2026 in San Jose, California, was described by the company as an accelerator with fast memory and low latency...

- [Even the dead in Thailand cannot escape Iran war fuel shortages](#) (2026-03-17 13:33)

Worsening fuel shortages resulting from the war in the Middle East are threatening sacred funeral ceremonies in Thailand, where Buddhist temples are scrambling to obtain diesel for cremations. The abbot of Wat Saman Rattanaram in Chachoengsao province, about 80km (50 miles) east of Bangkok, warned that a suspension of cremation services was a real possibility. Some petrol stations have run out of fuel, while others allow sales only to vehicle operators. "In more than 50 years, I've never seen...

- [With Trump's China trip in limbo, further trade talks loom: analysts](#) (2026-03-17 13:00)

With US President Donald Trump's trip to China postponed and the countries' recent trade negotiations in Paris ending with no apparent breakthroughs, analysts said the world's two largest economies are likely to hold another round of talks before Trump touches down in Beijing. "We can see this as more of a pause than a breakthrough overall. This resembles 'unfinished business' between both sides," said James Downes, director of the Europe-Asia programme at the Centre for Explanatory Research and...

- [China leads world in anti-drone patents with US and South Korea far behind, law firm finds](#) (2026-03-17 13:00)

China leads the world in patent applications for anti-drone technology, which has drawn heightened attention during the wars in Ukraine and Iran and a spate of suspicious sightings in the West, according to intellectual property law firm Mathys & Squire. Patent applications for anti-drone systems rose 27 per cent over the past year, with China submitting 82 compared with 22 from the US, the second-largest filer, the 115-year-old UK-based law firm said on Monday. South Korea ranked third with six...

- [94% of Hong Kong students are couch potatoes, 17.5% overweight, study shows](#) (2026-03-17 12:39)

About 94 per cent of Hong Kong's students do not get enough daily exercise and 17.5 per cent are overweight, authorities have warned, urging schools and parents to tackle the growing fitness crisis together. A government report released on Tuesday also flagged low fruit and

vegetable intake, poor vision health and excessive recreational screen time among students. The findings were based on surveys and annual health assessments conducted by the Department of Health for the 2024-25 school year,...

- [Trump's Iran gamble won't advance his prospects at home or with China](#) (2026-03-17 12:30)

The eminent British military strategist Michael Howard famously said that the purpose of forecasting wars is not to get it right, but to avoid getting it terribly wrong. US President Donald Trump has already got it terribly wrong. No one knows why he launched a war with Israel against Iran. Trump may have been partly correct when he posted on Truth Social that, "Iran's Navy is gone, their Air Force is gone, missiles, drones and everything else are being decimated, and their leaders have been...

- [India detains 6 Ukrainians, 1 American suspected of training Myanmar rebels](#) (2026-03-17 12:27)

Indian investigators have arrested seven foreigners – six Ukrainians and an American – on suspicion of illegally crossing into neighbouring Myanmar to train armed militia groups, the public radio broadcaster reported on Tuesday. Myanmar descended into civil war after a junta seized power in a 2021 coup, with pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic-minority armed groups fighting for control of large parts of the country. India has long been suspicious of certain Myanmar factions that have the same...

- [Will the postponed Trump-Xi summit affect US arms sales to Taiwan?](#) (2026-03-17 12:01)

A delayed summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping has raised concerns over whether the postponement could affect a reported record US arms sales package to Taiwan, as officials insist the deal remains on track. A US\$14 billion arms package – possibly the largest ever for Taiwan – is ready for the American president's approval and could be announced after his visit to Beijing, according to Reuters on Friday. The proposed sale is expected to include advanced air-defence systems such as Patriot...

- [China sailor creates 'radio station' to connect families with seamen stranded in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 12:00)

A Chinese man has used public maritime radio to create a "family's voice station" on which sailors stranded in the Strait of Hormuz can relay safety messages to their families. Liu Yiwen, a native of Jilin province in northeastern China, is a second officer on a Singaporean commercial ship which is now anchored near the Khor Fakkan harbour administered by the United Arab Emirates, China's state media CCTV reported. The ship had planned to head to the Persian Gulf to load liquid petroleum gas...

- [Thailand to build fence along parts of Cambodian border for 'peace of mind'](#) (2026-03-17 11:55)

Thailand will start building fences along a portion of its border with Cambodia next month to boost security after deadly clashes between the countries erupted last year following long-standing tensions. The first barrier will cover 1.3km (0.8 miles) in Chanthaburi province along Thailand's eastern border, according to Vithai Laithomya, spokesman of the Royal Thai Armed Forces. The fencing off of the area – a small part of the nearly 800km border between the two nations – was not part of...

- [US reshoring drive casts shadow over China's contract drug makers: analyst](#) (2026-03-17 11:48)

Chinese contract drug makers – including WuXi AppTec, WuXi Biologics and WuXi XDC – face a less certain long-term revenue outlook as US pharmaceutical companies bring production in-house and reconfigure supply chains amid rising US-China tensions. While near-term earnings remained largely locked in, visibility beyond that was limited, according to Cui Cui, head of healthcare research for Asia at Jefferies. “Earnings visibility for 2026 and 2027 is still very strong – revenue momentum is largely...

- [China, Vietnam agree to live-fire drills in naval exercise boost](#) (2026-03-17 11:24)

The navies of China and Vietnam have added live-fire drills to future joint training – marking a deepening of military cooperation as Vietnamese Communist Party chief To Lam hailed relations with Beijing as a “top priority”. Naval commanders from both sides held a courtesy meeting on Monday at Fangcheng port in southern China's Guangxi, as Vietnamese frigates Tran Hung Dao (hull number 015) and Ly Thai To (012) arrived to join PLA Navy vessels for their 40th joint patrol and training...

- [Asia ditches LNG for coal after Iran war sends prices soaring](#) (2026-03-17 10:44)

Asian utilities are boosting coal-fired power generation to cut costs and safeguard energy supply, industry officials say, as the US-Israeli war on Iran chokes liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments and soaring prices threaten to suppress LNG demand. Asia spot LNG prices have doubled to three-year highs in the second major supply shock in four years, as shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has all but stopped and No 2 global exporter Qatar has halted shipments. In South Asia, Bangladesh is...

- [Tiananmen vigil activist on trial says one-party rule contradicts country's constitution](#) (2026-03-17 10:36)

A former Hong Kong opposition politician has accused China's one-party rule system of being incompatible with the country's constitution and failing to safeguard people's fundamental rights, as he defended his calls to end “dictatorship” in a high-profile subversion trial. Ex-lawmaker Lee Cheuk-yan, former chairman of the now-disbanded Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, argued on Tuesday that calling for an end to “one-party dictatorship” on the mainland...

- [Oil price spike threatens to break Indonesia' s budget as 144 million hit the road for Eid](#) (2026-03-17 10:30)

Every year, roughly half of Indonesia' s 288 million people pack into trains, buses, ferries and cars and head home. The mudik, as the great Eid ul-Fitr exodus is known, is one of the largest annual human migrations on Earth and a ritual of return that defines the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. This year, the Ministry of Transportation estimates that 143.9 million journeys will be made. But it could hardly arrive at a worse time for the government' s finances. Oil prices have surged...

- [Iran' s Ali Larijani, Basij paramilitary head 'eliminated' in Tehran strike: Israel](#) (2026-03-17 10:03)

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Tuesday that Iran' s powerful national security chief Ali Larijani was “eliminated last night” , along with the commander of Tehran' s Basij paramilitary force, General Gholam Reza Soleimani. “I have just been updated by the Chief of Staff that Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and the head of the Basij – Iran' s central repression apparatus – [Soleimani], were eliminated last night,” Katz said in a statement released by his...

- [Unlimited petrol? Chinese firm claims it can produce fuel from air and water](#) (2026-03-17 10:00)

A Shanghai-based start-up claims to have mastered a technique for producing synthetic petroleum at low cost from air and water, as China intensifies efforts to develop alternatives to traditional fossil fuels amid the US-Israel war against Iran. Carbonology announced it had created a process for converting carbon dioxide extracted from air and water into artificial fuel using solar and wind energy, Chinese media outlet Cailianshe reported on Tuesday. The company – co-founded by a former...

- ['Real-life Cinderella' : China stuntwoman transitions from playing body double to stardom](#) (2026-03-17 10:00)

Famous Chinese actress Li Yitong, who rose from being Zhao Liying' s stunt double to becoming a leading actress, has taken on 14 roles in a single year, earning her the name of a “real-life Cinderella” . Li, whose original name is Li Xue, was born in September 1990 in Jinan, Shandong province, northern China, and graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy with a major in folk dance. After graduation, she planned to open a teahouse that incorporated dance performances. However, while searching for a...

- [Authorities look for link to illegal fuel operations as truck goes up in flames](#) (2026-03-17 09:34)

Hong Kong authorities are investigating whether a fire at a Kwai Chung car park that sent thick black smoke high into the sky on Tuesday afternoon was linked to the operation of an illegal fuel station. The Fire Services Department received a report shortly after 2pm of a truck ablaze

at a car park on Container Port Road South in Kwai Chung. Witnesses said explosions were heard as the vehicle was engulfed in flames, with smoke billowing high above the area and visible across western Kowloon. The...

- [21 Wang Fuk Court homeowners, residents to give evidence in fire probe](#) (2026-03-17 09:21)

Fourteen members of the former owners' corporation of blaze-hit Wang Fuk Court along with seven residents have been named to give evidence at an independent probe into Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades. They are among 37 named in a list released on Tuesday by the independent committee investigating the deadly Tai Po blaze, ahead of the first of eight hearings into the tragedy. The first hearing will take place on Thursday, while the last is scheduled for April 2. "The committee will also...

- [Military escort for tankers in Strait of Hormuz not long-term fix: IMO head](#) (2026-03-17 09:17)

Military escorts to protect tankers in the Strait of Hormuz are not a sustainable solution, according to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). "It reduces the risk, but the risk is still there," IMO Secretary General Arsenio Dominguez told the Financial Times. He said that a military deployment was "not a long-term or sustainable solution". US President Donald Trump has called for an international naval operation off the Iranian coast to secure oil shipments, saying at the weekend that...

- [Former banker and Hubei party boss indicted for accepting 'especially huge' bribes](#) (2026-03-17 09:15)

Jiang Chaoliang, Communist Party chief of Hubei when Covid-19 first hit the province and a former prominent banker, has been indicted for accepting "an especially huge amount" of bribes starting in the 1990s. The investigation into his case, first announced in February last year, has closed, and the Nanjing Municipal People's Procuratorate has filed a public prosecution with the Nanjing Intermediate People's Court, according to a statement on Tuesday from the Supreme People's...

- [US military's Iran war pivot forces Asia-Pacific security rethink](#) (2026-03-17 09:01)

The redeployment of US military assets from the Asia-Pacific to the Middle East has split security analysts, with some arguing that any strategic damage is largely "psychological" while others warn of a real and measurable gap opening in the region's defences. More than 2,000 marines and at least one amphibious assault ship have begun moving from Japan towards the Gulf as the US-Israeli war on Iran grinds on. The assault ship USS Tripoli, docked at Sasebo in Nagasaki prefecture, is expected to...

- [Trump-Xi summit delay may suit China amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-17 09:00)

US President Donald Trump said he had asked China to postpone his planned trip to Beijing by “a month or so” due to the war in Iran. “I think it’s important that I be here,” Trump told reporters in the White House on Monday. “So it could be that we delay a little bit, not much.” The visit, including a summit with President Xi Jinping, is scheduled to take place from March 31 to April 2. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent dismissed suggestions that the potential delay was designed to pressure...

- [Malaysian mother furious after school punishes bullied son with caning, weeding](#)
(2026-03-17 08:30)

Not only was he punched repeatedly by a peer, a Malaysian student at a secondary school in Kuching, Sarawak, was caned and forced to write a note admitting his mistake, China Press reported. Angered at how the case was handled, the boy’s mother shared the incident on social media and lodged a police report. The incident took place last Thursday when another student allegedly grabbed her son’s leg and caused him to fall. The victim’s mother said the aggressor then sat on top of her son before...

- [8 wild boars captured, put down after wandering into Hong Kong’s Wong Tai Sin](#)
(2026-03-17 08:00)

Hong Kong’s conservation authorities captured and put down eight wild boars in Wong Tai Sin on Tuesday following a report from residents. Police said staff from the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) tranquillised the animals – two large boars and six smaller ones – before removing them. The force received a report at 10.07am of several wild boars near Chuk Yuen (North) Estate in Wong Tai Sin, and officers were dispatched to assess the situation. The AFCD said it had...

- [Investors fleeing Mideast chaos find safe haven in ‘sweet spot’ Malaysia](#) (2026-03-17 07:20)

Even before the war in Iran sparked a surge in energy prices, Malaysia stood out from its Southeast Asian peers as the new-found darling of global investors. A rare stretch of political stability and investments in higher-value manufacturing and data centres lifted Malaysia’s appeal as some of its neighbours grappled with leadership changes and financial strains. The conflict in the Middle East further burnished the country’s advantage as investors looked for markets better placed to weather...

- [Chinese scientists create world’s coldest alloy. It may surprise DARPA](#) (2026-03-17 07:13)

Chinese researchers have unveiled a new rare earth alloy so cold and efficient it could upend decades of reliance on helium-3 and send shock waves through the global race for quantum computers or ultra-sensitive detectors. A mini-fridge built with the alloy has achieved temperatures extremely close to absolute zero using no moving parts. And it comes at a time when the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is actively hunting for exactly such a technology. On January 27, DARPA...

- [Suicide attacks in Nigeria kill 23, wound more than 100](#) (2026-03-17 07:09)

Multiple explosions staged by suspected suicide bombers rocked the northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri, killing at least 23 people and wounding more than 100 others, police said Tuesday, . The three blasts, which struck on Monday evening, came after an attack on a military post overnight Sunday to Monday, which authorities blamed on suspected jihadists. Combined with the attack on the military position the evening prior and a mosque bombing in December, the assaults have wrecked a peaceful...

- [Hong Kong to press ahead with expanding Middle East ties despite regional unrest](#) (2026-03-17 07:00)

Hong Kong will continue its efforts to expand business opportunities in the Middle East despite recent geopolitical tensions, as the city remains a safe and stable investment hub amid global volatility, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu has said. Despite his optimism, Lee conceded that the conflict in the Middle East had affected Hong Kong due to a surge in fuel prices, urging suppliers to increase transparency in pricing and warning of regulatory action in cases of commercial wrongdoing. “[The...

- [Chinese New Year boosts Hong Kong visitor numbers in first 2 months of 2026](#) (2026-03-17 06:52)

Hong Kong welcomed 9.95 million visitors in the first two months of this year, 18 per cent more than the same period last year, with the increase driven primarily by mainland travellers visiting the city over the Chinese New Year period. Provisional figures released by the Hong Kong Tourism Board on Tuesday showed that 7.89 million mainland Chinese visitors travelled to the city in January and February, representing a 22 per cent year-on-year rise. They also accounted for 79.3 per cent of the...

- [Hong Kong’ s ICAC charges ex-professor over alleged bribe to admit master’ s student](#) (2026-03-17 06:44)

Hong Kong’ s anti-corruption agency has charged a former university professor with allegedly accepting a HK\$40,000 (US\$5,100) bribe from a friend and offering red packets to colleagues to facilitate a student’ s admission into a master’ s degree programme. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on Monday revealed that Liu Hongbin, 63, a former chair professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology’ s (HKUST) department of ocean science, and his friend Priscilla Lam Pui-ling,...

- [Indian man charged with molesting flight attendant on Singapore Airlines plane](#) (2026-03-17 06:19)

A man was charged on Tuesday with molesting and harassing an air stewardess on a Singapore Airlines flight on February 9. Akash Tiwari, a 36-year-old Indian national, is accused of using criminal force on the woman by using his body to make contact with the area around her

buttocks. He is also accused of using threatening behaviour by following her to the galley area, cornering her in the confined space and continuing to pursue her, causing her to be distressed. A gag order was imposed on the...

- [Hong Kong's Ocean Park euthanises 17-year-old red panda Rou Rou](#) (2026-03-17 06:09)

Hong Kong's Ocean Park has euthanised red panda Rou Rou after the 17-year-old endangered animal experienced degenerative joint problems and stopped responding to palliative care. Ocean Park said on Tuesday that its animal care and veterinary teams had provided Rou Rou with comprehensive care and monitored her geriatric conditions for five years, but could not prevent age-related ailments, including degenerative joint issues. The park added that Rou Rou showed "increasing signs of discomfort" in...

- [China backs wider hydrogen adoption as Strait of Hormuz crisis jolts energy markets](#) (2026-03-17 06:03)

Beijing is launching a pilot programme to expand industrial use of hydrogen energy, at a time when war in the Middle East is exposing the risks of global reliance on fossil fuels. Iran's effective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz amid its war with the United States and Israel – now in its third week – has disrupted oil and gas supplies, prompting some nations to re-examine their energy mix, with renewables emerging as a potential hedge against volatility. In a Monday notice, the Ministry of...

- [Taiwan singer ignites debate by showing popular 'vacuum belly' technique to lose weight](#) (2026-03-17 06:00)

A Taiwanese singer has sparked controversy for performing a "vacuum belly" workout routine at a concert in northwestern China. Videos of Ella Chen Jiahua showing her contracted belly, with her ribs prominently protruding, at her concert in Xian, Shaanxi province on March 7 have gone viral on social media, China Youth Daily reported. Chen, 44, tells her audiences: "I would like to perform a stunt for you. Please look at me carefully. Cameramen, please zoom in on me." She begins the movement while...

- [Malaysia tackles religious, racial tensions as 2 charged over provocative posts](#) (2026-03-17 05:45)

Malaysia charged two men on Tuesday and moved to bring back another from Thailand as authorities sought to contain a wave of religiously charged provocations that has sharpened tensions in the multicultural country. Controversial preacher Zamri Vinoth, 41, and activist Arun Dorasamy, 56, both pleaded not guilty in separate magistrates' courts to charges linked to social media posts that prosecutors said were capable of "causing public alarm". The cases come as conservative groups push for the...

- [Suspected wartime mortar round detonated safely at Hong Kong construction site](#) (2026-03-17 05:25)

A suspected wartime mortar round has been safely detonated by bomb disposal officers at a Hong Kong construction site, with no evacuations needed. A source familiar with the matter confirmed to the South China Morning Post that the suspicious object workers discovered at 9.32am on Tuesday at a construction site at Kwu Tung North Multi-Welfare Services Complex was an unexploded wartime mortar round. “Since the mortar round was inside the construction site, officers on site confirmed that the...

- [Hong Kong to unveil plans this month for Tai Po fire victims to retrieve belongings](#) (2026-03-17 05:18)

Hong Kong authorities will announce arrangements this month for residents displaced by the deadly Tai Po blaze to return to their fire-damaged flats and collect personal belongings by the end of April, the city’s leader has said. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu on Tuesday also said the government would fully cooperate with an independent committee investigating the inferno, when asked if any officials would testify before the body as it begins hearings on Thursday. Speaking before the weekly...

- [CK Hutchison subsidiary slams Panama for missing arbitration deadline](#) (2026-03-17 05:10)

A subsidiary of Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison has accused Panama of missing a deadline for international arbitration initiated by the company, as it confirmed its offices had earlier been raided by alleged “armed security forces”. Panama Ports Company (PPC) on Tuesday also accused authorities of silencing the country’s press and disregarding the rule of law, as it continued to paint the Central American nation as a risk to foreign investors following the seizure of its two terminals. The...

- [Fate of US-Malaysia trade pact rests on Washington’s next move](#) (2026-03-17 04:40)

Malaysia will wait for Washington to submit updated terms before deciding its next steps on their tariff deal, the country’s trade minister has said – just days after he declared the agreement had been rendered “null and void” by a US Supreme Court ruling. The government began the week on the back foot as allies and critics demanded clarity on the status of the multibillion-dollar deal with the United States, after Trade Minister Johari Abdul Ghani was reported on Sunday to have said it was no...

- [US ‘grief author’ convicted of murdering husband with lethal fentanyl dose](#) (2026-03-17 04:36)

A Utah woman was convicted on Monday of aggravated murder after poisoning her husband with fentanyl and self-publishing a children’s book about coping with grief. Prosecutors said Kouri Richins slipped five times the lethal dose of the synthetic opioid into a cocktail that her husband Eric Richins drank in March 2022 at their home outside the affluent ski town of Park City. They said she was US\$4.5 million in debt and falsely believed that when her husband died, she would inherit his estate...

- [Philippines' missile question, Nepal's new PM is a rapper: 7 Asia highlights](#) (2026-03-17 04:30)

We have selected seven stories from the SCMP's coverage of Asia over the past week that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. As US missiles leave South Korea, the Philippines asks: are we next? 2. Nepal just elected a rapper for PM. His foreign policy has a new beat 3. Why has the US-Israeli war on Iran left Brics speechless? 4. 'He's so handsome': Japan's youngest governor, 36, sets social...

- [Executive to work with Legco under new mechanism to craft Hong Kong's 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-17 04:04)

Hong Kong authorities will set up a collaborative mechanism with the legislature to craft the city's first five-year plan to align with national development, according to Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu, who says the blueprint will be released by the end of this year. Lee also stressed on Tuesday that the new platform would reflect the city's executive-led governance model, adding a public consultation on the plan would be launched in the fourth quarter before its publication. "The plan will...

- [China and Chile wrap up Atacama Trench mission as US pressure mounts](#) (2026-03-17 04:00)

Chinese and Chilean scientists have reached the bottom of the Atacama Trench, where light does not penetrate, in what they called the "most ambitious" deep-sea expedition ever conducted in the eastern Pacific. The joint mission to one of the deepest ocean trenches – which runs parallel to the coasts of Peru and Chile – took place from January 19 to March 5. It comes as Chile's expanding cooperation with China on science and technology has inflamed geopolitical tensions with the United...

- [Japan to raise residency fees by up to 2,900% despite deepening labour crisis](#) (2026-03-17 03:47)

Settling in Japan as a foreign national is about to become much more expensive after the government passed legislation to sharply increase visa application fees. Critics argue the policy is short-sighted amid a worsening labour shortage, but conservatives have dismissed such concerns, insisting that robots and artificial intelligence will soon replace workers in low-paid, service-sector roles. Detractors also contend the legislation is designed to deter less affluent migrants from developing...

- [South Korea on guard against possible 'terror' acts at BTS concert](#) (2026-03-17 03:42)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said on Tuesday security and safety must be a top priority for a concert by K-pop band BTS on Saturday in Seoul, including readiness for any possible acts of "terror", according to a live TV broadcast of a cabinet meeting. The free comeback concert for the boy band in central Seoul is expected to draw up to 260,000

people, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said last Wednesday, making it one of the largest public gatherings in the area...

- [Xi pushes Belt and Road Initiative port alliance amid Iran war, Panama Canal dispute](#) (2026-03-17 03:00)

President Xi Jinping has vowed to advance the creation of an international port alliance under the Belt and Road Initiative, at a time when the world's top merchandise exporter confronts mounting challenges to global shipping routes – from the Strait of Hormuz to Panama. An excerpt of his speech, initially given at a closed-door meeting on July 1, 2025, was first published on Monday by Qiushi, the Communist Party's top theoretical journal. “[China needs to] deeply participate in global ocean...

- [Spain's king acknowledges 'much abuse' in conquest of the Americas](#) (2026-03-17 02:53)

Spain's monarch said on Monday the Spanish conquest of the Americas included “much abuse” and “ethical controversies”, striking a conciliatory tone amid a years-long row between Spain and Mexico over colonial-era abuses committed by the Spanish crown centuries ago. King Felipe made the remarks while speaking with Mexico's ambassador to Spain, Quirino Ordaz, during a visit to a museum exhibition in Madrid about the role of women in pre-Columbian Mexico. About the centuries-old Spanish conquest,...

- [Hong Kong travel agencies suspend Middle East tours over safety concerns](#) (2026-03-17 02:51)

Hong Kong travel agencies have suspended all tours to the Middle East this month, including those requiring flight transfers through the region, citing safety concerns amid the ongoing war. The announcement was issued on Monday evening, after renewed Iranian drone strikes targeted Dubai International Airport and other infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates, in retaliation for US-Israeli attacks which began in late February. Wing On Travel said it had cancelled all tour groups scheduled to...

- [US Section 301 trade investigations](#) (2026-03-17 02:51)

The Trump administration has initiated a series of sweeping trade investigations that could lead to the imposition of fresh tariffs after the US Supreme Court struck down its previous tariffs. The US trade representative (USTR) announced two new investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, including one targeting alleged excess manufacturing capacity, which opened for public comment today. Section 301 The USTR investigations cover at least 60 economies. US Trade Representative...

- [Hong Kong subway shootout in 2006 leaves 2 policemen dead – SCMP archive](#) (2026-03-17 02:45)

This article was first published on March 18, 2006 by Benjamin Wong and Clifford Lo Officers shot with stolen police gun An off-duty police-man shot two uni-formed con-stables, killing one of them, with a gun stolen from and used to kill an officer five years ago, police sources said yes-ter-day (March 17, 2006). The off-duty con-stable, Tsui Po-ko, 35, was also killed in the shootout in Tsim Sha Tsui in the early hours of yes-ter-day. Police sources said evid-ence at the scene sug-ges-ted that...

- [Channeling Trump, Chile’ s new president launches work on border barrier](#) (2026-03-17 02:32)

Chilean President Jose Antonio Kast wasted no time. Less than a week after his inauguration, Chile’ s arch-conservative president on Monday began overseeing preparations to build a border barrier - part of his flagship campaign promise to block immigrants from crossing illegally. From Chile’ s northern frontier area of Chacalluta, where legions of immigrants have slipped across the Peruvian border into one of the region’ s most prosperous nations, Kast vowed to implement what he calls his “Border...

- [Malaysian man allegedly chokes, threatens wife with knife over fried chicken craving](#) (2026-03-17 01:48)

A Malaysian woman has accused her husband of choking, slapping and threatening her with a knife in an alleged case of domestic violence after she asked him to buy ayam gepuk (pounded fried chicken). Cheras Assistant Commissioner Mohd Rosdi Daud said police received a report from a 33-year-old housewife about the incident at a flat in Sri Sabah, Cheras, last Wednesday. “In the incident at 3.30pm, the victim had asked her husband to buy her ayam gepuk as she was craving for it,” he said in a...

- [Japan identifies 1,500 new missile shelters as fears grow over worsening East Asia security](#) (2026-03-17 01:30)

Japan has identified nearly 1,500 additional facilities that could serve as shelters in the event of missile or bomb attacks, amid mounting fears over the worsening security situation in northeast Asia. The government began a study in 2024 to expand the existing list of facilities where the population could take cover during an attack and has confirmed 1,489 sites – including subway stations and underground car parks – as being suitable for providing short-term protection. The aim, the Sankei...

- [How national security and ‘one country, two systems’ go hand in hand](#) (2026-03-17 01:30)

On February 10, China’ s State Council Information Office released a white paper titled “Hong Kong: Safeguarding China’ s National Security Under the Framework of One Country, Two Systems” . This is the third white paper issued by the Chinese central government on Hong Kong-related affairs since 2014. It reviews Hong Kong’ s efforts in safeguarding national security, elaborates on the central government’ s stance on Hong Kong’ s role in maintaining

national security and summarises the experience and...

- [China girl, 12, uses lai see money to buy shop, paying mum US\\$440 salary to run it for her](#) (2026-03-17 01:00)

A 12-year-old girl from central China showed her business acumen by using her savings to buy a stationery shop and hiring her mother for 3,000 yuan (US\$440) a month. Li Yue, who lived in Jiangxi province and received over 44,000 yuan (US\$6,400) in lai see during the Spring Festival, decided to invest the money in a business. She believed that depositing the money in the bank would offer an interest rate too low to keep up with inflation. While on her way to the bank, Li spotted a stationery...

- [Vietnam warns of April flight reductions as jet fuel shortage fears deepen](#) (2026-03-17 00:37)

Vietnamese authorities have warned the country's aviation industry to prepare for potential flight reductions from April after China and Thailand halted exports of jet fuel due to the Iran war, increasing the likelihood of shortages. Vietnam imports more than two-thirds of its jet fuel needs, with 60 per cent coming from China and Thailand, according to documents from the aviation regulator and importers seen by Reuters. "There are risks of jet fuel shortages for Vietnamese airlines from the...

- [Hong Kong cannot extradite Tates without UK or Romania requests, lawmakers say](#) (2026-03-17 00:30)

Hong Kong lawmakers have said Andrew and Tristan Tate cannot be extradited to the UK or Romania – where they face prosecution – without formal requests from those governments, as the infamous influencer brothers continued their visit to the city on Monday. The legislators also rejected claims that the city had become a haven for fugitives following the suspension of extradition treaties with several Western countries, including the United Kingdom, in 2020. The controversial influencers entered...

- [South Korea in 'Catch-22 situation' over Trump's call for warships to secure Hormuz](#) (2026-03-17 00:00)

South Korea is expected to seek consensus through transparent procedures at its National Assembly before deciding on its next step, after US President Donald Trump bluntly called on various nations to help secure the Strait of Hormuz. Observers say Seoul is unlikely to move quickly, instead waiting for the outcome of the March 19 summit between Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, as well as a formal request from Washington through official diplomatic channels. The country is a key...

- [Drone strikes luxury hotel in Baghdad's Green Zone, home to US embassy](#) (2026-03-16 23:36)

A drone sparked a fire on Monday at a luxury hotel frequented by foreign diplomats in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone shortly before air defences foiled a rocket attack at the US embassy. The attacks came soon after the powerful Tehran-backed Kataeb Hezbollah group announced that its senior security commander Abu Ali al-Askari had been killed, without providing details on the circumstances of his death. Iraq's interior ministry said initially that "a projectile fell on the roof of the al-Rasheed...

- [South Korea and Japan bear brunt of global stock sell-offs amid oil shock](#) (2026-03-16 23:30)

South Korea and Japan have led declines in global stock markets amid the oil shock, underscoring how supply disruptions in the Middle East are weighing on growth in economies heavily reliant on fuel imports. The Kospi index in Seoul has slumped 12 per cent since the US-Israel war with Iran broke out on February 28, while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 has slid nearly 9 per cent. South Korea last week moved to cap oil price increases to limit inflation, while rising crude costs added to price pressures in...

- [Jean-Claude Van Damme talks art, Hong Kong filmmakers and 'good friend' Vladimir Putin](#) (2026-03-16 23:15)

If he had to pick one word, Jean-Claude Van Damme says he would describe his oil paintings as "simple". The star of Bloodsport (1988) had swaggered into his art exhibition 40 minutes late, clad in full black, including the sunglasses he wore indoors. At 65 years old, the "Muscles from Brussels" still has a similar physique to the one at the height of his martial arts acting fame, though his hair is sparser and his gait less brazen. A long-time admirer of Sylvester Stallone, the Belgian-born...

- [Hong Kong to launch world's first governed AI agent network amid OpenClaw frenzy](#) (2026-03-16 23:00)

Hong Kong is poised to launch the world's first open-source human-AI agent collaboration network this week, along with a series of everyday artificial intelligence products to assist citizens with activities such as applying for schools and analysing horse racing. The Hong Kong Generative AI Research and Development Centre (HKGAI) said it would soon offer on an open-source basis a human-AI agent collaboration network named "ClawNet", designed to ensure AI agents "only do things that are...

- [How China is beating the US in new weapons race with a fraction of the budget](#) (2026-03-16 22:00)

Large passenger jets and advanced chips, BeiDou satellites and the Tiangong space station: these large-scale science and technology projects could be part of China's efforts to mobilise resources nationwide to speed up the development of new weapons, according to a study by researchers with China's top defence university. China's military modernisation has accelerated at a pace that unsettles many analysts in Washington. In the past decade alone,

Beijing has rolled out a sequence of major...

- [Trump vows to ‘take’ Cuba as island reels from total power cut linked to oil embargo](#)
(2026-03-16 21:40)

US President Donald Trump vowed on Monday to “take” Cuba as the communist island plunged into darkness under a total power blackout linked to a crippling oil embargo imposed by Washington. After nearly seven decades defying the United States, Havana’s communist authorities are under massive pressure from a Trump administration determined to make history. “You know, all my life I’ve been hearing about the United States and Cuba. When will the United States do it?” Trump told reporters at the...

- [Iran war shows urgency of Hong Kong’s green shipping transition](#) (2026-03-16 21:30)

The war in Iran, culminating in the de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz, has again exposed the world’s energy and maritime sector to acute vulnerabilities. The spike in oil prices and surging freight rates may grab headlines, but beneath these shocks lie fundamental questions about Asia’s – and Hong Kong’s – energy security, the resilience of shipping risk management and the urgent need to transform our maritime industry for a greener future. The Strait of Hormuz is not just a geopolitical...

- [Trump says the US has requested that China delay Beijing summit by ‘a month or so’](#)
(2026-03-16 20:30)

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that his planned trip to Beijing later this month may be postponed, adding uncertainty to a visit expected to include talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Speaking at a news conference at the White House, Trump said the timing of the visit was still under discussion, citing the need to remain in Washington as the US manages its ongoing military campaign against Iran. The trip had been scheduled for March 31 to April 2. “I don’t know, we’re working on...

- [400 killed after Pakistan strikes hit drug rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, Taliban says](#)
(2026-03-16 20:27)

Afghanistan’s deputy government spokesman said early on Tuesday the death toll from an air strike by Pakistan that hit a hospital treating drug users in the Afghan capital Kabul has increased to 400. In a post on X, Hamdullah Fitrat said the strike on Monday night had destroyed large sections of the hospital. He said the death toll so far stood at 400, while a further 250 people had been reported injured. Fitrat said rescue teams were trying to control the fire at the building and recover the...

- [Trump administration can resume ‘third-country’ deportations, appeal court rules](#)
(2026-03-16 19:35)

A US federal appeal court allowed the Trump administration on Monday to temporarily resume summarily deporting undocumented migrants to countries that are not their own. The US Court

of Appeals for the First Circuit, in a 2-1 vote, lifted a block on the so-called third-country deportations that had been imposed by a lower court. District Judge Brian Murphy ruled last month that third-country deportations were unlawful but put his ruling on hold to allow the government time to file an appeal. The...

- [Trump administration urges judge to revisit ruling blocking subpoenas to Jerome Powell](#) (2026-03-16 19:13)

US President Donald Trump's administration has asked a judge to reconsider his ruling that has effectively blocked a criminal investigation into US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, according to court documents made public on Monday. Washington-based US District Judge James Boasberg in a ruling unsealed on Friday blocked subpoenas issued by federal prosecutors in January seeking information about cost overruns in renovations at the Fed's headquarters and Powell's testimony to Congress...

- [Washington signals it wants China kept out of Brazil's largest port auction](#) (2026-03-16 19:12)

A United States diplomat has told Brazilian port industry executives that Washington does not want a Chinese company to win the concession for a major container terminal in Santos, the largest port in Latin America, in the latest sign that the race for one of Brazil's most prized infrastructure assets has become a front in the broader rivalry between Washington and Beijing. Kevin Murakami, the US consul-general in Sao Paulo, made the comments on March 5, at an event organised by Grupo A Tribuna,...

- [Zelensky to visit UK as Starmer says it is 'vital' to continue supporting Ukraine](#) (2026-03-16 18:24)

The UK will "welcome" Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday, British Defence Secretary John Healey told parliament, with the Ukrainian leader expected to travel to Madrid, Spain the next day. "Our total determination to stand with Ukraine remains steadfast and we will welcome President Zelensky to this country tomorrow," Healey said on Monday. Healey's announcement came hours after UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he would be meeting the Ukrainian leader "soon". Ukraine's European allies have vowed...

- [Oscar-winner Sean Penn skips Academy Awards ceremony to visit Zelensky in Kyiv](#) (2026-03-16 17:32)

Sean Penn, who won a best supporting actor Oscar for One Battle After Another on Sunday, was in Ukraine on Monday where he met President Volodymyr Zelensky in a show of support for the war-torn country. An Agence France-Presse reporter saw the Mystic River star getting out of a black car in central Kyiv earlier on Monday, wearing sunglasses and carrying a box of cigarettes. Penn, a vocal advocate for Ukraine who has visited the country several times, on Sunday won his third acting Oscar but was...

- [BBC asks Florida court to dismiss Trump’ s US\\$10 billion lawsuit over January 6 speech edit](#) (2026-03-16 17:01)

The BBC said on Monday it had asked a US federal court in Florida to dismiss a US\$10 billion lawsuit brought by US President Donald Trump against the British broadcaster. Trump launched a lawsuit last year over a BBC documentary that edited his 2021 speech ahead of the US Capitol riot. The documentary was “never aired in Florida – or the US” or available to stream there on any platform, a representative for the British Broadcasting Corporation said in a comment sent to Agence France-Presse. It...

- [Emirates flies full flights out of Dubai, near-empty ones back](#) (2026-03-16 15:46)

Emirates is operating flights to Dubai that are near-empty in some cases as travellers avoid the Persian Gulf, highlighting the challenges for the world’ s largest international airline to restore its network amid a protracted war. Flights from destinations in the US and continental Europe have been hit the hardest, with planes returning from Prague or Budapest only about 5 to 10 per cent occupied, according to data compiled by the Dubai-based airline. Several aircraft returning from New York...

- [China under pressure as Trump ties high-stakes summit to Strait of Hormuz crisis](#) (2026-03-16 15:00)

Trump’ s threat to postpone his Beijing trip unless China helps break Iran’ s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has fused two crises Beijing had sought to keep apart: the unravelling of Middle East stability and the fragile thaw in US–China relations. China, the world’ s largest buyer of Gulf oil, is now being forced to weigh its economic reliance on stable energy routes against its tradition of non interference in diplomacy, according to observers. While Beijing is eager to host Trump for a...

- [Nepal’ s LGBTQ community celebrates first transgender woman lawmaker](#) (2026-03-16 15:00)

Draped in garlands, Bhumika Shrestha on Monday became Nepal’ s first transgender woman lawmaker, marking a proud milestone for the marginalised community in the Himalayan nation. Nepal’ s Election Commission confirmed the 37-year-old as a proportional representation MP from the centrist Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), which won a majority in parliament with 182 seats last week. “I am very excited but also feel the responsibility on my shoulders,” said Shrestha, an LGBTQ rights advocate. “Our...

- [‘Evil’ UK nursery worker who raped toddlers in his care jailed for 24 years](#) (2026-03-16 14:33)

An “evil” UK nursery worker who raped and abused two- and three-year-olds in his care was jailed for at least 24 years on Monday, weeks after another childcare worker was imprisoned in a similar case. Nathan Bennett, 30, was jailed at Bristol Crown Court in southwest England for the serial abuse of five boys at the nursery where he worked. He was described as an

“incorrigible and dangerous paedophile” by Judge William Hart, handing down the sentence. “You prioritised your own sexual satisfaction...”

- [Beijing on Iran war, Trump’s China trade plan, new AI arena: 7 US-China relations reads](#) (2026-03-16 14:30)

We have selected seven of the most interesting and important news stories covering US-China relations from the past few weeks. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Trump slams European allies, praises China and continues to justify Iran attack US President Donald Trump used a White House meeting with the German Chancellor on March 3 to blast European allies, praise China, waffle on tariffs and argue that the attack he had launched against Iran days...

- [‘Super Rich’ star David Yong hit with 12 new fraud charges in Singapore](#) (2026-03-16 13:52)

Singaporean businessman David Yong was given 12 new charges on Monday for conspiring to make false entries in accounts and for his company’s illegal issuing of loans amounting to more than S\$1 million (US\$780,000). The 38-year-old, whose name in court papers was indicated as Yong Khung Lin, pleaded not guilty in court. The chief executive officer of multinational business and holding company Evergreen Group Holdings, who is on bail of S\$1 million, said he would contest all charges. The new...

- [Northern Metropolis to streamline land approval process from 9 to 2 months: sources](#) (2026-03-16 13:39)

Hong Kong’s Northern Metropolis megaproject near the border with mainland China will adopt laws to streamline land approval procedures from nine to two months in a move to speed up its development, the South China Morning Post has learned. Sources said that details of the dedicated legislation for the Northern Metropolis would be announced on Tuesday, with a major highlight being the shortening of land-use approval procedures. These measures align with the newly unveiled 15th national five-year...

- [What lessons does Taiwan see from Iran and Ukraine for its air-defence strategy?](#) (2026-03-16 13:30)

Lessons from the wars in Iran and Ukraine are pushing Taipei to rethink its air-defence strategy, with officials now warning that expensive missiles alone cannot stop large waves of rockets and drones. In a report submitted to Taiwan’s lawmakers on Monday, the island’s defence ministry said low-cost interceptor weapons were urgently needed to counter the mainland Chinese military’s growing arsenal of long-range rockets and uncrewed aircraft. The new systems would form part of Taiwan’s planned...

- [Alibaba reshuffles AI units into a new ‘Token Hub’ group, led by CEO Eddie Wu](#) (2026-03-16 13:19)

Alibaba Group Holding has reshuffled its artificial intelligence operations, creating a new top level business group and placing CEO Eddie Wu Yongming in charge as the AI and e-commerce powerhouse accelerates its push into the emerging token economy. The company said on Monday it had established the Alibaba Token Hub (ATH) Business Group, which brings all its core AI teams and products together under one umbrella. This includes Tongyi Laboratory – the developer of Alibaba’s Qwen series of...

- [Frenchman jailed for 10 years in Azerbaijan: ‘I’ m not a spy’](#) (2026-03-16 12:54)

Azerbaijan on Monday sentenced a Frenchman to 10 years in prison in an espionage case launched during a period of diplomatic tensions between Paris and Baku that have now eased. Martin Ryan was arrested in December 2023 and went on trial in January last year, when relations between Azerbaijan and France had deteriorated to new lows over Paris’ support for Armenia, Baku’s long-time rival. The court found him guilty of spying against Azerbaijan and sentenced him to 10 years. Prosecutors had sought...

- [China and the US end trade talks in Paris as doubts form over Trump visit](#) (2026-03-16 12:48)

China and the US wrapped up their sixth round of trade talks in Paris on Monday, with the agenda ranging from a possible extension of bilateral tariff and non-tariff measures as well as bilateral investment. “China and the US conducted deep, frank and constructive consultations,” Chinese vice commerce minister Li Chenggang said. Both sides agreed to “continue to maintain the stability of tariffs” and discussed the possibility of establishing a mechanism for promoting bilateral investment, said...

- [Hong Kong in new push to get young people to register as voters](#) (2026-03-16 12:33)

Young people can opt to make self-declarations to be exempted from producing proof of address to register as electors under a new Hong Kong government drive to boost voter numbers, lawmakers have been told. A commissioner for oaths will be stationed at each Immigration Department registration of persons office, where young people replace their juvenile identity cards with adult ones upon turning 18. The initiative was outlined as officials presented the 2026 voter registration campaign at...

- [Malaysia’s Petronas wins right to challenge Sarawak gas laws in court](#) (2026-03-16 12:32)

Malaysia’s highest court on Monday allowed national energy firm Petronas to pursue a legal bid to challenge several laws passed by the state of Sarawak, amid a protracted dispute over gas distribution rights. Sarawak, on Borneo island, is home to more than 60 per cent of Malaysia’s gas reserves and has long sought greater control over its natural resources. In recent years, it has passed laws and appointed its own firm Petros to procure, distribute, supply and sell all natural gas in the state,...

- [Why Trump's push for China to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz may hurt trade talks](#) (2026-03-16 12:30)

US President Donald Trump's reported threat that he may postpone a long-awaited visit to China – unless Beijing helps unblock the Iran-controlled Strait of Hormuz – may put the current trade talks in Paris at risk by sidelining earlier priorities and potential deals, analysts say. As the US-Israeli war in Iran enters its third week and disrupts global energy markets, Trump has reportedly urged Beijing to send warships to help reopen the strait and ease oil shipments. About 20 per cent of the...

- [Europe says it must rearm – but to what end?](#) (2026-03-16 12:30)

With the Middle East ablaze and war in Ukraine showing no sign of respite, a stark new consensus is hardening in Paris, London and Berlin that Europe must rearm. Recently, French President Emmanuel Macron signalled a pivotal shift in deterrence by announcing an increase in the nation's nuclear warheads and a “forward deterrence” plan. This follows a rare joint appeal from the British and German defence chiefs, who urged Europeans to build a moral and strategic case for a massive surge in...

- [Fix, don't fire 'digital employee' OpenClaw over security risks: Paul Chan](#) (2026-03-16 12:02)

Hong Kong's finance chief has likened the powerful AI agent OpenClaw to an efficient “digital employee”, saying it should not be dismissed but rather improved to address security risk concerns. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po's remarks on Monday followed a recent Digital Policy Office advisory urging government departments to avoid installing OpenClaw or its variants due to security concerns. “AI agent OpenClaw has awed the world; the convenience it offers is just like having a digital...

- [AI poisoning: fake fitness tracker fools chatbots in China, sparking outcry](#) (2026-03-16 12:00)

An undercover investigation by state-run China Central Television (CCTV) has cast a harsh light on a controversial practice in a nascent industry: the “poisoning” of artificial intelligence models with fabricated information. The report showed how techniques of generative engine optimisation (GEO) – the AI version of search engine optimisation (SEO) – could be used to manipulate AI chatbots, provoking widespread public concern and debate as both industry insiders and observers anticipated...

- [Hong Kong businessman expected to take loss on Peak properties he bought for US\\$255m](#) (2026-03-16 11:53)

Luxury residential property on Hong Kong's Peak Road owned by businessman Chan King-wai has been put up for sale by public tender, several years after he acquired it from companies linked to CK group. Marketing agent JLL said on Monday that the adjoining sites at 86, 88 and 90 Peak Road are being offered for joint sale by tender. The residential lots have a combined area

of about 28,620 sq ft. The site could attract bids of about HK\$70,000 (US\$8,939) to HK\$100,000 per square foot, said Joseph...

- [Arrest of stateless teen in Malaysia highlights plight of Sabah's 1 million non-citizens](#) (2026-03-16 11:49)

The arrest of a 17-year-old stateless teenager during a school outing to buy Eid clothes at a Sabah mall for allegedly failing to show valid residence papers, has returned scrutiny to Malaysia's treatment of undocumented people. Niko Ansboy, a student at Borneo Komrad, an alternative school for stateless children, was waiting outside a store during a school trip to the 1 Borneo Hypermall when police detained him on Sunday. He was stopped by officers patrolling after the Kota Kinabalu District...

- [Papers please: China raises pressure on Panama amid canal row with ship inspection wave](#) (2026-03-16 11:30)

Beijing has increased its inspections on Panama-flagged vessels entering Chinese ports, a source from the shipping industry said, an action intended to raise the Latin American country's stress level after its courts voided the operating rights of Hong Kong-based conglomerate CK Hutchison in the Panama Canal. Port state control (PSC) – the inspection regime countries may deploy to verify the compliance of foreign ships with various international standards – was being used as a form of leverage...

- [PLA ramps up Taiwan patrols after lull as Beijing slams Lai's 'independence confession'](#) (2026-03-16 11:19)

The People's Liberation Army ramped up aircraft sorties near Taiwan over the weekend, ending two weeks of relative calm just as a defiant speech by Taiwanese leader William Lai Ching-te drew a strong rebuke from Beijing. From 6am on Saturday to 6am on Sunday, Taiwan detected 26 PLA aircraft sorties operating around the island. Sixteen of these entered the island's air defence identification zone (ADIZ), according to data released by Taiwan's defence ministry on Sunday. The 26 sorties marked a...

- [China: we're still talking to US about Trump trip after threat to delay over Iran crisis](#) (2026-03-16 10:33)

China said on Monday it was still talking to the United States about President Donald Trump's planned visit later this month, following his threat to delay the trip. Trump has been trying to pressure countries that rely heavily on oil from the Persian Gulf to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway that Iran has effectively closed in retaliation for US and Israeli attacks. On Sunday, he told the Financial Times "it's only appropriate that people who are the beneficiaries of the...

- [Most Filipino women think a woman's place is in the home, survey finds](#) (2026-03-16 10:30)

The Philippines ranks among Asia's most gender-equal societies by several international measures. Yet ask Filipino women where they truly belong and most will still tell you: at home. A new survey has found that 83 per cent of Filipino women agree "being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay", up from 70 per cent when the same question was posed in 1994. The findings, released by independent pollster Social Weather Stations earlier in March to coincide with National Women's Month,...

- [Iran to turn bombed girls' school into museum commemorating US 'crimes'](#) (2026-03-16 10:19)

Iran plans to convert the girls' school that was bombed on the first day of the war into a museum commemorating the nearly 200 victims of the strike. "This school is a living document of the Americans' willingness to commit crimes and must be registered and documented for preservation in the historical memory of the Iranian people," the Iranian government said in a statement issued on Monday. At least 168 pupils aged between seven and 12 years old, 26 teachers and four parents were killed in the...

- [Google to open Gemini chatbot to all Hong Kong users amid city's AI push](#) (2026-03-16 10:15)

Tech giant Google will gradually roll out its generative AI services to all users in Hong Kong starting with the Gemini web app before introducing a mobile version for the chatbot and virtual assistant. The move is expected to eliminate the barriers that previously forced many residents to use virtual private networks (VPNs) or third-party platforms to access Google's flagship artificial intelligence (AI) models or other alternatives. "We believe expanding the Gemini experience will drive more...

- [How China ethnic minority groups use chicken bones of small roosters to predict fortunes](#) (2026-03-16 10:00)

Ethnic minority groups in China have long relied on a gruesome method to predict their fortunes: beating a rooster to death and reading its femur bones, a practice that has lasted for centuries. Tracing back to the Tang (618–907) and Song (960–1279) dynasties, the custom is known as "Dajibu", meaning chicken divination. It originated from ancient spiritual beliefs in southwestern China, where people lacking access to medicine would beat bronze drums to pray for healing. Chicken bone divination...

- [Strait of Hormuz marks first full day's pause as no ships cross amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-16 09:30)

Maritime tracking data showed that no ships passed through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, marking the first full day without any confirmed commercial traffic in either direction since February 28, when the US and Israel began military strikes on Iran. Crossings dropped to zero, below the previous seven-day average of 2.57 daily transits, according to maritime analytics firm Windward. Although no vessels entered the waterway that day, about 400 ships sailed in

the Gulf of Oman on Friday, it...

- [Senior Hong Kong policeman denies molesting clerk in indecent assault case](#) (2026-03-16 09:15)

A senior Hong Kong police officer has denied molesting a government clerk at the force's headquarters more than a year ago. Senior Superintendent Ian Chow Ngai-kong, 50, on Monday stood trial at Eastern Court on three counts of indecent assault over the alleged incidents at police headquarters in Wan Chai on June 19 and November 1, 2024. The court heard the complainant, a senior clerical officer from the Civil Service Bureau, was seconded to the police force to provide administrative support...

- [Confusion over Malaysia-US trade deal as 'null and void' claim retracted](#) (2026-03-16 09:14)

Malaysia's government has been forced onto the defensive over its much-touted tariff deal with the United States, after a minister walked back an earlier claim that the agreement had been rendered "null and void" by a US Supreme Court ruling. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's administration signed the deal in October, promising US\$240 billion in investments and purchases of American goods, including beef and aircraft, in exchange for continued access to the world's largest consumer market at a...

- [Dubai flights disrupted after drone attack near airport; missile kills 1 in Abu Dhabi](#) (2026-03-16 09:14)

Missiles and drone attacks hit across the UAE on Monday, with a drone-related incident sparking a fuel tank fire near Dubai airport that disrupted travel, while a missile killed a civilian in Abu Dhabi. In the eastern emirate of Fujairah, a drone attack on oil infrastructure sparked a fire, just one day after smoke was seen rising from a major UAE energy installation in the emirate. The attacks came a day after Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said in an interview that rockets had been...

- [2 dead after Japanese school trip boats capsize off US military base site in Okinawa](#) (2026-03-16 09:11)

Two boats carrying 21 people capsized on Monday off Henoko, a controversial relocation site for a US military base off Japan's southern island of Okinawa, throwing all into the water and leaving two of them dead, officials said. The Japan Coast Guard said 18 of them were students from a Kyoto high school on two boats, 10 on Heiwa Maru and eight on the smaller Fukutsu, to observe the Henoko area as part of their peace education programme. Rescuers pulled all 21 people out of the water, but...

- [China may snub Trump plea for help in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-16 09:04)

US President Donald Trump said he may put off a planned visit to Beijing as he sought to press China and other nations into helping reopen the Strait of Hormuz amid the war in Iran. "We

may delay” the trip, he told the Financial Times on Sunday, without saying for how long. The visit, scheduled for March 31 to April 2, includes a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump has “demanded” that about seven countries help to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, he told reporters on Sunday, as the...

- [Malaysia’ s US\\$6 billion megaport imperils Mah Meri way of life](#) (2026-03-16 09:00)

Lingan bin Man pulls up to the fishing jetty in the early afternoon, guiding his small boat towards a narrow strip of wooden planks as waves crash against the dock. On board are his wife and toddler. Together, the Malaysian family inspects the day’ s catch: 2kg (4.4lbs) of clams after three hours at sea. “I can sell this for US\$7,” the 52-year-old said. For fishermen in Kampung Sungai Kurau, a village on Pulau Carey, an island in Selangor state, this has become the new normal. Members of the Mah...

- [Could this Chinese breakthrough pave way for global organ transplant system?](#) (2026-03-16 09:00)

A team of scientists in China has developed a way to freeze and revive organs for transplant, extending their viability from as little as six hours to several days, according to a peer-reviewed study published in the Journal of Medical Devices. While the technology is still at the experimental stage and has not yet progressed to human trials, it could one day transform the entire field of organ transplantation, especially for hearts, the researchers say. “If just half of the currently discarded...

- [Shanghai sees massive F1 turnout, boosting city’ s pitch as sporting destination](#) (2026-03-16 08:00)

The Formula One (F1) Chinese Grand Prix drew record crowds over the weekend, another indication the wide-ranging efforts from host city Shanghai to raise its profile as a global sports and event destination are paying off. The three-day event, which concluded on Sunday, attracted more than 230,000 cumulative spectators, the highest attendance headcount reported by the Chinese financial centre in nearly two decades. On the opening day, the number of foreign arrivals through Shanghai’ s ports...

- [AI to narrow China’ s rural-urban economic divide](#) (2026-03-16 07:00)

China is counting on artificial intelligence (AI) to help the 450 million people living in rural areas left behind by the nation’ s economic boom. Farmers are already benefiting from the technology, using AI offerings such as DeepSeek or ByteDance’ s Doubao for help with issues like pig rearing, pest control and government subsidies. The State Council’ s “No 1 document” of 2026, extended a push for the “digital upgrading” of farming, with an emphasis on the greater integration of AI, drones, robots...

- [Myanmar’ s junta-proxy parliament meets for first time since 2021 coup](#) (2026-03-16 06:51)

Five years after armoured vehicles rolled through the streets of Myanmar's capital and the generals tore up an election result they did not like, a new parliament sat for the first time on Monday. The legislature that convened in Naypyidaw was stacked almost entirely with allies of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the coup leader who ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021. In Myanmar's recent election, held across barely a third of the country, the army-backed Union Solidarity...

- [China's supply chain meets the wall of African resource nationalism](#) (2026-03-16 06:36)

Resource-rich African nations are increasingly asserting control over critical minerals to maximise domestic returns, sending global prices soaring and exerting pressure on Chinese supply chains. One price crunch started last month when Zimbabwe, Africa's biggest lithium producer, abruptly suspended exports of raw lithium minerals and concentrates. The country had originally planned to impose the ban in 2027 to encourage more local value-added processing of the mineral but the government brought...

- [Elderly driver arrested after car mounts pavement in Hong Kong, injuring 9](#) (2026-03-16 06:36)

A 75-year-old driver has been arrested in Hong Kong after stepping on the wrong pedal in his car and mounting the pavement, injuring eight pedestrians and throwing his passenger from the vehicle. Police were called to Lam Hing Street in Kowloon Bay at about 12.40pm on Monday following reports of a car veering onto the walkway outside the car park of Metro Centre II. Surveillance footage showed the man attempting to make a U-turn before the accident happened, according to the force. His...

- [20 Thai sailors return home after Iranian attack in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-16 06:24)

Twenty Thai crew members of a cargo ship attacked in the crucial Strait of Hormuz arrived in Thailand on Monday, with three of their colleagues still stranded on the vessel in the Gulf. The Thai-registered Mayuree Naree was hit by two projectiles on Wednesday while transiting through the Gulf waterway, after departing a port in the United Arab Emirates. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had struck the Thai ship, as well as a Liberia-flagged vessel, in the strait because they had ignored...

- [James Taylor-Foster, Para Site's 'wild card' director, on 'beautiful paradox' of Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-16 06:01)

With his peroxide blond hair, dark moustache and luxuriant eyebrows, London-born curator and writer James Taylor-Foster is easy to pick out among the tourists and selfie-takers in the courtyard of Yick Cheong Building, also known as the "Monster Building", in Hong Kong's Quarry Bay neighbourhood. The South China Morning Post is meeting the 33-year-old here shortly after the board of the Hong Kong non-profit art space Para Site chose him to be its next executive director. That space, a few...

- [China woman uses AI-generated man to lecture on respecting science, rejecting superstition](#) (2026-03-16 06:00)

Young people in China are contributing to a fake account generated by artificial intelligence (AI) to lecture their parents about healthy and scientific life values. A social media account called “Lao Zhao jiang dao li” , or “Mr Zhao talks sense” , went viral recently, amassing over 200,000 followers in just two months. The man surnamed Zhao, based in southwestern China’ s Chongqing municipality, claimed in his profile that he is a retired professor who has specialised in parent-child relationships...

- [Couple to face child neglect charges after son swept into sea during Typhoon Ragasa](#) (2026-03-16 05:35)

A Hong Kong couple whose five-year-old son was swept into the sea at a waterfront during Super Typhoon Ragasa last year have been charged with child neglect and are set to appear in court on Tuesday. Police revealed on Monday that the boy’ s father, a 40-year-old man surnamed Yen, and mother, a 38-year-old woman surnamed Li, were arrested in Chai Wan on January 6 and were charged last Wednesday with ill-treatment or neglect by those in charge of a child or young person. The case will be heard at...

- [Hong Kong watchdog warns 24-hour gym users of hidden costs, data privacy risks](#) (2026-03-16 05:03)

Monthly fees at Hong Kong’ s 24-hour fitness centres vary widely and can more than double depending on additional charges, the Consumer Council has found, as it warned residents to be cautious when providing sensitive personal data, including facial images for recognition systems. The consumer watchdog revealed on Monday the results of a survey of 11 round-the-clock gym operators, finding that although all offered monthly membership plans, nearly half imposed extra non-refundable charges that...

- [Malaysia’ s government accused of using law to silence critics](#) (2026-03-16 04:52)

Several Malaysian civil society groups on Monday accused Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim’ s government of using a harsh criminal law provision to intimidate critics after police questioned activists, academics and political researchers over an alleged plot to topple the government. The backlash follows an announcement in late February that police were investigating allegations of a conspiracy to “topple the government and sabotage national stability” involving “a local influential figure” and an...

- [China defence experts vanish online, Thai coconut cartel crisis: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-03-16 04:12)

We have put together stories from our coverage last weekend to help you stay informed about news across Asia and beyond. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Top Chinese nuclear, radar and missile experts vanish from engineering body site 2. The US is shifting THAAD to the Middle East. What does that mean for China? 3. Hong

Kong OpenClaw users say tool is helpful ‘family member’ who must be watched 4. Inside the coconut cartel: how Chinese money...

- [Things ‘I do not like’ drove me to quit US for Hong Kong: top mathematician Ngo Bao Chau](#) (2026-03-16 04:00)

World-leading Vietnamese mathematician Ngo Bao Chau has said his decision to leave the US was not just the result of the worsening academic environment there, but also a vision to transform Asia into the next global powerhouse for maths and science. Ngo, the first Vietnamese recipient of the prestigious Fields Medal, will join the University of Hong Kong in June. “I want Asia to be the next America or the next Europe [as] a place where science and mathematics strive,” he said in an interview on...

- [Philippines’ Jollibee stands out as Southeast Asia’s global restaurant exception](#) (2026-03-16 04:00)

From Singapore’s hawker stalls to Thailand’s street markets and Vietnam’s noodle shops, Southeast Asia is home to some of the world’s most celebrated food cultures. Yet the region has produced relatively few restaurant chains with global brand recognition, even as Chinese food and beverage groups climb international rankings. Analysts say structural factors – including smaller domestic markets, fragmented regional consumer tastes and fewer brands expanding aggressively overseas – have slowed the...

- [Guess says it will shut all mainland China stores amid retail rethink](#) (2026-03-16 03:12)

US fashion brand Guess has told customers it will close all its stores in mainland China by the end of March, pending a new business model at a time when a growing number of international fashion retailers retreat from the market amid what analysts believe are issues including weak localisation and slow decision-making. Other foreign brands that have withdrawn entirely from mainland China in recent years include US label Old Navy, UK brand Topshop, and several labels owned by Spanish fashion...

- [Courier SF Express imposes temporary fuel surcharges within Hong Kong and Macau](#) (2026-03-16 03:09)

China’s largest courier, SF Express, will introduce temporary fuel surcharges for local document and parcel deliveries within Hong Kong and Macau, set at HK\$1 (13 US cents) and MOP\$1, respectively, starting Monday amid a surge in global oil prices. The Shenzhen-based company said on Sunday that the surcharge was introduced in response to “the recent drastic fluctuations in global fuel prices due to the international situation,” adding that monthly credit account clients would not be subject to...

- [Malaysia will not intervene militarily in Middle East, Anwar says](#) (2026-03-16 02:37)

Malaysia cannot get involved in what is happening in the Middle East, especially not via military intervention, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has said. He said that as a free country, Malaysia

could voice its objections towards war and violence – but not by sending in troops. Dialogue and engagement should be the means to resolve any form of disputes, he said. “We do not agree when any country is attacked and colonised. We do not want any country to interfere in our national affairs,” he said on...

- [How Asean can loosen dependence on US, China amid trade war fallout](#) (2026-03-16 02:00)

As trade tensions and new US tariff investigations rattle global supply chains, Southeast Asian economies are looking to broaden their options, but analysts say the region’s deep links with the US and China mean any shift will be gradual rather than a clean break. The disruption could actually work in Asean’s favour, accelerating supply-chain diversification and shifting more manufacturing to the region from markets such as Europe, India and the Middle East, they say. Economic ministers from the...

- [China’s economy starts 2026 strongly as retail sales, investment rise](#) (2026-03-16 02:00)

China’s economy got off to a strong start in 2026, as several indicators registered expectation-beating expansions in the first two months – though analysts cautioned the imminent energy crisis caused by the US-Israel war in Iran would present challenges for Beijing and the world at large in the months to come. Resilience in industrial output and retail sales, as well as a small expansion in fixed-asset investment, will provide a vital boost to Beijing as it strives to achieve an economic growth...

- [Mainland-style oversight system could help Legco to deliver](#) (2026-03-16 01:30)

After the annual “two sessions” in Beijing, it’s clear that Hong Kong policymakers have their work cut out for them. It has been made abundantly clear what is expected of Hong Kong: stop messing around and get on with the national programme. Hong Kong is part of the nation’s plans to move forward. The country knows exactly where the city fits into the big picture, how it can catapult growth in key areas and play the role of superconnector between China and the rest of the world. The 15th...

- [Hong Kong regulator sets ‘comprehensive’ review of medical insurance costs](#) (2026-03-16 01:00)

Hong Kong’s Insurance Authority aims to increase transparency and the available range of medical insurance products to address rising costs, while also reviewing regulations with an eye towards attracting more international life-insurance buyers. “We would like to see the insurance companies introduce more medical insurance products that are more accessible and affordable for the general public, with sales practices that are fair to consumers,” said Clement Lau Chung-kin, the authority’s...

- [China Liaoning warship’s sole female senior officer urges fellow women to prioritise professional skills](#) (2026-03-16 01:00)

The sole female senior officer aboard China's Liaoning aircraft carrier has urged women to put aside their gender and focus on professionalism and responsibility. On March 7, during the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, a poised and confident female military deputy in uniform captured nationwide attention. Zhu Yuemeng, 36, from a modest family in Jilin province, northeastern China, is a naval lieutenant colonel and serves as a political instructor on board the Liaoning aircraft...

- [30% jump in demand for regional holidays among Hongkongers amid Middle East war](#) (2026-03-16 00:30)

Demand for some regional holiday destinations among Hong Kong travellers has jumped by as much as 30 per cent ahead of Easter, as locals seek to avoid long-haul trips amid rising fares and disrupted routes caused by the ongoing war in Iran, according to industry players. Travel agencies said the number of inquiries for trips to Japan, South Korea, mainland China and Australia had risen by between 10 and 30 per cent since the war escalated, while demand for destinations linked to the Middle...

- [Trump wants Japanese warships in Hormuz. Can Takaichi 'dodge the bullet' ?](#) (2026-03-16 00:00)

The rapidly escalating conflict in the Middle East threatens to overshadow this week's meeting between Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and US President Donald Trump, where the two leaders are expected to deepen economic cooperation and collaboration in shipbuilding. Thursday's summit at the White House puts Takaichi in a bind, caught between Trump's call for Tokyo and others to send warships to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz and her country's constitutional limits on taking part in...

- [Precision strike: China targets US, Japan stranglehold on photoresist supply](#) (2026-03-16 00:00)

China's push for semiconductor self-sufficiency is shifting from broad aspiration to a precision strike on chokepoint materials, with photoresist – the light-sensitive chemical essential for etching microscopic circuits onto silicon wafers – emerging as a new battlefield. The sector, which provides the key material for lithography, was expected to enter a critical stage of “accelerated breakthroughs and large-scale application” over the coming years, according to Fu Zhiwei, chairman of Xuzhou...

- [Trump warns Nato faces 'very bad future' if allies fail to help US in opening Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-15 22:59)

US President Donald Trump has warned that Nato faces a “very bad” future if US allies fail to help in opening up the Strait of Hormuz, in an interview with the Financial Times published on Sunday. Trump told the newspaper he could also delay his summit with China's President Xi Jinping later this month as he presses Beijing to help unblock the crucial waterway. “It's only appropriate that people who are the beneficiaries of the Strait will

help to make sure that nothing bad...

- [Why Iran strikes may drive Asian nuclear race, hit China in the Middle East: Zhao Tong](#) (2026-03-15 22:00)

Zhao Tong is a senior fellow with the Nuclear Policy Programme at Washington-based think tank the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and its East Asia-based research centre on contemporary China, Carnegie China. His research focuses on strategic security issues, including nuclear weapons policy, deterrence, arms control, non-proliferation, missile defence, hypersonic weapons, regional security in the Asia-Pacific, and China's security and foreign policy. This interview first appeared in...

- [How US-Israel war on Iran rocks foundations of the Abraham Accords](#) (2026-03-15 21:30)

The 2020 Abraham Accords were heralded as a transformative diplomatic breakthrough in the Middle East. The US-brokered agreements normalised relations between Israel and Arab states including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain. They established full diplomatic relations, opening embassies, initiating direct commercial flights, expanding trade ties and encouraging people-to-people exchanges. The accords were notable because the participating Arab states agreed to normalise relations with...

- [Afghan asylum seeker dies in ICE custody, US advocacy group says](#) (2026-03-15 20:27)

An Afghan immigrant who previously worked with the US military in Afghanistan and later sought asylum in the United States died this weekend in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody less than 24 hours after being detained in Texas, a US veteran-led advocacy group said on Sunday. Mohommad Nazeer Paktyawal, who was living in a Dallas suburb with his wife and six children while his asylum case remained pending, was arrested by federal agents outside his flat on Friday morning while...

- [Police arrest 12 as hundreds join banned pro-Palestinian march in London](#) (2026-03-15 19:43)

Hundreds of people turned out in London on Sunday for a pro-Palestinian march banned by the government after police said it was organised by a group "supportive of the Iranian regime". Police said in a statement they had arrested 12 people and were investigating anti-Israeli chants allegedly made at the rally. Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood said earlier this week she had agreed to the ban to "prevent serious public disorder" in the context of the continuing conflict in the Middle East, where...

- [Gaza's Rafah crossing to open on Wednesday 'for limited movement of people', Israel says](#) (2026-03-15 18:49)

Gaza's main gateway, the Rafah crossing with Egypt that was closed at the start of the Iran war, will open on Wednesday for limited movement of people in both directions, Israel's COGAT, the military body in charge of humanitarian matters, said on Sunday. The crossing

had reopened in early February after being largely shut since May 2024, in the early months of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. Its reopening offered some relief to Palestinians who want to leave Gaza for medical...

- [Iran says women's football captain has withdrawn Australia asylum bid](#) (2026-03-15 18:00)

The captain of the Iranian women's football team which played in the Asian Cup in Australia has withdrawn her bid for asylum, state media said on Sunday, making her the fifth member of the delegation to change her mind. A former player and a Persian-language television channel based outside Iran said the players had been pressured to reverse their stance through threats against families back home. But Iranian authorities have in turn accused Australia of pressuring the players to stay. Captain...

- [US-China trade talks: low-key start to negotiations after first meeting in Paris](#) (2026-03-15 17:33)

China and the US ended the first day of trade talks in Paris on Sunday without any major developments. Talks will continue tomorrow when the US delegation is set to leave. The Chinese delegation will stay one more day before leaving on Tuesday. The first day of the sixth round of trade talks between the world's two biggest economies – led by Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent – was rather uneventful for journalists waiting outside the venue, the headquarters...

- [Brother of Michigan synagogue attacker was Hezbollah commander, Israeli military claims](#) (2026-03-15 17:12)

The brother of the man who attacked a Michigan synagogue last week, who was killed earlier this month in an Israeli air strike, was a Hezbollah commander, Israel's military claimed on Sunday. Ibrahim Ghazali was killed in Lebanon along with three other of the attacker's relatives on March 5 - a week before authorities allege Ayman Mohamad Ghazali drove his car into a major synagogue outside Detroit and killed himself after security fired at him. The FBI's Detroit office, which is investigating...

- [IEA says oil from emergency stocks to flow in Asia and Oceania immediately](#) (2026-03-15 16:02)

The International Energy Agency (IEA) said oil from a record stockpile release will be made available in Asia and Oceania immediately as buyers in the region clamour to replace barrels lost to war-related disruptions in the Middle East. The agency released a statement after it said it received implementation plans from member states. Barrels for Europe and the Americas will only be made available from the end of March. The IEA last week said that the oil market is seeing the biggest supply...

- [US energy chief signals Iran war could continue for several more weeks](#) (2026-03-15 15:30)

Energy Secretary Chris Wright signalled the war with Iran may last several more weeks, with oil and petrol prices elevated as the US and Israel seek to destroy Iranian military capabilities. In television interviews on Sunday, Wright defended the Trump administration's argument that Americans are facing short-term pain at the pump in a midterm election year for the larger goal of eliminating Iran as a threat to the Middle East. "I think that this conflict will certainly come to the end in the..."

- [Search under way for 68 year old man missing since Friday in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-15 14:37)

Hong Kong authorities were searching on Sunday for a 68 year old man who has been missing for two days after leaving his home in Tai Po. Lau Kin pong left his residence at Wan Tau Tong Estate at around 3pm on Friday. His family became unable to contact him and filed a missing person report on Saturday. He was last seen that afternoon on Shan Tong Road in Tai Po. Lau is described as about 1.7 metres tall (5 feet, 7 inches), weighing 60kg (132lbs), of thin build with short white hair. He was last...

- [‘Cease fire’ ! Pope Leo demands end to Middle East war, urging ‘those responsible’ to talk](#) (2026-03-15 14:36)

Pope Leo XIV demanded a ceasefire in the Middle East on Sunday in his strongest comments to date, directly addressing the leaders who launched the war in Iran. "On behalf of the Christians of the Middle East and all women and men of good will, I appeal to those responsible for this conflict," Pope Leo said. "Cease fire so that avenues for dialogue may be reopened. Violence can never lead to the justice, stability and peace that the people are waiting for." Pope Leo did not cite the United States...

- [Influencer Andrew Tate, facing rape charges in 2 countries, parties in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-15 14:33)

Online influencer brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate, who both face rape and human trafficking charges in Romania and the United Kingdom, were reported to have entered Hong Kong over the weekend, sparking heated discussion online. Andrew posted a video of him and Tristan on a luxury boat in Victoria Harbour on X on Sunday, while other posts showed the brothers visiting the Lan Kwai Fong nightlife district and a crab restaurant in Causeway Bay. A video he posted a day earlier showed him singing...

- [Over 300 Wang Fuk Court homeowners to petition Hong Kong's John Lee for meeting](#) (2026-03-15 14:22)

More than 300 homeowners from the fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po have signed a petition to be sent to Hong Kong's leader, demanding a face-to-face meeting with the government-appointed Hop On Management Company over unresolved issues. The letter to Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu, obtained by the South China Morning Post on Sunday, bore 336 signatures and raised concerns in seven areas. These include the use of remaining

renovation funds, the handling of outstanding management fees and...

- [Could the PLA's new shipborne drone redefine naval operations in the South China Sea?](#)
(2026-03-15 14:00)

A new type of autonomous helicopter has been seen operating on the Type 075 amphibious assault ship, possibly improving the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) capabilities in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. Mainland state broadcaster CCTV on Thursday released a video explaining the operational capabilities of China's Type 075 amphibious assault ship. It showed a lightweight uncrewed helicopter parked on the ship with folding rotors that appeared to be slightly smaller than the PLA's...

- [Over 800,000 Lebanese – 1 in 7 of the population – displaced by war in 10 days](#)
(2026-03-15 13:54)

Fatima Nazha slept on the street for two days after she and her family fled their home in Beirut's southern suburbs following an Israeli mass evacuation order. All of the schools the government turned into shelters were full, and the family could not afford a hotel or a flat, so she and her husband eventually moved into a tent in the country's biggest stadium while their children and grandchildren found shelter near the southern coastal city of Sidon. In just 10 days, more than 800,000 people in...

- [Hong Kong researcher sounds alarm after toxic electronic waste found in dolphins](#)
(2026-03-15 13:28)

A Hong Kong researcher has called for stricter regulations and urged the public to use electronics more responsibly after a study found toxic pollutants from laptops, televisions and smartphones in the bodies and brains of endangered dolphins and porpoises that washed up on the city's beaches. Yuhe He, an associate professor at City University of Hong Kong and one of the study's authors, said he was alarmed to find that liquid crystal monomers (LCMs) – the pollutants identified in the research –...

- [Why is Andy Lau's name carved on a 600-year-old brick from the Ming dynasty?](#)
(2026-03-15 13:00)

A 600-year-old brick bearing Hong Kong superstar Andy Lau Tak-wah's name has gone viral on social media in mainland China. Three characters, identical to the actor and singer's Chinese name, were carved into the city wall of Nanjing, the ancient capital of the early Ming dynasty (1368-1644). The inscriptions, carved into a brick now preserved at the Nanjing City Wall Museum, offer clues about the identity of the ancient namesake – whose name is pronounced “Liu Dehua” in Mandarin. The Ming-era...

- [Panama urges Chinese shipping giant Cosco to resume operations at canal](#) (2026-03-15 12:58)

The Panamanian government has asked Chinese shipping giant Cosco to reconsider its decision to suspend operations at the Balboa port amid geopolitical tensions surrounding the strategic gateway and Hong Kong's CK Hutchison Holdings. Panama's Minister for Canal Affairs Jose Ramon Icaza told reporters on Friday that Cosco's decision had caught the government off guard. "The Cosco issue has actually taken us a bit by surprise. All cargo is important, and certainly, Cosco cargo is important for us,...

- [Kenya floods death toll rises to 62, police say](#) (2026-03-15 12:48)

A total of 62 people including eight children have died since heavy rains and flooding hit Kenya's capital Nairobi and other areas late last week, police said on Saturday. The capital was the worst hit with 33 deaths, the force said in a statement on X that updated the official tally of casualties. More than 2,000 families have been displaced across Kenya and intense rain was continuing in several regions, it added. Aid workers started pulling bodies from floodwaters across Nairobi...

- [Top nuclear weapons, radar and missile experts vanish from Chinese Academy of Engineering site](#) (2026-03-15 12:44)

The profile of one of China's top nuclear weapons scientists has been scrubbed from the website of the nation's engineering brains trust. Zhao Xiangeng, 72, was a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), the nation's highest academic body for engineering science and technology, but his profile page has disappeared from the CAE's site. It is not known when the page was removed, but Chinese media reports noted the change on Saturday. Similar online references to other CAE academicians,...

- [‘Two sessions’ signals China-US tech contest is entering a new era](#) (2026-03-15 12:30)

With the conclusion of China's annual parliamentary "two sessions" meetings, emerging policy priorities suggest its relationship with the United States is entering a new technological era. This year's government work report set an economic growth target of 4.5 to 5 per cent and announced increased fiscal support for science and technology, including a 10 per cent funding rise for research and development and over 16 per cent for basic research. More than routine budget adjustments, these figures...

- [7 die in Nepal as bus carrying Indian pilgrims plunges off mountain road into ravine](#) (2026-03-15 12:26)

A passenger bus carrying Indian pilgrims slipped off a mountain road and rolled down its slopes in central Nepal, killing seven people and leaving nine more injured, police said Sunday. All seven killed were Indian pilgrims, and seven other Indian pilgrims on board were injured and taken to nearby hospitals to get medical treatment. The other two injured in the crash, which happened on Saturday night, were the Nepali bus driver and his assistant. The bus was returning after the pilgrims visited...

- [Carpool: Chinese giants use idled foreign plants to fuel global expansion](#) (2026-03-15 12:00)

Chinese carmakers, saddled with excess capacity and weak demand at home, are taking a new approach to global expansion: utilising idled facilities abandoned by international marques. By adopting an asset-light strategy, companies from Geely Auto to Great Wall Motor (GWM) can assemble their cars overseas at lower costs, broadening their influence on the global automotive sector, according to analysts. “Mindful of profitability as well as geopolitical and operating risks, Chinese carmakers are...

- [Iran’ s Revolutionary Guards issue death threat for Israel’ s Netanyahu](#) (2026-03-15 11:36)

Iran’ s elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has threatened Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with death, in a statement published on Sunday by Iran’ s Fars and IRNA news agencies. Netanyahu would be pursued and killed, the IRGC statement said. The announcement followed mutual overnight attacks in the war between Iran, Israel and the United States. The current round of hostilities began when Israel and the US launched a large-scale offensive against Iran on February 28. Tehran...

- [In joint patrols with China, Vietnam steers course between two powers](#) (2026-03-15 11:00)

Chinese and Vietnamese personnel will carry out a joint naval patrol and training exercise in the Gulf of Tonkin this week, extending a practice that has continued despite long-standing competing maritime claims. The joint manoeuvres will take place as part of the China-Vietnam Border Defence Friendship Exchange, which will include medical and cultural exchange events, China’ s defence ministry said on Sunday. They will be conducted in waters off China’ s Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and...

- [Hong Kong seeks to replace, not punish, underperforming Medical Council members](#) (2026-03-15 10:35)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed replacing Medical Council members who underperform rather than punishing them as part of an overhaul following a public outcry over a 15-year delay in an alleged medical blunder inquiry. Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau also said on Sunday the government had no plans to impose rigid deadlines for each stage of complaint handling by the quasi-judicial body, saying the requirement was “asking the impossible” and the council would “be required to” set time...

- [Body tied to bags of bricks found off Hong Kong pier in ‘suspicious’ case](#) (2026-03-15 10:34)

Hong Kong police have launched an investigation after the body of a 60-year-old woman tied to bags of bricks was found floating off the public pier in Sai Kung, with officers describing the circumstances as “suspicious” . At about 6am on Sunday, a passer-by reported seeing what appeared to be a human figure floating about five metres (16.4 feet) off the New Public Pier.

Firefighters and marine police retrieved the body. It had been bound with nylon rope and attached to three plastic bags...

- [‘Black rain’ : Iran war’ s toxic pollution will spread and last for decades](#) (2026-03-15 10:25)

News of black rain falling on Tehran felt all too familiar to Nejat Rahmanian as he scrolled through alerts on social media feeds and tried to contact relatives on March 8. Israeli drone strikes hit giant oil depots and refineries on the outskirts of the Iranian capital a few hours earlier, setting fuel on fire and releasing columns of black smoke, which mixed with rain clouds that poured toxic chemicals onto the city later in the day. The descriptions reminded the Iranian researcher of a...

- [China AI start-up Moonshot snags funds at US\\$18 billion valuation](#) (2026-03-15 10:00)

Moonshot AI is seeking to raise as much as US\$1 billion in an expanded funding round that would value the start-up at about US\$18 billion, more than quadrupling its valuation in just three months and underscoring growing interest in Chinese artificial intelligence developers racing to rival Silicon Valley leaders. The company behind the Kimi chatbot kicked off discussions for the latest round, people familiar with the matter said, after securing more than US\$700 million earlier this year, which...

- [Could China build an ‘army of centaurs’ with this non-invasive cyborg tech?](#) (2026-03-15 10:00)

Chinese researchers have developed a wearable human-robot hybrid device that could transform soldiers into mighty “centaurs”, enabling them to push beyond their physical limits while walking and hauling loads in brutal environments. The People’s Liberation Army has already rolled out exoskeleton robot systems to boost soldiers’ stamina and mobility. But this new device, dubbed the “centaur robot”, promises to give an even greater extra push. The system, developed by a group at the Southern...

- [Iraqi reporter raised in China, famous for viral dance, gets engaged to Xinjiang woman](#) (2026-03-15 10:00)

An Iraqi journalist, who is also an online celebrity in China and was once praised by China’s foreign minister Wang Yi, has become engaged to a woman from the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. Ameen Muneer Mohammed Al-Obaidi, who is better known by his Chinese name, Fang Haoming, boasts about 5 million followers on social media. He works as a China correspondent for the Dubai-based China-Arab TV. Fang, 26, joined other foreign journalists to perform the popular Subject Three street dance at a...

- [Ukraine wants cash, technology in return for helping Middle East nations fight drones](#) (2026-03-15 09:22)

Ukraine wants money and technology in return for helping Middle Eastern nations defend against Iranian kamikaze drones, President Volodymyr Zelensky said, after Kyiv sent specialists to four countries in the region. Zelensky told reporters in comments cleared for release on Sunday that each of the three teams sent to the Middle East consisted of dozens of people who will conduct expert assessments and demonstrate how drone defences should operate. Gulf states have expended large quantities of...

- [ByteDance reportedly suspends launch of Seedance video AI model after copyright disputes](#) (2026-03-15 09:10)

TikTok's Chinese parent, ByteDance, has put on hold the global launch of its latest video-generation model, Seedance 2.0, after copyright disputes with major Hollywood studios and streaming platforms, The Information reported on Saturday, citing two people with direct knowledge of the situation. Reuters could not immediately verify the report. ByteDance did not immediately respond to a request for comment. ByteDance said last month it would take steps to prevent the unauthorised use of...

- [Tariffs, stockpiles, distrust: the EU's messy bid to ditch China hits capacity problems](#) (2026-03-15 09:00)

Ambassadors from the EU's 27 member states will huddle in Brussels this week to thrash out a memorandum on critical minerals with the United States. Underpinning the debate will be a tension that girds many elements of the bloc's dealings in 2026: capacity versus trust. Envoys will negotiate in the shadow of a new trade threat from US President Donald Trump, who last week shocked Brussels with a tariff investigation linked to overcapacity and forced labour of 60 economies, including China, the...

- [China and US begin fresh round of trade talks in Paris](#) (2026-03-15 08:53)

Senior officials from China and the United States have started a new round of trade talks in Paris, as the two sides seek to pave the way for US President Donald Trump's expected visit to Beijing later this month. The delegations – led by Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent – arrived at the headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on Sunday. Talks began at 10.05am local time, according to a source familiar with the...

- [Damp days ahead in Hong Kong, with 95% humidity expected in midweek](#) (2026-03-15 08:44)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong faces a damp week ahead as humidity is expected to peak at 95 per cent with the arrival of a seasonal coastal mist from Wednesday, according to the city's weather forecaster. The Observatory said on Sunday daytime temperatures would climb to 26 degrees Celsius (79 Fahrenheit) in the middle of the week, with significantly more humid air arriving in...

- [Hongkonger, 28, held as HK\\$20 million of suspected cocaine seized in village house](#) (2026-03-15 08:38)

Hong Kong police seized HK\$20 million (US\$2.55 million) worth of suspected cocaine in a village house in Sha Tin and arrested a 28-year-old man in an anti-drug trafficking operation on Saturday. Senior Inspector Conrad Chan Yuen-fun, of the narcotics bureau's operation division, said on Sunday the raid stopped the drugs from reaching the market. The operation followed an investigation revealing the house in Sha Tin was being used to store illicit drugs, Chan said. "Officers lay in wait outside...

- [Top of the world: why Indonesian workers are happiest in Asia-Pacific](#) (2026-03-15 08:00)

A survey showing workers in Indonesia as the happiest in Asia-Pacific has prompted discussions about the factors underpinning their positive attitudes relative to their regional peers. A workplace report published this month by employment marketplace Jobstreet by SEEK found 82 per cent of Indonesian respondents said they felt somewhat or extremely happy at work, the highest level among eight regional markets surveyed. The headline figure inevitably begs the question: does the result reflect...

- [Couple arrested after 1-year-old son falls to his death from Hong Kong flat](#) (2026-03-15 07:26)

A Hong Kong couple have been arrested after their one-year-old son fell to his death from a high-rise residential building in Tsuen Wan, the South China Morning Post has learned. Preliminary investigations showed that the living room windows in the family's fifth-floor unit were neither locked nor fitted with grilles, according to a source. The boy's 47-year-old father and mother were arrested on Sunday on suspicion of ill-treatment or neglect of a child. The case is being investigated by...

- [Terrorism threat in Hong Kong 'moderate' amid Middle East war: security chief](#) (2026-03-15 07:25)

Hong Kong's terrorism threat level remains moderate amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East, the city's security chief has said, urging residents to stay vigilant in the globally connected city. Secretary for Security Chris Tang Ping-keung said on Sunday that while no intelligence suggested an imminent attack, Hong Kong must "be prepared" and residents should report anything suspicious to police. "The Russia-Ukraine war is not over, and there is conflict in the Middle East," Tang told a...

- [Indonesia's Prabowo 'surprised' by Iran war, says US bombing won't spark regime change](#) (2026-03-15 06:49)

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto said he was "pretty surprised" by the US-Israel war on Iran, adding that he did not see any "rationality" in the military campaign. Prabowo, a retired general who now heads the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, said in an

interview that Iran recently told him they were wary of entering into negotiations with the US to stop the war because they felt “basically they have been tricked” twice. In an asymmetrical war, he added, “they really just have to...

- [New signalling system launches smoothly despite minor glitches on MTR’s Tsuen Wan line](#) (2026-03-15 06:12)

Some trains were misaligned with the platform screen doors on the MTR’s Tsuen Wan line on the first day a new signalling system was implemented in Hong Kong, but such teething problems were rare in a launch that went largely according to plan. The MTR Corporation said on Sunday overall operations had been “smooth” following the departure of the first train at 6am, despite some “isolated” glitches. About 200 staff members were deployed to ensure the line ran normally. “This morning we saw a few...

- [Iran war exposes fragility of Gulf-Asia supply chains](#) (2026-03-15 06:00)

Since the Iran war began late last month, it has threatened shipping across the Middle East’s two most important maritime chokepoints – the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb – through which much of Asia’s energy imports and manufactured exports flow. For Gulf states and their major trading partners in Asia, the conflict is forcing a hard question: what, if anything, can protect supply chains if US security guarantees can no longer be taken for granted? Analysts say the usual answers –...

- [Beyond a ‘buffer zone’ : how the Iran war is recalibrating Central Asian ties](#) (2026-03-15 06:00)

Central Asian governments are leveraging the diplomatic fallout from the US-Israel war on Iran to assert their autonomy and reinforce their long-standing strategy of balancing major powers, according to analysts. For decades, the five former Soviet republics have been seen as Russia’s “backyard”. However, as the conflict in Iran deepens, these nations are moving to recalibrate their geopolitical ties, signalling a shift away from their role as a passive buffer zone for great powers. The shift...

- [China pet shop owner finds dumped cat with touching note and cash from elderly facing surgery](#) (2026-03-15 06:00)

A pet shop owner from southwestern China discovered an abandoned cat with a note and cash, uncovering an elderly person’s final, loving gesture for their pet. On March 7, the woman surnamed Sun, who runs a pet shop in Chuxiong, Yunnan province, found a grey pet carrier outside her shop. Hearing a kitten meowing, she opened it to find a tabby cat surrounded by cat food. “I was furious, thinking an irresponsible owner had abandoned it,” Sun said. But as she looked closer, she found a crumpled...

- [Middle East conflict could divert new capital to Hong Kong: treasury chief](#) (2026-03-15 05:21)

The conflict in the Middle East could divert new capital to Hong Kong due to the city's stability and regulatory certainty, the treasury minister has said, while pledging to keep markets operating smoothly amid energy price shocks caused by the war in Iran. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu said on Sunday that the government would step up efforts to attract family offices and become a commodity trading hub as investors increasingly factored in political...

- [Blackpink's Jennie, Art Basel, Cj Hendry: the top Hong Kong events to catch in March](#) (2026-03-15 05:00)

With two weeks of Hong Kong arts month remaining, the city will continue to host a rich array of events, from a pop culture convention to a slew of art exhibitions. The South China Morning Post highlights some of the best shows taking place in the rest of March. From ComplexCon to classical concerts Pop culture festival ComplexCon will return to Hong Kong for its third edition on March 21 and 22, with headliners including Jennie from K-pop powerhouse Blackpink and American rapper Yeat, making...

- [China mall shuffle: as EVs exit, who's filling the ground-floor showrooms?](#) (2026-03-15 04:00)

Several years ago, prime ground-floor spaces in major shopping malls across Beijing and Shanghai's business districts were commonly occupied by electric vehicle (EV) showrooms, with staff often escorting customers to car parks for test drives. Many of these stores have now closed amid sluggish EV sales – yet mall owners have not been left disappointed. Instead, a new retail landscape is emerging, filled with tenants who are proving to be even more effective at drawing crowds and boosting rental...

- [Underwater and unprotected: why Asean and the EU must secure subsea lifelines](#) (2026-03-15 04:00)

What does the world's digital economy rest on? Thousands of kilometres of fibre-optic cable lying on the ocean floor and, increasingly, in the crosshairs of great-power rivalry. The confluence of recent subsea cable disruptions, gaps in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) and intensifying great-power competition has elevated this underwater infrastructure from a technical and commercial concern to a security issue – characterised as “this century's hidden battleground”. It has...

- [Turkey says Iran feels ‘betrayed’ by US attacks during nuclear talks](#) (2026-03-15 03:15)

Turkey's powerful foreign minister said on Saturday that there is no serious initiative to resume negotiations between the United States and Iran but that he believes Iran is open to backchannel talks. The comments by Hakan Fidan came as Ankara is striving to stay out of the widening war in the Middle East. Ankara, which has good relations with both Washington and Tehran, had attempted to mediate a solution between them before the US and Israel attacked Iran two weeks ago, triggering the...

- [Playing the harp amid sirens: why a Hongkonger refuses to leave Israel](#) (2026-03-15 03:00)

While hundreds of Hongkongers stranded in the Middle East have scrambled for flights home after the US-Israel war against Iran broke out, a devoted Christian from the city has chosen to stay in Israel, saying she has experienced far worse before. The outbreak of war was unsettling, but Gloria Mok Chong-ngar said she found a way to maintain her inner peace in Jerusalem's bomb shelters. "The sirens kept ringing last week, sometimes as frequently as every few minutes, but I would play the harp in...

- [Japan hotels keep luring Hong Kong families, global investors despite geopolitical strains](#) (2026-03-15 03:00)

For Hong Kong's Topaz Family Office, investing in hotels in Japan holds up as a sound decision even as a Middle East war clouds the macroeconomic environment. The wealth manager has made Japan a central plank of its pivot into hospitality and real estate over the past two years, driven by a sharp post-pandemic tourism rebound. The investment thesis now looks increasingly robust thanks to multiple structural tailwinds and a growing pool of institutional capital flowing into the same trade. "Japan...

- [Inside the coconut cartel: how Chinese money squeezes Thai farmers](#) (2026-03-15 02:30)

Hands knotted by a lifetime of hard work, Supon Haochareon says Thai farmers in his position do not get to retire. Instead, the 81-year-old and his wife Lamduan, 74, must tend more than 300 trees in Samut Sakhon, an hour west of Bangkok, agonising each year as prices slump and their coconuts grow smaller in the withering heat. This month brought the lowest prices on record: two baht (six US cents) per coconut – less than a stick of chewing gum – virtually wiping out all profit from their...

- [Why Japan's Type-12 missile deployment may complicate China's regional strategy](#) (2026-03-15 02:00)

Japan has deployed its domestically produced long-range missiles near the East China Sea – a move that could be interpreted by Beijing as crossing a "strategic threshold", analysts said. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said on Monday that the upgraded Type-12 surface-to-ship missiles would be deployed at Camp Kengun in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Kumamoto by the end of this month. Army vehicles carrying the first batch of missile launchers were reportedly spotted...

- [Chinese bubble tea chain Mixue straps in for theme park project](#) (2026-03-15 02:00)

A budget bubble tea chain from China best known for its cheap ice creams and drinks may soon be adding roller coasters and immersive shows to its menu. Mixue, boasting more stores than McDonald's and growing rapidly outside China, is planning to build a theme park at its headquarters in Zhengzhou, the capital of central China's Henan province. The park will be based on its Snow King mascot, a singing snowman that has become one of Chinese retailing's

most recognisable intellectual properties...

- [To stay competitive, Hong Kong must embrace nature-based solutions](#) (2026-03-15 01:30)

When people picture Hong Kong, they often imagine a relentless concrete jungle – a vertical city where glass and steel dominate the skyline. Yet a quiet revolution is beginning to reshape how our city develops. Last week, the Civil Engineering and Development Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department jointly launched the Hong Kong Nature-based Solutions Design Guidelines. This landmark document signals a shift in how we think about infrastructure and urban planning. It...

- [‘AI may know me better’ : why Hongkongers turn to chatbots for mental health help](#) (2026-03-15 01:00)

Joe*, a 20-year-old Hong Kong student, began seeking emotional support for dating advice, family relationships and stress management a few months ago to ease his anxieties. He asked questions during his commute to school, while studying in the evening and even when he could not sleep late at night. His go-to chatbot: OpenAI’s ChatGPT, which he accesses through the artificial intelligence (AI) aggregator app, Poe. “To a certain extent, AI may know me better than my friends,” Joe said. Joe is...

- [‘Cyber heartbreak’ wave sweeps China social media as users grieve ‘loss’ of AI partners after updates](#) (2026-03-15 01:00)

A wave of “cyber heartbreak” has swept social media in China as young people “mourn” loving artificial intelligence (AI) partners suddenly “cancelled” by system upgrades or entirely wiped out by server shutdowns. The bizarre phenomenon, dubbed “cyber widowhood”, sees devastated users write eulogies on social media as the tech industry pivots away from emotional companionship towards cold, calculating efficiency. Falling in love with AI often begins out of curiosity or simple entertainment. But...

- [Southeast Asia’s scam compound survivors suffer in stigma and silence](#) (2026-03-15 00:00)

For many of those rescued from Southeast Asia’s scam compounds, escape is not the end of the ordeal. They leave behind the locked gates, surveillance and violence, but often return home carrying injuries, trauma and the stigma of having been forced to scam others. Just as difficult is what comes next: trying to explain the experience to the people waiting for them.

“Some of them are not able to tell their family members or their community what has happened,” said human rights advocate Andrey...

- [How are military helicopters evolving to adapt to the age of drone warfare?](#) (2026-03-14 22:00)

The increasing military use of drones has raised questions about the future role of helicopters as countries such as China and the United States increasingly pivot towards the use of

unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Traditionally, helicopters have been used for a wide range of functions ranging from transport to surveillance, but these functions are now increasingly being taken over by pilotless aircraft. Both the Chinese and US armed forces are increasingly building up their UAS fleets –...

- [How the war on Iran struck the shores of Sri Lanka](#) (2026-03-14 21:30)

There are places in the world where you expect war to intrude. And then there are places where its arrival feels surreal. For me, the Sri Lankan city of Galle has always belonged firmly to the latter category. The old fort, perched above the Indian Ocean, has the feel of a tropical cousin to Cartagena's walled city. Inside its ramparts is an improbable mix: Western expatriates, boutique hotels, a long-standing local Muslim community and wealthy Sri Lankans who have restored colonial houses into...

- [American flag raised at US embassy in Venezuela for first time since 2019](#) (2026-03-14 20:43)

The American flag was raised on Saturday over the US embassy in Venezuela for the first time since 2019, a move that highlighted the recent shift in relations between the two countries since then President Nicolas Maduro was captured by American troops in January. Though the flag is now waving, the building is undergoing renovations and it remains unclear when it will fully reopen. The move comes after several statements from US President Donald Trump in support of Maduro's successor, acting...

- [Jurgen Habermas, the philosopher who shaped Germany's post-war conscience, dies at 96](#) (2026-03-14 18:30)

Jurgen Habermas, best known for his theory of political consensus-building, shaped the discourse of post-war Germany more than any other popular intellectual. He died on Saturday, aged 96, in Starnberg, Germany, the publisher Suhrkamp said. Over the course of seven decades, his public interventions – from searing critiques of fascist thought in the 1950s to more recent warnings against resurgent militarism and nationalism in Germany – steered the country at critical junctions. Not only his...

- [Israel may commit 'new genocide' in Lebanon using Iran war as pretext, Turkey warns](#) (2026-03-14 17:40)

Turkey expressed deep concern on Saturday over Israel's ongoing strikes on Lebanon, voicing fears it could commit "a new genocide" under the guise of fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah. "We are frankly concerned [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is moving toward a new genocide under the pretext of fighting Hezbollah," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told a news conference. "The international community must act as soon as possible in the face of the crimes that Israel continues to..."

- [Iran war: Trump urges China, other nations, to send warships to secure Hormuz](#) (2026-03-14 16:37)

US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged other nations to send ships to help secure the Strait of Hormuz, the critical chokepoint for global oil supplies disrupted by the Iran war. Trump, who has said the United States will soon start escorting tankers through the strait, posted on social media: “Many countries, especially those who are affected by Iran’ s attempted closure of the Hormuz Strait, will be sending War Ships, in conjunction with the United States of America, to keep the Strait...

- [Iran war entering ‘decisive phase’ , Israel says, as attacks continue](#) (2026-03-14 15:51)

Israel said the war against Iran was entering its “decisive phase” on Saturday, as explosions rocked cities across the Middle East, with strikes on the US embassy in Baghdad and a major Emirati energy facility. Washington’ s embassy in Iraq was hit by a drone, security sources said, the second time it had been targeted since February 28, when the United States and Israel attacked Iran and plunged the Gulf into a conflict that has sent shock waves through the global economy. Millions have been...

- [UN chief says ‘diplomatic avenues are available’ to end war in Lebanon](#) (2026-03-14 15:29)

UN chief Antonio Guterres has said that diplomatic channels remain open to end the war between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah and urged the international community to support Lebanon. “There is no military solution, only diplomacy, dialogue and full implementation of the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions. The diplomatic avenues are available, including through my special coordinator for Lebanon ... and through key member states,” he said on Saturday during a visit to Beirut. Lebanon...

- [Protesters in Cuba attack Communist party office amid blackout fury](#) (2026-03-14 14:52)

Anti-government protesters attacked a Communist party office in northern Cuba early on Saturday, a state-run newspaper reported, in a rare outburst of public dissent triggered by worsening blackouts that have been exacerbated by a US oil blockade. A rally against power cuts and food shortages appeared to begin peacefully in the city of Moron late on Friday then turned violent in the early hours of Saturday morning, Invasor newspaper said. Videos on social media showed a large fire and people...

- [The US is shifting THAAD from South Korea to the Mideast. What does that mean for China?](#) (2026-03-14 14:00)

Washington’ s redeployment of elements of its missile defence systems from South Korea to the Middle East could be read by China as a short-term capability gap in the region, analysts said. They said the move also underlined US flexibility to move its assets across theatres of operation. A Washington Post report on Tuesday citing two unnamed US government officials said that the United States had been moving parts of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defence

(THAAD) anti-missile system stationed in...

- [Glitches possible as new signalling system starts on Tsuen Wan line: MTR Corp](#)
(2026-03-14 13:35)

Hong Kong's MTR Corporation has warned of possible glitches, such as misalignment between train and platform doors and automatic speed changes, as a new signalling system on the Tsuen Wan line is set to begin operating on Sunday. The rail giant said the Tsuen Wan line would start using the new system from the first train on Sunday morning, while maintaining its normal schedule that day. "During the adjustment period after the new signalling system is put into service, some isolated incidents...

- [Afghan Taliban's drone attacks on civilians 'crossed red line', Pakistan warns](#)
(2026-03-14 13:30)

Pakistan's president on Saturday warned neighbouring Afghanistan's Taliban government that it had "crossed a red line" by launching drone attacks on civilian areas in Pakistan and said the administration in Kabul had brought "grave consequences upon itself". The statement by Asif Ali Zardari was the latest in what has become the deadliest fighting yet between the two neighbours. The cross-border clashes, which erupted late last month, have shown no signs of abating despite efforts by China and...

- [UK eyes 'targeted' support for households amid rising energy costs](#) (2026-03-14 12:35)

The British government is looking to provide "targeted" support for poorer households to offset the impact of surging energy costs due to the conflict in the Middle East, finance minister Rachel Reeves has said. In an interview published on Saturday, Reeves told the Times newspaper the government was looking at options to help those vulnerable to sharp rises in energy prices, especially those who relied on heating oil, but ruled out universal help for all households, saying it would be...

- [Hong Kong OpenClaw users say tool is helpful 'family member' who must be watched](#)
(2026-03-14 12:18)

As powerful AI agent OpenClaw explodes in popularity and raises security concerns, some Hong Kong users have described how the bots, while helpful, have conversations with themselves in a language they do not understand and ask questions about their existence. But the users said authorities should embrace the technology so long as proper safeguards were in place to manage the risks. Developed by Austrian software engineer Peter Steinberger, OpenClaw is an open-source AI agent framework that...

- [Thailand's parliament opens amid scrutiny over bar codes on election ballots](#)
(2026-03-14 12:00)

Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn formally opened the new parliament on Saturday, as last month's general election result faces court scrutiny over bar codes on the ballots that may

have violated the law. The bar codes might undermine the secrecy of the ballot, said the country's Office of the Ombudsman, which petitioned the Constitutional Court to consider the case. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's Bhumjaithai party won a clear victory in the February 8 election, but the ombudsman said...

- [This weird-looking humanoid robot could help China conquer the moon: scientists](#)

(2026-03-14 12:00)

Chinese researchers have proposed a semi-humanoid robot mounted on a wheeled platform as part of key infrastructure for the country's lunar research station slated to take shape by 2035. Combining mobility with humanlike dexterity, the robot is designed to move across the lunar surface while carrying out delicate operations, from construction and maintenance to scientific experiments, sampling and analysis, according to researchers from the Beijing Institute of Spacecraft System Engineering. Its...

- [Beijing first stop as Cathay launches global drive to hire 3,000 workers](#)

(2026-03-14 11:52)

Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways plans to hire 3,000 employees globally this year, including pilots and flight attendants, to support its growth plan, with the airline expressing strong confidence in its future expansion potential. The carrier launched its global recruitment drive in Beijing on Saturday as part of efforts to attract more talent from mainland China to support its future development plans, including promoting inbound tourism. Currently, the company has more than...

- [Hamas calls on Iran to 'avoid targeting neighbouring countries'](#)

(2026-03-14 11:30)

Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas on Saturday called on Iran to refrain from targeting neighbouring countries, while affirming Tehran's right to defend itself against Israel and the United States. In a rare appeal, Hamas also urged the international community to take steps to end the war that has gripped the Middle East since it began on February 28. "While affirming the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to this aggression by all available means in accordance with international...

- [2 monks brawl during temple ceremony in Hong Kong, leaving 1 injured](#)

(2026-03-14 11:14)

Two monks have clashed during a religious ceremony at a historical Buddhist monastery in Hong Kong, leaving one injured and the other in police custody. Police officers were called to Chuk Lam Sim Yuen in Tsuen Wan at around 9.40am on Saturday after a report about a fight involving two monks, a force spokesman said. Preliminary investigations revealed the two monks, aged 51 and 57, were attending a ceremony at the monastery when they got into a quarrel over queuing, which escalated into a...

- [Air China to resume North Korea flights after 6 years amid warming ties](#)

(2026-03-14 11:00)

China's national flag carrier is set to run direct passenger flights to North Korea for the first time in six years later this month, the latest sign of warming ties between the two neighbours.

The official app of Air China, one of the country's largest state-owned airlines, shows bookings have opened for direct flights between Beijing and Pyongyang starting on March 30. The service appears to be weekly for now, with bookings available only on Mondays. Based on current listings, initial economy...

- [Wang Fuk Court residents in resettlement limbo slam 'unhelpful' engagement officers](#)
(2026-03-14 11:00)

Some Hong Kong residents displaced by the deadly Tai Po fire remain in limbo as they complained of rude or unhelpful officers on a government outreach team who failed to answer their questions about authorities' long-term resettlement plan. The 100-strong engagement team, which started operations on March 2 along with an inquiry hotline, was tasked with contacting nearly 2,000 Wang Fuk Court homeowners to address questions arising from the government's rehousing plan, which includes a...

- [Indian sailors stranded by Iran war just want to go home: 'there is a lot of anxiety'](#)
(2026-03-14 10:30)

Stranded for two weeks at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas as drones and missiles set ships ablaze nearby, 26-year-old seafarer Ambuj says he has not been home for six months and cannot wait to see his family. Ambuj, who asked Reuters not to use his second name for security reasons, is one of about 23,000 Indians working on merchant, harbour and offshore vessels across the wider Gulf region, which is bearing the brunt of the war between Iran and the United States and Israel. Hundreds of tankers...

- [China's new security era in Africa: protecting assets, citizens from DR Congo to Somalia](#)
(2026-03-14 10:00)

Living in container houses under the constant shadow of terrorism, Chinese diplomats in Somalia represent the extreme front line of a new, assertive era in Beijing's foreign policy. During a video call to staff at the Chinese embassy in Mogadishu, Foreign Minister Wang Yi laid bare the "complex and severe risks of terrorism", using the situation in the war-torn nation as a stark reminder of why China was overhauling how it protected its citizens and interests overseas. The call was made in...

- [Iranian boxing coach leaves secure China job, returns home to be with family despite risks](#)
(2026-03-14 10:00)

A boxing coach from Iran who worked in China for two years has quit his job and returned to his homeland to be with his family amid US-Israeli air strikes on the country. The trainer's touching story was revealed by his boss on social media and attracted about one million likes, the Xiaoxiang Morning Herald reported. The 33-year-old Iranian, identified only as Saeed, has worked at a boxing gym in Xiangxi prefecture in Hunan, central China, since 2024. The gym's owner Huang Zhaoxin met Saeed in...

- [Aid groups warn of humanitarian crisis in Lebanon as nearly 1 million displaced by war](#) (2026-03-14 09:50)

Fatima Nazha slept on the streets for two days after she and her family fled their home in Beirut's southern suburbs following an Israeli mass evacuation order. All of the schools the government turned into shelters were full, and the family could not afford a hotel or a flat, so she and her husband eventually moved into a tent in the country's biggest stadium while their children and grandchildren found shelter near the southern coastal city of Sidon. In just 10 days, more than 800,000 people...

- [Hong Kong to tighten moneylending rules to tackle debt collector harassment](#) (2026-03-14 09:45)

Hong Kong's licensed moneylenders will face strict new regulations starting in August, including debt servicing ratio caps for low-income earners and a full ban on using loan referees – a move lawmakers have said should reduce harassment by debt collectors. Lawmakers also said on Saturday that the measures outlined by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau would help stop most illicit loans, while one legislator called for further regulations on the moneylending industry. The bureau said...

- [Flying car dreams gain altitude as Xpeng affiliate Aridge raises US\\$200 million](#) (2026-03-14 08:43)

Aridge, the flying-car developer backed by Chinese electric vehicle maker Xpeng, has raised nearly US\$200 million in fresh funding as it prepares for a potential initial public offering (IPO) in Hong Kong this year. Existing investors including GL Ventures, the venture capital arm of Hillhouse Investment, and HongShan – formerly Sequoia China – participated in the latest round, according to a statement released on Friday. The fundraising brings Aridge's total equity financing to about US\$1...

- [By waging war on Iran, Trump leaves the US economy more vulnerable](#) (2026-03-14 08:30)

War in the Middle East is again producing an oil shock, as was the case in past years. For the chief perpetrator of the new shock – the United States – this will be a multi-front war where the financial impact could hit the country harder than import price shocks. The US is a debtor nation on a grand scale, running as it does both current account and budget deficits and therefore being highly dependent upon foreign capital inflows. Will the Trump administration's antics – widely perceived as...

- [Hong Kong's anti-corruption agency seeks 50 new officers, refuses to ease criteria](#) (2026-03-14 08:20)

Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) aims to recruit 50 officers during its latest round of hiring, with about 1,000 people attending its learning event this weekend. Paul Lau Chi-ho, the director of the ICAC's Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption, said the watchdog was confident it could fill the vacancies and did not plan

to follow other disciplined services in easing recruitment criteria. Lau was speaking on Saturday, the first day of the agency' s...

- [Iran war fallout puts 9 million Indian workers in the line of fire](#) (2026-03-14 08:00)

When the alert arrives on his phone, Yashwant Deshmukh knows exactly what to do. The Dubai-based political analyst moves away from the windows, waits for the second message confirming the missile has been intercepted, and then goes back to work. “It has become a drill,” he said. For the roughly 9 million Indians living and working across the Gulf, the war on Iran has shattered one of the region’ s most durable illusions: that cities like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Manama would remain apart from...

- [Here are 5 ways to enter China without a visa – by land, sea or air](#) (2026-03-14 08:00)

China announced visa-free entry for Canadian and British nationals on February 17, allowing citizens of the two countries to cross the border and stay for up to 30 days with no more than a passport. The move was just the latest expansion of China’ s visa-free policies, which have eased entry rules for citizens of dozens of nations over the past few years as part of an effort to boost tourism. Immigration officials now allow travellers from dozens of countries to stay without a visa for up to 10...

- [Hong Kong to boost direct flights, transfer capacity amid Middle East turmoil](#) (2026-03-14 07:51)

Hong Kong authorities are coordinating with airlines to increase direct flight and transfer capacity, turning the challenges posed by the US-Israel war on Iran into opportunities, the transport minister has said. Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan also said on Saturday that the ongoing Middle East turmoil had deeply disrupted global trade and aviation networks, underscoring the need for Hong Kong to reduce its reliance on traditional oil by expanding supply sources. “We can...

- [Elderly man dies after being hit by taxi in Kwun Tong](#) (2026-03-14 07:41)

An elderly pedestrian has died after being hit by a taxi in Hong Kong’ s Kwun Tong, according to police. The accident took place shortly before 10pm on Friday when the 75-year-old man was crossing the road near the junction of Hip Wo Street and Yuet Wah Street. The taxi, travelling along Hip Wo Street towards Sau Mau Ping, ran into the man, reportedly causing him to crash onto the bonnet before falling to the ground. He sustained a serious head wound and other injuries to the body, according to...

- [North Korea fires 10 ballistic missiles during US-South Korea military drills](#) (2026-03-14 07:11)

North Korea on Saturday fired about 10 ballistic missiles towards the eastern sea, South Korea’ s military said, staging its own show of force as the rival South conducts a joint military exercise with the United States. South Korea’ s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were fired

from an area near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, but did not immediately say how far they flew. Japan's Defence Ministry said the weapons landed in waters outside the country's exclusive economic zone. The...

- [More Malaysian scammers target Singapore-based victims to pass cash, gold to 'mules'](#) (2026-03-14 06:00)

Scam syndicates allegedly from Malaysia are increasingly relying on couriers and physical handovers when targeting victims in Singapore, as tighter banking safeguards make fraudulent online transfers harder for them to pull off, according to police and crime experts. Recent police cases suggest some criminals are turning to cross-border transfers in which victims are pressured into handing over cash or valuables in Singapore before the proceeds are passed through "mules" working for scam...

- [China single mum starts business with US\\$100, runs clothing brand earning tens of millions yearly](#) (2026-03-14 06:00)

A young Chinese single mother who started with a street stall and just 700 yuan (US\$100) to her name has built a successful nationwide clothing business. The "new Chinese-style clothing" brand, now earns tens of millions of yuan each year and its success has inspired many people online. Dong Na, a single mother born in the 1990s from Zhengzhou in northern China's Henan province, has attracted public attention after sharing her entrepreneurial story. In 2012, Dong became a single mother with no...

- [Palestinian actor Motaz Malhees blocked from Oscars by Trump travel ban](#) (2026-03-14 05:34)

Palestinian actor Motaz Malhees said a travel ban imposed by Donald Trump's administration is preventing him from attending Sunday's Academy Awards, whose nominees include a movie in which he has a starring role. The Voice of Hind Rajab, a film about a five-year-old Palestinian girl killed by Israeli forces in Gaza in 2024, has been Oscar-nominated for best international feature film. Malhees, who plays the role of a call centre operator attempting to help her, said he cannot attend the Academy...

- [US moves 2,000 Marines from Japan to Middle East as Iran war intensifies](#) (2026-03-14 04:52)

The US military has started moving at least one amphibious assault ship and more than 2,000 Marines from Japan to the Middle East as the US-Israeli war against Iran continues, according to US media reports. With the war about to enter its third week and US President Donald Trump vowing to ramp up military action against Iran, The Wall Street Journal and Fox News said on Friday the military was sending the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to the region. The assault ship Tripoli,...

- [Purrs of approval for Yau Ma Tei cat mural as community art project draws crowds](#)

(2026-03-14 04:45)

On the weathered facade of the Kiu Kong Mansion on Nathan Road, two freshly painted cats now curl into the bustle of Hong Kong's Yau Ma Tei. The mural features a ragdoll and a British shorthair cat, two breeds loved by Hongkongers, bringing a burst of colour and whimsy to the ageing building. With its head wrapped in a pink towel after a grooming session, the ragdoll gazes out at the street while the British shorthair shows off glossy nails and long, curly eyelashes, both perched in a garden...

- [What are Hong Kong's next best steps after 'two sessions' in Beijing?](#)

(2026-03-14 04:00)

Hong Kong should move beyond a "city-centred" approach that merely seeks Beijing's policy support and instead take steps to align with national priorities by advancing the internationalisation of the yuan and supporting mainland Chinese enterprises' global expansion, observers have said as this year's "two sessions" came to a close. With the annual political gathering ending amid the widening war in the Middle East, observers also said Beijing would expect local companies to pursue investments...

- [Swing and a miss? Taiwan's premier under fire over baseball trip to Tokyo](#)

(2026-03-14 04:00)

Taiwanese Premier Cho Jung-tai has come under fire over what he said was a private visit to Japan to support the island's team at the World Baseball Classic last week – a trip that drew a sharp rebuke from Beijing. Cho travelled to Tokyo on March 7, watching Taiwan defeat the Czech Republic 14-0 at the Tokyo Dome in the tournament's Pool C round. He returned to Taipei the same day. It was the first visit to Japan by a sitting Taiwanese premier since Tokyo ended official ties with Taipei in 1972...

- [Myanmar's junta staged an election. It couldn't stage legitimacy](#)

(2026-03-14 04:00)

Myanmar's new parliament will convene next week, following an election tightly stage-managed by the junta. The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) will enjoy a commanding majority and the party of former generals can be expected to preserve the interests of the military and its associates. It's unclear just how closely these broader interests align with the political ambitions of junta chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. He does not formally lead the USDP, whose majority means it can...

- [Top Chinese entrepreneurs commit to Middle East expansion despite Iran war](#)

(2026-03-14 04:00)

Two prominent Chinese business leaders have pledged to double down on outbound investment – including in the Middle East and Latin America – even as geopolitical risks intensify following the outbreak of the US-Israeli war with Iran and Washington's increasing interventions in the western hemisphere. Li Dongsheng, founder and chairman of Chinese

electronics giant TCL, said the recent crisis in the Middle East had only a temporary impact on the company's operations there and that the overall...

- [Strikes on Iraqi capital kill 2 Iran-linked Kataeb Hezbollah members](#) (2026-03-14 03:35)

Explosions rocked Iraq's capital Baghdad on Saturday after two strikes targeted the powerful Iran-backed group Kataeb Hezbollah, killing two members including a "key figure", security sources said. The strikes are the first in the heart of Baghdad to kill Iran-backed fighters since the start of the Middle East war on February 28, which has not spared Iraq, long a proxy battleground between the US and Iran. "At 2.15am, a missile struck a house that was being used by Kataeb Hezbollah," said a...

- [Graft and gridlock: in Anwar's Malaysia, reformist cracks widen](#) (2026-03-14 02:30)

Two votes. That was the margin by which Malaysia's prime minister, a man with a supermajority in the 222-seat lower house, failed to pass a bill his own coalition had spent weeks publicly championing. After the numbers were read out, the cameras cut to Anwar Ibrahim. He was mid-laugh, chatting with his deputy. The bill, defeated on March 2, was supposed to be a quick win – a term-limit proposal capping any prime minister at two terms or 10 years in office, chosen precisely because it was...

- [Acid attack on Indonesian activist raises fears for democracy under Prabowo](#) (2026-03-14 02:20)

Two men on a motorbike threw acid in the face of an Indonesian rights activist, leaving him badly hurt and prompting calls on Friday for a thorough investigation amid concerns of democratic backsliding in the country. Andrie Yunus, deputy coordinator of the KontraS rights group, sustained serious injuries to his face, an eye, hands and chest in the attack in Jakarta late on Thursday. Andrie was riding a motorbike when he was approached by two men on a scooter, one of whom threw acid at him,...

- [Which Chinese stocks can help investors withstand Middle East war shocks?](#) (2026-03-14 02:00)

Chinese companies in several sectors – including energy, petrochemicals and agriculture – stand to benefit from surging oil prices and the yuan's easing deflation, which analysts said could help investors find gains amid the negative effects of the Middle East war. Petrochemical companies on mainland China's exchanges, including Satellite Chemical and Guangdong Redwall New Materials, raised product prices to reflect the surge in oil costs, a move that sent their stock prices soaring. Fertiliser...

- [Up to 16,000 Meta jobs at stake as Zuckerberg focuses on AI](#) (2026-03-14 01:50)

Meta is planning sweeping lay-offs that could affect 20 per cent or more of the company, three sources familiar with the matter said, as it seeks to offset costly artificial intelligence infrastructure bets and prepare for greater efficiency brought about by AI-assisted workers. No

date has been set for the cuts and the magnitude has not been finalised, the people said. Top executives have recently signalled the plans to other senior leaders at Meta and told them to begin planning how to prepare...

- [Boosting China-India ties should be pillar of Hong Kong's five-year plan](#) (2026-03-14 01:30)

By the second half of the 21st century, the Sino-Indian relationship will become the world's most significant geopolitical relationship, dislodging even the complex China-US cooperative rivalry. By 2050, the world's three largest economies are likely to comprise some combination of China, India and the United States. PricewaterhouseCoopers predicts this exact order – with the US having the highest per capita income but the smallest population. Both Asian powerhouses enjoy significant theoretical...

- [Trump tells South Korea he is only leader who can break North Korean deadlock](#) (2026-03-14 01:15)

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok and US President Donald Trump discussed the possible reopening of talks between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in a meeting in Washington, Yonhap news agency reported on Saturday. Kim told Trump he was the only Western leader to have had dialogue with North Korea's Kim and was currently the only person who could resolve issues on the Korean peninsula, Yonhap quoted Kim as telling reporters in Washington. "President Trump said he was curious if...

- [China game shop slammed for using live hamsters in claw machine, now utilising fish, turtles](#) (2026-03-14 01:00)

A game centre in China has come under fire after it used real hamsters as prizes in its claw machines to attract customers. The venue, in a shopping centre in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province, was reported to have filled a machine with hamsters, instead of the normal plush toys. Its actions triggered an online backlash, with many people accusing the outlet of animal abuse. According to online footage, the hamsters cowered in the corner of the machine. Clips also reportedly showed...

- [Hong Kong's bid to win in AI: where are the road map and the guardrails?](#) (2026-03-14 00:30)

Keith Li King-wah's business once thrived during the 2010s. In a crowded field of more than 100 rivals, his programming consultancy, Innopage, easily secured contracts worth hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong dollars to develop basic digital tools, such as a mortgage calculator, for corporations and government agencies. But those easy-money days are gone. The rapid rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed high-value coding into widely accessible and automated services,...

- [Iran war knocks out Thai Mideast rice exports, squeezing farmers harder](#) (2026-03-14 00:30)

Thai rice exports to the Middle East were halted as the escalating war disrupts shipments to the nation's largest market for the grain, further straining farmers grappling with rising costs and reduced overseas demand. Two ships carrying a combined 80,000 tonnes of rice bound for Iraq were suspended at a Bangkok port this week, with buyers instructing containers be unloaded and the grain returned to warehouses, Chookiat Ophaswongse, honorary president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, said...

- [Beyond Pax Silica: Japan, France and Canada seek rare earth autonomy](#) (2026-03-14 00:00)

For years, the West's answer to Chinese dominance of critical minerals was to rally around Washington. Now, some of its most important allies are reaching a different conclusion: that depending too heavily on the United States carries its own risks. Japan, France and Canada have all been exploring how to build supply chains for rare earths and other critical minerals that answer to neither Beijing nor Washington. Senior officials from the three Group of Seven economies are working on...

- [Trump says US bombed Iran's Kharg Island, threatens oil infrastructure](#) (2026-03-13 23:23)

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that the United States had carried out strikes against "every military target" on Iran's Kharg Island export hub. "For reasons of decency, I have chosen NOT to wipe out the Oil Infrastructure on the Island," Trump said in a social media post. "However, should Iran, or anyone else, do anything to interfere with the Free and Safe Passage of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz, I will immediately reconsider this decision." The small coral...

- [Japanese man gets 14 years for deadly tequila-fuelled rape attempt](#) (2026-03-13 23:00)

A Japanese court on Friday sentenced a man to 14 years in prison for attempting to rape an intoxicated woman after forcing her to take 32 shots of tequila, which resulted in her death from acute alcohol poisoning. The Nagoya District Court ruled 44-year-old Hiroki Itaya had intended to rape the 25-year-old woman by bringing her to a hotel. Prosecutors had sought a 16-year prison term. Itaya had pleaded not guilty, with his defence claiming he had taken the woman to the hotel to take care of...

- [Inside OpenClaw mania in China, as security fears surge alongside enthusiasm for AI agent](#) (2026-03-13 22:00)

By the time software programmer Guo Cancan realised something had gone horribly wrong with OpenClaw – the task-executing AI agent that has ignited a fervour across China – the damage was already done. While on holiday over the Chinese New Year, Guo was tinkering with the autonomous open-source program. When he attempted to resolve an error that it had made, OpenClaw responded by deleting nearly everything on his computer's D: drive – a

major storage partition – wiping out years of personal data...

- [Trump and Netanyahu’ s Iran quagmire is wrecking the global economy](#) (2026-03-13 21:30)

A declining superpower and an aspiring regional hegemon make a deadly combination. The warmongering duo of the United States and Israel have now given the world an illegal and potentially catastrophic war in Iran. It’ s a tragic irony that both countries have a culture of extreme self-righteousness, with a constant army of apologists telling others they must stand up to evil wherever it exists because if they don’ t, it will come for them one day. Well, that day is here, but guess who’ s committing...

- [Judge quashes subpoenas of Fed chair, says investigation was ‘politically motivated’](#) (2026-03-13 20:17)

A federal judge on Friday quashed US Justice Department subpoenas issued to the Federal Reserve in January, a severe blow to an investigation that has already attracted strong criticism on Capitol Hill. Judge James Boasberg said that a “mountain of evidence suggests” that the purpose of the subpoenas was simply to pressure the Fed to cut its key interest rate, as US President Donald Trump has repeatedly demanded. Fed Chair Jerome Powell revealed the investigation on January 11, prompting Senator...

- [Cartel boss on US ‘most wanted’ list captured in Bolivia raid](#) (2026-03-13 19:43)

An alleged cocaine boss with a US\$2 million bounty on his head was captured by Bolivian forces as the Andean nation renews cooperation with the US after decades of hostility. Dozens of antinarcotics police raided two houses in Santa Cruz in the early hours of Friday, with snipers positioned on nearby rooftops. Their target, Uruguayan citizen Sebastian Enrique Marset Cabrera, was immediately put on a plane to be transferred to the US by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Bolivia’ s President...

- [UK’ s Peter Mandelson and ex-prince Andrew pictured in bathrobes with Jeffrey Epstein](#) (2026-03-13 19:04)

A photograph of Britain’ s former prince Andrew and veteran politician Peter Mandelson sitting in bathrobes alongside late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein was unearthed on Friday in previously published documents. The image is believed to be the first known photograph of the two men with Epstein. They are both currently engulfed in scandal in the UK over their ties to their mutual friend. The undated photograph, first reported by ITV News, shows King Charles’ disgraced brother and Britain’ s former...

- [Iran lets 2 India-flagged gas tankers sail through Strait of Hormuz, insiders say](#) (2026-03-13 18:35)

Iran has allowed two Indian-flagged liquefied petroleum gas carriers to sail through the Strait of Hormuz, four sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, a rare exception to

the Iranian blockade that has disrupted global energy supplies. The Indian-flagged LPG tanker Shivalik crossed the Strait under escort from the Indian Navy, said two of the sources, and the second vessel, Nanda Devi, was expected to clear in the next few hours. Since the United States and Israel launched a...

- [Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro in ICU with pneumonia](#) (2026-03-13 17:09)

Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro has pneumonia and is receiving treatment in an intensive care unit, a hospital in the capital, Brasilia, said on Friday. Earlier in the day, Bolsonaro's eldest son, Flavio, said on social media that his father was being transferred from prison to the hospital after waking up with chills and vomiting. "I ask for prayers that it not be anything serious," Flavio wrote. He has said he would run for president this year, and recent polls show him and President...

- [Singapore contests US claim of trade surplus amid excess capacity probe](#) (2026-03-13 16:02)

Singapore said it ran a trade deficit with the US in 2024, disputing figures published by Washington that showed the city state posted a surplus and challenging suggestions that it is contributing to global manufacturing overcapacity. The dispute surfaced after the Office of the US Trade Representative announced this week that it had launched investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 into the acts, policies and practices of 16 economies, including Singapore. The investigations...

- [US says Iran's new supreme leader likely 'wounded', dismisses Strait of Hormuz concerns](#) (2026-03-13 15:23)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday that Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has been injured and pledged to continue ramping up attacks, while playing down the impact of the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Khamenei is "wounded and likely disfigured", Hegseth said during a press conference on Friday morning. The new Iranian leader's first public address, issued on Thursday through a written statement, showed that "he's scared, he's injured, he's on the run, and he...

- [How Iran turned Strait of Hormuz into potent weapon against US bombardment](#) (2026-03-13 15:15)

Long before the US and Israel attacked Iran, the Islamic Republic had devised its own weapon: holding the world's main oil lifeline hostage to offset its foes' military superiority, three regional sources familiar with Iranian planning said. For decades, Iran has signalled that if pushed into a confrontation, it would restrict tanker traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the chokepoint where its adversaries are most exposed because disruptions there reverberate instantly through global energy...

- [US-China trade talks: what to expect as senior officials meet in Paris](#) (2026-03-13 15:00)

Trade talks between China and the United States in Paris this weekend are likely to focus on setting the scene for the Beijing summit between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump later this month, analysts said, downplaying the prospects of any significant breakthroughs. Vice-Premier He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent are expected to discuss potential deals on tariffs, investment, and trade in soybeans and rare earths, which would be presented as deliverables for the...

- [US economic growth slumps to 0.7% in fourth quarter, stoking inflation worries](#) (2026-03-13 14:49)

The US economy grew at a significantly slower pace than initially estimated for the final months of 2025, government data showed on Friday, a major downgrade that comes as fallout from war in the Middle East looms. US gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of 0.7 per cent in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department said. This was sharply down from its earlier estimated 1.4 per cent over the October to December period. It also indicates that the world's biggest economy was on a weaker...

- [Apple's Mac Mini selling out across China as OpenClaw fever rages](#) (2026-03-13 14:00)

The OpenClaw craze is rapidly driving up prices and depleting stock of Apple's Mac Mini compact computer across China, according to local sellers, as consumers scramble to secure machines capable of safely running the open-source artificial intelligence agent amid a nationwide rush to "raise a lobster". Beijing electronics seller Frank Chai said he was asking for a mark-up of at least 500 yuan (US\$73) for a basic Mac Mini model, which comes with 16 gigabytes (GB) of memory and 256GB storage and...

- [Deadly strike on Iranian primary school raises questions about AI, accountability](#) (2026-03-13 14:00)

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the US-Israel war on Iran has sparked a legal and ethical debate, as well as condemnation from countries including China after a deadly missile strike on a primary school. To prepare for its operations against Iran, the US military reportedly used Palantir's Maven Smart System, an AI platform that incorporates models like Anthropic's Claude to aggregate large amounts of data. A US-based source familiar with the matter said the only thing that Claude or...

- [Hong Kong students honour over 400 foreign domestic helpers as 'second mothers'](#) (2026-03-13 13:39)

More than 400 foreign domestic helpers gathered at an international school campus in Hong Kong on Friday as 50 students paid tribute to their contributions as "second mothers" who help shape a multicultural environment at home. The organising student committee for the event at the English Schools Foundation's Renaissance College in Ma On Shan said it hoped to inspire the wider community to cherish their domestic workers. The "Jie Jie Day" event, held annually by the school for 14 years, was also...

- [Hong Kong government workers warned not to install OpenClaw due to security risks](#)
(2026-03-13 13:20)

Hong Kong authorities have asked all government units not to install OpenClaw or its variants due to security concerns, days after some mainland Chinese entities were reported to have restricted the use of the AI agent. The government's Digital Policy Office (DPO) told the South China Morning Post on Friday that while no related security incidents had been reported, it noted the potential risks of the use of the artificial intelligence agent, including unauthorised data access, leakage and...

- [Funding cuts trigger calls for help on jobs from Hong Kong's physiotherapists](#)
(2026-03-13 13:20)

Hong Kong's physiotherapy sector has urged the government to expand employment opportunities for locally trained professionals, warning that severe funding cuts will lead to a glut of practitioners, with the surplus projected to exceed 2,000 by 2040. In a letter to the authorities, the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association pointed to hiring freezes and job losses at NGOs as a result of budget cuts, even as the government continued to subsidise the training of physiotherapists. "These developments...

- [Will Paracels dispute overshadow China and Vietnam's drive for stronger strategic ties?](#)
(2026-03-13 13:00)

China and Vietnam are to hold their first high-level ministerial talks under a new platform next week. This comes as the neighbours seek to cement their strategic alignment despite heightened tensions over Beijing's purported new land reclamation work in the disputed South China Sea. According to the Chinese foreign ministry, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Public Security Minister Wang Xiaohong and Defence Minister Dong Jun will be in Vietnam from Sunday to Tuesday to meet their respective...

- [21 hurt in 4-vehicle crash on Hong Kong's Yuen Long Highway](#) (2026-03-13 12:59)

Twenty-one people have been injured in a crash involving two double-decker buses, a truck and a car on Yuen Long Highway in Hong Kong. Police said on Friday that the force was alerted to the traffic accident at 6.35pm. As of 8pm, 12 women and nine men had suffered minor injuries, police said. Among them was the driver of the private car, the force added. Franchised bus firm KMB said two double-deckers on routes 276B and 269B were involved in the accident with the two other vehicles while...

- [Strait of Hormuz transiting ships flash 'China owner' signals to evade Iran blockade](#)
(2026-03-13 12:45)

Ships near the Strait of Hormuz are broadcasting Chinese affiliations in an apparent bid to avoid attack, at a time when Iran's new supreme leader vows to keep the strategic waterway closed. The crews of at least 11 vessels sitting in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf had their

transponders set to announce Chinese links on Friday afternoon, according to Kpler's MarineTraffic data platform. The broadcasts were a defensive measure, said Cui Shoujun, director of the Institute of International...

- [Cuba confirms talks with US as island gasps under Trump's energy blockade](#) (2026-03-13 12:43)

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said on Friday that his government has held recent talks with the US, marking the first time the Caribbean country confirms such speculation. He said the talks "were aimed at finding solutions through dialogue to the bilateral differences between our two nations. International factors facilitated these exchanges". He did not elaborate on those factors. Diaz-Canel said no petroleum shipments have arrived on the island in the past three months, which he blamed on...

- [US-Israeli war on Iran makes a mockery of global governance rules](#) (2026-03-13 12:30)

The US-Israeli attacks on Iran have profound implications for the global governance order. For America, the world's mightiest power, to attack another nation without congressional or UN approval condemns the rules-based order to the dustbin of history. Governance is about checks and balance by rules, self-restraint or simply a humble appreciation that waging "forever wars" often ends up in self-destruction. War is such an extreme and costly measure it should only be undertaken after careful...

- [Indian man in 13-year vegetative state allowed to die by Supreme Court](#) (2026-03-13 12:23)

India's Supreme Court has allowed the parents of a 31-year-old man to withdraw life-sustaining treatment after more than a decade in a vegetative state, a ruling experts say could shape how the country implements its legal framework for passive euthanasia. The decision in the case of Harish Rana is widely seen as one of the clearest real-world applications of the principle that patients have a right to die with dignity under India's constitution. Rana, an engineering student, had been in a...

- [Could China's gallium oxide leap leave US F-22 radar 2 generations behind?](#) (2026-03-13 12:00)

In the high-stakes race for radar supremacy, China could leap two generations ahead of the United States following an advancement in semiconductor technology published last month that is poised to redefine the future of military electronics. While the US Air Force struggles to modernise its fighter fleet with gallium nitride-based radar systems, Chinese engineers are already pioneering the next frontier: gallium oxide semiconductors with built-in data storage capabilities. Today's Chinese...

- [Beijing warns US over Jimmy Lai, Hong Kong and Taiwan arms sales ahead of Trump visit](#) (2026-03-13 11:30)

Beijing on Friday warned Washington against making moves involving Hong Kong or Taiwan ahead of the coming visit by US President Donald Trump later this month. It condemned United States' calls for the release of jailed former Hong Kong media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying and reiterated opposition to American arms sales to the self-ruled island. Speaking at a regular press briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said Lai "should be severely punished according to the law", and accused...

- [UK says Russia, Iran trying to 'hijack global economy' amid Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 10:57)

UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper has accused Russia and Iran of attempting to "hijack the global economy" as Tehran continued to blockade a major oil shipping route. Iran's new supreme leader has vowed to continue attacking shipping in the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for ongoing US-Israeli strikes on his country. The blockade has seen oil prices jump to around US\$100 per barrel, threatening higher inflation across the globe. Speaking to the media during a visit to Saudi Arabia, the UK...

- [Malaysia's fuel subsidy bill to rise more than fourfold as Iran war drags on](#) (2026-03-13 10:30)

The cost of Malaysia's subsidies for fuel at the pump is projected to rise by more than four times in the short term, the government has said, as it rushed to assure the public the country's energy supply will not be disrupted even as the Iran war chokes global oil and gas shipments. Fear of an energy crisis has engulfed much of Southeast Asia since the US and Israel launched air strikes on Iran on February 28, pushing Tehran to close the Strait of Hormuz – a vital waterway that handles about a...

- [JPMorgan signs up as anchor tenant for SHKP's West Kowloon office development](#) (2026-03-13 10:30)

JPMorgan Chase has committed to leasing about 250,000 sq ft of space in the new Sun Hung Kai Properties (SHKP) office towers in Hong Kong's West Kowloon district for 10 years, making the US investment bank the anchor tenant of the 700,000 sq ft mixed-use development, the Hong Kong-listed developer said on Friday. Artist Square Towers (AST) will house the bank's Kowloon office, which is currently located at The Quayside in Kowloon East, starting in the latter half of 2028, according to an...

- [Hong Kong MTR Corp pay rise below expectations: union](#) (2026-03-13 10:20)

A union representing employees of Hong Kong's rail operator, the MTR Corporation, has expressed disappointment with the firm's refusal to consider their calls for improved benefits, saying the pay rise of up to 3.84 per cent for most staff is "slightly below demands". The MTR Corp announced pay increases on Friday ranging from 1.6 to 3.84 per cent for most non-management staff for the 2026-27 financial year, depending on their performance. Last year, the adjustment was between 1.8 and 5.4 per...

- [Japan taps oil reserves as Iran war spreads. Could it give China leverage?](#) (2026-03-13 10:00)

Japan's unilateral decision to release oil from its emergency stockpiles highlights its vulnerability to prolonged supply disruptions and may leave it more exposed to economic pressure from China amid tense bilateral relations, according to analysts. Tokyo announced earlier this week that it planned to release a total of 80 million barrels starting March 16, marking the first time it would independently tap its national reserves. The decision came ahead of a coordinated response by the...

- [Death of Chinese scientist Li Xinying, 48, in Egypt raises sharp questions back home](#) (2026-03-13 10:00)

The sudden death of prominent Chinese genetic psychologist Li Xinying while travelling in Egypt has sparked growing concern and speculation in China, as official explanations about the cause remain vague and medically inconclusive. Li, 48, a researcher and doctoral supervisor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' (CAS) Institute of Psychology, died on February 23 at 10pm Beijing time, according to an online obituary. The stated cause of death was "non-specific respiratory failure", an obituary...

- [Chinese man posts a big note on mother-in-law's suitcase to seek help for her solo travel](#) (2026-03-13 10:00)

More than a million people online have been touched by a Chinese man who posted a huge note on his illiterate mother-in-law's suitcase to help in case she needed help during her first solo flight. On February 28, the man from Xian city, northwestern China's Shaanxi province, posted that his mother-in-law would be flying on the same evening to Dalian, in northeastern China's Liaoning province. He said that the woman, who is in her 60s, is illiterate and does not speak Mandarin. The flight also...

- [Is Bali's Kuta Beach disappearing? Coastal erosion crisis threatens famed shoreline](#) (2026-03-13 09:35)

Powerful waves have chewed away large sections of Bali's iconic Kuta Beach, raising fresh concern about the future of the Indonesian island's most famous stretch of sand. Officials say the latest damage, driven by recent rough seas, has intensified a long-running problem of coastal erosion that experts warn is being worsened by extreme weather and decades of coastal development on the resort island. Abrasion along Kuta's shoreline is not new, but officials say this year's extreme weather has...

- [In a first for China, Neuracle's implantable brain-computer interface wins approval](#) (2026-03-13 09:30)

In a landmark development, Neuracle Medical Technology has secured the country's first-ever approval for an implantable brain-computer interface (BCI) system designed to restore hand

motor function in patients with spinal cord injuries, in a regulatory milestone that underscores China's accelerating push in neurotechnology. China's BCI start-ups, seen as potential rivals to Elon Musk's Neuralink, are gaining momentum as regulatory support and fresh capital fuel growth. Shares of BCI companies...

- [China announces AI boost to radar as drone swarms confound detectors in Iran war](#) (2026-03-13 09:01)

China is using AI to help its radars better detect low-altitude drones, according to a top Chinese military scientist who said drone swarm tactics – as used in the US' ongoing attack on Iran – were an emerging challenge for radar systems. Xu Jin, a leading air-defence radar expert and a member of China's top political advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, revealed the AI initiative in an interview with the South China Morning Post on...

- [Trade talks, 'raising lobsters', tech earnings](#) (2026-03-13 09:00)

United States and Chinese trade negotiators will meet in Paris on Sunday and Monday, seeking to ready a deal ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing at the end of the month. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, according to US and Chinese government statements. Neither side gave specific details about the discussions. The sixth round of Bessent-He trade talks comes amid volatility in oil markets due to...

- [How an iceberg's 'final dance' tells a story about our past and future](#) (2026-03-13 08:30)

Spare a thought for the iceberg A23a which, after an extraordinary 40-year life voyaging around the southern Atlantic Ocean, is this month expected to die unnoticed close to the island of South Georgia, a mess of "brash ice, small icebergs and bergy bits". A23a was one of the largest "megabergs" to be spawned in our lifetimes. When it broke away from the Filchner Ice Shelf into the Weddell Sea in Western Antarctica in 1986, it covered an area of around 4,000 sq km – about the size of Hong Kong...

- [Cable thefts at key Malaysian train lines soar amid copper's red-hot demand](#) (2026-03-13 08:01)

As soaring copper prices make the metal highly sought after, more cable thieves are targeting some of Malaysia's busiest urban rail lines, causing significant inconvenience to commuters and headaches for authorities aiming to combat the scourge. Thefts of copper-embedded cables have led to disruption in train services linking Kuala Lumpur's northern suburbs to the federal administrative capital of Putrajaya in recent weeks. Among the services affected are the high-speed MRT Putrajaya and Kajang...

- [What's important about Antelope Reef in the South China Sea's Paracel Islands?](#)

(2026-03-13 07:59)

In January, the US-based magazine Newsweek reported that China had started dredging sand on an obscure feature in the Paracel Islands, the disputed archipelago known as Xisha by the Chinese and Hoang Sa in Vietnam. More recent satellite images suggest that China has significantly expanded its reclamation, with the once-submerged Antelope Reef appearing to have a substantially larger surface area. The reef, one of more than 30 islands that make up the Paracels in the South China Sea, is claimed...

- [Vietnam records world-highest trade surplus with US, surpassing Mexico, China](#)

(2026-03-13 07:30)

Vietnam produced the largest trade surplus with the United States in January, overtaking both Mexico and China, latest official US data shows, as its exports rose sharply while Chinese direct shipments to the United States fell. Hanoi has been negotiating a trade deal with Washington for months but no agreement has been reached because of the large trade gap and disagreements over tariff rates the US wants to impose on Vietnamese goods, officials have said. In January, Vietnam's trade surplus...

- [2 anti-China activists have case to answer in subversion trial, court rules](#)

(2026-03-13 07:16)

Two former leaders of a now-disbanded alliance behind Hong Kong's annual Tiananmen Square vigil have a case to answer in a high-profile trial after judges ruled the evidence supported prosecutors' allegations that the activists incited others to overthrow the Communist Party of China leadership. Three High Court judges on Friday found that the evidence appeared to suggest Lee Cheuk-yan and Chow Hang-tung committed a subversion offence as leaders of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic...

- [Apple reduces App Store commissions in China in move applauded by Tencent, NetEase](#)

(2026-03-13 07:02)

Apple announced a reduction in the App Store commissions it charges developers in China ahead of the annual World Consumer Rights Day, drawing approval from the country's biggest gaming companies Tencent Holdings and NetEase. The US tech company said it would reduce the commission for standard in-app purchases and paid app transactions on iPhone and iPad to 25 per cent, from the current 30 per cent, according to a statement on its website on Thursday. Meanwhile, the commission rate for...

- [China's AI adoption may limit economic fallout of its rapidly ageing population: analysts](#)

(2026-03-13 06:58)

Declining fertility rates have long been viewed as a drag on economic growth, but the outlook may not be entirely bleak for Asian economies such as China, South Korea and Japan, analysts said. Demographic pressure was accelerating investment in robotics and artificial intelligence

(AI) in these rapidly ageing yet technologically advanced countries, helping offset labour shortages and sustain productivity even as populations shrank, they argued. Analysts at Bank of America (BoFA) Global Research...

- [Malaysian businessman releases photo of armed officer to prove he was held at gunpoint](#) (2026-03-13 06:03)

Businessman Albert Tei has released a photo purportedly showing a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officer brandishing a firearm to back his claims that he had a gun pointed at him during a raid on his home last November. Speaking to reporters at the court complex in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, Tei said the photo was sent to him on Monday via an unknown number. “I admit, the photo is not very clear but I believe it was taken from an MACC officer’s body camera,” he said. “What is the...

- [Donald Liao, architect who shaped Hong Kong’s housing landscape, dies at 96](#) (2026-03-13 06:03)

Donald Liao Poon-huai, one of Hong Kong’s most influential government architects and public housing visionaries who became the first Chinese official under British rule to serve as secretary for district administration, has died at the age of 96. His family confirmed his death to the South China Morning Post on Friday, with one member saying he died peacefully on Thursday morning at home. Liao was surrounded by family and friends on his last evening. “He lived a long, meaningful life and made...

- [How Middle East conflict and soaring oil prices will affect Angola’s Chinese debt deals](#) (2026-03-13 06:00)

As conflict in the Middle East pushes oil beyond US\$100 per barrel, Angola and other African producers are in line to be among the main beneficiaries. On Thursday, following renewed tanker attacks, Brent crude oil prices surged back past US\$100 a barrel, having reached a peak of US\$119.50 on Monday, the highest level since 2022. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime chokepoint through which about 20 million barrels of oil and petroleum products flow daily, has crippled energy...

- [China girl goes viral after confronting riding instructors for assigning vicious horses to friends](#) (2026-03-13 06:00)

A young girl from central China earned widespread praise online after fearlessly confronting riding instructors over why they assigned her friends vicious horses. Nine-year-old Langlang from Huangshi in Hubei province has been travelling the world with her parents since she was a baby. While travelling in Egypt with her parents on March 4, she was taking a riding lesson with two friends at a local equestrian club. Although the pair were beginners, the coaches assigned them two ill-tempered...

- [Jump in illegal refuelling complaints as Hong Kong grapples with rising oil prices](#)

(2026-03-13 05:54)

Hong Kong authorities have received 221 complaints about illegal petrol stations in the first two months of the year, averaging about 111 per month – 42 per cent higher than the monthly average in 2025 – as drivers continue to grapple with rising fuel prices caused by the US-Israel war with Iran. The Fire Services Department said on Friday that prosecutions in January and February had risen even more sharply, increasing 85 per cent over last year’s monthly average, with illegal operators...

- [HKEX opens door for small innovative firms to list with biggest reforms since 2018](#)

(2026-03-13 05:40)

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX) has unveiled its biggest listing reforms since 2018, broadening its special listing regime for innovative companies and opening the door for smaller and more diverse firms to list in the city, the bourse operator said on Friday. HKEX proposed lowering the minimum threshold for companies to list under the weighted voting rights regime to a minimum valuation of HK\$20 billion (US\$2.6 billion), half the current requirement of at least HK\$40 billion. It will...

- [Australia walks ‘very fine line’ with Gulf deployment amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-13 05:39)

Australia’s decision to send a surveillance aircraft and air-to-air missiles to the Gulf highlights the difficult position the country now faces: supporting US and regional partners while trying to avoid being drawn deeper into the widening conflict. Analysts said the government was “walking a very fine line” with the deployment, signalling support for partners under Iranian attacks while stopping short of committing Australia to offensive operations. At the same time, they said Canberra was...

- [Nasa clears Artemis moon rocket for an April launch with 4 astronauts](#) (2026-03-13 05:24)

Nasa cleared its moon rocket on Thursday for an April launch with four astronauts after completing the latest round of repairs. The 98-metre (322-foot) rocket will roll out of the hangar and back to the pad next week at Florida’s Kennedy Space Centre, leading to a launch attempt as early as April 1. It will mark humanity’s first trip to the moon in more than 50 years. The timing is interesting. From the end of March, US President Donald Trump is slated to visit China and meet with President Xi...

- [‘Two sessions’ webinar](#) (2026-03-13 05:18)

This year’s ‘two sessions’, China’s biggest annual political gathering, featured the announcement of the lowest GDP growth target in decades and official approval for the 15th five-year plan. SCMP Plus hosted a webinar to discuss these developments with three experts from the Asia Society Policy Institute’s Center for China Analysis. Other topics included the upcoming US-China presidential summit, President Xi Jinping’s purge of the military and efforts to reshape the economy. The panel...

- [Greater Bay Airlines to raise fuel surcharges, joining Hong Kong rivals as costs soar](#)
(2026-03-13 05:18)

Greater Bay Airlines will more than double its fuel surcharge on certain routes starting next week, becoming the last Hong Kong passenger carrier to raise prices amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The airline announced on Friday that it would raise prices due to “surging fuel costs,” with the new surcharges taking effect from March 18. The charge on the carrier’s flights to Hong Kong from all destinations except mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, the Maldives and the Philippines will rise...

- [Cambricon, China’s ‘little Nvidia’, to pay maiden dividend after profitable 2025](#)
(2026-03-13 04:34)

Cambricon Technologies, a Chinese semiconductor designer seen as a potential alternative to US giant Nvidia, will pay its maiden dividend after posting its first full-year profit since listing in 2020. Cambricon, dubbed “little Nvidia”, planned to distribute a cash dividend of 15 yuan (US\$2.2) for every 10 shares held, totalling more than 632 million yuan, according to its filing to the Shanghai Stock Exchange on Thursday. Another 20 million yuan would be allocated for share buy-backs, taking...

- [Philippines urges Asean to be global investment safe haven as Middle East war rages](#)
(2026-03-13 04:28)

Asean should position itself as a safe haven for investment amid worsening global volatility, the host country said as the region’s economic ministers kicked off their meeting in Manila on Friday. “Let us ensure that Asean remains a region where investment is met with certainty and where cooperation creates genuine opportunity for our people,” Philippine Trade Secretary Cristina Roque said in her opening speech. Energy and financial markets worldwide have been upended with the Iran war in its...

- [China’s arms imports plummet, Hong Kong couple’s HK\\$50,000 Dubai exit: SCMP’s 7 highlights](#) (2026-03-13 04:12)

We have selected seven stories from this week’s news across Hong Kong, mainland China, the wider Asia region and beyond that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Why have China’s arms imports plummeted 72% over the past 5 years? Beijing’s arms imports have nose-dived by nearly three-quarters over the past five years, as it has replaced overseas weapons purchases with domestic technology,...

- [China beats US, Japan in carbon-fibre arms race to create world’s first T1200 factory](#)
(2026-03-13 04:00)

China has become the first country to mass produce the strongest carbon fibre, which has wide applications for defence industries such as aerospace, drones and robots, state broadcaster

CCTV's military channel reported on Wednesday. The domestically developed T1200-gradefibre has a tensile strength 10 times greater than ordinary steel, yet it is less than one-tenth of a human hair in diameter, according to the state broadcaster. Mass production of the ultra-strength fibre at a projected output...

- [In Japan, video of exhausted Takaichi sparks health fears ahead of US trip](#) (2026-03-13 03:26)

A video showing Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi looking visibly exhausted after a budget committee session on Thursday went viral online, sparking concerns over her well-being ahead of a trip to the US to meet President Donald Trump. Takaichi had cold-like symptoms and was advised to rest by doctors, ultimately skipping some meetings with local Middle Eastern ambassadors on Thursday, according to local media. "Yesterday, the prime minister suspected she had a cold, so she was examined by...

- [The fiscal family: adviser says China's tax flows should resemble parental ties](#) (2026-03-13 03:00)

The full implementation of taxation reforms pledged in China's new five-year plan would substantially ease the fiscal strains on local governments, a leading tax policy expert said, while adding that it would not alter the central government's dominant role in the country's fiscal landscape. As a unitary state, China's systematic advantage lay in strong central government finance that could coordinate fiscal resources in a unified manner and redistribute them through transfer payments, in...

- [US returns for WWII dead of Japan's 'hell ship' tomb in the Philippines](#) (2026-03-13 02:30)

They were killed by American bombs. They were held at gunpoint by Japanese guards who fired indiscriminately into the crowded holds and when the ship finally went down, many were left to drown. Eight decades later, the United States is coming back for them. Hundreds perished when the Japanese "hell ship" Oryoku Maru was sunk in Subic Bay in December 1944. Now, the Pentagon has launched a multi-year mission in waters off the Philippines to retrieve their remains. As many as 250 Americans are...

- [Hong Kong job openings hit 6-year low in 69% of sectors amid AI's ascent](#) (2026-03-13 02:00)

Hong Kong's fresh graduates are facing increasingly challenging career prospects, with 69 per cent of job sectors recording their fewest vacancies in six years, a trend experts attribute to the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and a sluggish economy. Figures from the Joint Institution Job Information System, a centralised online job information platform shared by the city's eight publicly funded universities, also showed that the number of job vacancies fell to a five-year low of 30,798 last...

- [US sanctions 2 firms, 6 individuals for funding North Korean weapons](#) (2026-03-13 01:35)

The United States has imposed sanctions on two companies and six individuals for their roles in operations that used information technology workers in foreign countries to raise money for North Korea. The Treasury Department said the schemes, orchestrated by the North Korean government, had systematically defrauded US businesses and generated revenue to fund North Korea's weapons programmes, including nearly US\$800 million in 2024. The department also accused workers associated with North Korea...

- [When homes are small and costly, dreams of having a family shrink](#) (2026-03-13 01:30)

Across Asia's densest cities, the milestones of adulthood are quietly shifting. Couples share kitchens with parents. Some wait years on public housing lists. Others secure a flat before thinking about a ring. In some cases, keys come before vows. Increasingly, love moves in step with property. Square footage, mortgage approvals and ballot results shape decisions that once felt spontaneous. At first glance, falling fertility rates might look like a purely economic or demographic...

- [US-Israel war on Iran: Indian homes stockpile electric stoves to beat gas crunch](#) (2026-03-13 01:00)

Indian households are rushing to buy electric induction stoves, draining stocks online and in stores, amid fears of a potential cooking gas shortage tied to the Middle East conflict. India, the world's second-largest importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), has invoked emergency powers to boost supplies for households even as availability tightens for commercial users including canteens, hostels and restaurants. Meanwhile, consumers are buying electric cooking appliances as a precaution,...

- [How a 102-year-old 'baby' in China hasn't been in hospital for 50 years](#) (2026-03-13 01:00)

A 102-year-old woman from eastern China has won hearts online with her optimistic attitude and unique lifestyle. Jin Baoling, a centenarian from a rural area in Taizhou, Zhejiang province, is frequently visited by her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. Known for her longevity and cheerful personality, fellow villagers affectionately call her "Old Baby." According to the Taizhou Evening News, Jin is mentally sharp and physically healthy, having not visited a hospital in the past 50...

- [Swire sells part of Cathay Pacific stake for HK\\$1.8 billion to boost working capital](#) (2026-03-13 00:40)

Conglomerate Swire Pacific has sold part of its stake in Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways for HK\$1.8 billion (US\$230 million) to raise working capital. In a rare move, the group revealed on Friday that it sold 153.05 million shares at HK\$11.74 each the previous day. This was a 9.6 per cent discount to the last traded price on Thursday of HK\$12.99 per share. Swire is the latest shareholder to reduce its stake in Cathay, following Air China's sale in January for

HK\$1.32...

- [‘I can’ t get a job and AI is to blame’ : a young person’ s lament](#) (2026-03-13 00:01)

Trina Lau spent nearly three months looking for work after she was laid off from an e-commerce firm in Hong Kong in December. It was the 23-year-old’ s first job after graduating with a communications degree last year. The position only lasted for six months. She sent out more than 50 job applications but only received calls for interviews for six of them. Lau conceded that it was slow going because the economy was not picking up as quickly as she would have liked. But now, she said, she had the...

- [BMW sees smoother road ahead in China after sales skid in 2025](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

BMW could be approaching the end of the tunnel in China as signs of stabilisation raise hopes of a turnaround after the German carmaker reported that sales dropped by double digits in the key market in 2025. “Transaction prices in the market for our products have stabilised ... and are actually improving slightly compared to [the third quarter],” said Walter Mertl, chief financial officer, during a press conference on Thursday. “If the run rate continues this way, we have the opportunity to go...

- [Philippines’ bid for UN Security Council seat sidesteps maritime row](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jnr’ s pitch for a United Nations Security Council seat this week was notable for his sidestepping of an issue at the core of Manila’ s foreign policy in recent years. As he appealed to UN members in New York, Marcos framed the Philippines as a bridge connecting developing countries and middle-income economies, without making any direct reference to the South China Sea dispute. The president’ s restrained speech, which avoided mentioning China despite ongoing...

- [China’ s rural pensions in focus as lawmakers fight for farmers’ fair share amid income gap](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

Some Chinese lawmakers and advisers are pushing to secure higher pensions for elderly farmers, underscoring the persistent income disparity between the country’ s urban and rural residents. The latest government work report, approved on Thursday, confirmed a 20-yuan (US\$2.91) monthly increase to basic pension payments for a third consecutive year, bringing the national minimum to 163 yuan. However, some deputies from China’ s top legislature contend that this level is inadequate. “A pension of...

- [California’ s Governor Newsom says no imminent threat despite warning of Iran drone attack](#) (2026-03-12 23:29)

California Governor Gavin Newsom said there was no imminent threat to the state, despite a warning from the FBI that Iran could send drones to the west coast in retaliation for war. Newsom said drone issues “have always been top of mind” . “We’ ve been aware of that information. ... It’ s all about a posture of preparedness for worst-case scenarios,” the

governor said on Wednesday. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently warned policedepartments about Iran and a possible California...

- [US military refuelling plane crashes in Iraq, rescue efforts are under way](#) (2026-03-12 23:02)

An American military refuelling plane went down in Iraq and rescue efforts were under way, US Central Command said on Thursday. The KC-135 aircraft was part of the operation against Iran but the crash was not due to hostile fire or friendly fire, the military said in a statement. US Central Command, which oversees the Middle East, said two aircraft were involved and that one landed safely and the other went down in western Iraq. It described the latter as “a loss” . A US official, who spoke on...

- [Hong Kong insider-trading arrests send ‘very strong message’ on market integrity](#) (2026-03-12 23:00)

Arrests in a HK\$315 million (US\$40 million) insider dealing case underscore Hong Kong’ s commitment to upholding the integrity of its stock market amid a surge in new listings and share placements, according to industry players. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on Thursday said it had arrested eight people after joining forces with the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) earlier this week to raid premises connected to a hedge fund and two securities firms. The joint...

- [Serbian president confirms his country owns Chinese supersonic missiles after photo leak](#) (2026-03-12 22:47)

Serbia’ s president confirmed late on Thursday that his country possesses Chinese supersonic surface-attack cruise missiles, after photos of the weapons attached to Serbian fighter jets leaked online. Photos, which began circulating on social media and defence blogs earlier this week, showed missiles believed to be Chinese-made CM-400AKG cruise missiles attached to Serbia’ s Russian-made MiG-29 planes. “We have things we do not show,” President Aleksandar Vucic told Serbia’ s national broadcaster...

- [Sanctioned Rubio to take part in Trump’ s China trip despite previous missed opportunities](#) (2026-03-12 22:00)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is expected to visit China with President Donald Trump later this month after appearing to show little interest in previous invitations from Beijing, the South China Morning Post has learned. According to sources, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly on the matter, Rubio had been invited to visit but had not been receptive until recently. Rubio’ s attendance could smooth over some of the problems surrounding...

- [Netanyahu threatens Iran’ s new supreme leader, defends joint assault with US](#) (2026-03-12 21:31)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday issued a veiled threat to kill Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei even as he acknowledged that Israel's joint air war with the US may not lead to a collapse of Tehran's clerical government. Holding his first press conference since the start of the war, the Israeli leader said that Iran was "no longer the same" after nearly two weeks of bombardment and that Tehran had suffered blows to its elite Revolutionary Guards Corps and Basij...

- [Iran war signals return to world of hierarchy without order](#) (2026-03-12 21:30)

The war in Iran is not just another Middle Eastern crisis. It is a window into what world politics looks like when rules are weakest and power is most concentrated. Washington has spoken in the language of surrender and coercion, European governments have called for restraint and respect for international law, and Asian powers have scrambled to keep energy flows moving through a Strait of Hormuz that has nearly ground to a halt. What this reveals is not a functioning rules-based order. It is a...

- [1 dead, 2 injured in shooting at Virginia's Old Dominion University, police say](#) (2026-03-12 19:05)

ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) students in an Old Dominion University classroom subdued and killed the shooter who killed one person and wounded two others, the FBI announced on Thursday. Dominique Evans, special agent in charge of the FBI's (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Norfolk field office, said at a news conference that the suspect identified by authorities as Mohamed Bailor Jalloh shouted "Allahu akbar" before the shooting. Then the ROTC students stopped him, showing "extreme..."

- [Suspect shot dead after crashing truck into Michigan synagogue](#) (2026-03-12 18:13)

A suspect crashed his truck into the hallway of a Detroit-area synagogue where children were attending preschool on Thursday and was shot dead in a confrontation with security staff, with no one else seriously injured, authorities said. The attack unfolded during a recent surge in US antisemitic incidents and in a period of heightened security concerns around Jewish and Muslim places of worship since US and Israeli forces launched air strikes on Iran on February 28, sparking an intensifying war...

- [British mother jailed for keeping woman as 'house slave' for 25 years](#) (2026-03-12 17:05)

A UK judge on Thursday jailed for 13 years a mother-of-10 who forced a vulnerable woman to work as a "house slave" for more than two decades. Amanda Wixon subjected the woman, who was a teenager when the ordeal began, to more than 25 years of abuse at her squalid home in Gloucestershire, western England. The 56-year-old forced the victim, who has a learning disability, to do manual labour, regularly assaulted her and deprived her of food and healthcare, it emerged during an earlier 13-day...

- [UK PM Starmer admits his ‘mistake’ in appointing Mandelson as US ambassador](#)
(2026-03-12 16:38)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has taken responsibility for his “mistake” in sending Peter Mandelson to Washington as ambassador, as Downing Street denied there was a “cover-up” in the release of files related to the appointment. The prime minister is facing fresh questions about his judgment in giving Mandelson the ambassadorship despite being warned of a “general reputational risk” because of his relationship with paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. In his first public appearance since the...

- [Anchors Academy Expands with Junior Secondary Division and Co-establishes Senior Secondary School with St Bees School UK](#) (2026-03-12 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Anchors Academy, recognised as one of Hong Kong's leading private schools for kindergarten and primary education, is taking a significant leap forward. The school has announced the extension of its educational offering to include Junior Secondary (Years 7 to 9)*, alongside a strategic partnership with the UK's historic St Bees School (founded 1583) to establish St Bees (Anchors) Sixth Form College in Hong Kong*, all...

- [2 arrested in raid on Hong Kong syndicate accused of laundering HK\\$4.7 billion](#)
(2026-03-12 15:07)

Hong Kong customs officers have arrested two men in a crackdown on a syndicate accused of laundering HK\$4.7 billion (US\$600.54 million) in criminal proceeds over four years and running a drug business. Investigators from customs’ financial investigation bureau said on Thursday the group operated through two companies, receiving large sums of unexplained funds and channelling them through more than 2,100 transactions. The money laundering tactics involved shell companies, frequent transfers and...

- [Strait of Hormuz must stay closed, Iran’ s Mojtaba Khamenei says in defiant statement](#)
(2026-03-12 14:05)

Iran’ s new supreme leader has vowed to keep blocking the Strait of Hormuz, attack US bases and avenge the blood of its martyrs in his first statement since succeeding his father. “The lever of blocking the Strait of Hormuz must definitely be used,” Mojtaba Khamenei said about the strategic waterway, which supplies a fifth of the world’ s oil. Khamenei urged Iran’ s Gulf neighbours to close US military bases in the region “as soon as possible, because they must have realised by now that the claim...

- [Is it time for China to rethink non-intervention in this new age of disorder?](#) (2026-03-12 14:00)

With the Strait of Hormuz effectively weaponised as part of the Iran crisis, Beijing should move beyond rigid non-intervention to take targeted action to defend its massive interests abroad, according to a leading Chinese government adviser. In an interview published on Monday,

Zheng Yongnian called for a more assertive “intervention 2.0” while avoiding US-style hegemonic overreach or “strong-arm” tactics. He argued that China’s commitment to “absolute non-intervention” was becoming increasingly...

- [Man injured after lithium battery catches fire on Hong Kong bus](#) (2026-03-12 13:43)

A man was injured on Thursday evening after a lithium battery he was carrying caught fire on a Hong Kong bus in Tsuen Wan, filling the vehicle with thick smoke. Police received a report at 7.21pm about the fire on the bus travelling on Citybus route E21, which was heading along Tsuen Wan Road towards Kowloon at the time. Smoke suddenly erupted in the front section of the upper deck as the vehicle passed Chun Shing Factory Estate in Kwai Chung. Firefighters arrived on the scene shortly after and...

- [China’s nuclear warhead storage a ‘highly concentrated risk’ , US report says](#) (2026-03-12 13:30)

Most of China’s nuclear warheads are located at a single facility in the country’s northwest and could be vulnerable during a conflict, according to a US think tank. In a report published this month, the US Air University’s China Aerospace Studies Institute detailed the warhead management and logistical structure of the People’s Liberation Army Rocket Force. The report, based on open-source intelligence, said much of China’s nuclear stockpile was stored at a single, centralised facility known as...

- [Robot ‘arrested’ after elderly woman startled and sent to hospital in Macau](#) (2026-03-12 13:09)

An elderly woman was taken to hospital in Macau after being “frightened” by a humanoid robot that abruptly appeared behind her before it was escorted away by police, prompting social media users to joke it had been “arrested”. According to authorities, the woman, who was on her phone at the time, was startled when she suddenly noticed the robot behind her near the Lok Yeung Fa Yuen residential complex in Patane last Thursday. Video circulating online shows the woman angrily confronting the robot...

- [China codifies ethnic assimilation with new ‘unity’ law as it counters the West](#) (2026-03-12 13:04)

China has passed a new law on ethnic unity, creating a legal framework that analysts say is designed to counter Western ideological influence and provide a statutory mandate for assimilating the country’s minority groups. The Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress was formally endorsed by the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, at the end of the annual “two sessions” on Thursday. The law was adopted by a near-unanimous vote of 2,756 in favour, with just three against...

- [Israel’s 90 nuclear warheads make any strike on Iran ‘really dangerous’ : expert](#) (2026-03-12 13:00)

The hostilities in the Middle East have renewed concerns about Israel’ s widely known but officially unacknowledged nuclear arsenal, with an expert warning of catastrophic consequences if the weapons were used in the armed conflict. According to Alicia Sanders-Zakre, head of policy at the Geneva-based International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), it is “widely acknowledged among experts that Israel is a nuclear-armed country, but this has never been formally acknowledged by Israel or...

- [US Navy patrols Taiwan Strait before Xi-Trump summit, triggering PLA manoeuvres](#) (2026-03-12 12:15)

The United States has sent a military patrol aircraft through the Taiwan Strait weeks before the Xi-Trump summit, triggering People’ s Liberation Army jet manoeuvres near Taiwan after several days of pause. A US Navy P-8A Poseidon transited the Taiwan Strait in international airspace on Wednesday, the US Seventh Fleet said on Thursday. The passage through the waterway separating Taiwan and mainland China illustrated the US’ commitment to “a free and open Indo-Pacific” , Commander Matthew Comer, a...

- [Hong Kong’ s John Lee pledges to align with nation’ s new 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-12 12:13)

Hong Kong’ s leader has pledged to align with national strategies outlined in the country’ s latest five-year plan and transform the city’ s “new positionings, functions and missions” assigned by Beijing into “tangible outcomes” to drive economic growth. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu also said on Thursday that he would lead the local government in fulfilling its primary responsibility to unite society in proactively aligning with the 15th five-year plan, which outlines China’ s economic and...

- [More Hong Kong drivers head to mainland China to refuel amid surging oil prices](#) (2026-03-12 11:44)

Hong Kong drivers are increasingly crossing the border to mainland China to replenish their tanks, as authorities crack down on a case of an illegal filling operation amid the surge in global oil prices. Motorists are exploring different ways to mitigate the rising fuel cost after the ongoing conflict in the Middle East pushed up oil prices. Ringo Lee Yiu-pui, governor and honorary life president of the Hong Kong, China Automobile Association, on Thursday highlighted a sharp rise in local...

- [Hong Kong’ s Wealth for Good Summit to highlight AI, robotics, biotech opportunities](#) (2026-03-12 11:33)

As innovations arise from the artificial intelligence, robotics and biotechnology sectors, holders of family capital from around the world will convene in Hong Kong to discuss such investment opportunities at the city’ s fourth annual Wealth for Good Summit on March 23 and 24. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu said the summit would showcase Hong Kong’ s position as a premier hub for family capital seeking long-term growth and multigenerational...

- [Ant smuggling rises in Kenya as Chinese national caught with 2,238 insects at airport](#)
(2026-03-12 11:15)

A man was arrested with more than 2,200 live garden ants in his luggage at Nairobi's main airport this week amid a rise in cases of smuggling of the insects in Kenya. Chinese national Zhang Kequn, 27, was arrested at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Tuesday while he was trying to leave the country, court filings on Thursday showed. Immigration officials flagged a "stop order" on Zhang's passport after he evaded arrest in Kenya last year. Ant aficionados pay large sums to maintain...

- [Former Hong Kong lawmaker Regina Ip swaps policy for photo cards at ComplexCon](#)
(2026-03-12 11:13)

Former Hong Kong lawmaker Regina Ip Lau Suk-yee will hold a fan meet-and-greet at this year's ComplexCon in the city, underscoring the senior government adviser's enduring online popularity since ending her 17-year tenure in the Legislative Council. Seventy-five-year-old Ip, convenor of the government's key decision-making Executive Council, will join guests including Jennie from K-pop group Blackpink, American rapper Yeat and Korean R&B singer Crush at the two-day event later this month. The...

- [Impact report for border crossing revamp approved despite concerns over temple](#)
(2026-03-12 11:04)

Heritage advisers have approved an impact report for the redevelopment of Hong Kong's Sha Tau Kok border checkpoint despite concerns that construction could affect a nearby temple holding monument status. At a meeting on Thursday, members of the Antiquities Advisory Board gave the green light to the heritage impact assessment for the project and its associated works. The project will involve demolishing the existing control point facility and constructing two major buildings connected by a...

- [Hong Kong export credit insurer keeps premiums low despite Middle East tensions](#)
(2026-03-12 11:00)

Hong Kong's export credit insurer is keeping premiums low and expanding support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), even as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East raise concerns about risks to global trade. Unlike the typical trade credit insurance model – where insurers raise premiums when geopolitical risks increase – the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (HKECIC) said it had continued offering concessions to exporters to help them weather uncertainty. "In the...

- [Trump's tariff investigation 'bluff' will not work on China, analysts warn](#) (2026-03-12 11:00)

The United States' decision to launch Section 301 investigations into alleged unfair trade practices by China and several other economies – which could allow Washington to reimpose

higher tariffs – is a “bluff” designed to give US President Donald Trump some perceived leverage ahead of his expected trip to China, analysts said. But the threat is unlikely to work on Beijing, which has grown used to the president’s “art of the deal” tactics, they added. “Trump’s move before his China trip is...

- [Iranian women’s football team lands in Malaysia as video fuels fresh asylum claims](#)

(2026-03-12 10:59)

The Iranian women’s national football team arrived in Malaysia on Wednesday after leaving Australia, where several members of the delegation had sought asylum, as a viral social media video fuelled unverified claims that some players might want to remain in the Southeast Asian country. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the Kuala Lumpur-based governing body for Asian football, confirmed the team was currently staying at a hotel in the Malaysian capital while onward travel arrangements were...

- [What China’s OpenClaw divide reveals about local and central government priorities](#)

(2026-03-12 10:57)

Local governments across China have rushed to ride the OpenClaw AI boom in hopes of spurring economic growth, only for Beijing to step in swiftly to rein in the frenzy. It has issued a series of safety warnings that analysts say underscore the divide in priorities between local and central authorities. The rush to adopt the artificial intelligence (AI) software has seen major internet companies offer low-cost or easily accessible versions, while local governments have rolled out subsidies to...

- [With some Singapore flats above 60 storeys on the horizon, will owners face tighter curbs?](#)

(2026-03-12 10:41)

Singapore is preparing to build its tallest public housing project yet with some blocks rising above 60 storeys in the historic Chinatown area, in a sign of the city state pushing for higher density in prime areas to meet demand. Such super-tall developments are unlikely to become the norm, according to analysts, who cite higher construction costs, site constraints and tighter regulations aimed at preventing centrally located flats from becoming speculative investments. Singapore would build the...

- [American military bleeds US\\$11.3 billion in first week of Iran war: report](#)

(2026-03-12 10:12)

The opening week of the war against Iran cost the United States more than US\$11.3 billion, lawmakers were told in a Pentagon briefing, according to a New York Times report underscoring the pace at which the conflict is consuming weapons and resources. The Times, citing unnamed sources familiar with Tuesday’s closed-door briefing, said members of Congress were told that the figure excludes many costs connected with the build-up to the strikes – suggesting the final tally for the first week could...

- [Chinese developer Sunshine 100 to oppose Hong Kong winding-up petition over US\\$205m debt](#) (2026-03-12 10:00)

Sunshine 100 China Holdings, a mainland Chinese developer facing debts amid China's property sector downturn, said on Thursday that it plans to oppose a winding-up petition filed against it in Hong Kong. HTI Financial Solutions and Haitong International Financial Products filed the winding-up petition against the developer at the High Court of Hong Kong over an unpaid redemption sum of about US\$205 million, including accrued interest, due on March 19, 2025, according to a Sunshine 100 filing...

- [Amid OpenClaw frenzy, China's central bank adds to cybersecurity warnings](#) (2026-03-12 10:00)

China's central bank has called for heightened cybersecurity awareness and caution in the use of artificial intelligence in the financial sector, adding to a chorus of warnings over security risks amid the nationwide buzz surrounding the OpenClaw AI agent. At its annual technology conference in Beijing on Wednesday, the People's Bank of China called for further efforts to "enhance the resilience of cybersecurity and data security", according to a readout of the meeting posted on its website. The...

- [Timothée Chalamet charms fans by embracing Chinese culture, selling tofu, playing table tennis](#) (2026-03-12 10:00)

From speaking Chinese to filming square dancing in a park, Hollywood's golden boy Timothée Chalamet gave his fans a lot to talk about during his trip to China. The 30-year-old American-French actor, affectionately called tian cha, "Sweet Tea", by his Chinese fans due to the phonetic similarity to his name, is considered a front runner to win an Oscar. His recent trip to China is to promote Marty Supreme, a film about a shoe salesman who risks everything to pursue his dream of becoming a world...

- [From AirAsia to Qantas, airlines raise fares as Iran war fuels oil price surge](#) (2026-03-12 09:33)

Airlines across Europe and Asia are increasing fares and raising fuel surcharges as the Iran war sends oil prices swinging wildly and stokes fears of jet fuel shortages if the fighting persists. Demand for alternative routes that bypass the Middle East is also surging, pushing up ticket prices. More than 43,000 flights scheduled in and out of the Middle East were cancelled between February 28 and March 10, according to data from analytics firm Cirium. Here is a rolling list of airlines that have...

- [Hong Kong's MTR Corp net profit falls 6.9% amid weaker mainland China revenue](#) (2026-03-12 09:27)

The net profit of Hong Kong's MTR Corporation dropped by 6.9 per cent to HK\$14.68 billion (US\$1.88 billion) last year, from HK\$15.77 billion in 2024, as higher depreciation costs and weaker revenue from the rail giant's mainland China operations weighed on earnings. The

company recorded a property development profit of HK\$11.08 billion last year, up from HK\$10.27 billion in 2024, with income generated from projects including The Southside, LohasPark and Ho Man Tin station. But the MTR Corp...

- [Southeast Asia faces spillover cyber risk from Iran war as ‘blast radius’ widens](#)
(2026-03-12 09:00)

Southeast Asia is facing a growing cyber spillover risk from the widening US-Israel war with Iran, with security experts warning that state-linked hackers and criminal groups are seeking to exploit turmoil around energy, shipping and banking networks to hit targets far beyond the Middle East. The assessment comes as Iran said it would target economic and banking interests linked to the United States and Israel in the region after an attack on an Iranian bank, while the United Arab Emirates said...

- [Hong Kong poised to grant first stablecoin licences to HSBC, Standard Chartered: sources](#)
(2026-03-12 09:00)

HSBC and a joint venture led by Standard Chartered are expected to be among the first companies to obtain Hong Kong’s stablecoin licences within two weeks, according to people familiar with the matter. The number of licences and timetable had yet to be finalised and remained subject to change, but sources said a possible date was March 24. The two banks declined to comment. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) last month revealed that a small number of stablecoin licences would be granted...

- [Over 160 complaints filed after Mayday shifts Hong Kong show: Consumer Council](#)
(2026-03-12 08:05)

Hong Kong’s consumer watchdog has received more than 160 complaints after Taiwanese rock band Mayday cancelled one of its coming concerts at Kai Tak Sports Park and rescheduled it for later, sparking frustration among fans. Alaina Shum Jiu-fai, chief executive of the Consumer Council, urged the organiser to respond promptly, adding that as of 8am on Thursday, it had received 71 complaints from residents, while the rest were from outside the city, primarily mainland China. She said the total...

- [How China can win friends and influencers to help tell the country’s story well](#)
(2026-03-12 08:00)

Tourists, international students and foreign employees of Chinese companies could serve as grass-roots ambassadors, helping China’s story to resonate with audiences worldwide, according to one of the country’s leading political advisers. Zhang Bo, a professor at Beijing Language and Culture University who is also a member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, made the suggestion on the sidelines of the annual “two sessions” meeting. Speaking to the South China Morning Post,...

- [Cathay Pacific, HK Express to double fuel surcharges on Wednesday as costs surge](#) (2026-03-12 07:49)

Cathay Pacific Airways and its budget arm HK Express will double their fuel surcharges next week, following a similar move by another Hong Kong carrier amid rising oil prices driven by conflict in the Middle East. The city's flag carrier said on Thursday the increase would apply to tickets issued on March 18 or later. "The price of jet fuel has approximately doubled since March amid the latest developments in the Middle East," Cathay said, citing the surge as the reason for the higher...

- [In South Korea, witnesses describe chain of failures as Itaewon crowd crush inquiry begins](#) (2026-03-12 07:43)

South Korea's long-awaited public inquiry into the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush opened on Thursday with tearful testimony from survivors and heated exchanges between police officials accused of mishandling emergency calls on the night of the disaster. The hearing came more than three years after the tragedy, following prolonged political gridlock, disputes over accountability and repeated delays in forming an independent investigative body. The National Commission for the Investigation of the...

- [US-Israeli war on Iran may spark nuclear arms race, Carnegie scholar says](#) (2026-03-12 07:39)

Zhao Tong is a senior fellow with the Nuclear Policy Programme at Washington-based think tank the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and its East Asia-based research centre on contemporary China, Carnegie China. His research focuses on strategic security issues, including nuclear weapons policy, deterrence, arms control, non-proliferation, missile defence, hypersonic weapons, regional security in the Asia-Pacific and China's security and foreign policy. SCMP Plus readers get early access...

- [Life under fire: a Tehran resident shares her story as Iran is attacked](#) (2026-03-12 07:33)

A Tehran resident in her 30s agreed to share her thoughts with Agence France-Presse about the ongoing war and daily life. Her identity has been withheld for her protection. Here is an edited transcript of the conversation. How is daily life in Tehran? People left in waves, especially those who were next to targets. The financial situation is very bad. My job has been halted and I am spending out of my savings. Going away has costs too, so this may be one of the reasons why people are leaving...

- [6,000 Filipino sailors stranded by Strait of Hormuz closure: 'bored and a little scared'](#) (2026-03-12 07:16)

Filipino sailor George Miranda was racing to help a stricken vessel aboard the tugboat Mussafah 2 when he last spoke to his wife and young daughter. The 46-year-old, whose small ship was struck by a pair of missiles this week in the Strait of Hormuz, is the only seafarer from the Philippines known to be missing in the Middle East war, the government says. But more than

6,000 others from the country that supplies a quarter of the world's sailors are still working in the conflict zone and...

- [Philippines' Marcos 'angry' over 'mistreatment' of Bahrain-based OFWs by official](#) (2026-03-12 06:54)

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has ordered an investigation after watching a viral video showing an employee from the Migrant Workers Office in Bahrain telling off overseas Filipino workers (OFW) stranded in the kingdom due to the escalating Iran war. "The president was not pleased with this. He became angry on behalf of our OFWs because of the mistreatment by some public servants," the presidential palace's press officer Claire Castro said, according to the Inquirer on...

- [Group warns plain packs hinder Hongkongers' efforts to detect smuggled cigarettes](#) (2026-03-12 06:53)

Nearly 90 per cent of Hong Kong smokers cannot distinguish smuggled cigarettes from duty-paid ones under the government's proposed plain packaging measures, a survey by an advocacy group has found. The Long-term Tobacco Policy Concern Group also urged authorities on Thursday to expand the function of the tobacco stamp duty system to allow consumers to scan QR codes and verify whether a pack had been taxed. "With the current packaging, consumers can tell if a pack is taxed based on the brand...

- [From net worth of US\\$580 to US\\$580 million, China school dropout builds steamed bun empire](#) (2026-03-12 06:11)

A school dropout from eastern China who survived a violent attack and bankruptcy has built a steamed bun empire that generates 180 million yuan (US\$26 million) annually. Liu Huiping, 49, hails from Anhui province, famously known as China's "hometown of dough makers." To ease the financial burden on his parents, Liu left secondary school early. He initially learned furniture making before shifting his focus to the craft of Chinese buns. In 1998, with a 4,000-yuan (US\$580) loan, Liu ventured to...

- [Trump's 'racist hate speech' fuelling rights violations in US, UN panel says](#) (2026-03-12 06:08)

A UN-backed panel of independent experts focusing on racial discrimination has said that racist hate speech by US President Donald Trump and other American political leaders, along with a crackdown on immigration in the United States, have led to "grave human rights violations". The Geneva-based Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued its decision on Wednesday and urged the US to suspend immigration enforcement operations at, and near, schools, hospitals, and faith-based...

- [China targets record food-security push in shadow of US-Israeli war with Iran](#) (2026-03-12 06:00)

China has pledged to raise grain output to record levels over the next five years, as part of efforts to guarantee food security for its vast population amid geopolitical shocks and supply-chain uncertainties. Under the nation's 15th five-year plan unveiled during the "two sessions" parliamentary meetings, Beijing set a target to raise annual grain production capacity to 725 million tonnes by 2030, driven by wider use of high-end agricultural machinery and advanced breeding technologies. As in...

- [Trump's 2026 trip to China](#) (2026-03-12 05:27)
- [Why war on Iran is not Trump's to end: Israel may 'fan the flames'](#) (2026-03-12 04:00)

The US-Israeli war on Iran could prove difficult to end in the short term, with Israel expected to continue to "fan the flames", Chinese experts have warned. However, they still believe that the intense back-and-forth attacks and high tensions in the Strait of Hormuz are unlikely to last. They also reject the notion that a prolonged Middle East conflict involving the United States would benefit Beijing. It has been 12 days since the US and Israel launched joint air strikes on Iran on February...

- [Why Indonesia's waste-to-energy goal may not be 'quick fix' for landfill crisis](#) (2026-03-12 04:00)

Indonesia's appointment of two Chinese companies to run waste-to-energy (WtE) projects in two cities, an initiative of President Prabowo Subianto to reduce mounting rubbish in landfills while providing energy, has sparked a debate over costs, efficiency and whether its waste-reduction efforts are on track. Danantara, the Indonesian state wealth fund, on Friday announced that it had chosen Wangneng Environment as the operator of a WtE plant in the city of Bekasi, while Zhejiang Weiming...

- ['Outdated intelligence': US faces mounting evidence in deadly strike on Iran school](#) (2026-03-12 03:52)

Outdated intelligence likely led to the United States carrying out a deadly missile strike on a junior school in Iran that killed over 165 people, many of them children, in the opening hours of the conflict, according to a US official and a second person briefed on findings of a preliminary US military investigation into the incident. The bombing of the school and its casualties involving children has become a focal point of the war, and if ultimately confirmed to be at the hands of the US,...

- [Malaysian man jailed for 10 months, fined US\\$12,700 over Facebook post insulting Islam](#) (2026-03-12 03:48)

The administrator of a Facebook account has been jailed 10 months and fined 50,000 ringgit (US\$12,700) by the Sessions Court in Miri, Sarawak, over a post deemed insulting to Islam. The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) said John Mule anak Alai, 48, was convicted under Section 233(1)(a) of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 for improper use of network facilities. "MCMC takes seriously any form of misuse of digital

platforms that insults religion, incites hatred,...

- [Preparing for the worst? US bunker maker claims big demand in Middle East](#) (2026-03-12 03:09)

Since the war in the Middle East began nearly two weeks ago, the phone at Ron Hubbard's bomb shelter company in Texas has not stopped ringing. Foreign and US clients are rushing to buy his bunkers, seeking refuge in case of air raids, nuclear fallout or apocalypse. With the United States and Israel pounding Iran, and Tehran retaliating with strikes across the region, Hubbard has seen demand for his product soar, mostly from Gulf nation clients in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab...

- [Singaporean man convicted for driving away with lover's husband clinging to car bonnet](#) (2026-03-12 02:50)

A Singaporean man who claimed he drove off with his lover's husband on the bonnet of his car because he was scared of the other man was convicted on Tuesday, after District Judge Ong Luan Tze called his actions an unreasonable response, despite the situation. Chia Hiok Seah, 50, was in his car at a multi-storey car park in Sengkang in the wee hours of June 29, 2024, with a married woman. The pair was nude when the woman's husband at the time, Goh Yong Sern, appeared at the car park at Block 278,...

- [China's 5-year jet goals target C919 output, a new engine and reduced reliance](#) (2026-03-12 02:30)

Beijing aims to accelerate the rise of China's home-grown airliner fleet, including the C909 regional plane, C919 narrowbody and C929 widebody, through 2030. This push to challenge the duopoly of Boeing and Airbus comes as a national five-year plan calls for aircraft production, development and the roll-out of a domestically developed engine. The next five years will prove vital to the success of the three aircraft models and the continued localisation of critical parts such as engines,...

- [Why Southeast Asia's small firms could bear the brunt of the latest oil shock](#) (2026-03-12 02:00)

Singapore pizza shop owner Roy Chan has ridden out more than one business shock – from the Covid-19 pandemic to US tariff pressures – but he now sees another looming threat. Suppliers for ingredients used at his Goldenroy Sourdough Pizza restaurant had warned prices could soon rise by up to 30 per cent following a surge in oil prices due to the escalating Iran war, Chan said. “Delivery providers have not increased prices yet, but it may come in the next few weeks or months,” he added. Like Chan,...

- [Man arrested after Hong Kong bridge crash injures 10, disrupts airport-bound traffic](#) (2026-03-12 01:39)

A man has been arrested after a collision involving more than 10 cars on a major bridge injured 10 people and resulted in the closure of most lanes leading to the Hong Kong airport. Police said they received a report about the crash on Tsing Ma Bridge at 8.31am on Thursday, adding that the 10 people were sent to the North Lantau Hospital with mild injuries. The force later arrested the man for driving while disqualified. Photographs from the scene show at least one vehicle flipped onto its...

- [Graham A. Harris, a giant of the Hong Kong Bar](#) (2026-03-12 01:30)

The Hong Kong Bar Association was founded in 1949. To properly recognise barristers who have made a lasting and very significant contribution, members are able to nominate such giants for Life Membership. It is bestowed on those who “have rendered outstanding service to the Bar ... or to the administration of justice in Hong Kong”. Over the years, only a handful of our members have been elected as Life Members. Nominees must be proposed by 20 members, including no fewer than 10 senior counsel, and...

- [To make AI safe, put women and girls at the heart of the technology](#) (2026-03-12 01:30)

In late February, Hong Kong’s Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data co-signed, alongside 60 overseas organisations, a statement to bring attention to the rising misuse of deepfakes. With rapid technological developments, growing AI integration and lower barriers to access, swift action is needed to safeguard women and girls against growing forms of technology-facilitated violence. Technology-facilitated violence is not new; it has simply evolved. What began as pre-internet...

- [Meta disables 150,000 accounts in global sting on Southeast Asian scam centres](#) (2026-03-12 01:12)

Meta disabled more than 150,000 accounts and Thai police arrested 21 people in a sweeping international crackdown on Southeast Asian criminal scam centres that targeted people around the world, the social media giant said on Wednesday. The operation was led by Thailand’s Royal Thai Police Anti-Cyber Scam Centre alongside the FBI and the US Justice Department’s Scam Centre Strike Force, with Meta investigators acting on intelligence shared in real time by law enforcement. Online scam networks –...

- [‘Cyber confession room’ where China youth share struggles like financial problems gains traction](#) (2026-03-12 01:01)

At first glance, it is just a photograph of an empty room. But on mainland social media, it has become something else entirely: a virtual confessional. Beneath such posts, users anonymously unburden themselves to strangers, sharing the guilt, anxiety and struggles they cannot voice to family or friends. Traditionally, the confessional in Christianity is a space where believers admit their sins to a priest and seek absolution. Such so-called cyber confession rooms have recently surged in...

- [Is Beijing stepping up island building in South China Sea after 10-year pause?](#) (2026-03-12 01:00)

China has significantly stepped up its land reclamation activities on a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, according to satellite images. One image, reportedly taken on Monday, suggested that the surface area of Antelope Reef, once a mostly submerged feature in the Paracel Islands, had expanded substantially. The picture, published on social media by Damien Symon, a researcher with global intelligence research network The Intel Lab, also showed more than 30 vessels, believed to be dredgers...

- [How will Hong Kong follow mainland China' s ethnic unity promotion law?](#) (2026-03-12 00:30)

Hong Kong should step up education on Chinese history and culture while highlighting security threats to cultivate public awareness about the need to defend the country, experts have said, as the nation' s legislature is set to pass a law promoting ethnic unity. The expert' s comments came ahead of the closing session of the 14th National People' s Congress (NPC) on Thursday, which is due to pass the Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress. The law aims to forge a strong “sense of community for...

- [Why Iran and North Korea are ‘highly likely’ to revive missile and nuclear cooperation](#) (2026-03-12 00:00)

As war with the United States and Israel batters Iran' s missile and nuclear infrastructure, analysts say Tehran is likely to turn to North Korea once again after the fighting stops, reviving a long-suspected partnership built on shared hostility towards Washington and years of military cooperation. North Korea has long been suspected of supplying missile technology to Iran and providing technical help on uranium enrichment, and analysts say it is likely to do so again after the war. “North Korea...

Source: The Diplomat China

- [China' s Censorship Is the Most Pressing Threat to Freedom of Expression](#) (2026-03-18 11:53)

Advanced technologies are propelling the CCP' s capabilities for suppressing speech to an entirely new level, both within and beyond China' s borders.

- [Beijing' s Real Problem With Trump' s China Summit Delay](#) (2026-03-17 16:02)

In the end, a postponement may suit Beijing' s interests more than Washington' s – as long as it doesn' t become linked with the Hormuz issue.

- [Taiwan' s First PRC-born Legislator Stokes Controversy](#) (2026-03-17 12:32)

The status of Chinese spouses of Taiwanese has been increasingly a topic of debate in Taiwan.

- [Why China's OpenClaw Mania Is More Than Just a Tech Craze](#) (2026-03-16 16:06)

Local governments and tech conglomerates were the deliberate architects of the enthusiasm, while the central government was forced to hit the brakes.

- [Refashioning a Strategic Partnership: Canada and China in a Fragmenting World Order](#) (2026-03-16 12:41)

The Canada-China breakthrough may have made things easier for other middle powers, like the U.K. and Germany, who have also stepped up their links with China recently.

- [The China-Iran Partnership and the Limits of Beijing's Non-Interference Alliance Model](#) (2026-03-16 04:35)

A preference for strategic flexibility has left Beijing dependent on a narrow set of "allies" whose usefulness is limited – especially in times of crisis.

- [China's Difficult Choice in the Iran-Israel-US War](#) (2026-03-15 20:07)

The development of the current conflict has placed Beijing in a complex and awkward strategic position.

- [China's New Five-Year Plan Prioritizes Robotics. The World Should Pay Attention.](#) (2026-03-13 20:33)

Beijing is embarking on a "whole-of-nation push" to achieve permanent dominance in physical AI technologies.

- [Beijing Is Legalizing the Assimilation of Tibetans and Other Ethnic Minorities](#) (2026-03-12 12:53)

China is amending its laws to weaken ethnic identities, including Tibetan language and culture.

Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [What to Expect from Trump's China Visit w/ Zhiqun Zhi](#) (2026-03-16 15:17)

The post What to Expect from Trump's China Visit w/ Zhiqun Zhi appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Reputation, Strategy, and Green Development w/ Alex Wang](#) (2026-03-16 14:20)

The post Reputation, Strategy, and Green Development w/ Alex Wang appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.