

CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 21, 2026 - October 28, 2026

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

Executive Summary

During the period of October 21-28, 2026, China's security posture was characterized by heightened maritime tensions in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, alongside significant diplomatic engagements and a continued focus on advanced technological competition. Naval confrontations with the US and Taiwan near disputed features underscored Beijing's assertive territorial claims, while a major People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) carrier group deployment near the Philippines signaled increased regional military coercion. Diplomatically, China sought to project an image of global responsibility through calls for UN centrality and active participation in Ukraine peace talks, even as its relations with the Philippines deteriorated, leading to a downgraded presence at a key ASEAN defense meeting. Cybersecurity threats against Taiwan intensified ahead of local elections, and concerns over an emerging space arms race were articulated, reflecting China's dual emphasis on conventional and asymmetric capabilities. These developments collectively highlight China's strategic balancing act between asserting its core interests and managing complex international relationships amidst an evolving global security landscape.

Key Security Developments

- South China Sea Confrontations and US Freedom of Navigation Operation

On October 21, 2026, China's military accused the USS Charleston, an Independence-class littoral combat ship, of "illegally intruding" into waters adjacent to Sabina Shoal in the Spratly Islands without Chinese government approval. The Chinese military's Southern Theatre Command dispatched forces to track and monitor the US warship, asserting that the action infringed upon China's sovereign rights and jeopardized maritime security. The US Navy defended its operations as lawful and consistent with international law, highlighting the ongoing friction over freedom of navigation in the disputed waterway.

- Taiwan Strait and Pratas Islands Incursion

Concurrently on October 21, 2026, Taiwan's Coast Guard reported a Chinese Coast Guard ship entering restricted waters near the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands in the South China Sea. A Taiwanese Coast Guard vessel, the "Taichung," was dispatched to warn away the Chinese boat, with both sides broadcasting messages. This incident, coupled with a US congressional review commission chair noting "highly destabilizing" Chinese coast guard patrols east of Taiwan, indicates persistent "gray-zone" pressure

tactics against Taiwan.

- PLAN Carrier Group Deployment Near the Philippines

On October 22, 2026, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) aircraft carrier Liaoning, accompanied by two Type 055 guided-missile cruisers and one Type 052D guided-missile destroyer, sailed near the Basilan Strait within the Philippine archipelago. This movement is assessed to be an increase in military activity aimed at intimidating Manila to reduce its presence in the South China Sea and potentially accede to China's territorial claims, possibly simulating a breakthrough of the first island chain to isolate the Philippines or Taiwan during a conflict.

- Downgraded Chinese Representation at ASEAN Defense Meeting

China announced on October 27, 2026, that it would send only the defense attaché of its embassy in the Philippines to attend the 13th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu on October 29. This marks the lowest-level Chinese representation since the meeting's inception in 2010, reflecting rapidly deteriorating political, diplomatic, and defense ties with the Philippines due to ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

- Escalating Cyberattacks and Disinformation Against Taiwan

Taiwan's security agency warned on October 21, 2026, of a significant increase in Chinese cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns ahead of Taiwan's local elections scheduled for November 28. A National Security Bureau report indicated that Taiwan's main digital network faced an average of over 2.5 million attacks daily this year, peaking in July, with social media platforms identified as key channels for "cognitive warfare" aimed at influencing elections and undermining public trust.

- China Warns Against Space Arms Race and Calls for Global Governance

On October 24, 2026, China issued a position paper warning that the growing risk of an arms race in outer space poses a major threat to international security, calling for stronger global governance and measures to prevent space from becoming a new theater of military conflict. Beijing urged countries to oppose offensive military policies in space and respect the security interests of all nations, while simultaneously launching a remote sensing satellite from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. The US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) also assessed that China could deploy space-based laser weapons in the late 2020s.

- Reports of India-China Border Face-offs

On October 26, 2026, China's Foreign Ministry responded to reports of face-offs with the Indian side in Arunachal Pradesh, stating that China "consistently and strictly abided by the relevant agreements" and conducted routine patrols to safeguard territorial sovereignty and border stability. The Ministry emphasized ongoing communication through diplomatic and military channels and expressed hope for

India to work towards maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas.

- US Ban on Chinese AI Startup DeepSeek and China's Response

On October 21, 2026, China reacted strongly to a US ban on federal civilian agencies using products from Chinese artificial intelligence startup DeepSeek, warning of retaliatory measures. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) order, made public on Monday, October 20, cited concerns that DeepSeek's servers in China could allow Chinese authorities access to sensitive US data. This incident highlights the escalating technological rivalry and cybersecurity concerns between the two nations.

- Allegations of Chinese Transnational Repression in Taiwan

Taiwanese prosecutors indicted five men on October 21, 2026, for allegedly accepting $14,000 from an individual in the PRC to injure a Taiwanese comedian, Huang Yi-hao, who had mocked the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The incident, which involved staging a car accident and installing a GPS tracker, suggests potential CCP involvement in co-opting criminals to suppress critics abroad and fuel social polarization in Taiwan.

- China-Russia Strategic Coordination and Ukraine Peace Talks

On October 21, 2026, Chinese Premier Li Qiang co-chaired the 31st regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government in St. Petersburg and met with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Both sides emphasized strengthening strategic communication, consolidating political mutual trust, and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation. China also pledged an active role in promoting peace talks for the Ukraine conflict, following US President Donald Trump's openness to a trilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- Illicit Incursion into Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone

A report on October 28, 2026, detailed an unapproved incursion by a Chinese government oceanographic vessel, similar to the Xiang Yang Hong-01, into the Republic of Palau's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in July 2026. This vessel, loaded with oceanographic equipment, is part of a "continuous pattern of Chinese dual-use oceanographic vessels" conducting unnotified bathymetric mapping and loitering near strategic undersea communication cables, raising concerns about intelligence gathering for potential military use.

- New Drone Export Controls

On October 19, 2026, China announced new export controls on 13 categories of drone components, including propulsion, flight control electronics, communications, software, and manufacturing technologies, effective November 18. These restrictions target selected high-performance components and complete drones, potentially impacting global supply chains for the US, Europe, and Ukraine, while easing requirements for certain civilian drones.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's security developments this week have significant implications for regional stability and relations with major powers. The escalating maritime confrontations in the South China Sea, particularly the USS Charleston incident near Sabina Shoal and the Chinese Coast Guard's presence near the Pratas Islands, underscore China's unwavering assertiveness over its territorial claims. These actions directly challenge the US's freedom of navigation operations and exacerbate tensions with claimant states like the Philippines and Taiwan, increasing the risk of miscalculation and accidental escalation. The deployment of the PLAN Liaoning carrier group near the Basilan Strait further signals China's intent to project power and coerce regional actors, potentially disrupting the existing security architecture in the Indo-Pacific.

Relations with the United States remain a complex mix of strategic competition and cautious engagement. While Presidents Trump and Xi have engaged in frequent diplomatic meetings throughout 2026 to manage the rivalry, substantive agreements on core disputes like trade, advanced technology, and Taiwan remain largely unresolved. The US ban on DeepSeek AI products and China's retaliatory warnings highlight the deepening technological decoupling. China's downgraded participation at the ADMM-Plus meeting, attributed to deteriorating ties with the Philippines, reflects Beijing's willingness to use diplomatic leverage to express displeasure over perceived challenges to its interests, further complicating regional multilateral security dialogues.

China's diplomatic overtures, such as pledging an active role in Ukraine peace talks and advocating for stronger global governance at the Xiongan Forum, aim to position Beijing as a responsible global power. However, these efforts are juxtaposed with its assertive actions in its immediate neighborhood and its strengthening strategic coordination with Russia, which China views as a "much needed force for stability in a changing and turbulent world." The reported border face-offs with India in Arunachal Pradesh also indicate persistent friction along its land boundaries. Overall, China's actions demonstrate a multi-faceted approach to security, combining military modernization and assertive territorial claims with diplomatic engagement, while navigating complex relationships with both adversaries and partners.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military and defense posture during this period reflects a clear trajectory towards enhanced power projection and rapid response capabilities. The deployment of the PLAN aircraft carrier Liaoning group near the Basilan Strait demonstrates an

increasing ability to operate beyond the immediate coastal areas and project naval power into crucial regional chokepoints. This is part of a broader naval modernization program, which has seen China build over twice as much naval tonnage as the US in 2024-2025, significantly expanding its maritime capabilities. The focus on "hunt and kill" Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) and extra-extra-large UUVs (XXLUUVs) indicates a strategic investment in asymmetric warfare capabilities to challenge US undersea superiority, particularly in scenarios like a Taiwan contingency.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) continues to emphasize readiness and rapid deployment. A missile launch exercise conducted without advance notice to troops, as reported on October 26, 2026, highlights Beijing's focus on quick response times and the ability to transition from routine operations to combat readiness swiftly. This serves as a deterrent signal to potential adversaries, particularly the US and its allies, that China's forces are capable of deploying missiles across a broad area under pressure. Furthermore, the establishment of a "joint support and training center" in Ban Keun, Laos, signifies China's expanding military footprint in Southeast Asia, focusing on airpower capabilities and potentially extending its logistical and operational reach in the region. These developments, alongside new drone export controls, underscore China's comprehensive approach to modernizing its defense industry and military capabilities across all domains.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, tensions in the South China Sea are likely to remain elevated, particularly with the Philippines, as evidenced by China's downgraded attendance at the ADMM-Plus meeting and continued assertive maritime actions. We can anticipate further "gray-zone" activities around the Pratas Islands and in the Taiwan Strait as Taiwan's local elections approach in November, with increased cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns aimed at influencing public opinion and trust in the Taiwanese government. Sino-US relations will continue to be characterized by a delicate balance of high-level diplomatic engagement, such as potential Trump-Xi meetings in November and December, alongside persistent strategic competition in areas like trade and advanced technology, including AI. China will likely continue to advocate for its vision of global governance and play an active role in multilateral forums, while simultaneously strengthening its strategic alignment with Russia.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The South China Sea, particularly around Sabina Shoal and other disputed features, remains a critical flashpoint where direct confrontations between Chinese and Philippine/US vessels could escalate rapidly. The Taiwan Strait is another high-risk area, with ongoing military pressure and the potential for miscalculation during increased PLA air and naval incursions or in

response to perceived provocations related to Taiwan's elections. The India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh presents a persistent risk of localized face-offs, requiring careful management through existing diplomatic and military channels. The burgeoning space arms race is an emerging flashpoint, with both China and the US developing advanced space capabilities, increasing the risk of incidents in orbit.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and intensity of Chinese Coast Guard and naval activities in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, particularly around disputed islands and shoals. The nature and scale of PLA exercises, especially those simulating amphibious landings or rapid missile deployments, will provide insights into China's readiness and intentions. Developments in US-China dialogues on AI and trade, as well as any new sanctions or retaliatory measures in the technology sector, will be crucial. The outcomes of Taiwan's local elections and the subsequent Chinese reaction will also be important. Finally, any further reports of Chinese dual-use vessel activities in the Exclusive Economic Zones of Indo-Pacific nations, such as Palau, could indicate expanding intelligence gathering efforts.

Strategic recommendations: To mitigate risks, it is recommended that regional actors and major powers maintain open lines of communication with China to prevent miscalculation, especially in maritime and border areas. International efforts should focus on upholding international law and norms, particularly the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to address assertive territorial claims. For cybersecurity, enhanced collaboration among democratic nations to counter disinformation and cyberattacks targeting democratic processes is crucial. Dialogue on space security and AI governance should be pursued to establish norms and reduce the risk of an arms race in these emerging domains. Finally, supporting regional partners like the Philippines and Taiwan through capacity building and diplomatic solidarity can help deter coercive actions and maintain regional stability.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: BBC China

• China's families are now supporting more old people than kids (2026-10-27 23:16)

The latest figures mark a major milestone as Beijing grapples with an ageing population.

• Mbappé dropped by major Chinese brands as backlash grows over Mao joke (2026-10-27 10:19)

He allegedly said the funniest "meme" about him is the one where they put his face on "a Chinese dictator".

• China's big political meeting could see Xi 'tighten discipline' in party (2026-10-26 07:40)

The highly secretive four-day Plenum starts Monday in Beijing.

• No order, no seat: Starbucks China rolls out new store policy (2026-10-22 04:02)

Starbucks says it is improving customers' in-store experience as it competes with homegrown rivals.

Source: CGTN

• HKSAR suspends import of poultry products from areas in Denmark, US (2026-10-28 02:22)

Hong Kong's food safety authority decided on Tuesday to suspend the import of poultry meat and products from Lolland Municipality in Denmark and Jackson County in the State of Minnesota, US, due to avian influenza outbreaks in these regions.

• China's internet expo opens November 2 with 6G, AI agents and robots (2026-10-27 14:12)

China's internet expo opens November 2 with 6G, AI agents and robots

• Xi extends condolences over death of Japan's former PM Yasuo Fukuda (2026-10-27 12:15)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday extended condolences to the family of the late former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

• Full, rigorous party self-governance: How the CPC stays accountable (2026-10-27 12:15)

In 2012, the Communist Party of China (CPC) introduced a set of rules governing officials' conduct. The document was just over 600 Chinese characters long, and its provisions might

have sounded trivial: no floral arrangements at meetings, no lavish dishes at official receptions,no luxury hotels on business trips, and no road closures or traffic restrictions to clear the wayfor officials.

• Xi congratulates Lula on re-election as Brazilian president (2026-10-27 11:28)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday extended congratulations to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his re-election as president of Brazil.

• Post-Earthquake water purification in place for people and livestock (2026-10-27 10:54)

Post-Earthquake water purification in place for people and livestock

• Gao Fu: Fighting 'Disease X' requires global cooperation (2026-10-27 09:49)

Gao Fu: Fighting 'Disease X' requires global cooperation

• China-backed biodiversity fund puts $4.5 mln into 9 projects worldwide (2026-10-27 09:42)

China-backed biodiversity fund puts $4.5 mln into 9 projects worldwide

• China to send envoy to promote peace and talks in Middle East (2026-10-27 09:25)

China to send envoy to promote peace and talks in Middle East

• Re-created ironed paper models bring a lost craft to life (2026-10-27 08:44)

A set of re-created models of the Qianlong Garden, located within Beijing's Palace Museum, offers a glimpse into a model-making technique unique to China.

• China lodges representation over UK police's excessive law enforcement (2026-10-27 08:41)

China has expressed strong dissatisfaction and grave concern regarding the arbitrary and excessive law enforcement actions of the British police, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

• US, China bear global responsibility to cooperate, veteran pilot says (2026-10-27 08:40)

US, China bear global responsibility to cooperate, veteran pilot says

• China holds UN exhibition marking Tokyo Trial's 80th anniversary (2026-10-27 08:39)

An exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Tokyo Trial opened at UN Headquarters in New York on Monday.

• China, Indonesia hold joint counter-terrorism training (2026-10-27 08:38)

The opening ceremony for the "Sharp Knife 2026" joint army counter-terrorism training between China and Indonesia was held in south China's Guangdong Province on Tuesday.

• Photo exhibition captures modern senior life in China (2026-10-27 08:37)

A photography exhibition titled "Life Takes Place," dedicated to the lives of modern-day senior citizens, is currently on view at the Taikang Art Museum in Beijing's Central Business District.

• Tracing the Vision: Listening to the Grassroots (2026-10-27 07:39)

In 1988, while serving as Party Secretary of Ningde Prefecture in Fujian Province, Xi Jinping spearheaded an influential initiative.

• Film market tops 31.5 billion yuan, with new 'film + sports' momentum (2026-10-27 07:32)

China's box office has surpassed 31.5 billion yuan (around US $4.7 billion) as of October 26, 2026, including pre-sales, according to Maoyan, a Chinese film industry data platform. More than 400 titles have hit screens in the country this year, covering comedy, action, sci-fi, thriller and animation.

• Post-disaster resettlement efforts continue in pastoral village (2026-10-27 07:29)

Post-disaster resettlement efforts continue in pastoral village

• The heart of governance: Sharing the people's joys and sorrows (2026-10-27 07:25)

"He who delights in the people's joys will find the people delighting in his; he who grieves over the people's sorrows will find the people grieving over his." This ancient wisdom from Mencius still matters: Good governance isn't cold management – it's empathy.

• The rule of law: Where governance begins (2026-10-27 06:59)

"Law is the foundation of governance." This ancient wisdom still rings true: Good governance cannot rely on personal will – it must rest on rules and the rule of law.

• More than a match: How ping-pong connects people beyond the table (2026-10-27 06:34)

More than a match: How ping-pong connects people beyond the table

• Li Hongquan scores 27 as Shanghai beats Guangdong 99-87 in CBA (2026-10-27 06:22)

Li Hongquan scores 27 as Shanghai beats Guangdong 99-87 in CBA

• Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference 2026 opens in Hong Kong (2026-10-27 06:14)

Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference 2026 opens in Hong Kong

• Electronics, high-tech manufacturing drive China's industrial profits (2026-10-27 05:54)

Electronics, high-tech manufacturing drive China's industrial profits

• Poll shows 55% of Japanese favor more dialogue with China (2026-10-27 05:37)

More than half of Japanese respondents believe the government should provide more opportunities for dialogue with China, according to a newly released Nikkei and TV Tokyo poll.

• Art Up Close | Ancient walls, new sounds (2026-10-27 04:47)

What happens when Peking Opera meets the cello inside a 400-year-old temple?

• China sees steady growth in domestic tourism in first 9 months (2026-10-27 01:52)

China's domestic tourism market posted solid growth in terms of both trips and travel spending from January to September this year, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said on Monday.

• Completion ceremony held for renovated CPV martyrs' cemetery in DPRK (2026-10-27 01:46)

A completion ceremony for the renovation project for Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) martyrs' cemeteries was held Saturday in Sinphyong County, North Hwanghae Province of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the CPV's entry into the DPRK to fight in the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea.

• Xi's speech marking 90th anniversary of Long March victory published (2026-10-26 15:05)

A speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping at a ceremony commemorating the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army has been published as a booklet.

• A seafood feast relies on a healthy ocean (2026-10-26 14:44)

A seafood feast relies on a healthy ocean

• Steinmeier's China visit to deepen bilateral ties on shared interests (2026-10-26 13:38)

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's visit to China highlights the importance of dialogue, mutual trust and shared economic interests in advancing bilateral ties. Stronger China-Germany engagement can also help manage differences and bring greater stability to China-EU relations.

• Canadian scholar: China-proposed GGI offers multipolar order of peace (2026-10-26 13:05)

The China-proposed Global Governance Initiative (GGI), launched one year ago at a time of " great chaos" in the world, reinforces China's resolve to act as a force of peace and invites all countries to build a multipolar world order that puts people at its heart, a Canadian scholar said.

• China mourns Fukuda as an old friend committed to bilateral ties (2026-10-26 12:55)

China mourns Fukuda as an old friend committed to bilateral ties

• China hopes India will work in same direction to maintain border peace (2026-10-26 12:32)

China strictly abides by relevant agreements and common understandings reached with India and conducts routine border patrols and control activities to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maintain stability in border areas, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on

Monday.

• New family of fungi found in Yunnan has massive fruiting body (2026-10-26 12:08)

New family of fungi found in Yunnan has massive fruiting body

• Why was this grassland a "Sea of Death" during the Long March? (2026-10-26 11:53)

Why was this grassland a "Sea of Death" during the Long March?

• Smart innovation reshapes China's camping exports (2026-10-26 11:34)

Smart innovation reshapes China's camping exports

• Diplomats: this Long March exhibition is inspiring (2026-10-26 11:07)

Diplomats: this Long March exhibition is inspiring

• Wenzhou summit puts young scientists at the center of innovation (2026-10-26 10:43)

Wenzhou summit puts young scientists at the center of innovation

• China opposes US smearing, stigmatization of Confucius Institutes (2026-10-26 09:48)

China opposes the smearing and stigmatization of Confucius Institutes, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Monday, after the United States placed the institutes on a "threat list" last week.

• China congratulates Lula on his presidential election victory (2026-10-26 09:43)

China on Monday congratulated Brazilian incumbent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his victory in the country's presidential runoff, pledging to work with Brazil to further advance the building of a China-Brazil community with a shared future.

• Nepal plans flood warnings, glacial lake risk reduction (2026-10-26 08:53)

Nepal plans flood warnings, glacial lake risk reduction

• Honoring the Long March: China's new journey into the future (2026-10-26 08:52)

More than 90 years ago, the Chinese Red Army crossed snow-covered mountains and vast grasslands, breaking through blockades and surviving immense hardship. Their sacrifice and determination made the Long March one of the most remarkable journeys in modern history.

• Learn widely, reflect daily: Ancient wisdom for modern governance (2026-10-26 08:51)

"A gentleman learns widely and examines himself daily; thus, his wisdom becomes clear and his conduct free from fault." This ancient teaching pairs broad learning with daily self-reflection – looking outward for knowledge, inward for self-scrutiny.

• Hot Take: Why rocket trails look like jellyfish (2026-10-26 08:38)

Hot Take: Why rocket trails look like jellyfish

- Good governance, nourished people: An ancient Chinese lesson (2026-10-26 08:29)

"Virtue lies in good governance; governance lies in nurturing the people." This ancient teaching pairs moral integrity with practical governance – true virtue must deliver results, and the ultimate test is whether people's lives improve.

- Hong Kong to host 94th Interpol General Assembly (2026-10-26 08:10)

Hong Kong to host 94th Interpol General Assembly

- Iceland's foreign minister to visit China (2026-10-26 07:38)

Iceland's foreign minister to visit China

- 20th CPC Central Committee starts fifth plenary session (2026-10-26 05:58)

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) started its fifth plenary session in Beijing on Monday morning.

- Mobile canteens, water purification stations sent to quake-hit Xizang (2026-10-26 04:21)

Mobile canteens, water purification stations sent to quake-hit Xizang

- How the CPC stays strong through self-renewal (2026-10-26 03:42)

How the CPC stays strong through self-renewal

- China marks anniversary of Taiwan's recovery (2026-10-26 02:11)

China on Sunday marked the 81st anniversary of its recovery of Taiwan and observed Taiwan Recovery Day, with commemorative events held across the Taiwan Strait to honor the shared history of resistance against Japanese aggression and reaffirm calls for national reunification.

- Health, emergency services back post-quake resettlement in Xizang (2026-10-26 01:41)

Rescue and relief efforts continue after a magnitude-7 earthquake struck southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, with public health and epidemic prevention work underway in affected areas, according to local authorities.

- Yeyahu Wetland added to IUCN Green List (2026-10-25 14:31)

Yeyahu Wetland added to IUCN Green List

- Global Governance Forum calls for stronger multilateral cooperation (2026-10-25 14:25)

Global Governance Forum calls for stronger multilateral cooperation

- Track laying completed on Chongqing-Kunming high-speed railway (2026-10-25 14:15)

Track laying completed on Chongqing-Kunming high-speed railway

• Xizang earthquake: 60 temporary homes set up in hardest-hit Maru (2026-10-25 13:34)

Xizang earthquake: 60 temporary homes set up in hardest-hit Maru

• 2026 Baoji Marathon kicks off, drawing runners from all walks of life (2026-10-25 13:34)

2026 Baoji Marathon kicks off, drawing runners from all walks of life

• China launches new internet satellite group (2026-10-25 13:30)

China launches new internet satellite group

• Global creators revitalize Jingdezhen’s millennia-old craft (2026-10-25 13:15)

Global creators revitalize Jingdezhen’s millennia-old craft

• How technology is making government services easier in Hainan (2026-10-25 12:38)

How technology is making government services easier in Hainan

• Knowing China Through the Classics (2026-10-25 11:56)

President Xi Jinping quoted these words by Tang Dynasty poet Bai Juyi at a CPC Central Committee group study session on June 26, 2015.

• How Chinese suitcases won fans at Canton Fair (2026-10-25 10:46)

How Chinese suitcases won fans at Canton Fair

• Global funding for nature still falling short: Paulson Institute (2026-10-25 10:14)

Global funding for nature still falling short: Paulson Institute

• Xi, Belgium's king exchange congratulations on 55 years of ties (2026-10-25 10:09)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Belgium's King Philippe on Sunday exchanged congratulations on the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

• Xi Jinping's key remarks on correct view of 'governance performance' (2026-10-25 09:55)

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has stressed that establishing and putting into practice a correct view of governance performance is a long-term task that requires sustained efforts.

• China’s rural revival: How a cliffside village defies isolation (2026-10-25 09:19)

For generations, rural communities across Africa have watched their young people leave in search of better opportunities in cities. But in a remote mountain village in southwestern China, a different story is unfolding–one built around connecting communities, improving livelihoods and making rural life more viable.

• Chrysanthemum show in Beijing offers a feast for the eyes (2026-10-25 08:30)

The 47th Beijing Chrysanthemum Exhibition has opened at Beihai Park, featuring more than 50,000 chrysanthemum plants in over 600 varieties. The exhibition runs through mid-November.

• Foreign expert on China's journey toward national rejuvenation (2026-10-25 08:23)

Foreign expert on China's journey toward national rejuvenation

• World Young Scientists summit sparks global cooperation potential (2026-10-25 07:50)

World Young Scientists summit sparks global cooperation potential

• How does the CPC address the challenges of long-term governance? (2026-10-25 07:47)

As a political party that has been in power for decades, the Communist Party of China recognizes that it faces enduring challenges in maintaining its governing capacity and staying connected with the public. These include the tests of governance, reform and opening-up, the market economy and the external environment, as well as the risks of complacency, inadequate governing capacity, detachment from the people and corruption. Pointless formality, bureaucratism, hedonism and extravagance pose additional challenges to effective governance.

• Taiwan's restoration: A victory achieved across the strait (2026-10-25 07:43)

As China marks the 81st anniversary of its recovery of the Taiwan region and observes the second Commemoration Day of Taiwan's Restoration on Sunday, the occasion offers an opportunity to revisit a pivotal chapter in history – one shaped by the shared struggle of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait against Japanese aggression.

• Jilin-1 satellites unveil high-resolution images of Taiwan region (2026-10-25 07:40)

To mark the 81st anniversary of Taiwan's restoration, China's Jilin-1 satellites have released a series of stunning high-resolution images that clearly capture streets and landmarks from space.

• China marks 81st anniversary of Taiwan's restoration (2026-10-25 07:25)

China marks 81st anniversary of Taiwan's restoration

• A green running team at the 2026 Baoji Marathon (2026-10-25 06:26)

The 2026 Baoji Marathon kicked off on October 25 with a focus on keeping the course clean.

• Chengdu's title hopes suffer setback as Dalian wins 1-0 in CSL (2026-10-25 05:24)

Chengdu's title hopes suffer setback as Dalian wins 1-0 in CSL

• CIIS report urges wider AI access for developing countries (2026-10-25 05:16)

CIIS report urges wider AI access for developing countries

• A Dream of Reunification (2026-10-25 05:07)

Shan Sheng spent over six decades living overseas. A committed advocate of China's reunification, as a trained lawyer he made a key contribution to the formulation of the Anti Secession Law, which was adopted in March 2005. It was a day that Shan Sheng described as "the happiest... of my life."

• Tracing the Vision: The Ecology of Prosperity (2026-10-25 05:07)

The notion that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets has long resonated across China.

• Report on Global Governance Initiative released in Xiongan (2026-10-25 03:25)

A report on the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) was released on Saturday at the 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan) in the Xiongan New Area, north China's Hebei Province.

• 'Happy 55th birthday': UN officials reaffirm stance on China's UN seat (2026-10-25 02:29)

Senior United Nations officials have reaffirmed the world body's unwavering adherence to UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 2758, as Sunday marks the 55th anniversary of the restoration of China's lawful seat at the UN.

• Beyond the Feed |When Mozart meets modern Beijing (2026-10-24 23:13)

Beyond the Feed |When Mozart meets modern Beijing

• China opposes US proposal to expand outbound investment curbs (2026-10-24 14:47)

China on Saturday expressed "grave concern" and "firm opposition" to a recent US Treasury proposal that would expand and intensify restrictions on outbound investment in China, calling it a discriminatory move and a typical practice of overstretching the concept of national security.

• Snow Leopard Day: Protecting the 'ghost of the mountains' (2026-10-24 14:43)

Snow Leopard Day: Protecting the 'ghost of the mountains'

• China's Global Governance Initiative will bolster Global South's voice (2026-10-24 14:28)

China's Global Governance Initiative will bolster Global South's voice

• Baoji Marathon draws 31,000 runners, highlights ancient culture (2026-10-24 14:09)

From race shirts to finisher medals, the 2026 Baoji Marathon in northwest China's Shaanxi Province brings Baoji's history and culture onto the course.

• Knowing China Through the Classics (2026-10-24 13:32)

During its upcoming plenary session from October 26 to 29, the CPC Central Committee will review a draft decision on advancing full and rigorous Party self-governance.

• Knowing China Through the Classics (2026-10-24 13:28)

In quoting these lines from an ancient classic at a plenary session of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, held on January 12, 2016, President Xi Jinping was encouraging officials to make full use of criticism and self-criticism as a tool for improving themselves.

- AI recreates Long March history in anniversary TV gala (2026-10-24 13:25)

AI recreates Long March history in anniversary TV gala

- Rescue efforts continue after M7.0 quake in China's Xizang (2026-10-24 13:15)

Rescue and relief efforts continue after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Baqen County of the city of Nagqu in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, local authorities said Saturday.

- Kimi K3.1 Pro: an open-weight model within 3 points of the frontier (2026-10-24 11:53)

Kimi K3.1 Pro: an open-weight model within 3 points of the frontier

- New frontiers in China-Europe cooperation (2026-10-24 11:45)

New frontiers in China-Europe cooperation

- Wang Huning accompanies DPRK top leader on visit to border city (2026-10-24 11:29)

China's top political advisor Wang Huning on Saturday accompanied Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on a visit to Dandong in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

- Xiongan's underground backbone: The tech inside a 'city of the future' (2026-10-24 11:10)

Xiongan's underground backbone: The tech inside a 'city of the future'

- CPC self-revolution with no finish line in sight (2026-10-24 09:28)

CPC self-revolution with no finish line in sight

- Tracing the vision: Preserving Culture (2026-10-24 09:05)

From the ancient city of Zhengding in north China to the prehistoric Wanshouyan Site in Fujian Province, two decisions made decades apart shared a common principle: some things are too valuable to lose.

- How Xiongan's underground plant pioneers new model of waste management (2026-10-24 09:03)

How Xiongan's underground plant pioneers new model of waste management

- M5.3 earthquake hits Yushu, NW China's Qinghai (2026-10-24 08:54)

M5.3 earthquake hits Yushu, NW China's Qinghai

- Former UN official urges reform to fit UN for today's challenges (2026-10-24 08:11)

Former UN official urges reform to fit UN for today's challenges

- Xi sends message to 2026 Global Governance Forum (2026-10-24 07:43)

Xi sends message to 2026 Global Governance Forum

- Courtyard meetings give villagers a say in local spending (2026-10-24 07:12)

Courtyard meetings give villagers a say in local spending

- Over 5,000 rescuers deployed after M7.0 earthquake hit China's Xizang (2026-10-24 06:16)

Rescue operations are now in the critical "golden period." More than 5,000 personnel from various rescue teams have been deployed across the affected area, conducting door-to-door and site-by-site searches.

- China-Europe freight train trips on eastern corridor hit record high (2026-10-24 06:08)

The number of China-Europe freight train trips through the network's eastern corridor reached a record high so far this year, while the range of goods transported has increasingly shifted toward higher-value, technology-intensive products.

- 2026 Baoji Marathon: A warm welcome on and beyond the course (2026-10-24 05:48)

The 2026 Baoji Marathon is set to kick off on October 25, with the host city giving runners a warm welcome through complimentary traditional breakfasts and special offers beyond the racecourse. Participants can use their race bibs to claim vouchers, enjoy discounts on shopping and entertainment and gain free entry to selected tourist attractions.

- Cultivating self, family, state: An ancient path to good governance (2026-10-24 05:39)

"Cultivate yourself, regulate your family, govern your state, and bring peace to the world." This ancient Confucian principle from "The Book of Rites" still resonates today.

- Global South 'needs to be heard,' says African official (2026-10-24 05:37)

China has built collaborative platforms for its fellow Global South members to collectively address imbalances in the global governance system, according to an African official.

- Avoiding suspicion: An ancient lesson for modern governance (2026-10-24 05:34)

"Do not tie your shoes in a melon field, nor adjust your hat under a plum tree." This line is from Cao Zhi's poem "The Conduct of a Gentleman." It serves as a metaphor for proactively avoiding suspicion and preventing problems before they arise.

- The Long March: History that shaped my understanding of China (2026-10-24 05:25)

Years later, working for CGTN, I found myself in Yeping Village, Ruijin, in China's Jiangxi Province, filming a documentary about this historic journey. I had come to document history. I did not expect the experience to change the way I understood its relationship with the present.

• Chinese mainland boosts cross-Strait fishery cooperation (2026-10-24 05:19)

Chinese mainland boosts cross-Strait fishery cooperation

• Yu Zidi, Zhang Zhanshuo win golds at national swimming championships (2026-10-24 05:12)

Yu Zidi, Zhang Zhanshuo win golds at national swimming championships

• River dolphins: Uneven conservation gains across the globe (2026-10-24 04:03)

River dolphins: Uneven conservation gains across the globe

• Chinese medical team brings free TCM care to Sierra Leone (2026-10-24 03:41)

The 27th Chinese medical team to Sierra Leone has conducted a series of free community health clinics across the capital region this month, delivering specialized pain management, general care and medical training to local residents.

• Xi's key remarks on advancing full and rigorous Party self-governance (2026-10-24 02:59)

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has in recent years stressed that the Party's full and rigorous self-governance is an unceasing endeavor and that self-reform is a journey to which there is no end. Here are some of his key remarks on the topic.

• All aboard: China and Guinea train Simandou railway crews (2026-10-24 01:17)

All aboard: China and Guinea train Simandou railway crews

• Chinese FM meets UN high commissioner for refugees (2026-10-24 00:13)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday met with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Barham Salih, who is in China for the 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan).

• Chinese carmakers drive surge in robots on Brazilian factory floors (2026-10-23 17:54)

Brazilian factories installed almost 4,300 industrial robots last year – 38 percent more than in 2024, and the most in at least a decade.

• Promote Good, Oppose Evil: Knowing China Through the Classics (2026-10-23 15:18)

The upcoming fifth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee will review a document on promoting full and rigorous Party self-governance.

• China's top diplomat says Global Governance Initiative gains relevance (2026-10-23 14:51)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that the China-proposed Global Governance Initiative (GGI) has become increasingly relevant one year after its launch, calling for efforts to turn its vision into reality.

• How global financial leaders view smart spending (2026-10-23 14:40)

How global financial leaders view smart spending

• Wang Yi calls for China-US cooperation on AI development, governance (2026-10-23 14:30)

China and the United States have both the capability and the responsibility to jointly develop and govern artificial intelligence (AI) well, ensuring that its development remains under human control and benefits the people, China's top diplomat Wang Yi said on Friday.

• China earmarks 80 mln yuan for Xizang quake relief and recovery (2026-10-23 14:28)

China earmarks 80 mln yuan for Xizang quake relief and recovery

• From Long March to Chinese modernization: China's new journey forward (2026-10-23 14:26)

The Long March is history. But its great spirit remains a source of strength for China's journey today.

• Chinese premier chairs State Council executive meeting (2026-10-23 14:12)

Chinese premier chairs State Council executive meeting

• China deploys satellites and drones to Xizang quake zone (2026-10-23 13:52)

China has deployed satellites and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to aid rescue efforts following a magnitude-7.0 earthquake in the country's southwestern Xizang Autonomous Region on Thursday evening.

• China launches Yaogan-50 03 remote sensing satellite (2026-10-23 13:49)

China launches Yaogan-50 03 remote sensing satellite

• Ethiopian expert calls for dialogue, cooperation on global governance (2026-10-23 13:46)

Ethiopian expert calls for dialogue, cooperation on global governance

• UK expert highlights growing international support for GGI (2026-10-23 13:31)

Keith Alan Bennett, co-founder and co-editor of Friends of Socialist China and vice chairman of the 48 Group Club in the UK, highlighted growing international support for China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) in an interview with CGTN at the 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan) on Friday.

• Stretched, not squeezed: Why the Xizang quake was a 'pull-apart' (2026-10-23 13:11)

Stretched, not squeezed: Why the Xizang quake was a 'pull-apart'

• CGTN Poll: World doesn't need more talk but governance that works (2026-10-23 12:40)

CGTN Poll: World doesn't need more talk but governance that works

- Xi Jinping sends message to 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan) (2026-10-23 12:25)

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message to the 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan) on Friday.

- Sparks of Long March inspire ethnic unity on the grasslands (2026-10-23 12:12)

Sparks of Long March inspire ethnic unity on the grasslands

- Wang Yi holds talks with Foreign Minister of Congo on bilateral ties (2026-10-23 11:34)

Wang Yi holds talks with Foreign Minister of Congo on bilateral ties

- 'Half a Quilt' story inspires local development 90 years on (2026-10-23 11:33)

'Half a Quilt' story inspires local development 90 years on

- What happens after people are lifted out of poverty in China? (2026-10-23 11:31)

What happens after people are lifted out of poverty in China?

- Tracing the Vision: Putting People First (2026-10-23 11:29)

No longer living in a shanty town, Zhang Biyun set off firecrackers and danced with her family to celebrate their first Spring Festival in their new home in Cangxia Community, Fuzhou.

- Kunming forum eyes closer regional education cooperation under RCEP (2026-10-23 11:27)

Kunming forum eyes closer regional education cooperation under RCEP

- Xi's key remarks on carrying forward the great spirit of Long March (2026-10-23 11:25)

Xi's key remarks on carrying forward the great spirit of Long March

- AI governance: China promotes inclusiveness through open source (2026-10-23 11:23)

AI governance: China promotes inclusiveness through open source

- Xizang, Where the Earth Opens Up | Talk Xizang (2026-10-23 11:17)

Xizang, Where the Earth Opens Up | Talk Xizang

- China builds 1st demo of next-gen heavy-ion cancer therapy accelerator (2026-10-23 10:32)

China builds 1st demo of next-gen heavy-ion cancer therapy accelerator

- China, the 'golden thread' of fashion friendship (2026-10-23 09:14)

China, the 'golden thread' of fashion friendship

• China urges US to drop restrictions on research institutions (2026-10-23 09:11)

China urges US to drop restrictions on research institutions

• International youths' reflections along a Long March route (2026-10-23 09:11)

Marking the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March, five international young travelers set off following clues from the book "Red Star Over China."

• Beijing's central axis: Yandaixiejie Street and Wanning Bridge (2026-10-23 09:09)

From the charming lanes of Yandaixiejie Street to the centuries-old Wanning Bridge, CGTN's Ioana Gomoi explores another side of Beijing's history.

• CPC leadership meeting reviews disciplinary inspection report (2026-10-23 08:13)

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting on Friday to review a report on the seventh round of disciplinary inspection launched by the 20th CPC Central Committee.

• Golden Avenue dazzles in Xinjiang's autumn splendor (2026-10-23 08:10)

Golden Avenue in Fukang, Xinjiang, is now at its autumn scenic peak, with golden leaves lining the S111 highway through the Sangong River Valley toward Tianshan Tianchi.

• Wind chants at the Altar: A father-son musical dialogue (2026-10-23 08:07)

A father and son. A thousand-year-old instrument. A 600-year-old altar.

• China's 1st AI hyper-realistic film 'Sanxingdui' hits theaters (2026-10-23 08:03)

China's first AI hyper-realistic film Sanxingdui opens in the country's theaters this Friday.

• 16 killed, 76 injured after M7.0 earthquake hits China's Xizang (2026-10-23 07:07)

16 killed, 76 injured after M7.0 earthquake hits China's Xizang

• Myanmar's Laukkai holds screening of CMG anti-fraud documentary (2026-10-23 06:49)

Myanmar's Laukkai holds screening of CMG anti-fraud documentary

• China allocates 30 mln yuan for post-disaster work in Xizang (2026-10-23 06:10)

China allocates 30 mln yuan for post-disaster work in Xizang

• Digital Xiongan: How AI is shaping the smart 'City of the Future' (2026-10-23 05:03)

Buildings have digital twins in the cloud-based platform, underground utility tunnels are monitored in real time, and traffic lights adjust to changing road conditions. In the Xiongan New Area in north China's Hebei Province, these futuristic scenarios have been part of everyday life.

• Chinese envoy urges UNSC reform on fairer representation (2026-10-23 04:42)

The ultimate goal of UN Security Council reform is to change the situation where developed countries are over-represented, a Chinese envoy said on Thursday.

- 16 killed, 65 injured after M7.0 quake hits China's Xizang (2026-10-23 03:55)

16 killed, 65 injured after M7.0 quake hits China's Xizang

- Xi orders all-out rescue efforts after M7.0 earthquake in Xizang (2026-10-23 03:21)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out search and rescue efforts for the missing and prompt medical treatment for the injured after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck a county in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region on Thursday night.

- Rescue efforts underway after M7.0 quake hits southwest China's Xizang (2026-10-23 01:41)

Rescue efforts underway after M7.0 quake hits southwest China's Xizang

- Seeing China differently: Ultrarunner Ria Xi's China journey (2026-10-23 00:24)

Seeing China differently: Ultrarunner Ria Xi's China journey

- China's top diplomat holds talks with FM of Republic of the Congo (2026-10-23 00:15)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Constant-Serge Bounda, minister of foreign affairs, La Francophonie and Congolese Abroad of the Republic of the Congo, on Thursday in Beijing.

- 16 killed after M7.0 quake hits China's Xizang, rescue underway (2026-10-22 23:04)

16 killed after M7.0 quake hits China's Xizang, rescue underway

- CMG launches multilingual AI production platform at Shanghai event (2026-10-22 14:54)

CMG launches multilingual AI production platform at Shanghai event

- China Walk: Vibrant Hainan media tour kicks off in Sanya (2026-10-22 14:22)

China Walk: Vibrant Hainan media tour kicks off in Sanya

- What does 'Half a Quilt' tell us about China's new Long March? (2026-10-22 13:29)

What does 'Half a Quilt' tell us about China's new Long March?

- China issues guidelines to integrate sci-tech, industry innovation (2026-10-22 12:32)

China issues guidelines to integrate sci-tech, industry innovation

- Grassland doctor guards nomadic lives on Xinjiang's frontier (2026-10-22 12:10)

Grassland doctor guards nomadic lives on Xinjiang's frontier

• Thriving Amur tigers reflect conservation efforts in northeast China (2026-10-22 11:13)

Thriving Amur tigers reflect conservation efforts in northeast China

• China, Djibouti issue communiqué on Horn of Africa, Red Sea security (2026-10-22 11:03)

China, Djibouti issue communiqué on Horn of Africa, Red Sea security

• China says no gray zone on Taiwan question (2026-10-22 10:50)

There is no gray area on the Taiwan question, and the Philippine side should abide by the one-China principle with concrete actions, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday.

• If Long March veterans could write to us today… (2026-10-22 09:55)

If Long March veterans could write to us today…

• Inside Guangxi: How China-Vietnam ties boost trade and tourism (2026-10-22 09:54)

Inside Guangxi: How China-Vietnam ties boost trade and tourism

• Indian classical music strikes a chord in Beijing (2026-10-22 09:37)

Indian classical music strikes a chord in Beijing

• A Long March of her own: Growing roses at Jiajin Mountain (2026-10-22 09:23)

A Long March of her own: Growing roses at Jiajin Mountain

• 'Once Upon a Time in the Middle East': An Egyptian AD's stories (2026-10-22 08:41)

Egyptian Assistant Director Hagar Ashraf Sayed Abdelrahman shared her experience on the Chinese war drama "Once Upon a Time in the Middle East" at the China-Africa Youth Filmmakers Roundtable.

• Documentary brings Yunnan’s Asian elephant stories to global screens (2026-10-22 08:39)

An IMAX documentary dedicated to the remarkable true stories of Yunnan’s wild Asian elephants, "The Elephant Odyssey," will meet Chinese moviegoers on Friday.

• China issues stamps to mark 90th anniversary of Long March victory (2026-10-22 07:59)

China Post on Thursday issued a set of six commemorative stamps marking the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March, an epic undertaking in modern Chinese history.

• Expert: AI reshapes finance as risk and governance challenges grow (2026-10-22 07:10)

Expert: AI reshapes finance as risk and governance challenges grow

• Rare photographs offer visual records of Chinese Red Army's Long March (2026-10-22 07:10)

As China commemorates the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Red Army's Long March, a rare collection of photographs recording the historic expedition from 1934 to 1936 has come to light.

• Global South rises as technology reshapes city competitiveness (2026-10-22 05:48)

Global South rises as technology reshapes city competitiveness

• The Queen's Sword: What if the Shang Dynasty had its own merch line? (2026-10-22 03:47)

The Queen's Sword: What if the Shang Dynasty had its own merch line?

• APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting closes with practical outcomes (2026-10-22 02:59)

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting closed in Hong Kong SAR on Wednesday, with a series of practical outcomes delivered, according to China's Ministry of Finance.

• China holds gathering to mark 90th anniversary of Long March victory (2026-10-22 02:24)

China held a gathering in Beijing on Thursday to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Red Army's Long March.

• Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin (2026-10-22 01:48)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Wednesday that against the backdrop of a continuously evolving and complex international situation, China and Russia have maintained close coordination, serving as a valuable force for stability in a world marked by turbulence and transformation.

• Chinese FM meets Djibouti's counterpart (2026-10-22 00:27)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Abdoulkader Houssein Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti, in Beijing on Wednesday.

• A School Born of the Long March's Victory (2026-10-21 15:43)

A School Born of the Long March's Victory

• Q&A;: How the Long March shapes the CPC and China's modernization today (2026-10-21 14:57)

To explore the historical significance of the Long March and its enduring influence, CGTN spoke with Josef Gregory Mahoney, a professor of politics and international relations and director of the Center for Ecological Civilization at East China Normal University in Shanghai.

• China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand launch 170th Mekong River joint patrol (2026-10-21 14:50)

China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand launched the 170th joint patrol and law enforcement operation along the Mekong River on Monday.

• Beijing Science Declaration sets priorities for global science (2026-10-21 14:42)

Beijing Science Declaration sets priorities for global science

• Expert: China's new data group highlights AI infrastructure needs (2026-10-21 14:36)

Expert: China's new data group highlights AI infrastructure needs

• Chinese premier: China, Russia work side by side in turbulent world (2026-10-21 14:33)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Wednesday that China and Russia have in recent years stood side by side and moved forward together in the face of a complex and turbulent international landscape.

• Jingdezhen redefines living heritage via cross-cultural dialogue (2026-10-21 14:33)

Jingdezhen redefines living heritage via cross-cultural dialogue

• Mainland slams DPP for barring Taiwan officials from mainland event (2026-10-21 13:59)

Mainland slams DPP for barring Taiwan officials from mainland event

• CCG monitors Philippine supply mission at Ren'ai Jiao (2026-10-21 13:43)

The China Coast Guard (CCG) on Wednesday monitored the whole process of a supply mission conducted by a Philippine vessel in the waters of China's Ren'ai Jiao in the South China Sea.

• CGTN Poll: Long March spirit explains why the CPC can succeed (2026-10-21 13:18)

The CGTN poll shows that 63.9% of global respondents closely associate CPC leadership with China's development achievements; among Global South respondents, this figure reaches 71.4%. When describing their deepest impression of the CPC, "strong,""forward-looking" and " efficient" are the most frequently mentioned words.

• Mainland to improve effectiveness of CPC-KMT platform (2026-10-21 12:22)

The Chinese mainland will work to improve the operation and effectiveness of a cross-strait platform established by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT), a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

• Mainland: Evidence solid against Taiwan separatist's linked firm (2026-10-21 12:22)

Mainland: Evidence solid against Taiwan separatist's linked firm

• China imposes export controls on Japan to curb its nuclear ambition (2026-10-21 11:57)

China has imposed export controls on Japan with the objective of thwarting Tokyo's remilitarization and attempts to acquire nuclear weapons, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao

Ning said on Wednesday.

• UN biodiversity chief hails China's conservation as a global model (2026-10-21 11:46)

UN biodiversity chief hails China's conservation as a global model

• How the Yan'an spirit shapes the work of a local official (2026-10-21 11:04)

How the Yan'an spirit shapes the work of a local official

• China urges US to stop blockade, coercion against Cuba (2026-10-21 10:02)

China urged the United States to immediately stop its blockade and all forms of coercion against Cuba and cease violating Cuban people's right to subsistence and development, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

• BMF walk capturing: Beijing's raw sonic notes (2026-10-21 09:12)

The 29th Beijing Music Festival has just wrapped up, marking Mozart's 270th birthday with everything from timeless symphonies to boundary pushing classical rock performances.

• China vows to speak up for developing countries at COP31 (2026-10-21 08:56)

China vows to speak up for developing countries at COP31

• Chinese FM to attend 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan) opening (2026-10-21 08:43)

Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi will attend the opening ceremony of the 2026 Global Governance Forum (Xiongan) on October 23 and deliver a keynote speech, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Wednesday.

• The Long March, told through what remains (2026-10-21 08:40)

The Long March, told through what remains

• Why China's upcoming 5th plenum of 20th CPC Central Committee matters (2026-10-21 08:39)

As China forges ahead with its pursuit of Chinese modernization, the Communist Party of China (CPC) is set to convene a pivotal political meeting that shines a spotlight on the Party's self-governance.

• Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys enjoy bamboo feast in southwest China (2026-10-21 08:38)

In southwest China's Yunnan Province, the Yunling Provincial Nature Reserve has captured rare footage of Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys feasting on bamboo shoots.

• Young musicians bring fresh energy to Beijing Music Festival finale (2026-10-21 08:29)

Yang Yang led the Beijing Symphony Orchestra, joined by Chinese rock pioneer Cui Jian and young pianist Ju Xiaofu.

• China protects Long March legacy with high-tech and patriotic classes (2026-10-21 08:24)

China is preserving the legacy of the Red Army's legendary 12,500-kilometer Long March from 1934 to 1936, turning historical sites into high-tech patriotic classrooms for the next generation.

• Taiwan youth discover Wuhan's modern transformation (2026-10-21 08:02)

Taiwan youth discover Wuhan's modern transformation

• China steps up green transition, strengthens climate action (2026-10-21 06:52)

China will accelerate its green and low-carbon transition, promote the peaking of coal and oil consumption, and work to fulfill its 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

• Premier Li's remarks at SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting (2026-10-21 06:34)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday delivered a speech at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

• China to actively advance global climate negotiations ahead of COP31 (2026-10-21 06:32)

China will send a delegation to the 31st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31), scheduled for November 9 to 20 in Antalya, Türkiye, a Chinese official said Wednesday.

• DPP authorities denounced for rejecting mainland actor's visit (2026-10-21 06:08)

The Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council on Wednesday condemned Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities for rejecting popular Chinese actor Zhang Linghe's application to visit the island for cultural exchange activities, including a fan meeting.

• China to build world's first deep-sea floating island (2026-10-21 06:04)

China to build world's first deep-sea floating island

• China's Belt and Road partnership fuels inclusive global governance (2026-10-21 03:16)

China's Belt and Road partnership fuels inclusive global governance

• Graphics: China's first five-year plan for cultural heritage unveiled (2026-10-21 03:15)

China has released its first five-year plan for cultural heritage protection and preservation. See the chart for details.

• The Long March: Crossing this raging river under a hail of bullets (2026-10-21 03:09)

The Long March: Crossing this raging river under a hail of bullets

- 140th Canton Fair showcases China's economic development over 70 years (2026-10-21 03:07)

140th Canton Fair showcases China's economic development over 70 years

- Premier Li calls for deeper, more substantive cooperation with Russia (2026-10-21 01:47)

China is ready to work with Russia to make sustained efforts to steer bilateral cooperation in a direction that is deeper, more substantive and more resilient, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said Tuesday upon his arrival in St. Petersburg.

- Hong Kong-based IOMed marks 1st anniversary (2026-10-21 01:18)

The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) celebrated its first anniversary at the Hong Kong headquarters on Tuesday, bringing together over 140 participants.

- China’s Party-mass service centers become neighborhood hotspots (2026-10-21 01:10)

China’s Party-mass service centers become neighborhood hotspots

- Meet Ginseng: The energy booster (2026-10-21 01:05)

Meet Ginseng: The energy booster

Source: China Defense Blog

- Y-20 Airlifter: Platform as a Service (2026-10-26 23:57)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }A bit of 20/20 hindsight here. The Y-20 is increasingly looking like a military version of "Platform as a Service" (PaaS), borrowing a term from the cloud computing world. It has become a hot topic lately. One variant serves as an AWACS platform. Others

- Military Reports, "With Chinese Characteristics": Women Pilots (2026-10-25 00:35)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; }This post is not me weighing in on the "women in the military" debate. I do, however, follow official Chinese military reporting and propaganda fairly closely. One thing that has stood out over the years is the prominence of female pilots in PLA media.

- Longest Yet: PLAN's 48th Escort Task Force Returns After 378 Days (2026-10-23 22:44)

a { text-decoration: none; color: #464feb; }tr th, tr td { border: 1px solid #e6e6e6; }tr th { background-color: #f5f5f5; The PLAN's 48th Gulf of Aden Escort Task Force has returned home after a 378-day deployment, making it the longest escort mission in the history of China's anti-piracy operations. The task force reportedly logged over 150,000 nautical miles during the

Source: China | The Guardian

• Sea of crimson: vivid ‘red beach’ transforms China’s wetlands and marshes – in pictures (2026-10-28 06:00)

A striking transformation takes place along the coast of Qinqdao in autumn, when a native seepweed turns a brilliant shade of red.The ‘red beach’ phenemon can be seen in the salt marshes and wetlands on the coast of China’s Shandong province, where the Suaeda glauca plant matures and absorbs water, changing it from green to crimson between September and November Continue reading...

• Kylian Mbappé apologises after being dropped by Chinese brands for Mao Zedong comment (2026-10-27 11:54)

Video appears to show Mao Zedong called a ‘dictator’ Dongpeng and Mengniu end deals with the playerKylian Mbappé has apologised for his “ill-judged” comment about the former Chinese leader Mao Zedong, which has led to brands in China dropping the Real Madrid forward. In China jokes about Mao, the founding leader of the People’s Republic of China who died in 1976, are considered disrespectful and remain a social taboo. “Our company firmly opposes and has a zero-tolerance policy towards any behaviour that offends national sentiments,” the drinks company Dongpeng said in a statement earlier on Tuesday, adding that “with immediate effect we are terminating all cooperation with Kylian Mbappé”. Continue reading...

• Chinese markets lose trillions as race for AI supremacy with US takes its toll (2026-10-27 04:42)

Lack of profits and the threat posed by western countries are raising concern about the sustainability of Beijing’s AI boomTrillions of dollars have been wiped from China’s stock markets in recent months amid increasing anxiety about the future of artificial intelligence, as Beijing races against the United States for dominance in the sector.The STAR 50 Index, which tracks technology and innovation companies on the Shanghai stock exchange, has plunged 40% since June. Other indexes of major companies dropped by about 20% over the same time period. Continue reading...

• ‘Zero-energy companionship’: bizarre hobby takes seed among China’s stressed young adults (2026-10-26 09:47)

Faced with a stagnant jobs market, many are spurning children or pets in favour of ‘raising bricks’ Young adults in China looking for a cheaper, low-maintenance alternative to having children or pets have found an answer: raising bricks.Bricks may not be as cuddly as cats or as life-affirming as human offspring, but they also cost next to nothing. “No cats, no dating, I started raising a brick,” wrote one brick parent on social media. Continue reading...

• Xi Jinping’s corruption crackdown in the spotlight as China prepares for meeting of top leaders (2026-10-26 00:58)

The fifth plenum comes against a backdrop of years of purges that have had some analysts wondering if the issue is corruption or a lack of loyaltyWhen Xi Jinping came to power in 2012, he pledged to stamp out corruption all through the ranks of the Communist party. More than a decade later, the pace of investigations has not slowed. Last year, China’s disciplinary authorities opened investigations into more than 1 million people, including more than 100 officials at or above ministerial or provincial level.As Chinese Communist party (CCP) officials kick off an important meeting this week, discipline – and party loyalty – is high on the agenda. For those who try to read the tea leaves of elite Chinese politics, concern about the apparent lack of discipline is dominating CCP discussions. Continue reading...

• Kim Jong-un crosses over newly opened bridge into China (2026-10-24 09:34)

Visit by train over New Yalu River Bridge marks North Korean leader’s first known trip abroad in more than a yearKim Jong-un has travelled to China over a newly opened bridge marking the North Korean leader’s first known trip abroad in more than a year.A South Korean government source told the Yonhap news agency that Kim had arrived in the Chinese border city of Dandong, in Liaoning province, after taking a train from Pyongyang to Sinuiju and crossing the New Yalu River Bridge. Continue reading...

• As Trump’s time runs out, this could be his most dangerous legacy: a world divided into three | Steve Bloomfield (2026-10-24 05:00)

We’ve heard much about the end of the west. At the proposed summit between Trump, Putin and Xi, those fears could crystalliseIn the final two years of a US presidency, when Congress has been lost, approval ratings have sunk like a stone and their party has started to think about who’s coming next, the person occupying the Oval Office can feel their power draining away. Domestic legislation, particularly in an era where bipartisan cooperation is almost nonexistent, grinds to a halt. But as the days tick by until the end, and as presidents begin to think about their legacy, there is one part of the job where they still have power: the rest of the world.In the final weeks of his presidency in 1992 George HW Bush sent 28,000 American troops to Somalia to help end a famine. For Bill Clinton, it was a quixotic attempt to bring peace to the Middle East by ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Barack Obama restored diplomatic ties with Cuba, making a historic visit to Havana, as well as a final, successful push on the Iran nuclear deal. Continue reading...

• Typhoon Champi kills one and injures more than 500 in Taiwan as it heads to China (2026-10-24 02:22)

Super typhoon weakening but large parts of Taiwan, including Taipei, still mostly closed and flights cancelledTyphoon Champi swept past Taiwan on Saturday killing one person, injuring more than 500, and uprooting trees and severing power as it weakened and headed north toward the Chinese coast.Earlier classified as a super typhoon and one of the strongest

storms in the Pacific this year, Champi was still packing gusts of about 126km per hour (78 miles per hour) near its centre, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Administration (CWA). Continue reading...

- North Korea has opened up bridges to Russia and China – in which direction will it go? (2026-10-23 23:10)

Kim Jong-un has opened the borders to both his key allies in Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin, but for different reasonsFor more than a decade, local Chinese residents pilloried it as nothing more than an empty bridge that led to a North Korean vegetable patch on the other side.Fast forward 12 years and dozens of trucks are now traversing the bridge linking China to North Korea, boosting trade for the reclusive regime. But it has also triggered concern that it could intensify a struggle for influence over the North between Beijing and the region's other major power, Russia. Continue reading...

- People evacuate building in Tibet as powerful earthquake strikes – video (2026-10-23 10:29)

Chinese TV footage showed people evacuating a building and debris falling as a magnitude-7 earthquake struck Tibet on Thursday, killing at least 16 people. Search and rescue efforts were under way after at least 339 homes and 20 livestock sheds collapsed in the city of Nagqu. It was the biggest quake in the region in the past five years, according to China's national broadcaster CCTV Magnitude-7 earthquake hits Tibet, killing at least 16 and destroying hundreds of homes Continue reading...

- Severe flooding in eastern Spain and UK hit by first named storm of winter (2026-10-23 08:16)

Storm Adam brings torrential rain to Valencia, Alicante and Balearic Islands, as Storm Austen strikes England and WalesStorm Adam brought torrential rain to eastern Spain earlier this week. In Pego, Alicante, 632mm fell in 36 hours, with 430mm of this falling in just six hours, while the Valencian town of Olivia received 600mm in 24 hours.The severe flooding led 145 municipalities across Valencia and Alicante to impose a temporary lockdown on about 850,000 people on Monday. At least five people have died, 500 have been rescued and 2,100 evacuated. Continue reading...

- Magnitude-7 earthquake hits China's Tibet, killing at least 16 and destroying hundreds of homes (2026-10-23 04:04)

Search and rescue efforts under way after quake strikes region's north, officials say, while at least seven aftershocks recordedA magnitude-7 earthquake has hit China's Tibet region, killing at least 16 people, injuring 54 and collapsing hundreds of homes in the northern regional city of Nagqu, official media said.Search and rescue efforts continued after the collapse of at least 339 homes and 20 livestock sheds, the Nagqu media office said, citing city government officials. Continue reading...

• Why am I obsessed with China’s ancient golden age? I took my daughter on a trip to find out – podcast (2026-10-23 04:00)

I felt a duty to write about the Tang dynasty and its incredible social and cultural sophistication – but also to connect my Chinese past with my childBy Xiaolu Guo. Read by Elizabeth ChanRead the text version hereSupport the Guardian today: theguardian.com/longreadpod Continue reading...

• Taiwan charges five men over plot to run over comedian for his Xi Jinping jokes (2026-10-21 16:13)

Person named ‘K’ from China paid five defendants to injure Huang Yi-hao, New Taipei prosecutors sayTaiwanese prosecutors have charged five men over a plot to ram a car into a comedian who made fun of the Chinese Communist party and Xi Jinping.Taiwan has repeatedly accused China of transnational repression to silence critics on the self-governed island, which Beijing claims as its territory and has vowed to take by force if necessary. Continue reading...

Source: China – Foreign Policy

• The Global Push to Keep Kids Off Social Media (2026-10-27 10:00)

From age verification to time limits, more than 60 countries have embraced online restrictions.

• China Is Building Its Way Around Europe’s EV Tariffs (2026-10-27 09:00)

Beijing’s evolving industrial playbook is taking shape in Morocco.

• China Takes Its Lawfare to Sea (2026-10-27 04:01)

Beijing is making life difficult for Panamanian ships, and others could be next.

• Could AI Disinformation Disrupt the Midterms? (2026-10-22 10:00)

The answers are more encouraging than you might think.

• The Paradox at the Heart of China’s Export Boom (2026-10-21 21:08)

China’s domestic economic woes are helping fuel its success abroad.

• Xi’s Gang of Three (2026-10-21 19:18)

How China’s leader divides power between his two most trusted lieutenants.

• Trump Is Making a Mess of Diego Garcia (2026-10-21 12:29)

Trying to reverse the Chagos Islands treaty only plays into China’s hands.

• What Does Beijing Mean By ‘Strategic Stability’? (2026-10-21 01:34)

After the Trump summit, China wants managed competition.

Source: Financial Times China

• What a local ceasefire means for the Russia-Ukraine war (2026-10-28 05:00)

Washington and Moscow are discussing a potential return by American companies to the…

• China rushes to shore up struggling markets (2026-10-28 03:54)

‘National team’ of funds and brokers buy stocks as investors turn away from AI trade

• Pop Mart sales fall up to 50% as Labubu fever ebbs (2026-10-27 13:40)

Chinese maker of hit doll posts sinking quarterly revenues as demand wanes

• Chinese brands put boot into Mbappé after viral ‘dictator’ meme (2026-10-27 11:05)

Real Madrid footballer’s comment on image sparks online backlash in world’s second-biggest economy

• Can Europe find a third way? (2026-10-26 13:00)

A new ‘great game’ is afoot in the Arctic and the continent needs to build its own military capability in the region

• Chinese wind turbine maker builds European firewall from Beijing (2026-10-26 05:00)

Ming Yang says Octopus joint venture and separate legal entities will convince customers that China cannot access data

• Luxury groups’ value drops by €250bn as Chinese consumer demand fades (2026-10-25 05:00)

Slowdown in China and cooling global stock markets are exacerbating a downturn for European sector

• SoftBank-backed drone maker wants every farmer to ‘have their own robot’ (2026-10-25 01:00)

Chinese start-up XAG believes pilotless crop sprayers are the answer to a dwindling workforce and rising temperatures

• Kim reaffirms ties with China amid worries over Russian friendship (2026-10-24 15:44)

Beijing is concerned that Pyongyang and Moscow are forging a stronger relationship, say analysts

• China’s luxury brands are ready to elbow western rivals aside (2026-10-24 04:00)

Investors are questioning whether appeal of homegrown Chinese luxury is a durable shift or a shortlived trend

• Xi gathers China's top cadres with focus on discipline (2026-10-23 21:00)

Central committee meeting to be closely watched ahead of party congress next year and leader's expected fourth term

• Lunch break under threat as Hong Kong looks at longer trading day (2026-10-23 20:00)

HKEX discusses scrapping 'antiquated practice' as Nasdaq plans move to 23 hours

• Citi wins long-awaited approval for China securities business (2026-10-23 10:40)

Green light comes ahead of expected meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping next month

• Volvo Cars shares plunge as much as 30% after it swings to loss (2026-10-23 09:19)

Swedish carmaker to cut another 2,500 jobs and warns that the market 'has not reached the bottom'

• Serbia's Vučić faces tough election as fraud fears mount (2026-10-23 05:00)

Also in this newsletter: How to defend Europe's position in quantum technology

• US Treasury proposes tighter rules on investing in sensitive Chinese tech (2026-10-22 23:13)

Restrictions would apply to investments in areas including AI, hypersonic weapons and biotech

• Liquidators of Chinese property giant pursue Harvard to recoup donation (2026-10-22 07:45)

China Evergrande had given millions of dollars to university in decade before its collapse

• EU scrambles for seat at the table in Ukraine talks (2026-10-22 05:00)

Also in this newsletter: Chemicals group warns about investing in decarbonisation in EU

• The peculiar charms of douzhi, Beijing's fermented bean juice (2026-10-22 04:00)

The Chinese capital's notorious breakfast dish has long divided opinion. Now it's attracting a new generation of devotees

• China steps up 'grey zone' tactics to isolate Taiwan (2026-10-22 04:00)

Beijing is blocking Taipei's diplomats abroad and exerting control over its maritime territory

• The Chinese factory owners seeking fortunes in Africa (2026-10-22 04:00)

After years of state-led infrastructure projects, private companies are leading the charge with investing in manufacturing

• Australian iron ore miner warns of production slowdown without China deal (2026-10-22 02:18)

Fortescue says operations ‘may be affected’ by talks with state-backed commodities buyer

• China’s drugmakers move into the big league (2026-10-21 23:01)

Foreign pharma groups are now paying to access innovation developed locally

• Foreign diplomats queue for handshake with EU leaders (2026-10-21 05:00)

Also in this newsletter: Canada pushes for more co-operation on AI

• China’s nightmare: becoming the next Japan (2026-10-21 03:00)

Tokyo lost decades when a property bust led to an economic slump. Could the same phenomenon undo Xi Jinping’s ambitions?

• China’s battery makers race to invest abroad to avoid western barriers (2026-10-21 02:06)

CATL and its rivals are creating new global supply chains as protectionist pressures rise

Source: New York Times China

• A Chinese Port Could Be a Lifeline for Spain, but Also a Threat (2026-10-28 04:01)

Residents say a proposed Chinese car plant in northern Spain will create new jobs. Others say it’s a long-term risk, distilling a debate about the costs and perks of ties to China.

• White House Has Tight Grip Over FBI in Pursuing Trump Targets, Agent Says (2026-10-27 23:48)

In court testimony, the agent outlined the willingness of Kash Patel, the F.B.I. director, to take orders from President Trump to investigate his perceived enemies.

• China Steps In to Rescue Stocks, But the Market Continues to Fall (2026-10-27 14:15)

The Communist Party uses a “national team” of state-owned investment funds to stem the market rout. But this time, investors are not sure it will work.

• In the A.I. ‘Robogym,’ Machines Train to Be More Like Humans (2026-10-27 09:02)

Germany’s Neura is one of the companies at the forefront of efforts to use artificial intelligence in robotics, and crucial to whether Europe can close the gap with China.

• ‘Pull Out the Sick Trees’: Xi’s Constant Purges Pave Way for Next Term (2026-10-26 04:00)

The Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who is likely preparing to secure a fourth term in power in 2027, has complained that officials cannot be trusted.

• Thomas L. Friedman: We Just Set Off the Second Big Bang (2026-10-25 11:00)

Humanity is entering its most dangerous era yet.

• North Korea's Kim Jong-un Arrives in China, South Korea Says (2026-10-24 10:25)

Mr. Kim was said to have crossed the border via a newly opened bridge for his first visit to China in over a year, as the countries move to deepen ties.

• Volvo Shares Plunge as China Ambitions Fade for Western Carmakers (2026-10-23 13:08)

The Swedish automaker plans to cut another 2,500 jobs, joining competitors in offering a gloomy view of the world's biggest car market.

• The Most Important Factory in America (2026-10-23 05:00)

America is figuring out the trick to reindustrialization, if it can learn the right lessons.

• The Map of Africa Is Being Redrawn. It's a Trap. (2026-10-23 05:00)

It's been many years since the continent seemed more spectral, and its people more vulnerable, than it does now.

• Powerful Earthquake in Tibet Kills at Least 16 (2026-10-23 04:59)

Dozens were injured and more than 300 homes were toppled by the 7.0-magnitude quake, which sent residents fleeing into the cold night air, state media said.

• G.M. Hopes to Design New Cars in as Little as 2 Years Using A.I. (2026-10-21 18:00)

General Motors is seeking help from artificial intelligence to keep up with Chinese companies that introduce vehicles very quickly.

• China Moves to Tighten Its Grip Over Exports of Top A.I. Models (2026-10-21 09:24)

Draft rules on the export of artificial intelligence technology show how China is trying to balance national security risks with its desire to outpace the United States.

Source: South China Morning Post

• Singapore court fines behavioural therapist for hurting autistic boy who hit her (2026-10-28 05:50)

A Singaporean behavioural therapist who was repeatedly hit in the face by a four-year-old boy with special needs grabbed his hand and dragged him off his chair and onto the floor. Tricia Lee Hsien, 29, was fined S$5,000 (US$3,900) by a court on Wednesday. She pleaded guilty to one

charge of voluntarily causing hurt to a minor. The prosecution sought only a fine, saying thiswas an “exceptional case” as the harm caused was low and the woman’s culpability was lowin this isolated act of...

• Why Hong Kong developer CK Asset sold a mall at an ‘exceptionally cheap’ price (2026-10-28 05:00)

With the “exceptionally cheap” sale of a vacant Hong Kong shopping mall, developer CK Asset Holdings is freeing up capital for other projects, while the buyer will have to be patient because the location will struggle to attract tenants in the short term, according to analysts. The developer completed the mall in its residential project Seaside Sonata on Hai Tan Street in Sham Shui Po five years ago but never leased it out. It recently changed hands along with a batch of parking spaces for...

• EU plans high-level China currency talks as fears of new trade shock mount (2026-10-28 05:00)

After convincing China to accept a cap on its hybrid car exports, a stream of top-level European finance and banking officials will descend on the Chinese capital in the coming months on a far trickier mission: persuading Beijing to stop holding down its currency to help save the bloc’s struggling industry. In the week of November 23, top European Union economy officials led by director general Maarten Verwey will sit down in Beijing for a “macroeconomic dialogue” with their Chinese...

• Indonesia deploys hundreds of security staff ahead of Jakarta student protests (2026-10-28 04:43)

Hundreds of Indonesian security personnel were deployed on Wednesday in anticipation of student protests against several of President Prabowo Subianto’s policies, as well as his government’s handling of forest fires. Students from the University of Indonesia said they were set to stage protests in several spots in the capital Jakarta. They are calling on the government to declare the ongoing wildfires in Sumatra and Borneo a national disaster, and to halt spending on populist programmes...

• El Salvador deploys 1,000 troops to Haiti after gang ambush (2026-10-28 04:30)

El Salvador has sent about 1,000 troops to Haiti after four Salvadorean members of a UN-backed security mission went missing in a gang ambush on the outskirts of the capital on October 18, a security official in Haiti told Reuters on Tuesday. The troops’ arrival aboard flights in recent days dramatically expands the Central American nation’s role in Haiti’s long-standing gang conflict. Yet it remains unclear who will command the new Salvadorean contingent, how long it will stay in Haiti or...

• Can India turn wartime ammo sales into lasting European defence ties? (2026-10-28 04:30)

India has emerged as a major exporter of ammunition and other weapons to Europe since the outbreak of the Ukraine-Russia war, but analysts caution that New Delhi has yet to secure a lasting foothold in Europe's defence market. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh cited a Bloomberg report last Friday stating that India had become the third-largest arms exporter to Europe under the "ReArm Europe" initiative – also known as Readiness 2030 – largely because of ammunition demand. Bloomberg, citing...

• Standard Chartered beats forecast as wealth business powers third-quarter profit (2026-10-28 04:28)

Standard Chartered's third-quarter net profit rose 46 per cent as strong growth in cross-border trade loans and wealth management buffered one of Hong Kong's three note-issuing banks from provisions linked to geopolitical tensions. Net profit increased to US$1.5 billion, or 68.9 US cents per share, in the quarter that ended on September 30, compared with US$1.03 billion a year earlier, the London-based bank said in a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange on Wednesday. The result beat analysts' ...

• ICBC makes history with record US$19 billion IPO in dual listing in 2006 - SCMP archive (2026-10-28 04:15)

ICBC share prices diverge after first parallel listing By Carol Chan This article was first published on October 28, 2006 Shares of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China jumped a relatively modest 14.7 per cent on their Hong Kong debut and a lacklustre 5.1 per cent in Shanghai as the world's largest-ever initial public offering finally came to market. The debut immediately catapulted China's largest lender into the top ranks of global banks as measured by market capitalisation. It seized the...

• Over 2,000 rogue Malaysian police officers arrested in past 5 years (2026-10-28 04:06)

A total of 2,097 Malaysian police officers and personnel have been arrested for drug-related offences, robbery and corruption between 2021 and August this year, according to Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail. Of the total, 1,551 were arrested for drug offences, 64 for robbery and 482 by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). Saifuddin Nasution said in a written parliamentary reply to Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng on Tuesday that the drug-related arrests were made under the Dangerous...

• China formally launches project to build aircraft carrier-sized 'science island' (2026-10-28 04:00)

China's massive maritime science infrastructure – an aircraft carrier-sized floating artificial island – has officially entered its engineering construction phase. On October 18, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), the facility's lead developer, signed a construction contract worth over 2.7 billion yuan (US$405 million) with a shipbuilder under China State Shipbuilding Corporation, according to local media reports. The semi-submersible twin-hull platform is the world's first mobile,...

• Hong Kong to make bid-rigging for renovation projects a crime after deadly Tai Po fire (2026-10-28 03:15)

Hong Kong's leader is expected to announce reforms introducing criminal penalties for bid-rigging on Thursday, when the government will also release the final investigation report into the Tai Po inferno, the South China Morning Post has learned. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu and his senior officials will announce the proposed measures and give an update on efforts to pursue "administrative accountability" at a press conference on Thursday, a government source said on Wednesday. Senior...

• Will US midterm battles blind Washington to Asia? Japan isn't taking any chances (2026-10-28 03:00)

Japan is bracing for a more unpredictable ally in Washington, as the US midterm elections threaten to deepen political gridlock and complicate Tokyo's long-term security calculations, analysts say. Observers warn that post-election political battles, ranging from a possible repeat of impeachment proceedings to the mounting legal battles ensnaring the administration of US President Donald Trump, risk diverting the White House's attention from foreign policy and its long-standing commitments to...

• ByteDance accelerates robotics commercialisation with new recruitment drive (2026-10-28 03:00)

ByteDance is accelerating its push into embodied artificial intelligence, stepping up recruitment for robotics talent as it seeks to move cutting-edge research out of the laboratory and into physical hardware. The Beijing-based owner of TikTok and Douyin is hiring for around a dozen robotics positions across hardware and software within its Seed team, the internal unit dedicated to AI research and large language model development, according to postings released on the company's career website...

• Cradle to career: Japanese parents take over dating, job hunting for children (2026-10-28 02:58)

Parents in Japan are taking an increasingly active role in their children's lives – helping them find marriage partners, navigate job hunting and secure housing – as the line between parental support and personal decision-making continues to blur. In a practice known as "proxy matchmaking", parents attend social events armed with photos and profiles of their children, hoping to find suitable marriage partners through conversations with other parents. The Association of Parents of Marriage...

• 'Chinese can actually fly': man pilots homemade hoverboard over mountains, across Yangtze River (2026-10-28 02:24)

A Gen Z tech influencer from central China has brought science fiction to life by handcrafting a manned hoverboard and teaching himself flight control and mechanical engineering. Song

Xingyu, 26, from Enshi, Hubei province, is known online as “Amazing Ayu.” He has amassedmore than 3 million social media followers by sharing videos of his aerial inventions. OnOctober 15, Song stunned the internet with a video of himself riding a hoverboard he had spentabout two months building, soaring over...

• Circuit board firm Dongshan Precision falls 0.12% after Hong Kong debut (2026-10-28 02:07)

Suzhou Dongshan Precision Manufacturing proved volatile in its Hong Kong trading debut after an underwhelming HK$9.9 billion (US$1.26 billion) initial public offering (IPO), as investor sentiment was haunted by the deepening sell-off across China’s artificial intelligence and tech hardware sectors. Shares of the circuit-board manufacturer, a key supplier of components for AI servers, dropped as much as 6 per cent after its debut in the Hong Kong market on Wednesday. The stock later pared losses...

• Why has Beijing appointed a propaganda veteran to lead a border province? (2026-10-28 02:00)

Beijing has appointed veteran propaganda official Mo Gaoyi as Communist Party secretary of Yunnan province in its latest leadership reshuffle, making him a rare example this year of a provincial head with minimal local governance experience. An analyst said that the move could reflect Beijing’s efforts to broaden the talent selection criteria for some senior roles, allowing specialists to take on important generalist positions. Mo – director of the State Council Information Office (SCIO) and a...

• 100,000 evacuated in India as Cyclone Arnab makes landfall on southeast coast (2026-10-28 01:58)

Ferocious winds and torrential rain lashed India’s southeastern coast as Cyclone Arnab made landfall on Wednesday, forcing nearly 100,000 people to evacuate their homes in two states, authorities said. Arnab hit Andhra Pradesh as a “very severe cyclonic storm”, with winds of 125-135km/h (78-84 mph) and gusts reaching 150km/h, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. A storm surge of 1.5 to 2.5 metres (5-8 feet) above normal tide is very likely to inundate low-lying areas of the state...

• Why Indian-American support for Trump is slipping before midterms (2026-10-28 01:30)

Immigration restrictions, rising living costs and strains in US-India relations are testing support for President Donald Trump among some Indian-Americans who backed the Republican Party in 2024, analysts say, ahead of November’s midterm elections. A survey released in August by AAPI Data and Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote found that 66 per cent of Indian-American respondents favoured Democratic candidates for the US House of Representatives, compared with 18 per cent for Republicans....

• Manila speaks with 2 voices on China (2026-10-28 01:30)

Manila sent two strikingly different messages to Beijing on October 13. At the Malacanang Palace, a presidential spokeswoman reaffirmed Manila's commitment to sustaining diplomatic and economic ties with China, saying "China needs the Philippines, and the Philippines needs China". That same day, Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jnr rejected a call for military-to-military communication with China, a move that received public support from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Teodoro...

• How China's ancient capital staked a claim to the nation's fastest export growth (2026-10-28 01:00)

A booming semiconductor industry is helping drive a surge in trade in Xian, one of China's ancient capitals, making it the country's top performer by trade growth among provincial capitals and provincial-level cities for which data is publicly available. The capital of western China's Shaanxi province recorded a 115.5 per cent year-on-year surge in trade during the first nine months of 2026. Exports far outpaced imports, climbing 142.1 per cent. Two product categories drove much of that export...

• Over 1,000 still in Japan shelters 3 months after Kumamoto quake: 'exhausted all the time' (2026-10-28 00:56)

More than 1,000 people are still taking shelter in evacuation centres, awaiting temporary housing three months after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Japan's Kumamoto prefecture, damaging their homes. The quake occurred at 4.27pm on July 28. As of Monday, the death toll stood at 38 – 36 from confirmed disaster-related causes and two suspected to be disaster-related – bringing the number of casualties to 420. Evacuation centres remain open at 21 locations in seven cities and towns. In...

• Will China travel hurt US students' careers? FBI battles fears as talent pipeline stalls (2026-10-28 00:56)

An American student considering studying in China attended a briefing with a senior FBI official at a Washington think tank last month to address her concerns about whether such an experience could jeopardise her prospects for a career in the federal government. The official's message: travelling to China would not automatically disqualify her. She welcomed the clarification but said she wasn't "completely reassured". "I'm still wondering if it's a good idea to go," said the student, who...

• 'Don't have the illusion': graduate job ads down 22% as AI rewrites the rules (2026-10-28 00:30)

Fresh-graduate job postings in Hong Kong fell 22 per cent in the first nine months of this year from the same period in 2025, according to data from one of the city's biggest job-search platforms, with an industry leader warning that advances in technology will deepen the decline. Its data also showed more graduates chasing fewer jobs: a typical listing for graduates drew 56 per cent more applications than a year earlier. Yet about 85 per cent of the 298 companies

Jobsdb surveyed in August and...

• China's battery factories could be sitting right on top of vast lithium deposits (2026-10-28 00:00)

Lithium deposits formed by ancient volcanic activity may lie beneath parts of China's battery manufacturing heartland, particularly along the southeastern coast, according to a new study. In an interview with the South China Morning Post, geologist Duan Zheng said that "potential targets for clay-type lithium deposits in southeastern China overlap with lithium battery industrial clusters in East and South China". "Local supplies could significantly reduce transport costs and supply-chain risks,"...

• Why is the US reluctant to give South Korea wartime control of its troops? (2026-10-28 00:00)

South Korea wants to take back wartime command of its troops from the United States within the next two years, but analysts say Washington is refusing to commit to a date to keep a hold on a military it sees as vital to countering China. The dispute is over wartime operational control, known as OPCON, which the US has held since shortly after the outbreak of the Korean war in 1950. If fighting were to break out again under the current arrangements, designated South Korean units would be assigned...

• Global carmakers search for new China strategy as market share slips below 30% (2026-10-27 23:59)

Global carmakers are searching for a way to survive in China's cutthroat market, as they continue to lose ground to domestic competitors in a landscape that is increasingly tilting towards electric vehicles. International auto brands from Volkswagen to Toyota saw their market share in the Chinese mainland slide once again in the third quarter of the year, as consumers turned away from expensive foreign cars amid an economic slowdown and the Iran war. Foreign marques accounted for less than 30...

• King Charles arrives in Bahamas, faces demands for reparations: 'pay us what you owe us' (2026-10-27 23:36)

Britain's King Charles arrived in the Bahamas on Tuesday as part of a nine-day trip to the Caribbean, where he faces calls for an apology and slavery reparations. It is his first official visit to the Bahamas as king, with the archipelago's government closing all public schools on the island of New Providence to welcome him. The Bahamian police and armed forces strode out to greet Charles in lockstep, some wearing pith helmets. Charles stepped out in a light grey suit and donned sunglasses as he...

• Alexander brothers each get 30 years in prison for drugging, raping women (2026-10-27 22:26)

Three once high-flying brothers convicted of exploiting their wealth and access to luxury real estate to drug and rape dozens of women were sentenced on Tuesday to 30 years in prison. US District Judge Valerie E. Caproni announced the punishment for Tal, Oren and Alon Alexander – known collectively as the Alexander Brothers – after 11 accusers spoke in court. “Your conduct was monstrous,” the judge told the men as she announced the sentences, saying their insistence that they have been...

• How Hong Kong went from a yuan gateway to a complete currency ecosystem (2026-10-27 22:00)

In September, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu unveiled the city’s first five-year plan along with his policy address, highlighting Hong Kong’s strategic role in promoting the greater use of the yuan outside mainland China as a key priority. In the second part of a four-part series on the globalisation of the yuan, Daisy Wu examines Hong Kong’s evolution from an offshore reservoir into a self-sustaining yuan ecosystem. Of the hundreds of thousands of people who cross the border between mainland...

• For its autocratic African ally, Taiwan bites its tongue and opens its wallet (2026-10-27 21:30)

Eswatini probably does not register on most people’s mental maps. Its relatively recent name might sound unfamiliar as many people still know it as Swaziland. That it demands attention from pundits like yours truly has much to do with it being the only African country that still formally recognises Taiwan. It is also the continent’s only absolute monarchy. The two facts are closely connected. Recognising Taipei makes little sense when every one of eSwatini’s neighbours recognises Beijing, but it...

• Alibaba wins preliminary injunction against Pentagon lobbying rule (2026-10-27 21:08)

Alibaba has won a preliminary court order blocking a US restriction that drove away its Washington lobbyists, after a federal judge found the Chinese technology giant was likely to succeed in challenging the measure on free-speech grounds. US District Judge Eumi K. Lee ruled on Monday that the government had failed to provide sufficient evidence to justify the restriction, which effectively forces lobbying firms to choose between representing Alibaba and clients seeking Pentagon...

• 5 things to watch out for in 2027 US defence bill aimed at countering China (2026-10-27 20:58)

The 2027 US defence bill, covering more than US$1 trillion in proposed defence spending, will be one of the most closely watched pieces of legislation when Congress returns after the midterm elections, with efforts to counter China running through nearly every corner of the text. The US House of Representatives passed its version of the bill, known as the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA), in July. The bill faces a tougher path in the US Senate, where a July procedural vote to begin...

• Israel opposition holds narrow edge over Netanyahu in first election projections (2026-10-27 20:26)

Israeli voters on Tuesday gave a narrow edge to opposition parties over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, initial projections showed, after decades-high turnout in the country's first election since the trauma of the October 7, 2023 attacks. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, had run on promises to fight enemies from Hamas to Iran and had spent election day raising fears of Israeli Arab voters who came out in historic numbers against his hard-right government. Early projections...

• Dino skeleton that looks like mini T. rex sells for a giant US$47 million (2026-10-27 19:50)

A dinosaur that looks like a miniature T. rex is now one of the world's most expensive fossils. The rare skeleton of a Nanotyrannus – recently confirmed to be a distant cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex, not just a young specimen – sold for US$47.3 million to a mystery buyer at auction in New York on Tuesday, according to Sotheby's. The auction house had expected it to fetch anywhere from US$6 to US$9 million. The blockbuster price tag for "Jodi", as the skeleton is nicknamed, makes it the...

• Serial killer Ted Bundy linked to death of US teen after over 50 years (2026-10-27 19:24)

DNA connects serial killer Ted Bundy to the death of a Utah teenager, authorities announced on Tuesday, exactly 52 years after her body was discovered in the woods by a hunter. Bundy has been dead since 1989, but the tally of his confirmed victims continues to grow due to advances in DNA testing. He killed at least 30 women and girls in multiple states in the 1970s, and many more escaped or survived with injuries. Investigators are satisfied that Bundy was responsible for killing 17-year-old...

• Pope Leo's cancer is 'game changer' for papacy, Vatican foreign minister says (2026-10-27 18:30)

Pope Leo's lung cancer diagnosis and surgery has affected how Catholics view his health and papacy, the Vatican's foreign minister said on Tuesday, in an unusual acknowledgement by one of the Church's most senior officials. "It's a bit of a game changer," Archbishop Paul Gallagher told journalists at an event in Rome. Leo, 71, had part of one lung removed in surgery on October 13. His doctors have said the cancer was localised and had not spread, and the pope will not require further...

• Flavio Bolsonaro flees Brazil for US after shock loss to Lula (2026-10-27 17:41)

Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro has left the country for the US after losing Sunday's presidential election and refusing to comply with a Supreme Court order to hand over his passports, two sources said. The US embassy in Brazil did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Bolsonaro's lawyer also declined to comment. Bolsonaro was favoured to win Sunday's presidential election but ended up losing in a shock result to leftist incumbent Luiz

Inacio Lula da Silva. On Monday, he was...

• Rubio invokes China, Russia to defend disputed Venezuela oil deal (2026-10-27 16:18)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has defended Washington's oil agreement in Venezuela as an alternative to Chinese and Russian involvement, pushing back against criticism from opposition leader Maria Corina Machado. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Rubio said most of the oilfields controlled by the company partnering with Washington had previously been held or operated by Chinese or Russian firms. He argued that the agreement would help revive production while securing US access to reserves in...

• The 'Queen of the Chinese' and a forgotten history on the US-Mexico border (2026-10-27 15:40)

At Texas' dusty Concordia Cemetery, grass grows over graves in a 140-year-old Chinese burial ground. Some headstones have been stolen or vandalised; others have been marked by flat concrete slabs etched with names in Chinese and English. The slabs were harder to steal than traditional headstones. Still other graves have no visible markers. "I don't think many people go out there," says Linda Chew, a retired judge in El Paso, the state's sixth-largest city. Yet interest in the history of the...

• Lula's win in Brazil deals blow to Trump's Latin America push: former China envoy (2026-10-27 15:00)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's re-election marks a turning point for Latin America and US-Latin American relations, said Chile's former top envoy to China, who predicted a slowing of Washington's regional push. "I do think the re-election of President Lula marks a major turning point in Latin America and in US-Latin American relations, while also having a broader significance for the Global South," said Jorge Heine, who served as Chile's ambassador to China from 2014 to 2017 and...

• Israel kept committing genocide in Gaza after truce, UN inquiry says (2026-10-27 14:48)

Israel continued to commit genocide in Gaza after last October's US-brokered ceasefire in the enclave, a UN commission said in a report published on Monday that Israel dismissed as part of a "misinformation campaign". The report by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, examined violations against Palestinian civilians, including children, since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on October...

• German leader's China visit latest sign of foreign diplomacy pivot beyond Beijing (2026-10-27 14:17)

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has begun his state visit to China in the eastern province of Anhui, spotlighting a growing trend among visiting foreign leaders to look well beyond Beijing. Steinmeier arrived in the provincial capital Hefei early on Tuesday to begin a

five-day state visit, marking his first trip to China in nearly eight years and confirming anexclusive report by the South China Morning Post earlier this month. When foreign dignitariesbypass Beijing for provincial...

• 2 men charged in UK with helping Iran over air force base incident (2026-10-27 14:02)

Two men were charged on Tuesday under Britain's National Security Act following last month's security incident at the RAF Fairford military base, with prosecutors accusing one of them of trying to assist Iranian intelligence operations in Britain. RAF Fairford had been used by US bombers to carry out strikes on Iran, but they were withdrawn on security grounds shortly after five British men were arrested outside the base in southwest England in the early hours of September 27. The...

• Taiwan vows vigilance as Beijing releases detailed satellite imagery of island landmarks (2026-10-27 14:00)

Taiwan's military has vowed to remain vigilant against mainland Chinese intelligence-gathering activities after Beijing released high-resolution satellite images of the island, raising concerns about its growing surveillance capabilities. "The defence ministry will not lower its vigilance at any time regarding all such satellite imagery and related intelligence collection directed at Taiwan," Defence Minister Wellington Koo Li-hsiung told reporters on Tuesday. "We will also take appropriate...

• Hong Kong lawmakers raise concerns about fresh HK$27 billion funding for tech hub (2026-10-27 13:34)

Hong Kong lawmakers have raised concerns about the hefty cost of developing a flagship tech hub and a neighbouring wetland park near the city's border with mainland China, as the government seeks to secure a fresh HK$27 billion for the second round of works. During a Legislative Council development panel meeting on Tuesday, government officials explained the HK$27.2 billion proposal. It covers forming 175 hectares (432 acres) of land at the San Tin Technopole, establishing more than one-third of...

• Why Singapore's PAP internal vote is the wrong place to look for signs of leadership renewal (2026-10-27 13:11)

Singapore's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) has retained its core executive team in what is seen as a cautious approach despite pledges of renewal, with observers pointing to ministerial promotions as a better indication of leadership plans. The PAP emerged from an internal election on Sunday with an unchanged slate for the Central Executive Committee (CEC), its highest decision-making body, as rising ministers Jeffrey Siow and Jasmin Lau failed to secure seats, though four remaining co-opted...

• Abby Choi's remains found in flat reeking of disinfectant, murder trial hears (2026-10-27 13:00)

Warning: graphic content follows. Slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung's dismembered remains were found inside a rural village flat that reeked of disinfectant when police arrived at the scene three days after the model's alleged murder, a court has heard. A police detective involved in the investigation said on Tuesday that officers cordoned off the 600 square foot rental flat in Tai Po's Lung Mei village on the evening of February 24, 2023, after he found human remains and an array of...

• How China 'risk factors' loom over Anthropic's hotly anticipated IPO filing (2026-10-27 13:00)

Open-weight models, China-US tensions, Taiwan – just a few of the more than dozen references to China-related risks cited in Anthropic's much-anticipated listing prospectus, which was finally released on Monday after months of speculation. Mostly concentrated within the 93-page "risk factors" section of the filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the disclosures reveal how the Silicon Valley start-up assesses the commercial threats posed by China and its artificial intelligence...

• Singapore, Indonesia to create haze task force, share data amid tensions (2026-10-27 12:52)

Indonesia and Singapore are looking to set up a joint task force to deal with haze from Indonesia's wildfires, the countries' foreign ministers said on Tuesday, as they met to reaffirm their ties after weeks of simmering tensions. The visit to Jakarta by Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan came amid mounting frustrations in the city state over the transboundary haze generated by Indonesia's most intense forest fires in 11 years. After a two-hour meeting, Singapore and Indonesia's top...

• With diesel deal, Trump is teaching Reagan's lesson to a larger class (2026-10-27 12:30)

In June 1982, Ronald Reagan imposed sanctions to prevent European firms from using American technology to help build a pipeline that would carry Soviet gas to western Europe. He warned that Europe was making itself a hostage to the Kremlin and contributing to the Moscow's war chest. Then, 18 days before that November's congressional elections, he offered to sell the Soviet Union up to 23 million tonnes of grain. Europeans, told to tear up their own contracts while American farmers were invited...

• Delta Air Lines bets on premium travel to win share of Hong Kong market (2026-10-27 12:16)

US-based Delta Air Lines has expressed confidence that the quality of its service will help it win a share of Hong Kong's fiercely competitive aviation market, saying demand for its recently relaunched route to Los Angeles has exceeded expectations, driven by corporate bookings. Jeff Moomaw, the airline's vice-president for Asia-Pacific, said on Tuesday that demand for premium travel was helping drive its growth in the region. "Hong Kong is [a] highly competitive market with premium carriers,...

• Norway, Finland leaders hold ‘frank’ talk with Putin on ending Ukraine war (2026-10-27 12:14)

Finland’s president and Norway’s prime minister held a “frank and substantive” discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday about efforts to end the war in Ukraine, the Nordic leaders said. “The outcome of this war will have a direct impact on our and the broader European security. Ending the war requires direct discussions,” President Alexander Stubb said in a joint statement with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store. The statement noted that the phone call had been “held in…

• China’s Defence Minister Dong Jun to miss Asean defence talks as fifth plenum convenes (2026-10-27 12:12)

China’s Defence Minister Dong Jun will skip this week’s meeting of Southeast Asian defence chiefs and their dialogue partners in Cebu, with Beijing instead sending its defence attache in the Philippines. Dong has attended the Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) for the past two years. This year’s ADMM and ADMM-Plus, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, coincide with a major Communist Party meeting known as the fifth plenum, which is running in Beijing from Monday to…

• Hong Kong beautician gets 4 years for selling friends to Myanmar scam hub (2026-10-27 12:04)

A Hong Kong beautician has been sentenced to four years in jail for tricking two friends into forced labour and confinement in Myanmar’s notorious “KK Park” scam farm, with a judge slamming her actions as “vicious and inhumane”. District Court Judge Adriana Noelle Tse Ching on Tuesday said the 33-year-old defendant, Poon Sum-yi, had premeditated the fraudulent scheme to lure the two victims into travelling to Thailand, before selling them to the Chinese-run scam compound in neighbouring Myanmar…

• Philippines’ bounty on ‘Bato’ dela Rosa exposes Marcos’ dilemma in Duterte feud (2026-10-27 12:00)

A 50-million-peso (US$780,000) bounty for information leading to the arrest of fugitive Philippine senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa has raised questions over the Marcos administration’s ability to enforce the law against high-profile political figures, with analysts warning the move risks making Manila appear weak and reactive. Dela Rosa, who served as national police chief under former president Rodrigo Duterte, faces an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for alleged crimes…

• US, Japan rehearse coordinated strikes to challenge PLA control of waters near Taiwan (2026-10-27 12:00)

US and Japanese forces have rehearsed coordinated anti-ship strikes and mobile missile deployments across Kyushu and Japan’s southwestern islands, testing tactics designed to

challenge Beijing’s ability to control surrounding waters in a conflict over Taiwan. Now in itssecond week, the 11-day Keen Sword 27 exercise has tested how the allies could threatenChinese warships from multiple directions while keeping their own forces harder to target. Theyhave also practised repairing runways and...

- China’s Hengrui posts 89% rise in third-quarter net profit, beating estimates (2026-10-27 11:30)

Jiangsu Hengrui Pharmaceuticals, one of China’s largest drug makers, reported a 20.55 per cent rise in third-quarter revenue to 8.95 billion yuan (US$1.34 billion), beating analyst estimates of 8.55 billion yuan amid stronger innovative drug sales. Net profit reached 2.46 billion yuan for the three months ended September 30, jumping 88.92 per cent year on year and exceeding the Bloomberg analyst consensus estimate of 2.38 billion yuan. Improving innovative drug sales and out-licensing revenue...

- Pop Mart reports 45 to 50% revenue decline as Labubu sales weaken across major markets (2026-10-27 11:00)

Pop Mart, the Chinese toymaker famous for Labubu collectible dolls, reported a 45 to 50 per cent year-on-year decline in third-quarter revenue, as sales weakened across its major markets, with overseas operations and online channels bearing the brunt of the slowdown. Revenue in mainland China fell 25 to 30 per cent in the third quarter from a year earlier, while revenue in Asia-Pacific markets outside mainland China and Oceania dropped 65 to 70 per cent, according to a business update filed to...

- ByteDance’s Zhang Yiming tops China rich list with US$99.7 billion as AI fuels fortunes (2026-10-27 11:00)

ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming has reclaimed the title of China’s richest person with a nearly US$100 billion fortune, as artificial intelligence powers a surge in wealth among China’s top entrepreneurs, according to the Hurun Research Institute. The 43-year-old Zhang, who topped the ranking in 2024, saw his wealth rise 43 per cent to US$99.7 billion – a record for China’s richest individual – as TikTok owner ByteDance aggressively expanded into AI, according to the 28th edition of the Hurun...

- Indian court orders documentary on Modi, tycoon Adani removed (2026-10-27 10:55)

A court in India has ordered the takedown of an online documentary posted by Hotmail co-founder Sabeer Bhatia accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire Gautam Adani of cronyism, after Adani Enterprises sued, calling it defamatory. Adani’s flagship firm, Adani Enterprises, told the High Court in the eastern city of Kolkata that the documentary, which garnered millions of views on social media in recent days, was riddled with false content and had prompted inquiries from some...

- Indonesia’s 4-nation defence pact: strategic coup or paper tiger? (2026-10-27 10:30)

Indonesia could gain critical defence technology, investment and export opportunities through a new multi-nation defence pact with Turkey, Qatar and Pakistan, but analysts warn its success hinges on turning high-level ambition into concrete projects. The four Muslim-majority nations signed the Badr Memorandum of Understanding in Doha on Wednesday. The agreement outlines a framework for defence “cooperation and integration” across joint research and development, training exchanges and industrial...

• US ends Pacific visa waiver over birth tourism, people smuggling allegations (2026-10-27 10:25)

Washington has suspended visa-free entry for Chinese visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands amid allegations of birth tourism and people smuggling in the US territory. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Monday the suspension of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Vitality and Security Travel Authorisation Programme. US Senator Mike Lee hailed the move on social media, calling the programme a “Biden-era loophole for Chinese birth tourism” and praising...

• Injured Hong Kong delivery rider seeks full trial on employment status question (2026-10-27 10:20)

A former Deliveroo rider who suffered severe brain injuries in a traffic accident has taken the platform to a Hong Kong court to seek compensation, arguing that resolving the legal question of his employment status at the time of the accident warrants a full trial. In the District Court on Tuesday, Deliveroo’s Hong Kong liquidator applied to strike out the lawsuit, contending that the injured worker, Lok Sze-chu, offered only a “bare assertion” to support his claim of being entitled to...

• Fire at Hong Kong’s first incinerator prompts calls to rethink waste strategy (2026-10-27 10:11)

The abrupt suspension of Hong Kong’s first waste incinerator after a fire is a stark warning against relying too heavily on the HK$31.3 billion (US$4 billion) plant, environmentalists have said, while a former lawmaker has urged the government to keep its landfill-free timetable on track. Monday’s blaze broke out on the roof of the third incineration module at the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1, or I·PARK1, on an artificial island off Shek Kwu Chau. More than 900 people were...

• Greenhouse gas levels hit record highs, climate impact will last centuries: UN (2026-10-27 10:08)

Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere rose to record highs in 2025, locking in climate impact that will persist for centuries to come, the United Nations said on Tuesday. Levels of the three main greenhouse gases – the climate-warming carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – all rose to unprecedented figures in 2025, the UN’s weather and climate agency said. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the rise would lead to more

long-term temperature increases for the...

• Football star Kylian Mbappe faces huge China backlash over ‘unacceptable’ remark (2026-10-27 10:00)

French football superstar Kylian Mbappe has been dropped by a string of major Chinese brands including the dairy giant Mengniu, amid intense backlash over an alleged offensive remark about China. “Mengniu firmly opposes and has zero tolerance for any words or actions that hurt the feelings of the Chinese people,” Mengniu said in a statement on Tuesday, as the firm announced it was immediately terminating “all partnerships” with Mbappe. On the same day, China’s energy-drinks giant Eastroc...

• China eatery creates egg tarts topped with ‘giant cockroaches’, drawing widespread curiosity (2026-10-27 10:00)

A restaurant in Shunde, Guangdong, is turning heads online with a bizarre new dessert: egg tarts topped with crispy water beetles that look exactly like gigantic cockroaches. Shunde is a city known for its Cantonese cuisine and recognised as a Unesco Creative City of Gastronomy. In early October, it introduced a new “water roach egg tart”, priced at 28 yuan (US$4) for three. Images of the dessert, with a large insect perched on each tart, quickly made it a social media sensation. However,...

• Air Force crash revives debate on Philippine military’s modernisation limits (2026-10-27 09:45)

The collision of two Philippine Air Force training aircraft that killed four pilots has raised questions about whether the service’s training, maintenance and safety systems can keep pace with Manila’s ambitions to acquire more advanced combat aircraft. The crash, which occurred during a fly-by rehearsal at Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas province, south of Manila, on Friday has renewed calls for a comprehensive review of the Air Force’s ageing fleet, pilot instruction, maintenance...

• Fragile India-China thaw tested by reported fresh Himalayan border face-offs (2026-10-27 09:25)

A fragile rapprochement between China and India is facing a renewed test following reports of military face-offs along the Asian neighbours’ hotly contested border. Last week, Shatrujeet Kapur, director general of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), said “confrontations with Chinese troops were continuing at multiple locations along the Arunachal Pradesh border”. “In the past few days, a situation arose where face-off[s] happened at several locations in Arunachal and it still continues,”...

• EU-China hybrid car deal won’t really help European carmakers (2026-10-27 08:30)

Earlier this month, simmering trade tensions between the EU and China ease as the two sides reached an agreement in Beijing limiting hybrid car exports from China to an annual quota of

350,000 units. After the European Union imposed tariffs on fully electric cars from China in2024, hybrid imports surged. The quota would result in more than a halving of the 800,000hybrid cars expected to be sold this year, a figure which may soon exceed a million ifunchecked. The quota would likely shift...

• Is China's H-6K strategic bomber getting powerful jamming capabilities? (2026-10-27 08:28)

A Chinese H-6K strategic bomber has been sighted with two new electronic warfare pods used for jamming, according to images circulating on social media, potentially indicating an expansion of the aircraft's capabilities. The photos – which have not been independently verified – emerged on Saturday and show an H6-K in flight with the pods on two of its six pylons. They appear to be similar to the RKZ930 pods carried by China's J-16D electronic warfare aircraft. The location and date of the photos...

• 1 in 6 Gen Z South Koreans took GLP-1 slimming drugs last year: survey (2026-10-27 08:07)

South Korea's embrace of GLP-1 weight-loss drugs appears particularly pronounced among younger adults, with roughly one in six Gen Z respondents reporting they had used or been prescribed the medication in 2025, according to a new report. The 2026 Korea Wellness Report, released by KB Financial Group on Sunday and cited by The Korea Times, surveyed 2,000 men and women aged 25 to 69 between July and August. Across all age brackets, the overall uptake stood at 10.3 per cent. Gen Z adults – defined...

• Indonesia's oxygen bus offers breather to residents choking on toxic haze (2026-10-27 07:32)

A bus fitted out with oxygen tanks is providing a sanctuary in a city on Indonesia's Borneo island, where people are choking from forest-fire-induced haze and the blazes show no sign of letting up. Indonesia regularly battles seasonal forest fires, predominantly on Sumatra and Borneo islands, but this year the infernos are the most intense in more than a decade. An intense El Nino weather phenomenon has driven up temperatures, leaving the country's vast forests and peatlands more vulnerable...

• MTR Corp reveals linked faults behind 2 disruptions at Lam Tin station in 15 hours (2026-10-27 07:24)

Two service disruptions at Lam Tin station within 15 hours earlier this month were linked, with a failed rubber insulating component causing an overloaded cable connection, the MTR Corporation has said. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council's transport panel on Tuesday, the rail operator said its preliminary investigation found that the component's failure caused a short circuit and fire in the first incident. This in turn led to an overloaded cable connection, which overheated and...

• Northern Metropolis university towns are being built to attract best talent: John Lee (2026-10-27 07:20)

Hong Kong's planned university towns in the Northern Metropolis are being designed to attract the world's finest students and scholars, the city's leader has said at a global education summit, as overseas institutions expressed interest but called for partnership incentives. Lawmakers have urged the government to increase the loan quota to help institutions meet their urgent need to raise funds for campus construction. Speaking at the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit on Tuesday,...

• Israelis vote in tense election testing Netanyahu's grip on power (2026-10-27 07:00)

Israelis are voting in a pivotal election Tuesday as their country is embroiled in unresolved wars, still reeling from Hamas' 2023 attack and deeply divided over the character of the state and the right person to lead it. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing off against an array of parties seeking to oust the long-time leader from power. Opinion polls have suggested a tight race with his main rival, former military chief Gadi Eisenkot. Over 7 million people are eligible to vote. In...

• South Korea's president urged to play Call of Duty as war wake-up call (2026-10-27 06:58)

South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung has been urged by critics to play the latest instalment in the blockbuster Call of Duty video game franchise to better appreciate the need for defences against an invasion by the North. The call from opposition lawmakers follows the release on Friday of Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4, a first-person shooter depicting a full-scale surprise attack by North Korea on the South. Players fight North Korean troops as Park Hyun-jun, a private in the South Korean...

• 10,000 Hong Kong homes left without water as burst pipe hits Shau Kei Wan again (2026-10-27 06:22)

More than 10,000 households in Hong Kong's Eastern District have been left without fresh water after a pipe burst in Shau Kei Wan – marking the area's second major outage in three months – forcing restaurants to close and sending residents queuing into the streets for emergency supplies. According to the Water Supplies Department, emergency repairs are under way, with fresh water supply expected to resume before midnight. A video circulating on social media on Tuesday shows water gushing from...

• Ceasefire brokered by Melania Trump begins in Russian-occupied Ukrainian town (2026-10-27 06:15)

A localised ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia took effect early Tuesday ahead of a humanitarian mission brokered by US first lady Melania Trump, as missile attacks resumed in Kyiv. The local pause in fighting started at 3am to allow an aid mission into the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky in southern Ukraine later this week. According to her office, Melania Trump led talks with civilian negotiators from Russia and Ukraine after meeting with

UN officials who briefed her on the situation in the...

• Fiji islanders brave rising seas to protect their ‘US$100 million views’ (2026-10-27 06:14)

As the sun sets over Fiji’s tiny Serua Island, its climate-threatened inhabitants soak in one of the reasons they have rejected attempts to relocate their village – the “US$100 million views”. The island looks like a utopia from the mainland, two steep palm-covered knolls sandwiching its low-lying centre, flanked by coral reefs and rich fishing grounds. But it is on the island itself that the risk from rising seas becomes clearer, with a concrete sea wall providing the only defence against waves...

• The price of romance: young Malaysian men borrow to fund dates, study finds (2026-10-27 06:08)

More than one in 10 Malaysian men have borrowed money to pay for dates, while nearly six in 10 usually pick up the entire bill, a survey has found. The findings come as rising living costs place a financial strain on romance in Malaysia, where money worries are increasingly complicating plans for marriage and starting a family. According to the Dating Expenditure Survey in Malaysia, released on Tuesday by independent policy research firm LEGASI Research, 13.2 per cent of male respondents...

• China trial shows gum tissue stem cells help 55% of lifetime diabetes patients (2026-10-27 06:00)

A randomised phase 1 clinical trial conducted by scientists and doctors from Shanghai and Guangzhou has achieved encouraging results in the treatment of Type 1 diabetes using stem cells extracted from the mouth’s gum tissue. More than half of those who received the treatment showed varying degrees of improvement, while one subject was able to discontinue exogenous insulin therapy completely, the researchers said. Results of the study, which tested a therapy based on gingival mesenchymal stem...

• Jordan strikes targets in Syria after deadly church attack (2026-10-27 05:22)

Jordan said on Monday its air force struck what it described as militant hideouts in southern Syria after determining that the suspects behind last week’s deadly church attack in the kingdom were linked to “terrorist groups” operating there. The armed forces said the operation was conducted in coordination with Damascus. Syria’s government gave a contradictory account, saying it had launched an investigation into the Jordanian attacks, and stressed in a statement the importance of field and...

• ‘Disgusting monster’: Meghan Markle’s dad slammed by son amid Philippine police probe (2026-10-27 05:11)

The estranged half-brother of Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, has called their father a “disgusting monster” after handing over a trove of alleged child abuse material belonging to their shared parent to police in the Philippines. The four boxes containing mobile phones,

computer equipment and other personal belongings were handed over to the PhilippineNational Police's Women and Children Protection Centre last week by Thomas Markle Jnr, whowas previously his father's full-time carer. Markle...

• 2,000 customers of Hong Kong Airlines, 2 appliance shops, get scam calls after data breach (2026-10-27 04:48)

Almost 2,000 customers of Hong Kong Airlines and two electronic appliance retailers received fraudulent calls after their personal information was leaked by the companies, the city's privacy watchdog has found. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) said on Monday that it had received more than 40 inquiries and complaints linked to the suspected data leaks involving Hong Kong Airlines and the electronic appliance retailers Yoho and Broadway. "We have initiated an...

• Why paper straws are worse than plastic; Japan's 'silver divorce' rise: 7 Asia highlights (2026-10-27 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. Filipinos split on Marcos' sea handling amid row over Chinese envoy's remarks Filipinos are almost evenly divided over the Marcos administration's handling of the maritime dispute with China, even as nearly three in four favour diplomacy over confrontation, according to...

• HSBC shares drop 5% despite strong third-quarter profit, US$1b share buy-back (2026-10-27 04:27)

Shares of HSBC dropped 5 per cent on Tuesday even as Hong Kong's biggest lender reported a 32 per cent rise in third quarter pre-tax profits and announced a new round of share buy-backs worth US$1 billion. The bank said its third quarter pre-tax profit increased to US$9.6 billion, in-line with US$9.7 billion estimated by analysts, compared with US$7.3 billion a year earlier. The buy-back amount for the third quarter was in line with analysts' estimates. The bank will also pay a quarterly...

• South Korean drama 'Doctor X' triggers fresh row over Gwangju Uprising depiction (2026-10-27 04:02)

South Korean medical drama Doctor X: Mafia in White has become the latest target of political controversy over how fictional works portray history, after a National Assembly petition demanded a halt to its airing over its depiction of the 1980 Gwangju Uprising. The petition, posted on Saturday on the National Assembly's petition website, calls for a review of the drama's production and a halt to its broadcast. It has gathered the 100 supporters required to be made public. The petitioner said...

• Chinese scientists create powerful catalyst to turn air on Mars into rocket fuel (2026-10-27 04:00)

Chinese space scientists are working out how future astronauts on Mars could make their own fuel out of thin air, a sign that Beijing is serious about one day sending people to the red planet. A team at the state-funded Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in Hefei has developed a catalyst that turns carbon dioxide – which makes up more than 95 per cent of the Martian atmosphere – into a liquid fuel called methanol. “Methanol can serve as fuel to generate electricity, provide heating and power Mars...

• Princess Anne begins her official visit to Hong Kong in 1971 – from the SCMP archive (2026-10-27 03:30)

This article was first published on October 27, 1971. Hongkong’s royal welcome for Princess Anne Princess Anne, radiant in a stylish knee-length beige suit and a matching wide-brimmed hat, flew in yesterday (October 26, 1971) to a warm welcome from the people of Hong Kong. She begins her official visits today (October 27, 1971) – a public holiday – when thousands of people will be able to see her during her calls at places like the Tung Wah Hospital, the Po Leung Kuk and the ancient Man Mo...

• ZTE up 7% after AI pivot, computing surge drive fivefold increase in third quarter profit (2026-10-27 03:17)

Shares in ZTE rose as much as 7 per cent in Hong Kong on Tuesday morning after the Chinese telecommunications equipment maker posted a nearly fivefold jump in third-quarter profit, driven by rapid expansion in its computing infrastructure and overseas operations. Net profit attributable to shareholders reached 1.31 billion yuan (US$196.3 million) for the three months ended September 30, up 395 per cent from a year earlier, according to an exchange filing released on Monday evening. Revenue...

• Myanmar refugee in Denmark demands justice over junta war crimes (2026-10-27 03:03)

A Myanmar citizen living in Denmark on Monday filed a complaint with Danish authorities against the country’s ruling military junta for alleged war crimes committed against minorities. The complainant, Ngun Siang Dim, who is from the Chin minority, claims she saw 40 houses burn down in her village in Chin State, in western Myanmar, and that several members of her family and friends were killed or left permanently disabled by landmines laid by the junta. The military junta “has done so many...

• Why are Turkey, Pakistan, Qatar and Indonesia joining forces? (2026-10-27 02:23)

A decision by Turkey, Pakistan, Qatar and Indonesia to jointly develop and produce weapons systems marks a major push to reduce reliance on Western armaments that come with political strings attached, observers say. Following the signing of the Badr memorandum of understanding in Doha on Wednesday, the four governments separately said they would work towards integrating their defence industries and supply chains to meet military needs. “By

leveraging the capabilities of each country in the field...

• AI boy avatars go viral in China, using sob stories to trick elderly out of money (2026-10-27 02:00)

AI-generated “sob-story boys” have recently taken Chinese short-video platforms by storm, allegedly using emotional manipulation to cheat elderly viewers out of their savings. Known collectively as “Xiaohai”, these digital avatars typically appear as teenage boys in school uniforms or plain white shirts, tearfully describing their poverty-stricken lives on camera. In one video, a Xiaohai avatar holds a steamed bun and laments to viewers, whom he addresses as “aunties and mothers”: “All my...

• Hong Kong wants to be a regional hub for Halloween. Why not? (2026-10-27 01:30)

Hong Kong’s determination to become a hub for everything – innovation, finance, trade, culture and sport – appears to know no bounds. Now, Halloween has been added to the list. The city is aiming to become Asia’s premier destination for the annual spookfest. Of all the regional hubs Hong Kong wishes to become, this is one of the more unlikely. But with Beijing urging the city to ensure “tourism is everywhere” and draw ever more visitors, Halloween, falling between the National Day “golden week”...

• Australia to host USS Colorado as first US nuclear submarine under Aukus pact (2026-10-27 01:25)

The Pentagon has assigned the USS Colorado as the first US nuclear-powered attack submarine to join a rotating force to be based in Western Australia. The 115-metre (380-foot) Virginia-class submarine, armed with land-attack missiles and sophisticated torpedoes, would sail to the new Australian base in late 2027, officials said on Tuesday. The deployment was a “significant milestone” in building up a joint US-Australia-UK deterrence in the Pacific under their Aukus defence pact, the allies said...

• Taiwan looks to autonomous swarms to counter Beijing’s grey-zone pressure (2026-10-27 01:00)

Taiwan is developing an AI-powered system to coordinate drone fleets for maritime surveillance and countering “grey-zone” activities, with researchers completing a simulation involving 20 aircraft, according to the island’s Ocean Affairs Council. The system, which is funded by the council, would allow different types of drones to autonomously divide tasks, plan routes and coordinate their movements while providing wide-area, persistent surveillance for coastguard operations. The council said on...

• Can Hong Kong deliver in trying to build its yuan credentials? (2026-10-27 00:30)

In September, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu unveiled the city’s first five-year plan along with his policy address, highlighting Hong Kong’s strategic role in promoting the greater use of the yuan outside mainland China as a key priority. In the first of a four-part series on the

internationalisation of the yuan, Lam Ka-sing and Denise Tsang examine Hong Kong's effortsas an international financial centre to reform its market infrastructure, including building alarger offshore renminbi...

• Southeast Asia's housing paradox: too many homes, too few buyers (2026-10-27 00:00)

In parts of Southeast Asia, unsold homes are piling up as developers struggle to clear housing stock – yet young buyers hoping to land their first property still cannot find an affordable home. The paradox reflects a growing mismatch between the homes being built and what aspiring buyers can afford, according to analysts, who point to speculative investment, financing hurdles and poor locations as factors leaving properties empty even amid demand for affordable housing. In Vietnam, the problem...

• What message is China sending with latest footage of 'no-notice' DF rocket drill? (2026-10-27 00:00)

China has released footage of its troops carrying out a "no-notice" rocket launch as part of an ongoing effort by state media to showcase the People's Liberation Army's rapid-response capabilities. State broadcaster CCTV on Monday released a brief video showing the exercise in mountainous terrain and said it had been carried out with no advance notice given to the troops involved. No other details were provided. The footage – which is believed to show a missile from the Dongfeng (east wind)...

• China grants permits to VW joint venture, Xpeng as autonomous driving race intensifies (2026-10-27 00:00)

China has granted new autonomous-driving permission to electric vehicle (EV) maker Xpeng and a mainland joint venture of Volkswagen, intensifying the commercialisation race between China's autonomous driving firms and US company Tesla. Xpeng would now be allowed to conduct "demonstration operations" of its Yoyo driverless taxis in the capital city of southern China's Guangdong province under a licence officially granted recently, the company said on social media on Monday. The licence, which...

• Evening sessions urged as fraud, money-laundering cases pack Hong Kong courts (2026-10-26 23:00)

The long wait for criminal cases to be heard in Hong Kong's courts could persist because of a surge in fraud and money laundering litigation, the judiciary has warned, as the Law Society suggested extending sitting hours into the evening. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council's panel on administration of justice and legal services, the judiciary said that the total caseload in 2025 reached about 537,000, around 4 per cent higher than the annual average over the previous five years. As...

• How Shimao's sale of 2 hotels reveals the growing complexity of Hong Kong debt workouts (2026-10-26 23:00)

The HK$2.7 billion (US$344 million) sale of two Shimao Group hotels in Hong Kong leaves an estimated HK$1.8 billion shortfall against their secured loans. Still, receivers managed to squeeze out improved bids in the final stages, with all shortlisted parties improving their offers, said Una Ge, a managing director at AlixPartners who oversaw the sale as a joint receiver. The deal offers a glimpse into how mainland China's developer debt crisis is reshaping Hong Kong's restructuring industry,...

• Netanyahu touts Trump endorsement on eve of vote, suggests they may restart war on Iran (2026-10-26 22:29)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted of his endorsement from Donald Trump on the eve of Israel's election, suggesting the two leaders could restart their war against Iran if he wins, after Trump said they should "finish the job". "US President Donald Trump has come with a friendship that has never existed before between an Israeli prime minister and an American president. And it is doubtful we will ever have such a friendly president again," Netanyahu said in a televised appearance...

• US rapper Macklemore launches Free Palestine Tour in Ireland after Ed Sheeran rift (2026-10-26 22:00)

US rapper Macklemore on Monday launched his new "Free Palestine Tour" in Dublin after being dropped as a supporting act by British pop star Ed Sheeran over pro-Palestinian comments. Standing in queues outside the venue for the first show in the Irish capital, which promoters said had sold out, excited fans praised the 43-year-old's stance. "Macklemore's support for Palestine is huge. He's stood up and he's put himself on the line instead of taking the easy way out," said Michael Keating, a...

• Brazil's Flavio Bolsonaro says he will lead opposition to Lula government (2026-10-26 21:34)

Flavio Bolsonaro said on Monday he would lead the opposition to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's government, one day after he refused to concede electoral defeat to the incumbent. "To withstand the chaos, I'm going to organise the opposition," the right-wing senator and son of ex-leader Jair Bolsonaro said. Flavio received 48.2 per cent of the vote compared with 51.8 per cent for incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Also on Monday, Flavio said a Supreme Court justice had banned...

• How Hong Kong's 5-year plan can fuel its financial clout (2026-10-26 21:30)

Finance ministers from 21 Asia-Pacific economies recently met in Hong Kong, the first time the city has hosted them. A practical question sits one level down. Picture the treasury team of a company running its regional business from Hong Kong. It arranges funding in several currencies, pays across markets and manages the risks that follow. Its question is: how can Hong Kong's services help it operate more efficiently and at lower cost? Those needs are a practical lens for reading the five-year...

• European levy on non-EU parcels kicks in on Sunday in bid to curb China influx (2026-10-26 20:39)

The European Union will from Sunday slap a €2 (US$2.25) handling fee on packages from outside the 27-nation bloc in a bid to curb the influx from China. The new levy – coming just weeks before the Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Christmas season shopping rushes – will be on top of the EU's €3 fee on small parcels. The fee will apply to each type of item in a package sent directly to consumers from outside the EU regardless of the parcel's value. For example, if there are 10 T-shirts in a package,...

• Mecca pact countries in Iran in bid to stop war restarting (2026-10-26 19:47)

Senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan held talks with Iran in Tehran on Monday in an attempt to stop the Middle East war from reigniting. Officials from the three Mecca pact countries flew to Iran as part of efforts to "de-escalate between the parties to the current crisis", a Saudi foreign ministry statement said. The talks, which included heavyweight Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, followed warnings by the United States, Iran and Israel that hostilities could...

• Burnham rules out UK return to EU free movement without referendum (2026-10-26 19:16)

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has said he would not return the UK to EU freedom of movement rules without a referendum, after ruling out the prospect of Britain rejoining the bloc within this parliamentary term. It comes after his call at the weekend for an "honest discussion" about a return to freedom of movement fuelled questions about the parameters around his vision for a deepening relationship with Brussels. The prime minister was asked on Monday morning if he would allow the UK to...

• 6 US citizens sue Trump, saying media ban deprives them of news as audience stakeholders (2026-10-26 18:56)

In the increasingly bitter legal stand-off between US President Donald Trump and media outlets whose reporting he dislikes, a new and crucial third party has emerged: citizens who watch and read the news and need it to do their jobs. A lawsuit filed on Monday on behalf of six such citizens – effectively representing the audiences for the news media – argues that it is not only the rights of news organisations that are violated when Trump bans them from White House premises. Even more...

• Ebola patient evacuated from Nigeria to Switzerland (2026-10-26 18:21)

A woman infected with the Ebola virus and her husband, a Swiss diplomat, were flown from Nigeria to hospitals in Switzerland on Monday, Swiss authorities said. The Ugandan-born wife of the diplomat, based in Abuja, was being treated at Geneva University Hospitals for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, which has caused an outbreak that started in Democratic Republic

of Congo. Her husband, considered a close contact, was in isolation at University HospitalZurich, the Swiss Federal Office of...

• Daughter of ex-FBI director Comey was unlawfully fired as federal prosecutor, judge rules (2026-10-26 17:58)

Maurene Comey, the daughter of former FBI Director James Comey, was unlawfully fired from her job as a federal prosecutor in New York last year, a federal judge ruled on Monday. Judge Jesse M Furman said Comey, who was an assistant US attorney for a decade, was illegally fired in July 2025 despite her work on some of the nation's highest-profile cases and consistently receiving "the highest accolades from supervisors and peers alike". After her firing, Comey sued the Justice Department and...

• Walter Koenig, Star Trek's original Pavel Chekov, dies at 90 (2026-10-26 17:25)

Actor Walter Koenig, who played Ensign Pavel Chekov, the youthful Russian navigator on the Star Trek television series and several films, has died. He was 90. Koenig died on Monday at his home in the North Hollywood neighbourhood of Los Angeles, talent agent Zachery McGinnis said in a statement. In Star Trek, Ensign Chekov was the sole Communist-bloc member of the spaceship Enterprise bridge staff. His friendly, supportive presence showed how the rival nations (in the far-off future in which the...

• Thousands of observers expected at polling places to monitor the vote on US election day (2026-10-26 16:59)

Democrats and outside watchdogs are planning a massive presence at the polls on US election day driven by concerns that US President Donald Trump will further leverage the vast resources of the federal government to interfere with a midterm that could hobble his final two years in office. They will not be the only ones there. A sprawling election protection effort on the left that is expected to deploy tens of thousands of monitors will be met by the largest-ever monitoring programme by the...

• Hong Kong to overhaul traffic management at Huanggang Port after weekend gridlock (2026-10-26 15:02)

Hong Kong authorities have announced plans to step up traffic management at the revamped Huanggang Port to prevent a repeat of last weekend's congestion caused by Halloween and concert crowds. A government spokesman said on Monday night that police would further strengthen road traffic control and management near the crossing. "Depending on traffic flow, they will implement contingency plans and open vehicle buffer zones as needed to effectively channel cross-boundary buses, private cars, and...

• Hong Kong's South China Morning Post shines at Asian Media Awards with 6 prizes (2026-10-26 15:02)

The South China Morning Post has won six prizes at the World Association of News Publishers' (Wan-Ifra) prestigious Asian Media Awards 2026 in Singapore, including a clean sweep for best news photography. The SCMP emerged as a big winner on Wednesday with five gold and one silver for its photojournalism, infographics, design and offerings for young readers. In the best news photography category, senior photographer Sam Tsang's image of a man whose wife was trapped in last November's Tai Po fire...

• Win for Lula boosts China's foothold and gives Brazil rare earths leverage (2026-10-26 14:36)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's re-election preserves Beijing's most critical foothold in Latin America, while positioning Brasilia to leverage the US-China rivalry over its vast rare earth reserves without picking sides. Lula, 80, secured an unprecedented fourth term on Sunday after winning 51.8 per cent of the run-off vote to defeat right-wing rival Flavio Bolsonaro. The son of jailed former president Jair Bolsonaro and Trump ally has, however, refused to concede. Beijing...

• Abby Choi's ex-husband used socialite's money to live lavishly on mainland: court (2026-10-26 14:19)

Slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung's ex-husband lived an affluent lifestyle in mainland China allegedly funded by the model's money and borrowed a car used to move equipment involved in her killing, a court has heard. The High Court heard on Monday that Alex Kwong Kong-chi used his former partner's digital wallets to cover his expenses in Guangzhou while evading justice for his role in a HK$6.3 million theft case in 2015. The 31-year-old is standing trial alongside his father, Kwong...

• Hong Kong proposes more homes, less office space at Hung Hom harbourfront (2026-10-26 14:04)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed raising the residential share of a Hung Hom harbourfront development to more than 60 per cent by cutting commercial floor space, citing "strong doubts" over market demand for offices. The Development Bureau, which submitted the latest proposal to the Legislative Council's development panel on Monday, also suggested reallocating residential space from initially planned seaside sites to inland plots near Hung Hom station and Polytechnic University. The move aims...

• Anthropic's IPO filing shows explosive growth, risks and staggering costs (2026-10-26 13:53)

Anthropic disclosed steep losses and explosive revenue growth on Monday as the Claude parent moved closer to a potentially record-breaking IPO, betting on AI's ability to reshape the global economy. The listing is shaping up to be a major test of appetite for AI from investors who are increasingly scrutinising the returns on billions of dollars of investments and questioning the sustainability of sky-high valuations. "Anthropic's IPO will certainly establish

a benchmark for valuing leading AI...

• France's Macron promises 'strong measures' to ease protests (2026-10-26 13:33)

French President Emmanuel Macron promised on Monday that his government would announce a package of measures in response to weeks of street protests over a broad set of grievances, while acknowledging the risk of more unrest ahead. His prime minister, Sebastien Lecornu, is set to hold a news conference after a meeting with unions of high school students who want more resources for the education sector and an overhaul of a university admissions process they say embeds inequalities. "I have ⋯...

• Chinese biotech giant WuXi AppTec raises 2026 outlook after profit surge (2026-10-26 13:04)

WuXi AppTec raised its full-year revenue guidance after its net profit surged 62.4 per cent in the first nine months of 2026, while revenue rose 38.6 per cent on strong demand for its drug development and manufacturing services. The Chinese pharmaceutical research services provider's net profit reached 19.16 billion yuan (US$2.87 billion) for the nine months ended September 30, compared with 11.80 billion yuan a year earlier, a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange showed. Its revenue rose to...

• Jordan arrests 3 relatives over deadly church attack after shoot-out (2026-10-26 13:02)

Jordanian security forces arrested two brothers and their brother-in-law after a shoot-out on Monday over a church attack that killed nine people, and the suspects appear to have no ties to other cells, senior government security officials said. "God willing, they only represent themselves," Jordan's Director of Public Security, Major-General Obeidallah al-Maaytah, said. Such violence is highly unusual in Jordan, a relatively stable US ally in the Middle East, and Friday's attack on the...

• China's next-generation KJ-3000 radar planes may have quietly entered production (2026-10-26 13:00)

China may have begun limited production of its next-generation KJ-3000 airborne early warning aircraft, with satellite imagery suggesting that three possible production examples were already parked at a factory as early as April, according to an imagery analyst. If brought into service, the aircraft could help the People's Liberation Army to detect threats, track targets and coordinate air operations across the western Pacific, including during a potential conflict over Taiwan involving US and...

• US singer Chris Brown avoids jail after guilty plea in UK nightclub incident (2026-10-26 12:48)

US singer Chris Brown was spared an immediate prison sentence in Britain on Monday for attacking a producer with a tequila bottle in a London nightclub in 2023, with his fans cheering as the musician walked free from court. Brown, 37, was given an eight-month suspended

sentence at London’s Southwark Crown Court after he admitted a charge of affray over theattack on Abraham Diaw at the Tape nightclub in February 2023. Diaw was hit twice in the headwith a bottle, which was then swung twice...

• Singaporean woman admits conspiring to abuse Megan Khung, helping dispose of her body (2026-10-26 12:40)

A Singaporean woman pleaded guilty on Monday to conspiring with a friend and the friend’s boyfriend to abuse four-year-old Megan Khung, and helping to dispose of the child’s body after she died following months of abuse. Nouvelle Chua Ruoshi, 36, pleaded guilty to three charges, including conspiracy to commit child abuse, intentional disposal of a corpse and methamphetamine consumption, The Straits Times reported. Three further charges for conspiracy to commit child abuse will be considered when...

• Europe can still shape the rules of AI (2026-10-26 12:30)

In October, two technology executives offered Europe similar advice. In Turin, Alibaba Group Holding chairman Joe Tsai urged European companies to use open-source models and their proprietary industrial data to build AI capabilities. In Berlin, Nvidia chief Jensen Huang pressed German manufacturers to apply AI to factories, robotics and other physical industries. Both see opportunity in Europe’s engineering strengths, while their companies stand to benefit from supplying the technology. Recent...

• Death of former PM Yasuo Fukuda leaves void in fraught China-Japan relations (2026-10-26 12:20)

Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, who championed closer ties with China during his brief tenure and later served as a crucial diplomatic intermediary during bilateral crises, has died at the age of 90. Fukuda died of heart failure on Thursday at a Tokyo hospital, Japanese media reported on Monday. His passing comes as the relationship he spent decades nurturing faces its gravest test since diplomatic normalisation in 1972. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun offered...

• 14 Hong Kong civil servants sue colleague over HK$28.9 million Mark Six winnings (2026-10-26 12:00)

A Hong Kong civil servant has been sued by 14 colleagues for HK$28.9 million (US$3.7 million) in lottery winnings after he allegedly refused to split a winning Mark Six jackpot. Health inspector Ling Chun-ting allegedly told his colleagues at the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) that they did not deserve a share of the HK$33 million prize on September 5 because they did not buy the tickets, according to a High Court writ seen by the South China Morning Post on Monday. The...

• Two workers dangle more than 30 storeys up after Jardine House gondola fault (2026-10-26 11:59)

Firefighters raced to rescue two workers left dangling on safety harnesses more than 30 storeys above ground outside a skyscraper in Hong Kong's Central district on Monday evening after their suspended working platform apparently malfunctioned and dropped. The incident occurred at about 6.16pm at Jardine House on Connaught Road Central, where the two workers were carrying out external maintenance work from a gondola. One of the workers was left dangling for nearly 1½ hours before being rescued...

• Climate damage to Philippine ports could cost US$70b a year by 2100 (2026-10-26 11:46)

The Philippines faces the highest climate-driven port damage costs in Southeast Asia, with annual losses projected to hit US$70.2 billion by 2100, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has warned. Analysts say the damage could cripple supply chains, drive up food prices and threaten livelihoods, urging Manila to adopt a more coordinated approach to flood protection rather than simply strengthening port infrastructure. In its latest report titled "Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2026: Coastal Risks on the...

• Pentagon chief Hegseth to visit Philippines to meet US allies at Asean events (2026-10-26 11:03)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth will travel to the Philippines this week to meet regional allies, the Pentagon announced on Sunday. The visit comes amid a push by Washington to tighten security ties in the Indo-Pacific ahead of an expected meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in southern China. Hegseth, a former Fox News host, has faced criticism from Democrats and some Republicans over his handling of the war against Iran, as well as concerns that the conflict could divert...

• How will Hong Kong's 'cardboard grannies' survive as prices drop after new policy? (2026-10-26 11:00)

The idea of collecting cardboard boxes and used paper in exchange for a few pennies was never something Kuang Su-ling thought she would have to do for a living. It is a laborious occupation that involves working long hours and travelling inconvenient distances, often in difficult outdoor conditions. But Kuang became a waste paper scavenger after she was diagnosed with diabetic eye disease seven years ago and lost her job as a cleaner. "I could not find any other work and I needed money to cover...

• Indonesia defends Singapore gas cuts, cites rising domestic needs and contractual limits (2026-10-26 10:44)

Indonesia has defended its decision to cut natural gas exports to Singapore, citing domestic electricity and industrial needs and arguing that the reduction remains within contractual limits. The cuts came days after Indonesia's energy minister warned that his country could stop exports to nations that "did not respect" it. On Monday, Energy Minister Bahlil Lahadalia defended the reduction of 31 million standard cubic feet per day in pipeline gas exports to Singapore, saying it represented about...

• Why China’s new estimate on Greenland ice loss speed is 55% lower than America’s (2026-10-26 10:19)

Chinese researchers have created a new model to convert satellite surface elevation data for the Greenland Ice Sheet into a detailed estimate of how much ice it has lost in recent decades. Using satellite altimetry data covering 2002 to 2023, they found that the ice sheet lost an average of about 120 gigatonnes (264.5 trillion lbs) of mass per year. This figure is considerably lower than the widely cited figure reached by Nasa, which previously estimated Greenland’s annual loss to be nearly 270...

• In a global first, Hong Kong opens secondary trading for tokenised public funds (2026-10-26 10:01)

The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) on Monday approved the world’s first-ever secondary trading of tokenised public funds, reinforcing the city’s push to build the region’s leading ecosystem for tokenised finance. Investors can now trade two tokenised money market funds – the Hong Kong dollar and US dollar versions of the ChinaAMC Digital Money Market Fund – on an SFC-licensed virtual asset trading platform (VATP). “For retail investors, this marks a vital upgrade in time...

• Why China’s heritage-listed Dog-Carrying Festival honours canines as sacred lifesavers (2026-10-26 10:00)

In a remote Miao village in southwestern China, dogs are honoured as life-saving heroes. Every seventh month of the lunar calendar, residents of Jiaobang village in Jianhe county, Guizhou province, celebrate Tai Gou Jie, or the “Dog-Carrying Festival” – a unique folk tradition recognised as local intangible cultural heritage in 2015. During the festival, villagers select a dog. Traditionally, it was a white female, but today adult males and native Xiasi dogs may also be chosen. The honoured...

• Kweichow Moutai Becomes Premier Partner of the Hong Kong Open 2026, Deepening Its Global Presence (2026-10-26 09:50)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] In golf, you must hitFrom the Chishui River to the Golf Course Reframing Moutai’s Brand Narrative For Moutai, waiting is not a metaphor, but part of the craft itself. Its production takes one year and eight months, followed by three years of storage, then blending and stabilization; from the start of production to release takes at least five years. Through years of maturation, its initial sharpness gradually gives way to...

• The Weeknd’s ‘Hong Kong’ captures nostalgia for bygone era, video director says (2026-10-26 09:12)

A new viral song by Canadian singer The Weeknd, “Hong Kong”, is a love letter to the city, the director of the accompanying video has said, adding that he believes nostalgia for the late 1980s

and early 1990s era is the secret ingredient that has captured the hearts of many. US directorEvan Larsen told the South China Morning Post exclusively on Monday that the video wasproduced in about a week, shortly before its debut at the singer’s concert at Kai Tak Stadiumon Saturday as part of his 2026...

• Lula secures surprise win to retain Brazil presidency (2026-10-26 09:07)

Brazilian leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva staged a surprise comeback to secure a fourth term in office, extending a presidency that has overseen deepening ties with China and sporadic clashes with the United States. With almost all of the ballots in Sunday’s presidential run-off counted, Lula led with 51.8 per cent of the votes to 48.2 per cent for Senator Flavio Bolsonaro. The 80-year-old left-winger is the first person to win the presidency after losing the first round of voting since Brazil...

• AI chip surge lifts South Korea to record surplus, behind only China (2026-10-26 08:39)

South Korea earned US$116.63 billion more from the world than it spent in the second quarter of this year – exceeding the combined current account surpluses of Germany and Japan for the first time on record. The current account measures a country’s trade and income with the world. It counts goods and services sold abroad, money earned on overseas investments and payments flowing the other way. A surplus means more foreign currency is coming in than going out. Surging demand for semiconductors...

• China may well be the next big competitor for Asian migrant labour (2026-10-26 08:30)

For decades, China was one of the world’s largest sources of migrant labour. Its workers staffed factories at home and built infrastructure abroad. But demographic decline may eventually force China to contemplate a striking reversal: importing workers on a meaningful scale. That change is not imminent. China still has a vast labour force and substantial youth unemployment. It is investing heavily in industrial automation, extending working lives through a gradual increase in the retirement age,...

• What Hongkongers need to know about the latest changes to the MPF scheme (2026-10-26 08:28)

Hong Kong employees will have better control over the management of their compulsory retirement savings under the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) starting from December 21. The new “full portability” mechanism comes after another major change in 2024, when the authority launched the eMPF platform, a centralised electronic platform to standardise, streamline and automate the administrative processes of the MPF scheme, marking the start of the MPF digital era. The South China Morning Post looks at...

• ‘Fed up’ Malaysian sultan rebukes scandal-hit pilgrimage fund, demands accountability (2026-10-26 08:28)

A Malaysian ruler is demanding accountability over the mismanagement of a pilgrimage fund, after a government rescue package, criminal proceedings against former officials and half-hearted reforms have fuelled concerns about political influence in an institution entrusted with the savings of millions of the country's Muslims. Tabung Haji holds the savings of more than 9.8 million depositors and helps Malaysian Muslims finance and undertake the pilgrimage to Mecca, a religious obligation for...

• Could new US investment curbs complicate China's biotech licensing surge? (2026-10-26 08:00)

Chinese biotech firms face fresh headwinds in their global expansion as Washington's proposed outbound investment restrictions threaten to disrupt deal structures, even though drug licensing agreements remain untouched for now, analysts say. The US Treasury Department's draft rules released last week would "make it much harder for Chinese biotech firms to attract direct US investment or enter joint ventures", according to David Zhang, an analyst at policy research firm Trivium China. US Treasury...

• Chinese video AI models beat US rivals in visual quality, but lag on safeguards: HKU study (2026-10-26 08:00)

Chinese AI video-generation models have surpassed leading US rivals in visual quality, but several fall behind in safety precautions, according to researchers at the University of Hong Kong. ByteDance's Seedance 2.0 Pro took top spot in a ranking of 12 leading artificial intelligence video-generation models, scoring 3.84 out of 5 for visual quality. It outperformed Google DeepMind's Veo 3.1, which scored 3.47, and OpenAI's Sora 2 Pro, on 3.27, in a study led by Zhenhui Jack Jiang, professor of...

• In Australia, Sydney's second airport blows some passengers off course (2026-10-26 07:40)

Sydney's new multibillion-dollar airport has already confused some travellers, with passengers mistaking the new facility for the Australian city's existing airport and even booking flights to the wrong side of the country. Western Sydney International Airport, which opened at the weekend after decades of planning, is about 60km (37 miles) from the city centre, compared with just 8km for the existing Kingsford Smith Airport. The new airport operates around the clock, while most passenger flights...

• 930 evacuated, 1 injured as fire breaks out at Hong Kong waste-to-energy plant (2026-10-26 07:18)

A fire broke out on Monday at Hong Kong's waste-to-energy incinerator on an artificial island off Shek Kwu Chau, prompting about 1,000 people to evacuate and leaving one staff member unwell because of the heat. The blaze started at 12.43pm at the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase I and was upgraded to a No 3 alarm at 1.24pm, according to the Fire Services Department. A No 3 alarm is the third of five levels, with five the most severe; higher alarm

levels trigger the deployment of more...

• Discovery of baby orangutans in India exposes booming illegal pet trade (2026-10-26 07:06)

The villagers who first spotted the five baby orangutans in a casuarina forest in India in early September were puzzled by their reddish hair and unfamiliar faces. The three males and two females, aged six to eight months – were left on a plantation in eastern India's Odisha, over 2,700km (1,700 miles) from their native rainforests in Borneo and Sumatra, evidence of a growing illicit trade of apes being trafficked into India. They are now at an Indian zoo, where keepers reportedly have been...

• Top bankers to gather in Hong Kong to learn how city has rethought 'playbook' (2026-10-26 07:00)

Around 280 of the world's top bankers, including 120 group chairmen and CEOs, will gather in Hong Kong next week to learn how the city has been rethinking its playbook as they move forward, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) chief executive Eddie Yue Wai-man said on Monday. The financial luminaries, including Morgan Stanley chairman Ted Pick, Goldman Sachs chairman David Solomon and Blackstone president and COO John Gray, will attend the fifth edition of the city's Global Financial Leaders' ...

• South Korea urged to guard chip profitability as China's CXMT and YMTC gain market share (2026-10-26 07:00)

China's expanding semiconductor industry is fuelling anxiety in South Korea, where a new report from PwC has warned local chipmakers to defend profitability as Chinese rivals scale up production and strengthen market share. Samil PwC, the South Korean member firm of the global consultancy, said in a report made public on Monday that Chinese competition would likely heat up first in the areas of conventional memory, mature-node manufacturing, and packaging and testing. To stay ahead, Samil PwC...

• Suspected murder of man at Malaysian underground gig raises safety concerns (2026-10-26 06:53)

The death of a 21-year-old delivery rider at an underground gig in Malaysia, now being investigated as murder, has highlighted concerns over crowd safety and regulatory flaws in the country's independent live music scene, industry players say. Police reclassified the case on Sunday, four days after the man died from head injuries sustained at the gig in the southern state of Melaka, where the event was reportedly held without the necessary permits and local authority approval. The...

• Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, known for seeking China ties, dies at 90 (2026-10-26 06:37)

Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, who used his brief period in office to seek closer ties with Asian neighbours, particularly China, has died at the age of 90, according to the Nikkei business daily on Monday. The Japanese politician, the first son of a prime minister to become one himself, died on Thursday from heart failure, the Nikkei reported. Following news of his death, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi expressed “deep sorrow” when speaking to reporters in Tokyo, praising him as...

- Hong Kong positioned as green gateway for belt and road firms: John Lee (2026-10-26 06:28)

Hong Kong is well-positioned to help companies deploy green services and technologies across belt and road countries, the city’s leader and a mainland Chinese official have said, with authorities noting that at least five firms have already signed up for a new initiative to promote green solutions overseas. Both officials made the remarks at the Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference, which opened in Hong Kong on Monday. It is the first time the event has been held outside the mainland, as...

- China’s Communist Party opens fifth plenum with focus on discipline and loyalty to Xi (2026-10-26 06:18)

The Communist Party has started a key four-day conclave focused on party discipline and fighting corruption, as official media outlets say adherence to the party’s leadership under President Xi Jinping is key to the country’s success. The meeting – the fifth plenum of the Communist Party’s 20th Central Committee – began in Beijing on Monday, according to state news agency Xinhua. It said the main agenda for the plenum included a work report by the Politburo to the Central Committee and the...

- Cooler than Tokyo: Sendai named Japan’s most comfortable city amid record heat (2026-10-26 06:05)

As days of dangerous heat become more frequent in Japan, Sendai has emerged as the most comfortable city, with a climate that is “not too hot and not too cold”. The Miyagi prefectural capital, about 300km (186 miles) from Tokyo, has the best weather, according to the Asahi newspaper, with the lowest number of midsummer and midwinter days among 11 major cities in the nation. Citing Japan Meteorological Agency data, the newspaper reported that Sendai had only 31 midsummer days and no midwinter...

- Saudi coalition intercepts missile as Houthis claim new attack on Riyadh airport (2026-10-26 05:49)

The Saudi-led military coalition said Monday it intercepted a ballistic missile fired by Yemen’s Houthis, after the Iran-backed group claimed a new attack on the international airport in Riyadh. The operation came a day after explosions rattled the Saudi capital and authorities sent text messages to residents warning them of a “hostile aerial threat” targeting the city. The Houthis have carried out waves of strikes on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh,

including an attack this month...

• In South Korea, jail time awaits Halloween police impersonators (2026-10-26 05:27)

Four years ago, party-goers dressed as police officers were reportedly mistaken for the real thing amid a deadly crowd crush in South Korea's capital. Now, as Seoul prepares for its fourth Halloween since the disaster, police have launched a week-long nationwide crackdown on imitation police uniforms and equipment, aiming to stop any such confusion from happening again. The nationwide operation, announced by the National Police Agency on Sunday, runs until Monday next week. More than 4,500...

• US visits to China decline, Turkish rare earth deposit: 5 weekend reads you missed (2026-10-26 04:45)

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. China carries out in-depth investigation of Turkey's largest rare earth deposit 2. China's J-20 stealth jet designers plan to put powerful radar into aircraft wing 3. Is Washington misreading Beijing? Decline in US visits to China sparks concern 4. Why young Chinese embrace Japanese pop culture...

• Man falls to death fleeing Hong Kong police raid on suspected drug den (2026-10-26 04:16)

A man has died after falling from a building while trying to flee a Hong Kong police raid on a suspected drug den in Yau Ma Tei. The 42-year-old man, surnamed Kwong, was found unconscious outside 385-387 Reclamation Street at about 9.28pm on Sunday. He was rushed to Kwong Wah Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, police said on Monday. At 9.21pm, officers from the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau launched an operation at the building, breaking into a flat suspected of operating as a drug...

• Man bitten after being chased by 3 dogs on his way to work in Yuen Long (2026-10-26 04:08)

A 26-year-old warehouse worker has been injured in Hong Kong after being chased by three dogs and bitten by one of them on his way to work. A source said police received a report at around 8am on Monday from the victim, surnamed Leung, saying one of the dogs pounced on him as he was walking towards his workplace at a logistics company in Yuen Long's Kam Pok Road. Paramedics arrived at the scene and found the victim with minor wounds. He was sent to Pok Oi Hospital for treatment. The source said...

• Man bitten after being chased by 3 dogs on his way to work in Yuen Long (2026-10-26 04:08)

Hong Kong authorities have caught a dog that bit a 26-year-old man who was chased by three dogs on his way to work at a warehouse. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said on Monday that it sent officers to a warehouse on Kam Pok Road in Yuen Long

after police had referred a suspected dog bite case. “The dog suspected was taken away andsent to an animal management centre for detention and observation,” a departmentspokesman said. “The dog concerned is a microchipped mongrel...

• 100 million views: why China’s viral AI rap track has struck a chord (2026-10-26 03:00)

An AI-generated Chinese rap song featuring some of the country’s most well-known historical figures has taken social media by storm. Titled “The One Who’s Been There” (Guo Lai Ren), the track crossed 100 million views across platforms in less than two weeks as it tapped into the anxieties of modern life. The song brings together 10 iconic figures from Chinese history and mythology – from revered poets and statesmen to the legendary Monkey King. Rather than reciting classical verses or lecturing...

• Hong Kong arbitration body eyes Mideast, Africa prospects amid global tensions (2026-10-26 03:00)

An international arbitration body in Hong Kong is exploring business opportunities in the Middle East and Africa, citing the city’s neutrality and predictability as key draws for new markets amid rising geopolitical tensions. Domitille Baizeau, co-chairwoman of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, said the city had benefited from an overall shift in global business growth from Europe to Asia, with overseas businesses increasingly choosing Hong Kong to arbitrate disputes. The...

• Japan companies to compensate customers after major cyberattacks (2026-10-26 02:37)

Japanese companies are moving to pay compensation to users following waves of cyberattacks that have disrupted internet services and raised concerns about economic stability. GMO Internet said customers would be compensated for losses stemming from unauthorised access following a cyberattack on its foreign exchange trading service, and all customers would receive 5,000 yen (US$32) as “an initial gesture of good faith”, CEO Masatoshi Kumagai said in a blog post on Sunday. The move comes after...

• Alibaba Cloud founder on how AI can unlock human potential (2026-10-26 02:26)

Long before artificial intelligence became the next big thing in the tech industry, Wang Jian was crafting the foundational infrastructure that would eventually power it. In 2008, he joined Alibaba Group Holding – owner of the South China Morning Post – as chief architect and founded Alibaba Cloud in 2009, convincing the company’s leadership to invest heavily in building a cloud computing infrastructure from scratch. Today, Wang’s purview has expanded considerably. As an academician at the...

• Chinese neighbours go viral over 200-year land dispute dating back to Qianlong era (2026-10-26 02:00)

A Chinese court recently heard a land dispute between neighbours who have been fighting over the same issue for two centuries and across multiple generations, stunning social media users.

The court in Yanta district, Xian, in northwestern China’s Shaanxi province, recently presidedover a case concerning a land boundary between two neighbouring families, surnamed Du andZhang. For the past two decades, the neighbours have repeatedly disputed the boundary. Whenthe Dus tried to renovate their...

- Weapon or armour? The contentious debate over China’s open-weight AI (2026-10-26 02:00)

Are China’s increasingly powerful open-weight AI models a cybersecurity threat, or could restricting them ultimately make the internet less secure? The dilemma has become a growing concern as Chinese developers including DeepSeek, Z.ai and Alibaba Group Holding – owner of the South China Morning Post – continue to challenge their American rivals by releasing models that anyone can download, modify and deploy. The growing impact of advanced AI on global cybersecurity has also forced governments...

- Tibetan river hosting world’s biggest dam is facing increasing flood risk: study (2026-10-26 02:00)

Chinese researchers have found that the Yarlung Tsangpo River – soon to host the largest mega dam in the world – may face increased run-off and flood risks over this century. Using tree-ring width chronologies in the southeastern Tibetan Plateau, the team reconstructed the river’s run-off history from 1325 to 2020. Along with climate data, this was used to create a model that projected river run-off would increase under future climate scenarios, along with a possible increase in high-run-off...

- Singapore’s toxic haze probe expands to 10 palm oil, forestry firms (2026-10-26 01:45)

Singapore has expanded its investigation into haze-creating fires in Indonesia that have blanketed the city state in smog, requesting information from 10 locally registered companies. The National Environment Agency (NEA) sent notices seeking documents and details of land concessions in Indonesia owned by the firms, their firefighting and blaze prevention measures, and their relationship to other relevant companies, according to a Friday statement. All 10 Singapore-registered companies were...

- Head of Hong Kong’s new drug regulator pledges to build trust, push innovation (2026-10-26 01:30)

The head of Hong Kong’s new drug regulatory body has pledged to build a fully capable and globally trusted agency that will become a catalyst for medical innovation rather than merely acting as a “miniature version” of existing overseas models. Dr Li Zili, controller of the Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation (CMPR), said that while many other places in Asia, such as mainland China, Singapore and Japan, had established regulatory agencies long ago, Hong Kong had a distinctive...

- Hong Kong’s pursuit of top university rankings comes at a cost (2026-10-26 01:30)

The latest rankings confirm what many in Hong Kong already know: the city's universities are exceptional. Five institutions continue to sit among the world's top 100, reflecting decades of investment, academic ambition and hard work. Yet behind the rankings triumph lies a question that receives far less attention: what happens to the people responsible for that success? As universities compete ever harder for rankings, grants and prestige, academics face growing pressure to produce results on...

• China shoots ahead on AI video models (2026-10-26 01:06)

While few dispute that China is narrowing the gap with the United States in developing artificial intelligence (AI) models, there is one area where Chinese firms are already the undisputed leaders: video. China has seen a proliferation of advanced generative AI video models – systems trained on visual data to generate or edit video content based on user inputs such as text prompts, images and audio. The country's vast short-video ecosystems and looser copyright rules have helped give Chinese...

• Hong Kong to tighten burgeoning premium financing market as red flags, risks emerge (2026-10-26 01:00)

Hong Kong's insurance watchdog is tightening oversight of the city's booming premium financing market, as the once-niche lending arrangement spreads to lower-tier insurance buyers, while also reviewing regulations, particularly on how insurers evaluate clients' affordability, according to Insurance Authority executives. Premium financing allows policyholders to borrow money from financial institutions to pay upfront premiums on large life insurance policies, which are commonly used as a wealth...

• Why North Korean leader Kim Jong-un toured a Chinese bus factory in Dandong (2026-10-26 00:59)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's tour of a commercial vehicle factory during a surprise visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday points to Pyongyang's drive to modernise its buses and expand industrial ties with Beijing. In a symbolic move, Kim crossed into China via the newly opened New Yalu River Bridge on Saturday and also returned to North Korea via the bridge later in the day. It was Kim's first trip to China since he attended a military parade in Beijing last September. His...

• North Korea tells UN South 'fabricated' border landmine blast (2026-10-26 00:51)

North Korea sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council accusing Seoul of fabricating a landmine explosion that injured three South Korean soldiers, its state media reported Monday. Tensions between the two Koreas have soared since the South last month blamed the blast inside the heavily fortified demilitarised zone that separates the countries on landmines laid by the North, an accusation it has fiercely rejected. The North Korean permanent representative to the UN sent a letter on...

• Lula pulls off Brazil’s first-ever run-off comeback to beat Trump ally Flavio Bolsonaro (2026-10-26 00:30)

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won re-election on Sunday in a dramatic comeback after trailing in the first round, extending the rule of a government that has overseen record Chinese investment. The Superior Electoral Court said Lula had 51.79 per cent of valid votes against 48.21 per cent for right-wing Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, with 99.99 per cent votes counted. No candidate who trailed after the first round had won a run-off since Brazil adopted the system in 1989. Addressing...

• Interpol’s Hong Kong meeting to consider ‘silver notice’ targeting criminal assets (2026-10-26 00:00)

Interpol will seek approval at its general assembly in Hong Kong next month for a new “silver notice” system to target criminals’ assets and speed up financial investigations into transnational crime. Hong Kong’s police chief also pledged to make financial investigations and scams a top priority in discussions with overseas counterparts during Interpol’s annual meeting, which the city is hosting for the first time. Interpol secretary general Valdecy Urquiza said in an interview in Hong Kong that...

• South Korean CEO’s 4-year jail term over plant fire that killed 23 spurs anger (2026-10-26 00:00)

“How can South Korea’s law be this weak? Twenty-three people died!” Those were the words of Chinese mother Li Shun-ji after South Korea’s Supreme Court upheld a reduced four-year prison sentence for Aricell CEO Park Soon-kwan last Tuesday over a 2024 factory fire that killed 23 workers, including Li’s then-24-year-old daughter, Yan Jing-jing. The blaze at the lithium battery manufacturer’s factory in Hwaseong, Gyeonggi province, killed 17 Chinese nationals, one Laotian national and five South...

• Standard Chartered-led Anchorpoint plans retail stablecoin as HSBC RedCoin launches (2026-10-25 23:00)

After HSBC RedCoin launched on Friday, Anchorpoint – the stablecoin-issuing joint venture led by Standard Chartered – said it plans to launch a retail product on a public blockchain, even as it takes a “prudent approach”. “Our next major milestone is to [help] bring regulated digital money into everyday payments and commercial applications, while connecting traditional payment infrastructure with this emerging digital finance,” said Dominic Maffei, CEO of Anchorpoint. “This is a public...

• Trump cites 9/11 in urging Michigan voters to oppose Muslim Senate candidate El-Sayed (2026-10-25 22:29)

US President Donald Trump at a Sunday campaign rally ratcheted up his push to link US Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed to Muslim extremists, comparing him to the September 11 attackers while saying Democrats would let violent anti-American terrorists into the United States. “I’m

here to keep a jihadist, Muslim Brotherhood member from becoming a United States senator,” Trump told a receptive audience in Port Huron, Michigan. If he wins, El-Sayed would be the firstMuslim elected to the US Senate....

• Why cloud computing pioneer Wang Jian thinks space is the next AI frontier (2026-10-25 22:00)

Long before artificial intelligence became the next big thing in the tech industry, Wang Jian was crafting the foundational infrastructure that would eventually power it. In 2008, he joined Alibaba Group Holding – owner of the South China Morning Post – as chief architect and founded Alibaba Cloud in 2009, convincing the company’s leadership to invest heavily in building a cloud computing infrastructure from scratch. Today, Wang’s purview has expanded considerably. As an academician at the...

• Peak lighting outcry spotlights the trouble with fast-track governance (2026-10-25 21:30)

It’s common knowledge that Hong Kong has a spectacular skyline, especially at night. And given our current obsession with boosting tourism and other value-adding objectives, it shouldn’t come as a surprise that our tourism authorities are actively adding more light to our night skyline. The Tourism Board tried holding monthly firework and drone shows in 2024, but had to scale back after a budget cut – and amid questions of whether more frequent displays, costing the public HK$1 million...

• Brazil’s election left hanging as judge extends vote after polls close, sparking chaos (2026-10-25 21:18)

A Supreme Court justice in Brazil ordered polls in the presidential run-off to stay open for two more hours on Sunday, minutes after voting had officially ended at 5pm Brasilia time (4am on Monday in Hong Kong). The order left election officials across China’s biggest trading partner in Latin America unsure whether to reopen polling stations or send their machines to be counted. Justice Cristiano Zanin, who was President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s lawyer before joining the court in 2023, acted...

• Presidential race in Bulgaria heads to run-off after record low turnout (2026-10-25 20:03)

The presidential election in Bulgaria on Sunday ended inconclusively, with the next head of state to be picked in a run-off, according to election officials. A record low turnout, attributed by observers to a general mistrust in politicians resulting in voter apathy, will pit two contrasting political visions against each other in a highly polarised contest on November 1. In a surprisingly strong performance, the candidate of the pro-Western reformist opposition, Andrey Gyurov, will face the...

• Venezuela opposition leader Machado returns home after fraught year in exile (2026-10-25 19:31)

Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado returned home on Sunday after nearly a year away, and after several failed attempts to return that strained her ties with US President Donald Trump's administration. "I'm here. With you all," the Nobel Peace Prize-winner wrote on social media. She appeared at a church in western Lara state, according to images shared by her press team, and was greeted by bystanders who sang the national anthem and shouted "liberty!" as she left in an SUV, a...

• Trump 'not trying to meddle' in Alaska election results by suing over Senate race: Blanche (2026-10-25 18:49)

Attorney General Todd Blanche on Sunday defended the Trump administration's lawsuit to block certification of Alaska's Senate results if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan loses the race and argued that the legal challenge was a necessary step to avoid confusing voters in the closely watched midterm race. US President Donald Trump, who said on Friday that he was "the one that said do it", is not trying to overturn state election results "in any way, shape or form" on the cusp of the November 3...

• France's Le Pen vows to restore 'rule of law' at presidential campaign launch (2026-10-25 18:01)

Marine Le Pen, France's far-right candidate to succeed President Emmanuel Macron next year, vowed in her first campaign speech on Sunday to "restore the rule of law" if elected next year. Le Pen - the frontrunner in the polls - seems to be benefiting from the convulsions France has been going through for weeks, punctuated by mass cost-of-living rallies and some violent clashes on Saturday and the previous week. "We are going to restore the rule of law," she said, after looting and arson on the...

• Netanyahu warns Iran may try to disrupt election, says 'don't test us' (2026-10-25 17:29)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran and its allies might try to disrupt Tuesday's Israeli elections, warning the Islamic republic against any hostile acts. The premier has campaigned heavily on his security credentials, touting the war he launched against Iran in February alongside the United States and suggesting that he alone can see it through. "We have intelligence signs that our enemies, Iran and its proxies, could challenge us with attacks in order to disrupt the...

• Storms batter northern Europe, hitting power supplies, flights and phones (2026-10-25 16:44)

Storms battered northern Europe on Sunday cutting power to more than 150,000 homes, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights and silencing phone networks. Winds of up to 135km (84 miles) an hour were recorded in Argyll and Bute in western Scotland and fallen trees and power cables blocked roads and rail lines across the country. More than 82,000 homes in Britain, nearly 60,000 in France and at least 10,000 in Germany had power cuts inflicted by the

passage of storms Boelo and Austen...

• Philippines plan ‘appropriate legal action’ against Thomas Markle (2026-10-25 15:26)

Philippine police are investigating a laptop found alongside images of child abuse at the former home of Meghan Markle’s estranged father, with “full results” expected in a week, the country’s interior minister told reporters. Thomas Markle, whose daughter is married to Britain’s Prince Harry, had been living in Cebu in the Philippines until reportedly returning to the US earlier this year. Philippine interior minister Jonvic Remulla said the country planned to take “appropriate legal actions”...

• HK Express passenger injured after power bank overheats on flight to Jeju (2026-10-25 14:46)

A traveller was injured after a power bank overheated and emitted smoke aboard an HK Express flight from Hong Kong to South Korea on Sunday, prompting crew members to deploy emergency safety measures before the aircraft landed safely. The incident occurred on flight UO676 to Jeju, which was carrying 236 passengers and seven crew, prompting an apology from HK Express. The budget airline, a subsidiary of Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways, said the power bank was stored in a bag under a...

• Eye on China: Japan reopens taboo debate over nuclear-powered submarines (2026-10-25 14:00)

With China flexing its naval power across the Pacific and bilateral tensions running high, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is weighing a move long viewed as taboo – nuclear-powered submarines for the Maritime Self-Defence Force fleet. “We will seriously consider [the possibility] in a concrete and realistic manner,” Takaichi told the Japanese parliament on October 14. Yet with Tokyo set to revise its core security documents by year’s end, the proposal is dividing the ruling coalition. The...

• Hong Kong to boost Huanggang Port capacity after Halloween, concert congestion (2026-10-25 13:39)

Hong Kong’s No 2 official has pledged to open extra clearance counters and vehicle lanes at the recently revamped Huanggang Port control point ahead of peak hours, after Halloween crowds and concertgoers created heavy cross-border congestion. Chief Secretary Eric Chan Kwok-ki, who inspected the Shenzhen Bay and Huanggang ports on Sunday, said he had instructed the Security Bureau to step up advance assessments and passenger flow forecasting. He added that he had directed the Transport and...

• War of words over Xinjiang erupts between Chinese and Turkish social media users (2026-10-25 13:00)

The debate over ethnic identity in Xinjiang has triggered an online clash between Chinese and Turkish social media users. The row began earlier this month when a Turkish social media user

recalled an encounter with a Uygur from Xinjiang, the region in China that is home to nearly 12million mainly Muslim Turkic speakers. The user wrote that the woman did not look Chinese,but when asked whether she considered herself Turkic, the woman responded: “No, I’mChinese.” The user also called on her to...

• Louie Shum’s death: heart disease in Hong Kong and what to do in an emergency (2026-10-25 12:50)

The death of veteran Hong Kong stock market commentator Louie Shum Chun-ying has drawn public attention to heart disease, after a police source revealed he had a history of the condition as well as diabetes. Heart disease was one of the leading causes of death in Hong Kong, with more than 6,500 fatalities recorded in 2024, according to the Department of Health. While residents at risk should monitor their health and seek timely medical care, a local cardiologist stressed that bystanders could...

• The West’s double standard on global unrest (2026-10-25 12:30)

In the early days of the student protests in France, mainstream Western media took the protesters’ claims about poor school facilities and declining resources at face value. Only when the violence spread across the country, and to some of its European neighbours, did people begin to ask whether deeper causes were at play. Leftists blame social problems, from the cost-of-living pressures linked to the war in Ukraine to rising unemployment, especially among the young. Right-wing critics blame...

• China’s Liaoning carrier and USS Theodore Roosevelt may be in Philippine Sea at same time (2026-10-25 12:13)

China’s Liaoning aircraft carrier strike group sailed beyond the first island chain last week to reach the southernmost waters of the Philippines, suggesting an intent to position itself closer to ongoing US-Japan joint exercises. Philippine news channel BNC reported that the carrier group reached about 25 nautical miles (46km) east-southeast of Balut Island, the southernmost point of the Philippines, before sailing northeast on Friday. That positioned the warships past the first island chain, a...

• US Marine indictment in Okinawa murder trial renews anti-base movement (2026-10-25 11:33)

Prosecutors indicted a 20-year-old US Marine on Sunday on suspicion of robbing and murdering a woman in Okinawa earlier this month as the case renews anti-base sentiment among locals burdened with hosting the bulk of US military installations in Japan. Devin Ballard, who is stationed at Futenma Air Base, is charged with killing the woman by wrapping a phone cord around her neck at a hotel in Naha, the capital of the southern island prefecture, and taking her backpack containing a wallet on...

• ‘Really terrified’: how a blood test could spare cancer patients an agonising wait (2026-10-25 11:00)

In the second of a four-part Health Matters wellness series on frontier medicine in Hong Kong, Fiona Sun looks into how a new PCR system can detect cancer, infections and birth defects within hours, and what it will take to bring such laboratory breakthroughs to patients. Part one can be found here. It began with a pimple-like lump on Audrey Kwan’s neck. Within a month, it had swollen to the size of a table tennis ball. But it took blood tests, a biopsy and CAT scans before the Hongkonger, then...

• Hong Kong seeks bigger role for yuan in regional trade, treasury chief says (2026-10-25 10:44)

Hong Kong officials held discussions with finance ministers and representatives from economies such as Brunei during last week’s Apec meeting on reducing reliance on the US dollar and expanding the use of local currencies and the yuan for bilateral trade settlement, the city’s treasury chief has said. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu on Sunday also shared lighthearted but telling anecdotes about the intangible gains made by the city from hosting the...

• Congo begins Ebola vaccine trial despite embedded outbreak (2026-10-25 10:28)

A pivotal trial of vaccines against the strain of Ebola that is driving a deadly outbreak across parts of Africa has begun in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the epidemic originated and the vast majority of cases and deaths have occurred. The first participant was vaccinated on Friday in Bunia, eastern Congo, with Merck & Co.’s Ervebo shot, which has been approved to guard against a different Ebola species. An experimental alternative developed specifically against Bundibugyo by Moderna...

• Firefighters battle hill fire near residential area in Tuen Mun (2026-10-25 10:18)

Hong Kong firefighters continued to battle a hill fire near a residential area in Tuen Mun on Sunday afternoon, several hours after it broke out. No injuries were reported, but the flames were spreading along the hillside near Shan King Estate, not far from two secondary schools, sending thick clouds of smoke billowing into the air. The blaze, reported at about 1.30pm, broke out in a patch of grass measuring about 10 metres by 20 metres (33 feet by 66 feet) on Por Lo Shan near a freshwater...

• How China’s regional leadership changes offer clues to the future of the Communist Party (2026-10-25 10:00)

China’s five-year leadership cycle is getting under way at a provincial level, with new teams being installed in a process that offers important clues to the future of the Communist Party at a national level. Last week, four provinces – Anhui, Henan, Shanxi and Xinjiang – wrapped up their respective party congresses and appointed new standing committees for the next five years. The meetings were held a week before a key party gathering in Beijing – known as the

fifth plenum – that runs from...

• How ancient Chinese night watchmen patrolled streets, used ‘dripping buckets’ to tell time (2026-10-25 10:00)

In ancient China, before the advent of mechanical clocks and digital devices, people relied mainly on night watchmen to keep time, prevent fires and maintain their daily routines. But how did the watchmen tell the time? Chinese night watchmen mainly used two methods: clepsydras and incense sticks. A clepsydra, also known as a water clock, measures time through the regulated flow of water from a vessel. The ancient Chinese divided the night into five gengs. Each geng lasted around two hours,...

• Upgrade or eyesore? Why Hong Kong’s Peak light display has hit a snag (2026-10-25 09:04)

A controversial lighting project along a walking trail on The Peak is in doubt following mounting complaints that the installations damage Hong Kong’s natural beauty. Designed as one of several new attractions meant to replace a retired light show, the initiative has been criticised by local residents and visitors as counterproductive. The South China Morning Post looks at what has gone wrong with the project. 1. What is the project about? The Tourism Board planned small light installations for...

• Serbia votes as ruling party faces student-led anti-corruption list (2026-10-25 08:53)

Polls opened in Serbia on Sunday in what is set to be its most fiercely contested parliamentary election in more than 14 years, as a student-led movement seeks to oust the party of veteran leader Aleksandar Vucic. The snap vote is the culmination of nearly two years of student-led protests sparked by the 2024 collapse of a canopy at Novi Sad railway station that killed 16 people – a tragedy widely blamed on corruption. The disaster triggered some of Serbia’s largest protests since the fall of...

• East Asia’s cultural economies are bridging politics-driven divides (2026-10-25 08:30)

The appearance of K-pop singer G-Dragon on electronic billboards in major Chinese cities despite Beijing’s K-pop ban points at a contrast between political shadows clouding international relations and actual commercial linkages in East Asia. Amid tensions over Seoul’s military alliance with the United States and other issues, G-Dragon featured in eight McDonald’s products across more than 8,000 outlets in mainland China. The penetration and appeal of Korean cultural icons show how transnational...

• Beijing pledges to back Taiwan’s pro-unification ‘patriots’ as it marks key anniversary (2026-10-25 08:05)

Beijing pledged to support pro-unification forces in Taiwan as it mounted a concerted publicity campaign on Sunday to mark the 81st anniversary of the end of Japanese colonial rule over the island. October 25 was formally established by Beijing last year as an official memorial date

known as “Taiwan Restoration Day”. Speaking at an event in Fuzhou, the capital of Fujianprovince, on Sunday, Song Tao, the head of Beijing’s Taiwan Affairs Office, said the memorialday highlighted Beijing’s “firm...

• Filipinos split on Marcos’ South China Sea handling amid row over Jing Quan’s remarks (2026-10-25 08:00)

Filipinos are almost evenly divided over the Marcos administration’s handling of the maritime dispute with China, even as nearly three in four favour diplomacy over confrontation, according to a new survey. That preference has taken on added significance after recent remarks by China’s ambassador to Manila sparked a diplomatic row ahead of November’s Asean summit. The feud underscored the challenge of managing tensions with Beijing, and increasingly hostile rhetoric could make the diplomatic...

• Veteran Hong Kong stock commentator Louie Shum dies aged 66 (2026-10-25 07:46)

Veteran Hong Kong stock commentator Louie Shum Chun-ying has died aged 66, with a police source revealing he had a history of heart disease and diabetes. His twin sister confirmed on Sunday that he died on Saturday night at Ruttonjee Hospital in Wan Chai, sharing the news in a post on his social media page. Shum, also known as “Master Shum”, was chief executive of stock brokerage Sincere Securities until his retirement two years ago. He remained active on internet radio shows over the past two...

• The Weeknd wows Hong Kong fans with tribute song sampling Faye Wong classic (2026-10-25 07:34)

Canadian singer The Weeknd surprised concertgoers in Hong Kong on Saturday with a new song inspired by the city, evoking nostalgia among local music fans. Abel Tesfaye – the Canadian singer, songwriter, record producer and actor known professionally as The Weeknd – performed “Hong Kong” to tens of thousands of fans at Kai Tak Stadium on Saturday night. It was his first of four concerts in the city as part of the “After Hours Til Dawn Tour” world tour. The crowd reacted with awe and cheers. “Hong...

• AIIB keen to fund projects in Northern Metropolis, Hong Kong finance chief says (2026-10-25 06:29)

The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has expressed interest in financing projects in the Northern Metropolis mega development, Hong Kong’s finance chief has said. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also told the media on Sunday that global finance leaders had set aside their political differences during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Finance Ministers’ Meeting held in Hong Kong last week and reached a consensus on promoting digital infrastructure, employment...

• Israel widens West Bank crackdown, displacing Hebron families after attack (2026-10-25 06:23)

Israel said on Sunday all land crossings with the West Bank will be closed on the day of next week's election, as it pledged a harder line on militancy after Palestinian gunmen killed two soldiers in the territory. The announcement came a day after Israeli forces pushed into the occupied West Bank city of Hebron and displaced around 2,000 residents, with Defence Minister Israel Katz saying, "they will not be allowed to return … until we've finished dealing with all the Hamas issues in...

• 1 million Hong Kong employees to get 'full portability' of MPF funds in December (2026-10-25 06:06)

About 1 million employees in Hong Kong will be allowed to move their entire Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) savings to a different provider once a year, starting December 21. The Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, which regulates the mandatory pension plans, said on Sunday that the "full portability" arrangement would be carried out in two phases to ensure a smooth implementation. In a blog post, authority chairwoman Ayesha Macpherson Lau said the arrangement would allow eligible members...

• What's next for Hong Kong developers in mainland China? (2026-10-25 06:00)

Hong Kong's major property developers are shifting investment in mainland China from residential projects to commercial assets, including hospitality, as weak home sales and fewer attractive investment opportunities prompt them to focus on existing properties, recurring income and debt reduction. "In recent years, after we recycled the capital from our projects, we haven't really found many good opportunities on the mainland," Stephen Ng, chairman and managing director of Wharf Holdings, said at...

• Malaysian-owned tanker carrying US$14 million in ketamine seized in Indonesia (2026-10-25 06:00)

The tanker detained by Indonesian authorities that was used in an attempt to smuggle 1.16 tonnes of ketamine is owned by a Malaysian-registered company. Bukit Aman Narcotics Crime Investigation Department director Hussein Omar Khan said the two directors of the company that owns the MT Global 168 are Malaysians. He said the company's office is located in Johor Bahru, Malaysia's Johor state. According to Hussein, the tanker had previously applied for registration under the Malaysian flag but had...

• Novel idea: Thailand, Vietnam take books on the road in reading drive (2026-10-25 05:00)

Tran Dai Thang spotted two young people who had picked up their drinks at a pop-up cafe beside his travelling bookstore and were about to leave, so he called them over. One of them said they did not read books, Thang recalled. But he kept the conversation going and eventually persuaded the visitor to buy a book for 10,000 dong (US$0.40) – heavily discounted from its original price of 45,000 dong. For Thang, an artist and publisher, the small sale mattered far less than the fact that someone who...

• Law enforcement alerted to firm offering LGBTQ surrogacy services in Hong Kong (2026-10-25 04:49)

Hong Kong's regulator for in vitro fertilisation (IVF) has referred a case to law enforcement agencies after a mainland Chinese influencer was suspected of offering to bring non-local surrogate mothers of LGBTQ parents to give birth in the city. Tan Zubiao, also known as berlinsun, had set up a company in the city and advertised on social media commercial surrogacy services for LGBTQ couples, according to Hong Kong media. Tan and his foreign husband, who have two children through surrogacy, were...

• Trump hails tariffs for new US$4.2 billion Audi plant in Georgia (2026-10-25 04:44)

President Donald Trump defended his decision to wield tariffs during a campaign rally in Georgia, saying they have made the US richer, as he announced that Volkswagen agreed to build a new US$4.2 billion Audi plant in the state. "Think of that. 200,000 cars a year. That's incredible," Trump told a crowd in the city of Perry. "This will be the single largest investment in US auto industry history, modern history." Later, he added, "Without tariffs, they wouldn't be coming in." Trump was speaking...

• Will China's 4 peace principles for tackling African conflicts work? (2026-10-25 04:00)

Beijing has a formula for tackling African conflicts and hot-button issues, and during a meeting this month with Togolese leader Faure Gnassingbe, Chinese President Xi Jinping outlined it in four principles linking peace to development. The principles entail focusing on African-led security free from outside intervention; upholding sovereignty and UN Charter principles; rejecting force and sanctions and favouring ceasefires through dialogue; and focusing on both immediate security concerns and...

• Will AI-powered open-door vending machines reshape Hong Kong's retail landscape? (2026-10-25 04:00)

Sherry Shum has embraced a new shopping routine after finding a smart vending machine near her home in Chai Wan. The 37-year-old retail worker uses her phone to scan a QR code, opens the smart machine's door, picks up a bottle of Coca-Cola, an oolong tea and a pack of potato chips, closes it and walks away with HK$60 (US$7.70) worth of goods. The whole process is so seamless that the only time she spends is deciding what to buy. The moment Shum takes an item from the shelf, the machine detects...

• Gulf economies accelerate diversification as recession looms over Iran war (2026-10-25 04:00)

Before the outbreak of the war triggered by the US-Israeli attack on Iran in February, the Gulf monarchies were living the prosperity dream that was the envy of the world. Their hydrocarbon-fuelled economies were glitzy oases of growth, inoculated from the conflict in Gaza that had rocked other parts of the Middle East for several years. Underpinned by decades-old US security guarantees and conflict mediation by billionaire sheikhs, Saudi Arabia,

the United Arab Emirates and Qatar cultivated...

• Singapore tells suppliers to ‘honour commitments’ amid Indonesia’s gas cut (2026-10-25 03:38)

Singapore expects all parties who have signed commercial contracts for gas supplies to “honour their commitments”, said Prime Minister Lawrence Wong on Sunday after Indonesia cut its exports. Speaking at the People’s Action Party (PAP) convention, Wong added that Singapore’s gas importer will take the necessary steps to protect its rights and interests. Indonesia began reducing natural gas exports to Singapore on Saturday. Indonesia’s upstream oil and gas regulator SKK Migas said the move was to...

• ‘Mum, good’: Chinese woman wakes vegetative daughter-in-law after 17 years of care (2026-10-25 02:15)

A woman in eastern China has been devotedly caring for her daughter-in-law for 17 years, ever since she fell into a vegetative state, moving social media users. The younger woman, surnamed Xu, fell into a vegetative state in 2009 after being struck by a truck in her village in Qingyun county, Shandong province. The accident happened just one month after she got married, Shandian News reported. Since then, her mother-in-law, Xuan Fengying, has cared for her around the clock. “She married my son,...

• Fandom vs flag: why young Chinese embrace Japanese pop culture but reject war-era symbols (2026-10-25 02:00)

Young Chinese people enjoy Japanese pop culture such as anime and music, but many draw a firm line at symbols of Japanese militarism. That line was tested recently at Moscow State University, where Chinese students confronted a classmate wearing Japan’s rising sun flag in class and called for his repatriation, state-run newspaper Global Times reported on Sunday. Many countries, including China, view the flag as a symbol of Japanese militarism and aggression. Japan’s Self-Defence Forces still use...

• Why more Japanese women are choosing ‘silver divorce’ after decades of marriage (2026-10-25 02:00)

Ayumi lives alone in a spacious suburban house originally bought to raise a family, her two cats now her only full-time companions. Her two daughters have grown up and left home, and her husband of more than two decades moved out nearly a year ago as they finalise a divorce. For the 62-year-old Kawasaki resident, who spoke on condition that her surname be withheld, this was not how she envisioned her later years. “He worked very long hours, including on weekends, and I was always busy taking...

• Hong Kong needs a civil service fit for a changed world (2026-10-25 01:30)

Hong Kong’s civil service has long enjoyed a reputation for efficiency, professionalism and probity. It has also been a pillar of stability, particularly during the transition from British to

Chinese rule. Outside the general and administrative grades, many civil servants spend much oftheir careers in relatively specialised areas of responsibility. This allows them to develop deepexpertise and makes them dependable regulators and administrators. However, it can alsomake it harder to adapt...

• School bullying cases in Hong Kong rise 32% to nearly 500 a year (2026-10-25 01:00)

Hong Kong schools handled an average of 496 bullying cases each academic year from 2022 to 2025 – a 32 per cent jump compared with the previous three years, according to the Education Bureau. A youth group attributed the increase to greater reporting driven by heightened mental health awareness, but also students struggling to distinguish playful jokes from bullying. According to the bureau, public primary and secondary schools recorded an average of 496 bullying cases each year between 2022 and...

• Singapore embraces AI for cyber defence, with one caveat: breach transparency (2026-10-25 00:00)

Singapore is turning to major technology firms to strengthen its cyber defences, even as it presses them for greater transparency over security breaches – a balancing act facing regional governments as they seek to harness artificial intelligence while guarding against the risks it introduces. Those risks were highlighted by an AI agent linked to OpenAI that gained unauthorised access to files on an Australian government website earlier this year, raising questions over how quickly companies...

• Obama blasts Trump’s ‘chaos and cruelty’ while campaigning for Democrats (2026-10-24 22:50)

Former US president Barack Obama delivered a scathing critique of his successor, Donald Trump, at a rally in Ohio on Saturday to support Democratic candidates ahead of the November 3 midterm elections. “After two years of chaos and cruelty and corruption and incompetence, the likes of which we have not seen in the modern era, you get a chance to say, ‘Enough is enough,’” Obama declared in Cleveland. “We are voting for change right here in Ohio.” The 65-year-old Democrat blamed the Trump...

• China’s next generation of leaders waiting in the wings for more senior roles (2026-10-24 22:00)

Plenary sessions of the Central Committee, the upper echelon of China’s ruling Communist Party, are major events on the country’s political calendar. In the fourth part of this series, William Zheng looks at how the next generation of the party is being formed. When China’s political elites gather behind closed doors in Beijing for the Communist Party’s fifth plenum on Monday, much of the attention will be on the quiet preparations for allocating hundreds of pivotal roles in next year’s 21st...

• Trump, a critic of early voting, votes early in Florida (2026-10-24 21:58)

US President Donald Trump cast his ballot for the midterm elections in Palm Beach on Saturday, opting to vote early in his adopted home state of Florida. At rallies ahead of Election Day on November 3, Trump has been urging Republicans to cast their ballots early, reversing course on a practice he has long decried in a bid to mobilise the party's base in an election that threatens to end their control of Congress. Asked by reporters if he voted for the party line, he said: "Very much so." The...

• How to share AI wealth? Neither the US nor Asia has the answer (2026-10-24 21:30)

On October 18, Anthropic, the artificial intelligence (AI) laboratory preparing one of the largest listings in history, committed 5 per cent of its shares to a public benefit fund. The next day, Elon Musk promised one SpaceX share, next year, for "every kid in America" – about US$10.6 billion for some 73 million children. The offers differ in who holds the shares. Anthropic's will sit in an entity the company owns, spent on the public's behalf; Musk's would land, by a route he has not explained,...

• Ukraine's Starlink speeds restored after week of frontline disruption (2026-10-24 18:00)

Ukraine's access to Starlink and Starshield satellite links has been restored to the speeds it had before restrictions that disrupted frontline operations for more than a week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday. "The speeds are now where they need to be," Zelensky said on social media, adding that restoration began overnight and was sufficient by Saturday morning, improving frontline logistics and defence against Russian jet-powered Shahed drones. The restoration follows a...

• German man detained after fire wrecks Hitler's 'Eagle's Nest' mountain retreat (2026-10-24 16:35)

Firefighters battled on Saturday to put out flames that tore through Adolf Hitler's "Eagle's Nest" mountain retreat while police detained a suspect who investigators said may have psychiatric problems. The alarm was raised late on Friday at the former guest house for top Nazi officials, 1,834 metres (6,000 feet) high in the Bavarian Alps. As snow fell on the Alpine peak, the Eagle's Nest was still engulfed in flames at dawn on Saturday, and fire chief Michael Brandl told a press conference the...

• Man arrested over suspected rat poison in stray cat food at Kowloon park (2026-10-24 15:47)

Police have arrested a 34-year-old man who allegedly mixed rat poison into food left for stray cats in a Kowloon park and was found in possession of a knife. The force said it received a report at around 3.30am on Saturday that a man was suspected of putting poison in cat food that animal welfare volunteers had placed near tennis courts in Shek Kip Mei Park. Officers arrived at the scene and seized a packet of suspected rat poison and a fruit knife measuring around 14cm (5.5 inches) in length...

• Saudi strikes kill 11 in Yemen as Houthi missiles target Saudi cities (2026-10-24 14:33)

Houthi media reported that Saudi strikes killed 11 people in Yemeni capital Sanaa on Saturday, shortly after the Saudi-led coalition fighting them said it had intercepted two missiles targeting Saudi cities. The Houthis' Al-Masirah outlet reported a series of "Saudi enemy air strikes" targeting Sanaa, including one on a house that killed at least four people and wounded several others. A separate strike at a residence building for cement factory workers in the Sanaa governorate killed six women...

• 2 projector stands removed from controversial Peak lighting project after outcry (2026-10-24 14:27)

Parts of two installations in a controversial lighting project along a walking trail on The Peak have been removed, days after Hong Kong's tourism authorities pledged to balance the community's needs and said the scheme was not "set in stone". The removals came hours after Commissioner for Tourism Ann Chan Wai-yan inspected the site on Saturday morning with a lawmaker and a district councillor, following an outcry from residents who accused the Hong Kong Tourism Board of removing trees and...

• China's J-20 stealth jet designers plan to put powerful radar into aircraft wing (2026-10-24 14:00)

Fighter jets typically house their main radars behind a radome in the nose, while conventional airborne early-warning aircraft often carry large radar arrays in prominent structures above the fuselage. Although aircraft wings offer a large surface area, their relatively thin cross-sections leave limited internal space for radar equipment. Top Chinese military aircraft designers have now proposed a revolutionary method to integrate large antenna arrays into aircraft wings, using flight manoeuvres...

• Leading Chinese economic commentator Ren Zeping's social media account restricted (2026-10-24 13:50)

A prominent Chinese economist's social media channel has been restricted as Beijing steps up regulatory scrutiny of financial market influencers. Chinese internet users on Saturday noticed that the WeChat account of Ren Zeping, known for his outspoken comments on investments and policies, had been stopped from gaining new followers and a member of his team said posting had been suspended. Clicking the follow button generated a message saying "this account cannot be followed due to its violation...

• How Operation Santa Claus grew from Christmas donations to 'engine' of change (2026-10-24 13:37)

Over nearly four decades, Operation Santa Claus (OSC) has grown from a quirky holiday fundraiser into an "engine" for community change in Hong Kong. For some beneficiaries, the journey was a full circle. Rachel Chow Chiu-yan learned about the fundraising drive in Young Post when she was a student, later pitched for funds on behalf of a group helping teenage girls

and later joined the charity. “Ten to 20 years ago, Operation Santa Claus disbursed somefunding to charities that saw it as seed...

• Small clashes erupt at Paris protests, as police remain on high alert (2026-10-24 13:17)

Protests across France were largely peaceful on Saturday, despite heightened tensions and sporadic clashes between protesters and the police, but authorities remained on high alert as night fell. The French Interior Ministry counted 410,000 people who hit the streets across the country on Saturday, down from the 550,000 who protested last weekend. The October 17 demonstrations descended into looting and the worst urban rioting France had seen in years. In Paris, around 110,000 people took part...

• Chasing Gothic Lolita demand, Japanese businesses expand to Europe (2026-10-24 13:14)

A Japanese fashion style inspired by historical European clothing is finding a growing following in Europe, where enthusiasts are embracing its elaborate designs and forming communities around their shared passion for lace, frills and intricate outfits. Gothic Lolita, often shortened to “Goth-Loli,” blends elements of European clothing styles with Japanese fashion sensibilities. Japanese brands are now looking to expand their presence in Europe, bringing the style back to the continent that...

• Halloween comes early to Hong Kong as festivities draw crowds, lift bar business (2026-10-24 12:47)

Halloween has arrived early in Hong Kong, with costumed revellers and families thronging the city’s streets a week early and some establishments seeing business increase by up to 20 per cent. The streets of Central were packed on Saturday as visitors and locals alike joined events held under the Tourism Board’s inaugural “Hong Kong Halloween Month”. The campaign, which started last Saturday, involves street celebrations in Central, including Lan Kwai Fong, Kai Tak, Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui...

• Ukraine’s Starlink woes should be a wake-up call for Taiwan, analysts say (2026-10-24 12:00)

Taiwan should not rely on a single foreign satellite provider for critical wartime communications, analysts have warned, after sudden restrictions on the use of Elon Musk’s Starlink disrupted Ukrainian drone operations. The episode has renewed debate in Taiwan over the risks of entrusting essential communications to foreign commercial operators whose services could be restricted for political, military or business reasons. Analysts said this was particularly relevant as Taipei was trying to...

• North Korean leader Kim Jong-un visits Chinese border city of Dandong (2026-10-24 11:08)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un visited the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday, according to state news agency Xinhua. The trip, Kim’s first visit to China in more than a year, comes ahead of next month’s Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the southern

Chinese city of Shenzhen, where Donald Trump and other world leaders are expected to visit.He was accompanied by Wang Huning, China's fourth-ranked official, according to Xinhua.Wang called on the two countries to expand...

• Indonesia cuts gas to Singapore amid Borneo, Sumatra wildfire haze (2026-10-24 10:21)

Indonesia cut exports of natural gas to Singapore on Saturday to prioritise domestic demand, an official said, with the two countries at loggerheads over regional air pollution emanating from wildfires on the vast archipelago. The head of SKK Migas, a state agency supervising the oil and gas sector, said Indonesia would cut a total of 31 million standard cubic feet per day from its supply to Singapore. Fifteen million standard cubic feet per day was being cut from Natuna in Indonesia's Riau...

• Is Washington misreading Beijing? Decline in US visits to China sparks concern (2026-10-24 10:03)

When Grant Newsham, a retired US Marine colonel and security analyst, sat down for an interview that aired last month, he called China's economic rise illusory and said there were "600 million Chinese at least who live on US$5 a day or less". His remarks quickly drew online criticism as well as accusations that he was using outdated figures from 2020 while ignoring differences in purchasing power. Some commenters argued that uneven development was common across countries. Others questioned how...

• China study suggests animal sacrifice may have been part of ancient Sanxingdui rituals (2026-10-24 10:00)

Animal sacrifice has played a major role in human history, from mythological stories about Odysseus to modern rituals such as Nepal's Gadhimai Festival. The tradition also dates back to ancient peoples we know little about. A research paper published in the Journal of Archaeological Science in late August suggests that the enigmatic Sanxingdui people likely practised animal sacrifice. To reach this conclusion, researchers identified what appeared to be a sacrificial pit based on the spatial...

• 'Systematically dismantled': Hegseth's new offensive against China's Confucius Institutes (2026-10-24 09:20)

Just weeks before Donald Trump's second trip to China this year and his third meeting with President Xi Jinping, whom he has called a "truly great" friend, his administration is intensifying its crackdown on Confucius Institutes – Beijing-backed centres that promote Chinese language and culture at universities abroad. Long viewed by critics as instruments of Beijing's soft power and cultural diplomacy, the institutes are back in the crosshairs of US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, who says the...

• 33 held in crackdown on credit card theft ring targeting Hongkongers in Shenzhen (2026-10-24 09:00)

Hong Kong and mainland Chinese police have arrested 33 people in a joint operation to crack down on a suspected credit card theft syndicate targeting city residents who travel across the border for leisure, with losses exceeding HK$1.8 million (US$229,500). Superintendent Tsang Chun-kit of police's crime Kowloon East Regional Headquarters said the syndicate had allegedly stolen Hongkongers' credit cards in Shenzhen, and then immediately brought those cards back to the city to make purchases for...

- Thousands evacuated and flights grounded as Typhoon Champi hits eastern China (2026-10-24 09:00)

Typhoon Champi continued to batter China's eastern coast on Saturday, grounding over a hundred flights and prompting the authorities to relocate tens of thousands of people, while weakening as it moved towards Japan. Flights from airports in Shanghai as well as Fujian and Zhejiang provinces were grounded. China Eastern Airlines said it had cancelled 39 domestic flights to and from Shanghai's two main airports while flights to and from the cities of Fuzhou and Wenzhou were also affected. The...

- Populist Czech government pushes through media funding changes (2026-10-24 08:43)

In a rare overnight vote, the Czech ruling coalition pushed public media funding changes through a first parliamentary hurdle despite criticism that they could weaken broadcaster independence. The populist government of billionaire Prime Minister Andrej Babis, backed by the far-right SPD party, has frequently criticised public and private media coverage of its policies and accused some outlets of bias. Opposition parties have compared the proposed changes with reforms in Hungary under former...

- Seoul's useless placation is a warning for all US trade partners (2026-10-24 08:30)

The anxiety gripping Seoul is palpable. Under US pressure, South Korea signed a US$350 billion investment deal last November for a 10-percentage-point tariff reduction, billing it as a strategic alliance. Barely a year on, the facade has crumbled. Last month, US President Donald Trump announced a US$200 billion tranche of the deal with no South Korean official present. Blindsided, Seoul restated its "commercial viability" clause. Trump's response was blunt. "If they don't want to do it, that's...

- Chinese students in Paris hunker down as city braces for more mass protests (2026-10-24 08:00)

France is bracing for another day of mass protests on Saturday, with the government promising that 70,000 police and gendarmes will be deployed across the country amid fears that last weekend's scenes of violence and looting could repeat themselves. For many Chinese students living in Paris, the events last Saturday were their first taste of a major French protest turned violent. While most said the experience had not put them off staying in France, many said they worried about the country's...

• 4 pilots killed in mid-air collision of Philippine military planes (2026-10-24 07:42)

Two Philippine Air Force aircraft crashed during a training flight at an air base south of the capital Manila, killing four pilots, the military said on Saturday. The aviation accident on Friday involved two SF-260 aircraft at the Fernando Air Base in Batangas province, the Philippine Air Force said in a statement. “Both aircraft went down within the base perimeter, with no other casualties reported,” Philippine Air Force spokesman Colonel Alvin Capinguian said in a statement. An...

• Hong Kong urged to revive growth, drive reforms with government’s ‘visible hand’ (2026-10-24 07:04)

Hong Kong authorities should act as a “visible hand” to break down barriers erected by vested interests and revive growth momentum through reform under its maiden five-year plan, a former Beijing official overseeing the city’s affairs has said. Deng Zhonghua, former deputy director of the State Council’s Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, also said the city had to adopt a reform-oriented approach to empower emerging industries through deregulation. Hong Kong also needed to address “deep-rooted...

• Israel launches major operation in West Bank after soldiers killed (2026-10-24 07:00)

Israel’s military launched an operation in the occupied West Bank on Friday it said would last several days and include searches and building demolitions, after gunmen killed two soldiers days ahead of Israeli elections featuring security as a key focus. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is locked in a tight race to keep his job in Tuesday’s vote, having campaigned on promises to keep Israelis safe, and he and his right-wing allies visited the scene of the attack to pledge an even harder line on...

• Abby Choi trial so far: ex-father-in-law lied to rent village flat, bought mincer (2026-10-24 07:00)

The former father-in-law of slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung rented a village house flat under false pretences and bought a meat mincer and multiple saws as he allegedly prepared for the model’s killing, a court has heard. More evidence emerged regarding how three of Choi’s former in-laws allegedly planned her murder and the disposal of her body as the High Court trial entered its fourth week. Choi’s ex-husband, Alex Kwong Kong-chi, 31, his father, Kwong Kau, 68, and elder brother,...

• How competition between Chinese and Indian firms could reshape African drug markets (2026-10-24 07:00)

China is challenging India’s long-held dominance of the African market for antimalarial drugs in 12 of the continent’s hardest-hit countries, according to a new study. Last year, Chinese exports of antimalarial drugs reached US$89.3 million, nearly matching India’s US$89.6 million, according to Indian market research company Sol Gravitas. The gap has closed significantly since 2021, when Indian exports stood at US$121 million compared with US$62.6

million for China. Separately, the study...

• 16,000 sign up for exam to drive taxis or ride-hailing cars in Hong Kong (2026-10-24 06:36)

About 16,000 Hong Kong residents have signed up for a joint exam to drive taxis or ride-hailing cars, the transport chief has said. Speaking on a radio programme on Saturday, Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan said the allocation arrangement for the 10,000 ride-hailing vehicle permits would be announced in November, with the government considering increasing the odds for certain drivers in the lottery draw. “We are pleased to see the enthusiastic response to the joint examination....

• In besieged Yemeni city, drinking water supplies hit crisis levels (2026-10-24 06:05)

Drinking water has been scarce for over a decade in Taiz, but the problem has reached crisis levels in recent weeks as Iran-backed Houthi rebels besiege Yemen’s third-largest city in their escalating conflict with government forces. The needs of Taiz’s more than 1 million residents are now barely being met, humanitarian groups say, as access to wells is limited, desalination plants run low on fuel and water delivery trucks are largely prevented from entering the city. Families are rationing...

• Hong Kong customs seizes 600 million illicit cigarettes in first 9 months of 2026 (2026-10-24 05:48)

Hong Kong customs officers seized 600 million illicit cigarette sticks in the first three quarters of this year, the department chief has said as he revealed plans to roll out more advanced contraband detection equipment at additional border checkpoints to ease manpower pressure. Commissioner of Customs and Excise Chan Tsz-tat told a radio programme on Saturday that the seizure amount in the first nine months this year nearly matched the 2025 annual total. He said that of the 600 million sticks...

• Kim Jong-un urges North Korean military to become ‘strongest armed forces in the world’ (2026-10-24 05:45)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un urged his military to train to become the strongest in the world at a two-day meeting of company commanders in Pyongyang, state media said on Saturday. Kim’s call for what he dubbed a “Korean-style military revolution” came the same week Seoul’s military proposed talks to clarify the border after an explosion inside the heavily fortified demilitarised zone (DMZ) further strained inter-Korean ties. Seoul and Pyongyang remain technically at war as the 1950-53 Korean...

• Israeli election campaign turns ugly with jibes, attacks against candidates (2026-10-24 04:30)

Days ahead of close-fought Israeli elections, campaigns have gone into overdrive with poor-taste jibes and inflammatory attacks against candidates, sometimes crossing red lines. Fuelled in part by a boom in AI-generated images flooding social media, candidates and activists

are seeking to portray their opponents as weak, untrustworthy or damaging for the country asthey play on stereotypes and fears to sway public opinion. The electioneering has at timesturned personal, with some candidates who...

• Overseas Filipinos feel heartache over missing parcels for loved ones, demand answers (2026-10-24 04:00)

At this time of year, Fatima Ramos would normally be preparing her balikbayan boxes. Overseas Filipinos typically fill these boxes with gifts, clothes, food and household items to send to their loved ones back home in the Philippines for Christmas. Ramos has previously sent the tax-exempt parcels to her family and Philippine charity organisations from Abu Dhabi, where she works as a domestic worker. Now back in the Philippines, Ramos is seeking answers about the parcels she sent last year, some...

• Crypto platform on alert lists opens Hong Kong office, prompting calls for scrutiny (2026-10-24 04:00)

A cryptocurrency trading platform on Hong Kong and Canadian regulators' alert lists has opened an office in the city, prompting experts to urge closer scrutiny of how such firms promote themselves without undermining an open business environment. Experts told the South China Morning Post that inclusion on a regulator's alert list did not necessarily mean a company had broken the law. But they urged authorities to step up oversight of how such firms marketed regulated financial products. Polar...

• China carries out in-depth investigation of Turkey's largest rare earth deposit (2026-10-24 04:00)

Chinese researchers have mapped the complex geological evolution of Turkey's Kizilcaoren deposit, offering fresh insights into the country's most significant known rare earth reserve while dampening expectations over its commercial potential. Although the findings shed light on how rare earth elements accumulate in carbonatite-related formations, the researchers concluded that the site was unlikely to emerge as a major global alternative to existing producers any time soon. Lead scientist...

• Some Parisians buy pepper spray, tear gas for self-defence during protests (2026-10-24 03:30)

Parisians are buying tear-gas canisters and pepper sprays to defend themselves and their property during protests, which are expected to continue over the weekend, the owner of a weapons shop in the French capital has said. France was hit by its worst social unrest in years last weekend as nationwide protests over high prices and declining public services erupted into riots. A town hall was torched, shops pillaged and buildings covered in graffiti as violent groups clashed with police in cities...

• Revised law to maintain Japan's imperial family size takes effect (2026-10-24 03:30)

A revised Imperial House Law took effect on Saturday to address Japan’s shrinking imperial family while retaining the traditional male-only succession system despite public support for female emperors. The legislation, enacted in July in the first major revision of the 1947 law, allows the imperial family to adopt males aged 15 or older from 11 former imperial branch families who are descended from emperors through the male line. The revised law also allows female members to retain their...

- French cooking schools fuel fine-dining dreams of India’s young chefs (2026-10-24 02:15)

Fiercely proud of its culinary traditions, India is increasingly open to foreign influences, with French cooking schools attracting students eager to make their mark on the country’s growing fine-dining sector. “Ten or 15 years ago, there were far fewer young people dreaming of becoming chefs,” said Aabhas Jain, director of bakery and pastry training at Ecole Ducasse, a French culinary school also operating in India. “But with the rise of social media … today’s students have greater ambitions in...

- Pet custody disputes draw increasing attention in China, where pets are treated as property (2026-10-24 02:14)

Pets in China have become deeply woven into people’s lives and romantic relationships, especially those of younger couples. When romance sours, deciding “who gets custody” is becoming a painful legal grey area for many couples. According to pet industry data, China’s urban dog and cat population reached 126 million in 2025, driven largely by Gen Z and millennial. Many young couples treat their pets like children, calling each other the “Mum” and “Dad” of their fur babies. “While love may fade,...

- Danger, death and devotion: Japan’s festivals face crisis after fatal accidents (2026-10-24 01:30)

Japan’s centuries-old festivals are facing renewed scrutiny after a series of fatal accidents in recent weeks, raising questions over how communities can preserve their cultural traditions without putting lives at risk. Three people have been killed and more than a dozen injured in accidents at autumn festivals across the country in recent weeks. Meanwhile, organisers of another major festival, where two men died in February, have cancelled next year’s event, citing public safety concerns. The...

- Why Hong Kong should rethink premiums for private recreation clubs (2026-10-24 01:30)

Private recreation leases have a long and contentious history in Hong Kong. Complaints about the inequity of granting land leases to private clubs at a nominal premium for the exclusive enjoyment of a small number of members have been raised many times. This issue is increasingly pressing. Twenty-seven sites are involved and almost all the leases for these sites are set for renewal next year. In response to this perceived inequality, the government reviewed its policy for clubs with private...

• Hong Kong private secondary sector expands as local universities' reputation grows (2026-10-24 01:00)

The number of private secondary schools in Hong Kong has risen by more than half in five years as demand for alternative curricula grows and new operators seek to attract families drawn by the city's highly ranked universities, education authorities and principals have said. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, the number of private secondary institutions increased from 16 to 25, a jump of 56.3 per cent, Education Bureau figures show. Leaders at schools offering alternative curriculum pathways said that...

• China's AI compute surge heavily reliant on US chips, offshore cloud access: report (2026-10-24 01:00)

China's access to artificial intelligence computing power will double next year, but US-designed chips will account for about 65 per cent of that capacity, an indication of its continued reliance on foreign hardware, according to new research. Total compute available to Chinese entities was expected to expand in 2027 from about 4.6 million to 8.8 million "H100-equivalents" – a metric benchmarked against Nvidia's data-centre graphics processing units, according to a report by the Washington-based...

• Big dreams, growing pains in Indonesia: Prabowo's turbulent 2 years in power (2026-10-24 00:00)

When 35-year-old Bekasi resident Ika Kartika voted for Prabowo Subianto in Indonesia's 2024 presidential election, she hoped the former general would restore a "Suharto-like" era of stability, when everyday essentials were affordable and life felt more predictable. Growing up, she had often heard her parents reminisce about the "good old days" under the late strongman, whose rule had brought a sense of order to their lives. Two years into his presidency, however, rising food prices have left Ika...

• US-China strategic competition to keep escalating as world watches on, Rudd says (2026-10-23 22:29)

Kevin Rudd, president of the Asia Society and a former Australian prime minister, described US-China strategic competition as full-on and multidimensional at a Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics event on Friday. "There is a full-blown strategic competition under way in every dimension of national political power and influence, militarily, economically, trade and investment and technology, in foreign policy, in ideology," said Rudd, a noted China scholar. "It's across the world,...

• US, allies and China vie for influence through Pacific security deals (2026-10-23 22:27)

Strategic competition between China and the US and its allies is intensifying across the Pacific islands, with both sides pursuing a growing range of security agreements to expand their influence, according to an interactive mapping tool released this week by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington think tank. The tool details 56 security

arrangements among 14 Pacific island countries and the US, Australia, New Zealand, mainlandChina and Taiwan in a bid to map...

• What will China's fifth plenum mean for the root-and-branch corruption drive? (2026-10-23 22:00)

Plenary sessions of the Central Committee, the upper echelon of China's ruling Communist Party, are major events on the country's political calendar. In the third part of this series, William Zheng and Alcott Wei examine how the fight against corruption is shaping the party's future. When China's political elites gather for a key conclave in Beijing later this month, the increasingly empty auditorium will speak loudly to the event's theme – the ruling Communist Party's strict self-discipline and...

• Why raising Asia's fertility rate starts with giving people time to date (2026-10-23 21:30)

In late September, Singapore's Reddit community erupted over the government's new dating platform, FirstDate. Curious to get an insider's perspective, I visited the site, connected to my Singpass account and watched as my name, age and marital status auto-populated the fields on the page. I entered my Gmail address and hit submit. The email field turned red: "Please sign up with your official work email. Personal email addresses will not be accepted." I resubmitted the form with my work email,...

• Kenya reports second Ebola death, a close relative of first patient (2026-10-23 21:19)

Kenya's health ministry announced the country's second Ebola death on Friday, saying a 65-year-old woman who was a close relative of the first patient died after developing symptoms while in quarantine. The woman began showing symptoms 10 days ago and began receiving supportive care at an infectious disease unit in the capital, Nairobi. The ministry said medical personnel "did everything possible to save her life", but she died Friday evening. Her family was notified, and the ministry said it...

• Zelensky hopes Beijing can use 'influence' over Moscow to help stop Ukraine war (2026-10-23 20:51)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Friday that Beijing has "influence" over Moscow it should use to stop the war in Ukraine, and that a proposed summit meeting of the US, Chinese and Russian leaders must not lead to the division of his war-torn country. Speaking virtually at an event hosted by Washington-based Hudson Institute think tank, Zelensky said he did not know what would be discussed at the potential meeting between US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping and...

• Trump to cut some Canada tariffs to help Maine lawmaker's re-election bid (2026-10-23 20:04)

The Trump administration is expanding tariff exemptions to more Canadian products, a move that may help boost Republican US Senator Susan Collins' re-election campaign in Maine.

Collins announced in a statement on Friday that the exemptions would apply to certain paper,plastic, machinery and seaweed products, saying they would help the state’s rural and coastaleconomy, including the blueberry, potato, apple and seaweed industries. “Many of ourfarmers and growers rely on specialised equipment,...

- Macron condemns ‘racist terrorist attack’ after deadly shooting near Paris (2026-10-23 18:13)

A gunman firing from a car killed one person and wounded five – including a 12-year-old girl shot eight times – in the Paris suburbs on Friday, in what the French president called a “racist terrorist attack”. The man was “firing at random, wanting to cause a bloodbath” as he drove through the working-class town of Trappes southwest of Paris and neighbouring La Verriere, Trappes mayor Ali Rabeh said. Most of the victims were from foreign backgrounds and prosecutors are investigating whether the...

- Gunmen kill 7 at Jordan church, king vows retaliation (2026-10-23 17:17)

Gunmen killed at least seven people and wounded dozens at a church in southern Jordan on Friday, authorities said, with the king vowing retaliation for the rare attack on Christians in the majority Sunni Muslim kingdom. Assailants stormed the compound of a Greek Orthodox church in the village of Hammoud in Karak governorate and opened fire, authorities said. The gunmen got out of a vehicle and started shooting during a funeral procession, the public security directorate said in a statement,...

- Melania Trump brokers ceasefire in Russian-occupied Ukraine city, White House says (2026-10-23 16:26)

US first lady Melania Trump has brokered a coming ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine in the war-ravaged Ukrainian city of Oleshky to allow for humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians, the White House announced on Friday. The localised ceasefire is set to begin Thursday, with the American first lady saying in a news release that the situation there is “on the brink of disaster”. The White House said Melania Trump had initiated the discussions and that she and a representative worked...

- Rocket debris hitting US homeland is ‘embarrassing’ for China, says astronomer (2026-10-23 15:00)

A scorched hunk of metal that turned up in a US farmer’s cornfield may have handed China an awkward moment and technically an “international incident”, according to a British astronomer who has tracked rocket launches for more than 30 years. The farmer found the bowl-shaped object, measuring about 3.35 metres (11 feet) across, while harvesting corn in west-central Minnesota on October 14. Online, some residents joked that aliens had landed, while Chinese internet users said it looked like a...

• Meghan Markle ‘distressed’ as Philippines probes father over child sexual abuse images (2026-10-23 14:41)

Authorities in the Philippines are investigating Thomas Markle, father of Meghan, the wife of Britain’s Prince Harry, the Philippine justice undersecretary said on Friday, after allegations he possessed child sexual abuse images. “Our Anti-Trafficking and Anti-OSAEC (online sexual abuse and exploitation of children) task force in Cebu is currently investigating the matter,” Nicholas Ty, Philippine justice undersecretary, said. Thomas Markle could not be immediately reached for comment but he...

• China warns against space arms race, urges equal rights for all in outer space (2026-10-23 14:22)

China has unveiled a position paper on outer space governance, prioritising the prevention of space weaponisation while calling for a global framework to protect all nations’ legitimate rights beyond Earth. Addressing the inaugural Global Governance Forum near Beijing on Friday evening, Foreign Minister Wang Yi framed the document as one of eight key actions under Beijing’s Global Governance Initiative (GGI) – an overarching vision introduced by President Xi Jinping in September last year. “We...

• France deploys 70,000 police for new protests as Macron delays Africa trip (2026-10-23 14:01)

France will deploy some 70,000 police nationwide as it braces for new protests this weekend after some of the worst urban violence in years erupted on the sidelines of demonstrations a week ago, the government said on Friday. President Emmanuel Macron, who, according to aides, is postponing a visit later this month to Nigeria and Senegal amid the crisis, held a meeting of his defence council of top ministers and officials and was to meet security forces. He was also set to host for the first...

• France unrest sparks travel jitters for Southeast Asian tourists (2026-10-23 14:00)

Fatimah Zainal had already paid for her flights and accommodation when videos of the unrest in France made her jittery about the Paris leg of her European holiday. “The videos definitely made me panic,” said Fatimah, who plans to visit the French capital solo from October 31 to November 3 after travelling through Belgium. The press officer for an international organisation said the Malaysian government’s travel advisory gave her second thoughts, and changing her flight would cost up to an...

• ‘Opportunistic’: experts weigh Manila’s minilateral agenda ahead of Trump-Xi meeting (2026-10-23 14:00)

The Philippines’ dual push for stronger “minilateral” defence links and a more robust Asean security role is dividing analysts, with one calling the move “opportunistic”. Some experts view Manila’s advocacy for the “Squad” alliance as a strategic opportunity to deepen core security partnerships while chairing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Others

question how much actual weight is carried by this informal defence grouping – comprising theUnited States, the Philippines, Japan and...

• URA tells owners to avoid hiring lift company at centre of fire safety probe (2026-10-23 13:40)

Hong Kong's Urban Renewal Authority has advised property owners under a subsidy scheme against hiring a contractor that failed to install fire safety components in lifts at hundreds of buildings, saying it had "lost confidence" in the company. The move came a day after the government suspended the performance rating for Taizoom Elevator, which was found to have failed to install required fire-resistant door frame components at 338 buildings as inspections of its work across the city are carried...

• What Indonesia's warnings of energy cuts mean for Asean (2026-10-23 13:22)

Indonesia's warnings of curbing energy exports to countries it deems disrespectful amid regional tensions have put Singapore and other Southeast Asian buyers on notice, exposing the risks of relying on a neighbour increasingly protective of its resources. But analysts see little chance of Jakarta following through on the threat, given its own economic interests and the mutual benefits of regional energy cooperation, including the long-planned Asean Power Grid. On Thursday, Coordinating Minister...

• Hong Kong Legco to review tighter rules on access to land records amid concerns (2026-10-23 13:05)

Hong Kong's legislature will set up a subcommittee to examine proposed restrictions on access to land records following widespread public concern. At a Legislative Council House Committee meeting on Friday, lawmakers endorsed establishing the subcommittee to study proposed requirements and procedures under the Land Titles Regulation. The move came after some legislators and the Hong Kong Journalists Association voiced objections on Wednesday after the government tabled eight pieces of subsidiary...

• Europe considers new quotas and tariffs to stem Chinese imports (2026-10-23 13:00)

The European Union may hit more Chinese industries with quotas or tariffs before further negotiations with Beijing, the bloc's trade chief said on Friday, naming plastics as a sector in which investigations are advanced. Maros Sefcovic said that when the bloc needs to move quickly to protect its industries, it will consider safeguards, which allow emergency measures to curb surges in imports, instead of engaging in longer negotiations. "We clearly will have to put it in order, prioritise, and...

• China, Europe should coordinate on carbon pricing, border tax: energy transition expert (2026-10-23 12:30)

China and Europe should jointly introduce a system like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a levy on carbon-intensive imports designed to account for the carbon

costs domestic producers face, which “applies against the rest of the world,” the co-chair of aglobal energy transition organisation says. “The biggest single thing which I would love Chinato do is to say, ‘We want to join with Europe in a climate club’,” said Adair Turner, co-chairof the Energy Transitions Commission,...

• The EU is its own worst enemy (2026-10-23 12:30)

Beijing has told Brussels not to “fantasise” that pressure will extract concessions. This came after China made a goodwill gesture in the recent hybrid-car trade deal. The European Union responded by doubling down on a proposed trade “kill switch”. The instrument follows a Franco-German proposal. It would let the bloc swiftly restrict single-market access in response to economic coercion. EU chief Ursula von der Leyen says all 27 leaders back it. Chemicals and machinery are priority sectors....

• Xi Jinping leads early Politburo meeting to signal anti-corruption drive ahead of plenum (2026-10-23 12:26)

China’s Communist Party convened an early monthly Politburo meeting on Friday to review a key internal inspection report, doubling down on its high-pressure anti-corruption campaign ahead of a major party conclave next week. Chaired by President Xi Jinping, the now 21-member Politburo met on Friday – earlier than its traditional end-of-month schedule – to discuss a comprehensive report on the seventh round of inspections by the 20th Central Committee. The latest inspection is a major internal...

• Economic fears fuel protests in India, France as ‘social contract’ breaks down (2026-10-23 12:24)

Recent youth-led protests in New Delhi and other cities in India have fuelled allegations that they are connected to unrest in France and elsewhere in Europe, with an influential Hindu nationalist organisation warning of foreign forces seeking to destabilise societies. While analysts caution against concluding that foreign interference played a role in demonstrations in India, they say protesters in Europe and India share similar concerns, reflecting their mounting anger that education and hard...

• Cambricon’s third quarter profit surges 148% to US$210m amid push to replace Nvidia chips (2026-10-23 12:03)

Chinese artificial intelligence chip giant Cambricon Technologies reported a 147.7 per cent surge in third-quarter profit on Friday, as the country’s aggressive push to replace Nvidia chips continues to fuel high growth among local chipmakers. The Shanghai-listed chipmaker generated 1.4 billion yuan (US$210 million) in net profit for the three months ended September 30, up from 566.6 million yuan during the same period last year. Revenue reached 3.5 billion yuan, an increase of 104.5 per cent...

• What Beijing's two-to-one shipbuilding lead means for the US in war over Taiwan (2026-10-23 12:00)

Mainland Chinese shipyards delivered more than twice as much naval tonnage as their US counterparts in 2024 and 2025, according to a new survey, exposing a growing production gap that analysts say could weigh heavily in a prolonged conflict over Taiwan. Tonnage alone is an imperfect measure of naval power, specialists cautioned, pointing to ongoing US advantages in submarine technology, aircraft carriers and operational experience. They also highlighted China's ability to draw on commercial...

• Good to see you after all this time. Chinese scientists put a face to the Denisovans (2026-10-23 11:09)

Chinese scientists have finally put a face to the Denisovans, a mysterious species of ancient humans who were previously known only through the evidence of their DNA and fossil fragments. The hominids were thought to have lived in parts of Siberia and East and Southeast Asia thousands of years ago. The work of reconstructing their face was based on fossils excavated from Xujiayao, a major archaeological site in northern China's Nihewan Basin, between 1976 and 1979. Scientists also confirmed that...

• Could Europe's cost-of-living protests sharpen EU-China trade tensions? (2026-10-23 11:00)

As violent protests fuelled partly by the cost-of-living crisis shake parts of Europe, most notably France, analysts say the unrest could add to pressure on European policymakers to take a tougher trade stance towards China. "One could argue that the EU looks weaker, but then one could also argue that there is more of a need to show external strength at a time of such events," said David Henig, director of the UK Trade Policy Project at the European Centre for International Political...

• 'Running on his hands': Chinese world record holder wows public with skateboarding skills (2026-10-23 10:00)

A man from southeastern China, dubbed the "Wind-Breaking Rider," has mastered his wheelchair and stunned the internet with his skateboarding skills. Xie Junwu, 55, lives in Nanchang, Jiangxi province. At 19, he fell from a tree, injuring his thoracic spinal cord and leaving him paralysed from the waist down. For the first eight years after his injury, Xie depended entirely on his mother. Confined to his home, he struggled with the loss of his independence. "The pain was secondary," Xie recalled...

• Philippines offers US$786,000 bounty for 'dangerous' senator wanted by ICC (2026-10-23 09:53)

The Philippine government put a bounty on Friday on the head of the top enforcer of ex-president Rodrigo Duterte's bloody anti-drug crackdown, nearly a year after the International Criminal Court (ICC) ordered his arrest. Former Philippine police chief and sitting

Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa had mostly been in hiding for months before TheHague-based tribunal unsealed the November 2025 arrest warrant against him in May and puthim into flight. The bounty comes just over a month before...

- Paper straws worse for the environment than plastic, South Korea study finds (2026-10-23 09:49)

Paper straws, widely promoted as an eco-friendly alternative to plastic, may actually have a greater environmental impact than conventional plastic straws, according to a South Korean government-commissioned study that has renewed debate over whether switching materials truly reduces waste. The Comprehensive Study on Single-Use Straws, commissioned by South Korea’s Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, was disclosed on Wednesday by opposition People Power Party lawmaker Kim Wi-sang, The...

- Hong Kong sauce maker to close after 90 years, making way for Northern Metropolis (2026-10-23 09:36)

One of Hong Kong’s last traditional sauce makers is to cease operations, ending its 90-year legacy, after authorities cleared land at its Kwu Tung factory on Friday. Established in 1936, Kui Lee Sauce and Preserved Fruit confirmed to the South China Morning Post that it would close down once its remaining inventory at its shop in Wan Chai was sold. “Our factory in Kwu Tung has halted production, and all remaining stock is at our retail shop. We will close permanently after selling through all...

- Japan’s university defence bids surge as post-war taboo fades amid China concerns (2026-10-23 09:31)

Japanese universities and other educational institutions more than doubled their applications for defence ministry research funding this year to a record 291, up from 123 last year, as Tokyo moves to strengthen its defences. The increase is the clearest sign yet that academia’s decades-long resistance to military-linked work is easing. The bids accounted for more than half the record 560 applications received by the ministry this year, up from 340 last year, with the rest coming from public...

- Girl arrested after taking US$111 from Russia to poison Ukrainian troops (2026-10-23 09:24)

Ukrainian police said on Friday they had detained a 17-year-old girl suspected of helping Russia’s security services to poison Ukrainian soldiers and that two had died. Ukraine and Russia have throughout their war since 2022 accused each other of recruiting minors for sabotage acts including poisoning. The girl, who was not named, is suspected of having packaged deadly drugs and sending them to Ukrainian soldiers she contacted by Telegram, a police statement said. She was arrested by police in...

- China party meeting, stocks slump, HSBC leads earnings (2026-10-23 09:06)

A key Communist Party meeting next week in Beijing is likely to be dominated by two themes – the renewal of President Xi Jinping's long-standing anti-corruption drive and the hunt for clues about a looming leadership reshuffle. "Major issues related to advancing full and rigorous party self-governance" will top the agenda at the fifth plenum of the party's Central Committee, which runs from Monday to Wednesday. Plenums, which usually take place once a year, draw about 300 delegates and...

• Former HSBC insurance veteran Edward Moncreiffe joins AIA in latest senior talent move (2026-10-23 09:00)

Former HSBC Holdings global insurance head Edward Moncreiffe will join rival AIA Group as regional CEO from November 2, following a path taken by former HSBC Group chairman Mark Tucker, who returned to the Asia-Pacific region's largest insurer as non-executive chairman last year. Moncreiffe will oversee AIA's businesses in India, Sri Lanka, Australia and New Zealand, while serving on the group's executive committee, according to a company statement issued on Friday. He will report to group CEO...

• How the Philippines' energy crisis is opening doors for deeper US military ties (2026-10-23 09:00)

The Philippines is turning to the United States to build its oil stockpile amid the global energy crunch, with observers saying the move could also serve Washington's military interests and deepen strategic ties. A bilateral deal could deliver more immediate benefits than a broader Asean stockpile, which would entail coordination hurdles, analysts said, but questions remain over how quickly Manila could establish such a reserve and whether it would meaningfully reduce long-term dependence on...

• Netanyahu orders West Bank closure after attack on Israelis ends in gun battle (2026-10-23 08:29)

Palestinian militants wounded five Israelis in an attack on Friday before being killed in a prolonged shoot-out with soldiers, leading Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to order a lockdown in the occupied West Bank days before Israeli elections. Netanyahu, facing a tight race for a new term in Tuesday's election, said that Israeli troops prevented what could have been a major attack, with the two assailants allegedly carrying a large quantity of ammunition in their vehicle. An Agence...

• Hong Kong marks hottest 'Frost' solar term on record at 32.3 degrees Celsius (2026-10-23 08:20)

Hong Kong recorded its highest-ever temperature for the traditional Chinese calendar's "Frost" solar term on Friday, with the weather forecaster warning of a very dry weekend ahead. The Hong Kong Observatory said the temperature at its headquarters in Tsim Sha Tsui reached 32.3 degrees Celsius by 3.30pm, the highest of the day. Frost, the 18th of the Chinese lunisolar calendar's 24 solar terms, began on October 23. The terms mark natural phenomena

and seasonal changes. Temperatures in the city...

• Typhoon Champi grounds hundreds of Taiwan flights, threatens Shanghai and Japan (2026-10-23 08:00)

Flight disruptions and cancellations surged across East Asia as Typhoon Champi approached Taiwan on Friday, prompting emergency precautions in eastern mainland China, including Shanghai, and in Japan during a large-scale joint military drill with the US. Taiwan's transport ministry said 262 local flights and 715 international and cross-strait flights had been cancelled as of 10am on Friday. The island's largest airports – Taiwan Taoyuan, Taipei Songshan, Kaohsiung and Taichung – faced widespread...

• China's humanoid robots hunt for work in South Korea as Seoul bets on physical AI (2026-10-23 08:00)

This article was first published by The Korea Times in a partnership with the South China Morning Post. Chinese humanoid robot makers are accelerating efforts to gain a foothold in South Korea, moving beyond dance performances and showroom displays to factory trials and commercial deployments, as Seoul ramps up investment in physical artificial intelligence. A growing number of Chinese robotics companies – including Hong Kong-listed UBTech Robotics, start-up Anyverse Dynamics, Shanghai-based...

• Malaysia's oil-rich Sarawak heads to polls, forcing Anwar into yet another federal test (2026-10-23 07:51)

Malaysia's oil-rich Sarawak state will dissolve its assembly on Monday in a test of political strength for a powerful regional coalition whose support has become crucial to Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's government. Anwar is facing growing pressure following electoral setbacks for his own coalition in Peninsular Malaysia, while over in Borneo, ruling Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) continues to press for greater autonomy and control over the state's vast oil and gas resources. Sarawak Premier Abang...

• China's head transplant advocate Ren Xiaoping completes landmark spinal surgery in Russia (2026-10-23 07:44)

Ren Xiaoping, who once vowed to perform the world's first human head transplant, has operated on a patient's severed spinal cord in a 12-hour landmark operation in Moscow, according to the Chinese surgeon and Russian state sources. Ren said the procedure was carried out at the Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine in Russia last week. "It was our Guangxi University of Chinese Medicine Second Affiliated Hospital and the Russian team working together," Ren told the South China...

• Hong Kong constable paralysed in 2005 knife attack laid to rest with full honours (2026-10-23 07:42)

Hong Kong's top government officials and police officers paid their final respects on Friday to a former constable who died 21 years after being left paralysed in an attack while on duty. Jacky Chu Chun-kwok, who died last month aged 52, was laid to rest following a service at the Universal Funeral Parlour in Hung Hom at 10.30am, which was attended by Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu and Secretary for Security Chris Tang Ping-keung. The mood was sombre as family members, friends, colleagues and...

- WHO warns Africa faces 'complex' Ebola outbreak as virus reaches Nigeria (2026-10-23 06:49)

The World Health Organization has warned that Africa faced a "complex" Ebola outbreak after the virus crossed from east Africa to Nigeria, marking the first case in the west of the continent. Nigeria on Tuesday had announced an imported case of the Bundibugyo strain, currently causing a major Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was detected in the wife of a diplomat who had travelled from Uganda to the Nigerian capital Abuja. Health minister Muhammad Ali Pate said Thursday the...

- Typhoon Champi disrupts more than 70 flights between Hong Kong and Taiwan (2026-10-23 06:39)

More than 70 flights between Hong Kong and Taiwan have been cancelled as Typhoon Champi approaches the island ahead of a possible landfall later on Friday. As of noon on Friday, more than 30 flights between the city and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport had been cancelled, according to a South China Morning Post check of the Hong Kong airport's website. Nine outbound flights to Kaohsiung International Airport and Taichung International Airport were also cancelled. The affected services were...

- Indonesian wildfires threaten world's oldest cave paintings in Sulawesi (2026-10-23 06:31)

The world's oldest cave paintings on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi are under threat as heat and smoke from the country's worst wildfires in more than a decade risk accelerating the deterioration of the more than 67,000-year-old works of art, according to researchers. Indonesia is battling its most intense forest and land fires since 2015 as a severe El Nino drives up temperatures and reduces rainfall, leaving its forest and peatland vulnerable to fire. While the islands of Sumatra and...

- DeepSeek, MiniMax secure open-source licences days after new China export rules: state media (2026-10-23 06:00)

Chinese artificial intelligence model developers DeepSeek and MiniMax have completed export registration procedures and proceeded with open-source releases and overseas licensing activities, according to Chinese state media, days after Beijing moved to tighten oversight on AI tech transfers. Yuyuan Tantian, an influential social media account affiliated with state broadcaster CCTV, reported on Thursday evening that the two AI companies had completed the

required registrations after Beijing...

• 2 women arrested over alleged child abuse after girl, 11, posts plea for help (2026-10-23 05:52)

Two women have been arrested in Hong Kong on suspicion of child abuse after an 11-year-old girl posted videos on social media in a plea for help, capturing moments of emotional distress inside her home. Police arrested a 61-year-old local woman and a 43-year-old foreign woman in Wong Tai Sin on Friday on suspicion of ill-treatment or neglect by those in charge of a child or young person. The girl, found with red and swollen limbs, was sent to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Yau Ma Tei in a conscious...

• France braces for more unrest as police tactics and weapons face scrutiny (2026-10-23 05:50)

Police across France are under pressure to maintain security during further protests expected in some cities, while facing scrutiny over their riot-control tactics used during previous unrest that left some teenagers seriously injured. Officers appeared outnumbered and overwhelmed during last weekend's protests against rising living costs and poor conditions in schools. In response, France's Interior Ministry said it would deploy 20 per cent more police this Saturday than last weekend, even as...

• North Korean silence signals Trump-Kim summit unlikely: US, South Korean officials (2026-10-23 05:30)

US and South Korean officials see the chances fading of a meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un this year, according to five people with knowledge of the situation. Trump, the only US president to have met a North Korean leader, has been eager to jump-start talks with North Korea, but Pyongyang has shown little interest in diplomacy aimed at containing its nuclear programme. The US has received no response from North Korea on holding a Trump-Kim meeting, and...

• Hong Kong security chief vows accountability, reforms ahead of Tai Po fire report (2026-10-23 05:19)

The Fire Services Department will bear "ultimate responsibility" for following up on fire safety complaints across Hong Kong, the security chief has said, pledging legal reforms after the deadly Tai Po blaze, as an independent committee's report is expected to identify the department as among those responsible. Secretary for Security Chris Tang Ping-keung made the pledge a day after the judge-led committee submitted its final report to the government. Sources said the report would identify...

• No bots: Japan drafts rules for social media platforms ahead of local elections (2026-10-23 04:48)

Japan’s communications ministry on Friday unveiled draft guidelines outlining measures for 13 major social media operators to help reduce the impact of misinformation and disinformation that could undermine fairness during elections. The guidelines also include measures such as requiring operators to establish eligibility requirements and strict screening procedures for users of monetisation features, suspend monetisation when content that harms the fairness of elections is posted, and add...

- ‘I am not resigning’: embattled leader digs in as Malaysia royal crisis deepens (2026-10-23 04:35)

Embattled Negeri Sembilan chief minister Ismail Lasim has denied claims that he has resigned, as a constitutional crisis in the Malaysian state spiralled further following a move by his executive council to challenge their sacking by the state’s ruler in court. The state has been all but paralysed by a dispute that began in April over who has the right to sit on Negeri Sembilan’s throne, bringing down a state government aligned with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim’s ruling Pakatan Harapan (PH)...

- Honduras squeezes Chinese firms; Super Typhoon Champi nears Taiwan: SCMP’s 7 highlights (2026-10-23 04:15)

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. Honduras targets Chinese shops, state builder as president sits on Taiwan pledge Honduran migration officials have summoned or placed under review 41 Chinese nationals after inspecting shops in the capital and a hospital being built...

- What do the protests in France look like from China? Internet users weigh in (2026-10-23 04:00)

Internet users in China are watching the protests in France with a mix of geopolitical cynicism, domestic pride and sadness at the damage to French landmarks. The protests started in September, when students and teachers in southeastern Paris rallied against deteriorating school conditions. Those specific grievances quickly escalated into nationwide protests at the rising cost of living and declining public services. What began as peaceful marches has since dissolved into violence, with rioters...

- El Salvador deploys special forces to Haiti after soldiers seized by gangs (2026-10-23 03:44)

El Salvador deployed 100 special forces soldiers to Haiti on Thursday to help rescue four missing soldiers from the Central American country who recently came under attack by gangs, two officials told Associated Press. The special forces arrived a day after Salvadorean President Nayib Bukele announced a military operation to rescue the four aviation technicians, issuing an ultimatum directly to Haitian gang leaders in Creole. “We have a single objective: to bring our four compatriots back home...

• ‘Either blood or blown’: graphic details of botched US execution revealed (2026-10-23 03:00)

Tennessee execution team members failed multiple times to establish working IV lines in Christa Pike’s arms before her attempted execution and warned that some of her veins may have ruptured, or “blown”, before she was injected with the lethal drug, her lawyer wrote in a court document filed Thursday. The IV team went through about 10 needles and tried several IV sites on both arms, lawyer Randy Spivey wrote in the document, which provides the most detailed account of the execution attempt so...

• Wine walks, star chefs and fresh flavours: how to enjoy the Wine and Dine Festival (2026-10-23 03:00)

The annual Hong Kong Wine and Dine Festival later this month promises more booths and longer hours to help attract over 168,000 visitors. The South China Morning Post unpacks what is on offer so you can enjoy the event to the fullest. 1. What is the festival and when is it open? Organised by the Tourism Board under the theme “Taste the World’s Best,” the festival will be held from October 29 to November 1 at the Central Harbourfront, opening at 7.30pm on the first day and 1pm on the following...

• Chinese state media takes aim at Japanese firm KDDI over Mongolia wildfire (2026-10-23 02:57)

Chinese state media has called for a Japanese telecoms firm to apologise to China over a huge wildfire in neighbouring Mongolia, as diplomatic tensions run high between Beijing and Tokyo. The grassland fire broke out on October 8 and burned about 80 per cent of a nature reserve on the Mongolia-China border. According to Japanese media reports, the company, KDDI, has acknowledged that the fire was linked to activities involving its majority-owned subsidiary MobiCom – the largest mobile network...

• China’s Xi Jinping orders urgent relief after Tibet earthquake leaves 16 dead (2026-10-23 02:31)

All efforts need to be focused on search and rescue for survivors and treating the injured, President Xi Jinping instructed on Friday morning, after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake killed 16 and injured 65 in China’s Tibet autonomous region overnight. “The disaster-hit area is located in a high-altitude region with cold weather. It is imperative to closely monitor seismic activities and weather changes and implement rescue operations accordingly, while preventing secondary disasters,” he said,...

• Asia-Pacific AI agent market to surge 14-fold to US$11.2 billion by 2030, Omdia says (2026-10-23 02:30)

The artificial intelligence agent software market across Asia, Australia and New Zealand is set to expand more than 14-fold by 2030, according to research firm Omdia, as Chinese tech

companies increasingly deploy automated tools across office and industrial operations. Duringits annual event in Beijing on Thursday, Omdia forecast that regional market revenue, whichincluded mainland China and Hong Kong, would reach US$11.2 billion in 2030, up from anestimated US$782 million this year. Over the...

- US police officer accused of taking over dead man’s home after finding body (2026-10-23 02:24)

A Florida police officer who found a man dead during a welfare check in 2022 is accused of taking possession of the man’s home and impersonating him for years while fixing up the place, authorities said. The officer said he took possession of the property weeks after discovering the homeowner’s body to “prevent squatters from taking control of it,” according to a court document he filed. Investigators in South Florida have accused Lauderhill police officer Brian Sguros of carrying out a “complex...

- Australia sanctions 2 over North Korean fake IT workers scheme for nuclear funds (2026-10-23 02:21)

Australia said on Friday it had sanctioned two North Korean individuals and companies over the use of “fraudulent” IT workers and cybercrime to earn cash for the isolated nuclear-armed state. The two men are alleged to be key operators in Pyongyang’s cybercriminal activities overseas, estimated by analysts to bring in billions for the country’s weapons programme. “The North Korean entities and individuals sanctioned today facilitate North Korea’s use of fraudulent IT workers to raise revenue for...

- China cancer patient who inspired hit film hopes to stop treatment after 35,000 pills over 2 decades (2026-10-23 02:00)

Lu Yong, who has a slow-growing blood and bone marrow cancer and inspired the 2018 blockbuster Dying to Survive, has begun reducing his medication and hopes to stop taking it completely within three months. The acclaimed film is based on Lu’s experience. He has chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) and helped patients across China obtain affordable, life-saving generic drugs from India, but was prosecuted by Chinese authorities for selling “fake drugs”. Before his diagnosis, 58-year-old Lu was a...

- Hong Kong elderly urged to stay indoors as air pollution spikes to serious levels (2026-10-23 02:00)

Severe haze in Hong Kong over the past two days has prompted a government warning of serious health risks, with experts urging the elderly and vulnerable to stay indoors until sunset. Air quality health risk levels at some of Hong Kong’s roadside monitoring stations rose on Wednesday and Thursday, with experts attributing the surge to elevated ozone levels caused by sunlight and high temperatures and warning that conditions were likely to persist over the next few days. On Wednesday afternoon,...

• Rare Suu Kyi phone call to son signals shift in Myanmar junta strategy (2026-10-23 01:33)

The son of Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi said she sounded "fairly healthy" after speaking to the detained ex-democratic leader on Thursday for the first time in more than five years. Suu Kyi, 81, is under house arrest in the capital, Naypyidaw, according to Myanmar authorities, where she has been sequestered since being unseated in a 2021 military coup. "She was sounding fairly healthy," Kim Aris, who lives in the UK, said after the telephone conversation. It was the first time he had spoken to his...

• How Hong Kong can go from passive trade hub to regional control tower (2026-10-23 01:30)

This year has opened a rare window of relative calm in global commerce. On October 8, the World Trade Organization doubled its forecast for global goods trade growth, from 1.9 to 3.9 per cent. The easing of US-China and Europe-China tensions has given open economies some breathing space. Hong Kong has seized the moment. Its exports rose 42.5 per cent year on year in the first eight months of 2026, with figures from August alone up 53 per cent, driven largely by AI-related equipment and...

• Chinese astronomers find real 3-body system. It is not what Liu Cixin thinks (2026-10-23 01:00)

In author and computer engineer Liu Cixin's science fiction hit The Three-Body Problem, three suns throw a doomed world into chaos. Chinese astronomers say they have found a real three-star system that is far better behaved. Using FAST, the world's biggest single-dish radio telescope in southwestern China, the researchers found two dead stars and a "living" one locked in a steady cosmic dance about 7,000 light years from Earth. One of the dead stars is a pulsar that spins more than 300 times a...

• Nepal set to receive first-ever US$20 million payout from UN climate damage fund (2026-10-23 00:58)

The United Nations' climate loss and damage fund moved to provide US$20 million in aid sought by flood-stricken Nepal – the first time it has set aside money for any country – in a key test of the body's credibility. In an extraordinary meeting on Thursday, the fund's board agreed to earmark the modest sum for the Himalayan country, which was hit in August by tsunami-like floods triggered by a climate-induced ice and rock avalanche that killed more than 1,400 people and left over 5,000...

• Hong Kong degree holders' pay advantage over non-graduates narrows to HK$2,500 (2026-10-23 00:30)

Fresh Hong Kong graduates are increasingly feeling the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) as they enter the workforce, human resources experts have said, after a survey found the starting salaries for degree holders and sub-degree graduates had narrowed. The results of the latest annual survey by Baptist University found the disparity between the starting salaries of

bachelor’s degree and sub-degree graduates narrowed by 17 per cent, or HK$500 (US$63.70),from HK$3,000 last year to HK$2,500...

• Vietnam partners with Denmark to propel its wind energy ambition (2026-10-23 00:00)

A wind energy partnership between Vietnam and Denmark has fuelled expectations of the Southeast Asian country boosting its competitiveness in renewable electricity to serve overseas and domestic markets. Vietnam is well placed to grow its renewable electricity sector by tapping its large pool of engineering talent and abundant wind resources with help from Denmark, a global leader in wind energy, according to analysts. On Tuesday, the two countries signed a comprehensive strategic partnership...

• Video shows fatal shooting of 1-year-old Kohen Wiley by US police officer (2026-10-22 23:40)

Mississippi released video on Thursday showing the fatal shooting of a one-year-old boy by a police officer whom state authorities have cleared of criminal wrongdoing. Kohen Wiley was killed in June when Senatobia police officer Sergeant Hunter Foster fired his gun into a moving vehicle while responding to a shoplifting call. Kohen’s family says footage of the fatal encounter shows the shooting was not justified. The Mississippi Attorney General’s office said this week its month-long probe found...

• Inflation-squeezed Japanese flock to claw machines dangling everyday items (2026-10-22 23:30)

With one eye on her baby in a stroller, Minae Kamata operates an arcade machine in a Tokyo suburb, manipulating a claw to grab not a stuffed toy but a pack of toilet paper. As inflation weighs on Japanese households, huge arcades on the outskirts of major cities are installing claw machines filled with eggs, rice, laundry detergent and other necessities. The “shop-and-play destinations” merge essential buying with entertainment so that families do not feel a choice between bringing home the...

• Asia Society announces new permanent home in historic Washington building (2026-10-22 23:05)

The Asia Society announced on Thursday that it had marked out territory on the Washington policy landscape with the purchase of a US$17.5 million building that will give it a permanent spot alongside other US capital think tanks dating back more than a century, striving for influence. The 70-year-old institution, founded by the grandson of oil mogul John D. Rockefeller, has focused more on public policy in recent years, in addition to its traditional focus on arts, culture and education, under...

• HSBC RedCoin stablecoin launches for 3.3 million PayMe users in Hong Kong (2026-10-22 23:00)

HSBC will launch its Hong Kong dollar-backed stablecoin in stages from Friday for more than 3.3 million users of its PayMe app, as the bank pushes to bring digital currencies into the city's mainstream retail and investment markets. HSBC RedCoin, available only through PayMe and the bank's Hong Kong mobile banking app, would initially support peer-to-peer transfers and peer-to-merchant payments on PayMe, according to head of PayMe Lawrence Li. Users can activate their HSBC RedCoin wallet, with...

- Trump invokes Cold War-era Defence Production Act to boost oil production and refining (2026-10-22 22:21)

US President Donald Trump determined on Thursday that petroleum production, refining and related activities are essential to national defence, a move that could open up US funding for fossil fuel projects. In a presidential memo, Trump also invoked part of the Cold War-era Defence Production Act, allowing him to provide financial incentives for oil-related activities, pipelines and storage of liquid fuels. Prices for crude oil and diesel have surged since the US and Israel attacked Iran in...

- China-made cancer drug to go on sale in US after Americans travel to buy it (2026-10-22 21:56)

Global pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca said on Thursday it would start selling a cancer drug after coming under criticism for failing to bring it to the US market faster, prompting some Americans to fly to Shanghai to procure the potentially life-saving medicine first developed by China. In recent months, desperate Americans have travelled to China to obtain the Chinese-made cancer drug that was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration but remained unavailable in the country for more than...

- Tom Skerritt, star of Alien and Top Gun, dies at 93 (2026-10-22 21:02)

Versatile actor Tom Skerritt, who starred in Hollywood megahits including the sci-fi classic Alien, the war comedy M*A*S*H, and the action drama Top Gun, has died at the age of 93. Skerritt, a Detroit native whose Hollywood career spanned from the 1960s to the 2020s, died on Wednesday of natural causes, his family said in a statement. "While the world knew Tom through his remarkable acting career, we knew him for his humour, curiosity, wisdom, generosity and the love he brought into our...

- Trump blasts basketball star LeBron James for not standing still during US anthem (2026-10-22 20:38)

US President Donald Trump on Thursday accused LeBron James of disrespecting the United States after the NBA star appeared to continue his warm-ups while the national anthem was performed before Philadelphia's season opener on Tuesday. "I said right from the beginning that he's no good, a TOTAL DISGRACE," Trump said of James in a social media post sharing the video. "LeBron James should apologize to all of those Great American Warriors and Heroes who died for the American Flag, and all that our...

• EU mulls sanctions reprieve for Chinese fabric-maker accused of aiding Russia (2026-10-22 20:32)

Diplomats from the EU's 27 member states were pressured this week to lift sanctions on Yusha Group, a Chinese textiles manufacturer accused of selling sensitive European technology to Russian buyers. In exchange, Beijing has pledged that the company will refrain from shipping banned items to Russian military-linked buyers. It will also remove German company Sindlhauser Materials from its own export controls list, according to multiple sources familiar with the affair. The unusual quid pro quo –...

• 16 killed, 32 hurt after magnitude 7 earthquake strikes China's Tibet (2026-10-22 20:26)

At least 16 people were killed and 32 more injured when a strong 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck China's western Tibet autonomous region late on Thursday, state news agency Xinhua said, citing local authorities. More than 300 houses collapsed in the earthquake, which struck on Thursday at 10.33pm. Officials were still evaluating the damage, and disaster relief work was ongoing, Xinhua said. The epicentre of the quake was located in a mountainous area about 190km (120 miles) east-northeast of...

• Millions in cheese revenue lost as protest hits Italy's buffalo mozzarella output (2026-10-22 17:47)

A truckers' protest in southern Italy has halted the production of the famed buffalo mozzarella, causing an estimated loss of €3 million (US$3.37 million) in just 24 hours as the milk cannot reach dairies in the Naples region and the finished cheese cannot reach customers, an official said. The week-long strike by truck drivers over the high cost of diesel driven up by the Iran war has also blocked deliveries of other basic goods to supermarkets and left fuel pumps empty in much of southern...

• Judge gives Trump deadline to sit for deposition in BBC defamation suit (2026-10-22 16:40)

A federal judge on Thursday ordered US President Donald Trump to sit for a deposition in his US$10 billion defamation lawsuit against the BBC by December 11. The order from US Magistrate Judge Enjolique Lett came as lawyers for the British broadcaster complained that Trump had delayed his appearance. Charles Tobin, the lawyer for the BBC, said that with two months left in the discovery period, "we still haven't been able to depose the plaintiff". He noted there was an agreed-upon date of October...

• Beijing slams UK's 'irresponsible remarks' on Hong Kong in 6-monthly report (2026-10-22 16:34)

Beijing has slammed "irresponsible remarks" by Britain after a UK report said Hong Kong's national security law had further diminished the openness that underpinned the city's success. In the United Kingdom's latest six-month monitoring report on Hong Kong, released on Thursday, Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said he was "deeply concerned and disturbed" by

the continued imprisonment of former media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, who was jailed for 20years over national security offences. “We continue...

• The One Question AI Could Not Answer (2026-10-22 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Why Children Need More Than Screens to Master the Future Hong Kong is moving decisively into the age of artificial intelligence in education. The government has committed significant funding to digital education, supporting schools in purchasing AI tools, digital resources and related training. The message from policymakers is clear: our children must learn to master technology. They are right. But true mastery requires...

• Zuckerberg gets new Meta shares to stay in California amid billionaire tax vote (2026-10-22 15:20)

Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg will get a new chunk of shares in the company he founded, and in return, he has agreed to stay in California, where the company is headquartered, for at least eight more years. It is partly a financial carrot intended to keep Zuckerberg in California, where voters in November will decide whether to approve a temporary tax on wealth held by billionaires who live in the state. Meta announced the deal on Wednesday in a securities filing that coincided with its...

• Quad confirmed, Manila envoy signals likely ‘Squad’ talks before Trump-Xi summit (2026-10-22 15:00)

The Philippine ambassador to the United States signalled possible meetings of the “Squad” bloc ahead of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations gathering in Manila, as Washington confirmed that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue would hold its first leaders’ summit in more than two years on the sidelines of the regional talks. An informal defence grouping, the “Squad” forms part of a US-led regional strategy to counter China’s growing influence in the Asia-Pacific region. It comprises the US...

• Hong Kong badly lags peers in Greater Bay Area AI supply chains (2026-10-22 14:11)

Hong Kong is significantly lagging behind its neighbours and ranks near the bottom in meeting the growing demand for artificial intelligence supply chains, according to a major index evaluating key developments across the Greater Bay Area. The finding is part of the Greater Bay Area Industry Development Index 2026, jointly released on Thursday by think tank Our Hong Kong Foundation and Dah Sing Bank. The index evaluated the performance of the 11 cities in the bay area in key sectors including...

• Singapore pushes for quick action on PHP security flaws as hackers prowl (2026-10-22 13:58)

Organisations in Singapore have been urged to immediately fix two critical security flaws in a widely used programming language amid reports of widespread attempts by hackers to exploit

the vulnerabilities. The flaws in PHP, which powers many websites and online services, couldallow attackers to take control of web servers, steal data or disrupt services without needinglogin credentials, Singapore's Commissioner of Cybersecurity Gwenda Fong said on Thursday. "The threat is immediate," Fong,...

- EU's idea that China is caving to pressure is 'serious misjudgment': ex-diplomat (2026-10-22 13:30)

The European Union's perception that China is yielding to its pressure tactics on trade is a "serious misjudgment", as Beijing proved during last year's tariff war with the United States that it will not back down from a confrontation, a former Chinese diplomat has warned. Beijing's willingness to compromise during trade talks with the EU earlier this month – where the two sides agreed a quota on Chinese hybrid car exports to Europe – has been taken by some in Brussels as a sign that their...

- Europe still has no clear goal on China (2026-10-22 12:30)

This month alone, Europe has threatened China with a trade "kill switch", rebuked it in parliament, sent its trade commissioner on a much-trumpeted trip to Beijing and announced three new economic security instruments. The sequence exposed a European Union that has no clear goal on China, no hierarchy of priorities and has reached no agreement on what it wants from Beijing or on what it would pay to get it. China has built its European policy around this vacuum. Its method rewards patience:...

- Hong Kong attracts another 18 strategic firms, HK$10 billion in investment pledged (2026-10-22 12:23)

Nasdaq-listed fintech company Solana and healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson are among the latest batch of enterprises in artificial intelligence, healthtech and advanced manufacturing to establish or expand operations in Hong Kong, bringing in more than HK$10 billion (US$1.28 billion) in investment to the city. The 18 enterprises signed agreements on Thursday with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), a government unit under the Financial Secretary's Office tasked with...

- Who blinked first? Fragile EU-China trade peace sparks new war of words (2026-10-22 12:00)

Less than two weeks after Brussels and Beijing struck a surprise deal to avert an escalating trade dispute, their fragile rapprochement has descended into a battle over who blinked first. In Brussels and Berlin, officials are emboldened by what they consider proof that collective EU pressure can force Chinese concessions. Rather than resting on their laurels, they are cooking up a fresh batch of trade restrictions. Beijing, on the other hand, has bristled at the idea that it can be strong-armed...

• ‘Jensen’s nightmare’: Huawei, DeepSeek narrow AI chip ecosystem gap with Nvidia: report (2026-10-22 12:00)

Deepening “symbiosis” with artificial intelligence model start-up DeepSeek is helping Chinese tech champion Huawei Technologies catch up with Nvidia’s chip hardware and software ecosystem in a scenario that could mean Jensen Huang’s “nightmare is starting to come true”, according to a new report. DeepSeek’s latest software releases, on top of its increased experimentation with Huawei’s powerful Ascend 950PR chips, reveal that the technological gap with the US is closing, as the two firms...

• US-China ties need more working-level dialogues, not just summits: business chamber (2026-10-22 12:00)

The president of the American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China) has urged Beijing and Washington to push more negotiations down to working-level officials, saying businesses need greater long-term stability in bilateral ties than leader-level diplomacy alone can provide. Michael Hart, president of the chamber, said American businesses were encouraged by the unprecedented frequency of meetings between the presidents of China and the US, but warned that working-level officials had less...

• 50 people beat foreign man to death in South Africa as anti-migrant tensions rage (2026-10-22 11:50)

A mob of about 50 people beat a foreign national to death on Thursday in South Africa’s port city of Durban, a flashpoint for anti-migrant sentiment, police said. Durban has been a focus of months of protests against foreign nationals, with looting and violence erupting after an anti-migrant march in the city two weeks ago. Thursday’s attack in the city centre was on the sidelines of a march, police said, without being able to say what the demonstration was about. Two men from the group...

• China urges opening Bab al-Mandeb in first joint statement with regional nation (2026-10-22 11:39)

China backs “constructive efforts” to ensure international shipping lanes are safe and open, a communique jointly issued with Djibouti said, marking Beijing’s first formal statement with a Red Sea nation on containing the fallout from the US-Iran war. Chinese analysts said the situation in the Red Sea has not yet escalated to a level that warrants direct naval escorts, though Beijing will closely monitor the region and may take action in the event the country’s shipping comes under threat. “The...

• Could US advances in drone command give it an edge over the PLA in a Taiwan conflict? (2026-10-22 11:00)

From the cockpit of an F-22 fighter to an aircraft carrier sailing in the Pacific, the US military is showing new ways to command uncrewed aircraft over vast distances. The United States disclosed two tests this month as Washington seeks to outpace Beijing in a technology contest

that could redefine air and naval power in the region. Illustrating US military advances and theirpotential significance for a Taiwan conflict, an F-22 pilot controlled an autonomous YFQ-44Acombat drone during flight,...

• Chinese public urged to stay confident in domestic innovation after Tesla flying-car debut (2026-10-22 11:00)

Tesla's "flying" Roadster stunt has set social media alight worldwide, turning a car launch into a debate about technological innovation and China-US rivalry. At an event in Texas on October 15, Tesla unveiled its redesigned sports car, the Roadster, with stunts including a takeoff from a steep, curved ramp and a leap over parked cars. Pre-orders are open in China with a deposit of 332,000 yuan (US$50,000) for the street-legal, two-seat "Performance" package. The flying-car reveal quickly turned...

• Hong Kong student gets 10 years for sexually assaulting 4 underage girls (2026-10-22 10:49)

A Hong Kong tertiary student convicted of sexually assaulting at least four underage girls has been sentenced to 10 years in prison, with the judge slamming him as a "very sick individual" who showed no remorse. High Court Judge Andrew Chan Hing-wai on Thursday noted from the assessment reports that Fan Chi-yuen, 22, had shown no remorse or empathy towards his victims. They included a 14-year-old girl who was so distressed after Fan attempted to rape her that she subsequently committed...

• Missing lift fire door frames confined to Taizoom, Hong Kong authorities say (2026-10-22 10:39)

Inspections into lift safety across Hong Kong have found no missing fire-resistant door frames among contractors other than Taizoom Elevator, authorities said on Thursday, after 338 buildings served by the firm were confirmed to lack the crucial components. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department offered an update on the checks on Thursday after the government pledged to expand the inspection scope to cover lifts handled by other contractors as well to check whether the problem existed...

• EU gives top human rights award to ICC after Trump sanctions (2026-10-22 10:37)

Facing US sanctions, the International Criminal Court was on Thursday awarded the European Union's top rights prize, in a show of support that risks upsetting President Donald Trump. "The European Union is built on respect for multilateralism and international institutions, and this prize recognises the important work of the court in upholding international law and justice," said European Parliament chief Roberta Metsola in announcing the award. The ICC thanked the European Parliament for giving...

• Ahead of Communist Party plenum, Xi Jinping warns that China faces a 'new Long March' (2026-10-22 10:18)

A strong and united party leadership is vital to victory, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a keynote speech on Thursday marking the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March. Speaking days before an important Communist Party meeting known as the fifth plenum, Xi said the party managed to turn the tide of defeat into a path to victory 90 years ago because it rallied around the leadership of Mao Zedong. By linking the Red Army's historic endurance with today's geopolitical struggles,...

• Indonesia haze: why Jakarta won't declare wildfires a national disaster (2026-10-22 10:00)

Indonesia's government has resisted mounting calls to declare widespread forest and land fires a national disaster, insisting it can handle the crisis alone as residents report worsening health impacts and disaster experts warn that a broader, coordinated response is needed. Critics suggest the reluctance may stem from concerns that a national declaration could force Jakarta to redirect funds from other political priorities, while exposing the administration to greater scrutiny over its disaster...

• China expands tax workforce as tougher enforcement moves into spotlight (2026-10-22 09:51)

Beijing's plan to recruit more tax officers next year is drawing attention from businesses and wealthy families as tax compliance rises up the policy agenda and authorities intensify enforcement efforts. China's 2027 national civil service recruitment plan includes 24,013 tax-related positions, accounting for more than 67 per cent of all vacancies, up from over 65 per cent a year earlier. Most of the vacancies are at the State Taxation Administration's local branches, which are recruiting staff...

• Hong Kong pay growth slows as Guangdong accelerates, survey finds (2026-10-22 09:48)

Hong Kong workers received smaller pay rises this year as Guangdong's wage growth picked up, with the starting salaries of university graduates edging closer to those of sub-degree holders, an annual survey has found. Findings from the 2026 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Pay and Benefits Survey, released by Hong Kong's Baptist University on Thursday, showed that companies in Hong Kong and Macau slowed pay rises this year. The survey findings coincided with government data showing...

• Riot-ravaged luxury stores in Paris fear more mayhem, looting (2026-10-22 09:39)

Across Paris' toniest shopping districts, luxury boutiques bear the scars of a weekend of rioting that filled social media feeds around the world. Now they are bracing for the possibility of another round. On the avenue Champs-Elysees, Louis Vuitton's flagship store has metallic grates protecting its windows that are not there at quieter times, as does the Christian Dior Couture emporium on avenue Montaigne, a nexus of high-end shopping in Paris' eighth arrondissement. Both stores escaped...

• Chinese students stand by France study plans despite widespread civil unrest (2026-10-22 09:21)

Social unrest in France is not deterring some Chinese students from pursuing studies there – at least for now. Despite nationwide demonstrations over the rising cost of living and declining public services escalating into violence over the weekend, prospective applicants said they remained committed to their academic plans. A 30-year-old woman from Guangdong province who gave only her family name as Wang said she had obtained a student visa and planned to proceed with a language programme in...

• India seeks to expand navy's reach with 4 amphibious warships (2026-10-22 09:00)

India's planned acquisition of four large amphibious warships would strengthen its ability to support naval logistics and humanitarian missions across the Indian Ocean, with security experts saying their value depends on how the navy could effectively utilise them during a crisis. The Indian Navy has invited bids for four landing platform docks (LPDs), each with a displacement of more than 30,000 tonnes. Indian Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar said at a media briefing on Monday that a...

• Super Typhoon Champi: Hong Kong airlines cancel at least 12 Taiwan, Japan flights (2026-10-22 08:42)

Airlines in Hong Kong have cancelled or rescheduled more than a dozen flights to and from Taiwan and Japan due to Super Typhoon Champi, with further disruption expected in the coming days. Budget carrier HK Express announced it would cancel 10 flights between Hong Kong and Taiwan on Friday, with six serving Taipei and two each serving Taichung and Kaohsiung. Four other flights serving Taichung and Kaohsiung have been postponed until Saturday. The airline said it was notifying affected passengers...

• Hong Kong port needs a new lease of life in value-driven era (2026-10-22 08:30)

Hong Kong's surging exports amid recent global trade shifts and tariff measures are reason to celebrate. However, they have not reversed the decline in the city's port's container throughput, which hit 12.99 million 20-foot equivalent units in 2025, down 5.1 per cent year on year. To address public doubts over the city's standing as an international shipping centre, Hong Kong's first five-year plan seeks to transform the maritime hub from being throughput-driven to value-driven. The policy...

• Can Prabowo's economic nationalism save Indonesia from potential MSCI downgrade? (2026-10-22 08:00)

In the wake of Indonesia's worst stock-market rout since the 1998 Asian financial crisis, President Prabowo Subianto's administration has turned to appeals to economic nationalism to shore up confidence, urging citizens to rally behind the country's battered stock market. The government has promised reforms in response to warnings from global index provider MSCI that Indonesia could be downgraded from emerging-market to stand-alone-market status.

But analysts say its patriotic appeals will do...

• Indonesians turn to eco-art as haze sparks anger and diplomatic tension (2026-10-22 07:59)

As wildfires rage across Sumatra and Kalimantan, frustrated Indonesians are turning to performance art to call for greater government action and draw global attention to the destruction of both the country's rainforests and rich cultural heritage. In South Sumatra, local art collective Jaga Api recently launched a project titled Tarian Kehancuran Budaya (the Dance of Cultural Destruction), using traditional performance to convey the human and environmental toll of the fires, as reported by The...

• Abby Choi trial hears of ex-husband's watch profits and electric saw mark on remains (2026-10-22 07:28)

Slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung received a share of her ex-husband's luxury watch profits, and a cut mark on her dismembered remains matched an electric saw found at the crime scene, her murder trial heard on Thursday. Chan Leong-hang, an employee of Aristo Watch & Jewellery in Tsim Sha Tsui, said on Thursday that Alex Kwong Kong-chi sold upmarket timepieces to the shop and asked that the shop transfer part of the proceeds to Choi via bank transfer. Chan said the company transferred...

• Safety of Australian women MPs in focus after man with nunchucks threatens staff (2026-10-22 07:21)

A man has been charged with threatening an Australian lawmaker's staff with nunchucks, police said on Thursday, days after another legislator was critically injured when a man repeatedly hit her with a car. The incidents are heightening concerns about female politicians' safety and raising concerns about security in a country where lawmakers are highly accessible to the public. Police say that a 56-year-old man entered Western Australian state government minister Hannah Beazley's electorate...

• Hong Kong watchdog joins global agencies to warn of web scripting hack risks (2026-10-22 06:37)

A Hong Kong information security watchdog issued an "extremely high risk" warning on Thursday morning over two critical flaws in a widely used web programming language that could allow hackers to execute code remotely and take control of servers. The warning followed similar alerts from governments and cybersecurity agencies overseas, which urged website operators to install updates to fix the vulnerabilities in the PHP programming language. The Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team...

• Australia commits US$44 million to boost East Timor's cyber, maritime security (2026-10-22 06:16)

Australia and East Timor signed a defence deal on Thursday to boost cyber and maritime security as Canberra seeks to curb China's influence among its island neighbours. Australia is East Timor's largest defence and security partner and the agreement will significantly increase defence exercises, Defence Minister Richard Marles told reporters. "This is a time to double down on friendship, to double down on family," he said in East Timor's capital Dili. Australia will provide A$62 million (US$44...

• Falling child vaccination rates raise concern as Hong Kong flu deaths rise (2026-10-22 06:15)

A senior Hong Kong health official has warned of a higher risk of influenza infection as vaccination rates fall and the city's summer flu season stretches on, following the death of a second unvaccinated child from the virus. Centre for Health Protection controller Dr Edwin Tsui Lok-kin issued the warning as Hong Kong's current flu season, which began in June, showed no sign of easing. He said authorities were monitoring possible changes in how the virus spreads after two consecutive summer flu...

• China moves to set global standards for brain-computer interface technology (2026-10-22 06:00)

China has taken a major step in spearheading the standardisation of brain-computer interface (BCI) technologies, as it now chairs the secretariat of a subcommittee jointly overseen by two key international organisations and lists the technology applications as a national development priority. The China-led subcommittee, known as ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 43, was set to formulate global standards regarding the communication and interaction between brains and computers that are applicable across...

• Haze forces Malaysian fitness groups to swap outdoor runs for shopping mall laps (2026-10-22 05:51)

Runners in Malaysia are swapping their usual routes through parks and city streets for laps around shopping malls, commandeering air-conditioned corridors to keep up their training as a stubborn blanket of haze makes exercising outdoors increasingly hazardous. The switch comes as smoke from forest and peatland fires continues to foul the air across parts of Southeast Asia, with Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur and its surrounding districts among the hardest-hit areas. By 9am on Thursday, 15 of...

• What is the 'cadaver skin jab' beauty trend and does it really work? (2026-10-22 05:31)

A growing interest among Hong Kong women in an anti-ageing injection containing human tissue has prompted a recent crackdown by health authorities, as the product, widely known in Chinese as the "cadaver skin jab", has not been registered for use in the city. The South China Morning Post examines why the injection has become a new beauty trend, what it claims to do and the risks involved. 1. What is a 'cadaver skin jab'? The "cadaver skin jab" refers to Elravie Re2O, a cadaver-derived skin...

• Malaysia’s TuJu app struggles after Anwar suggests switching from Waze (2026-10-22 05:15)

Malaysia’s highway authority is working to resolve technical disruptions affecting its TuJu navigation application following a sharp increase in users. In a statement on Thursday, the Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia (LLM) said the matter was being resolved together with the application provider Prosignal Consortium. LLM said the surge in users came after Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim suggested that the public consider using a locally developed navigation application instead of Waze. “We apologise for...

• Russia and Ukraine trade major attacks as Trump touts progress (2026-10-22 05:04)

Russia and Ukraine traded major attacks overnight with Moscow’s mayor saying on Thursday that 630 drones had been launched towards the region, shortly after a US envoy held talks with the Russian president in St Petersburg. Following Wednesday’s meeting between his envoy Steve Witkoff and Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump claimed the two sides were nearing a breakthrough. “The other day I was talking to Vladimir Putin about settling his war with Ukraine, which I think we’re getting...

• What Kim Yo-jong’s border warnings reveal about inter-Korean escalation risk (2026-10-22 04:35)

The two Koreas appear to be coming closer to an armed clash along their poorly marked military dividing line after a series of increasingly hostile warnings from the North, observers say. Back-to-back statements on Wednesday and Thursday by Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, appear aimed at building a case for blaming Seoul for any future exchange of fire, they say. “The two sides appear to be edging closer to accidental armed clashes,” said Oh Gyeong-seob, a...

• Could China’s 100-channel single-photon detector enable broadband quantum internet? (2026-10-22 04:34)

Chinese scientists have developed a 100-channel single-photon detector, a breakthrough promising to pave the way for broadband quantum networks. State-of-the-art single-photon detectors – essential components underpinning photonic quantum technologies – could previously support a maximum of 32 detection channels for photon signals. Now, a newly developed interconnect scheme by a Shanghai-based team has broken this bottleneck, supporting more than 100 detection channels while maintaining accurate...

• Tai Po fire inquiry submits final report, targets 4 government bodies (2026-10-22 04:12)

An independent committee investigating Hong Kong’s deadliest fire in decades has submitted its final report to the government, with a source saying the document spans more than 10 chapters and singles out four government bodies for accountability. The blaze at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po on November 26, 2025, killed 168 people and displaced nearly 5,000 residents.

The judge-led panel said on Thursday that it had submitted the final report to Chief ExecutiveJohn Lee Ka-chiu. “With the evidence and...

• Why Chinese pundits say France’s riots could reshape European politics (2026-10-22 04:00)

The social unrest roiling France is being closely watched for a possible spillover effect beyond the country’s borders that could reshape European politics, Chinese analysts said. The crisis is a major stress test for French politicians as they navigate deep-seated economic and societal tensions in the run-up to the country’s presidential election in April next year, according to the analysts. A critical question was whether the riots would subside quickly or escalate into prolonged instability,...

• Malaysian teen arrested after live-streaming axe attack on teacher in class (2026-10-22 03:17)

Malaysian police have arrested a 16-year-old student after he live-streamed an attack on a teacher with an axe at a private school in Kuching, the capital of Sarawak state. CCTV footage shows the teenager entering a classroom at around 7.50am on Wednesday, hitting the female teacher with an axe before leaving. He re-enters through a second door and swings the axe at students as they flee the room. As the teacher tries to intervene, he attempts to hack at her again but is subdued by two male...

• South Korean publishers raise alarm over bulk book buys linked to AI training (2026-10-22 02:56)

South Korean publishers are calling for stronger copyright protections and compensation as bulk book purchase requests suspected of being linked to artificial intelligence training raise concerns over intellectual property theft. Publishing groups are investigating suspicious orders and seeking a coordinated response. However, authors and publishers face a fundamental obstacle: they often cannot know for sure whether their books are being used to train AI systems. Kyobo Book Centre, a bookstore...

• Canadian publisher drops Thelyson Orelien, says he used AI to write novel (2026-10-22 02:52)

The publisher of top-selling Haitian-Canadian writer Thelyson Orelien said Wednesday it had confirmed that he used artificial intelligence to help write his novel It Was Either That or Die. Orelien has denied allegations that he used AI on his breakthrough novel and, last week, Canadian publisher Boreal said it was standing by the 38-year-old writer. But on Wednesday, Boreal said it had conducted a further investigation into the allegations. “New information, confirmed over the past few days,...

• Making it in the metropolis (2026-10-22 02:30)

Download the PDF This is the sixth in a series of factsheets about Hong Kong's first five-year plan and the 2026 policy address. Click here to view the other factsheets. The series has been produced with support from the Hong Kong SAR government. To see the South China Morning Post's coverage of the five-year plan, click here. This Factsheet will appear in the SCMP print edition on October 26. You can find the newspaper at newsstands and convenience stores. For inquiries, contact...

- Hong Kong's Bay Area vision (2026-10-22 02:30)

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- Asean wants a single digital economy. Will different state laws hobble its goal? (2026-10-22 02:30)

Southeast Asian nations are seeking to make it easier for businesses and consumers to operate across borders in the digital economy, but achieving the goal will depend on whether governments can align their domestic laws under a proposed pact, according to analysts. Targeted to be signed during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Manila in November, the Asean Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) is aimed at improving compatibility between rules and systems governing...

- Chinese influencer 'reborn' from 35-storey fall returns to social media (2026-10-22 02:01)

A Chinese influencer has sparked heated online discussions after posting about her remarkable recovery from a fall from the 35th floor nearly a year ago. On October 12, the influencer, who uses the handle @wananan, returned to her account after an almost 17-month hiatus, saying she "had been reborn through adversity". The 27-year-old woman from Hunan province in central China said she had almost fully recovered from the fall, which happened more than a year ago. It was previously reported that...

- Uzbekistan Wins the Biggest Olympiad in History. Now Sindarov Goes for the World Crown (2026-10-22 02:01)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] For two weeks in September, Samarkand was the capital of world chess — and when the pieces were finally swept from the boards, it was the home team standing at the top. Uzbekistan won the Open section of the 46th World Chess Olympiad, the largest in the event's history with a record 397 teams from 205 federations, sealing gold with a final-round victory over Ukraine in front of packed stands. It is the country's second...

• Receivers to sell mainland developer Shimao's 2 Hong Kong hotels for US$344 million (2026-10-22 01:38)

Receivers of the Sheraton Hong Kong Tung Chung Hotel and the Four Points by Sheraton have agreed to sell the dual-branded complex, which together comprise the city's third-largest hotel by room count, for HK$2.7 billion (US$344 million), Shimao Group announced on Thursday. In a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange, the distressed mainland Chinese developer said the buyer was Oceanfront Hong Kong Limited. The complex was seized by receivers after Shimao failed to sell it despite slashing the...

• Hong Kong ranks 24th in global rule of law index as overall score falls (2026-10-22 01:33)

Hong Kong has been ranked 24th in the latest global rule of law index, despite slipping slightly in the fundamental rights and criminal justice categories. The index, released by the World Justice Project on Wednesday, showed the city remained among the world's top 10 for "absence of corruption" and "order and security", rising to seventh in the latter category. The organisation said the global erosion of the rule of law slowed in 2026, but the overall decline continued, with 62 per cent of the...

• Making it in the metropolis (2026-10-22 01:30)

This is the sixth in a series of factsheets about Hong Kong's first five-year plan and the 2026 policy address. Click here to view the other factsheets. The series has been produced with support from the Hong Kong SAR government. To see the South China Morning Post's coverage of the five-year plan, click here. This Factsheet will appear in the SCMP print edition on October 26. You can find the newspaper at newsstands and convenience stores. For inquiries, contact printsupport@scmp.com.

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• An AI apocalypse? Hong Kong's real challenge is much less dramatic (2026-10-22 01:30)

For many of us, artificial intelligence (AI) started out as something to play with. We asked it to write poems and arrange our calendars; we shared its more entertaining mistakes. Then it became something to believe in: an escape from drudgery, an assistant to every profession, even perhaps the start of a new industrial revolution. Now it is something to fear. The progression has been astonishing. Governments are scrambling to draw up AI strategies, companies are reorganising operations and...

• Beijing hits out after Taipei bans mainland travel for Sun Yat-sen anniversary (2026-10-22 01:00)

A fresh dispute has erupted between Beijing and Taipei over commemorations for Sun Yat-sen, a Chinese revolutionary hero who is revered on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Beijing on Wednesday lashed out at Taipei's move to ban Taiwanese officials from attending events in the mainland Chinese capital marking the 160th anniversary of Sun's birth on November 12. Sun brought an end to more than 2,000 years of imperial rule when he founded the Republic of China (ROC) in 1912, and he also founded the...

• Prabowo warns regional critics Indonesia won't be 'insulted' over haze (2026-10-22 00:54)

Indonesia's president railed against "countries that like to insult" his nation over wildfires that have razed vast areas, spewing toxic haze into neighbouring countries. The Southeast Asian giant has for months struggled to contain fires that Nusantara Atlas, an independent monitor analysing satellite data, said had consumed more than 1.9 million hectares (4.7 million acres) in the nine months to September. The haze has sent air pollution levels surging to dangerous levels not only at home, but...

• Hong Kong raids spark health warning over beauty jabs using dead people's skin (2026-10-22 00:30)

Experts have warned of the infection risks associated with an anti-ageing beauty treatment known as "cadaver-derived skin injection" amid growing interest in the treatment, as authorities crack down on beauty premises offering services with unregistered products. The warnings came a day after the Department of Health revealed it had seized vials of an injectable product called Elravie Re20, which claims to contain human tissue, following raids on four beauty premises in the city on Friday and...

• Chinese firm unveils 'guardian' robot that can disarm attackers, lift cars (2026-10-22 00:00)

A knife-wielding intruder is confronted. A car is lifted to free a trapped victim. A pedestrian is pulled from the path of an oncoming vehicle. The scenes described are not from a Hollywood blockbuster, but a promotional clip for a new "guardian" robot created by the Chinese technology firm Unitree Robotics. The footage for the H2-X model, released on Wednesday, underscores a wider shift in strategy by the Hangzhou-based firm, as it focuses on finding practical, real-world uses for its athletic...

• Takaichi remains popular with Japanese public. Can she maintain her grip on LDP? (2026-10-22 00:00)

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has marked one year in office still riding relatively high in public opinion polls – a heady position that few political analysts anticipated despite geopolitical tensions and persistent inflation. A poll by the conservative-leaning Yomiuri

newspaper published on Monday indicated that Takaichi's cabinet retains the support of 57per cent of the Japanese public, down two percentage points from the previous survey onSeptember 18 and significantly lower than...

- US orders diplomats to leave Saudi Arabia amid Houthi strikes (2026-10-21 23:48)

The US State Department has ordered some diplomats and family members to depart from its missions in Saudi Arabia and plans to withdraw family members from a number of other US missions in the region, US officials told Reuters. The order came as attacks in Saudi Arabia killed at least one person and injured eight others at a civilian airport in Dammam and two people were killed in a drone attack on an oilfield. US State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a post on social media that the...

- 'Comrade Raul': Beijing defends Cuba's ex-leader over Florida murder warrant (2026-10-21 23:02)

China on Wednesday condemned an arrest warrant issued in the US state of Florida for former Cuban president Raul Castro over the 1996 downing of two civilian planes, accusing the United States of using the courts to pressure Havana. Foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning was asked about the warrant by the state-run Global Times at a regular briefing in Beijing. She referred to the 95-year-old as "comrade Raul Castro", a "venerated" leader held in high international esteem. Mao said China opposed...

- Could Hong Kong's student housing boom lure property giants off the sidelines? (2026-10-21 23:00)

Hong Kong's largest landlords and developers could get their first formal route into the rising student accommodation market after the government announced plans to tender land for a purpose-built student hostel this quarter, according to analysts. Development Secretary Bernadette Linn Hon-ho announced on Thursday the inclusion of a 1,100 square metre (11,840 square foot) site for student accommodation as one of two land tenders in the October to December quarter. The plot – at the junction of...

- Ramaswamy faces firestorm over US political ad featuring Democrat rival's estranged mother (2026-10-21 22:34)

Vivek Ramaswamy, the Republican candidate for Ohio governor, faced a firestorm of criticism Wednesday over an ad featuring Democratic rival Amy Acton's estranged mother, whose husband was charged with raping Acton when she was a child. Acton has not spoken with her mother, Donna Arthur, since her childhood, when she accused her then-stepfather of sexually abusing her for years. In the ad, Arthur says her daughter has "lied her entire life". "Don't let her become your governor. If you think...

- Websites go dark worldwide as AI exposes critical security flaws (2026-10-21 22:10)

Government agencies and companies around the world shut down websites on Wednesday after two critical flaws came to light involving PHP, a programming language that is the basis for a large share of the internet. PHP sits underneath popular web design platforms, so the weaknesses potentially affect a vast range of websites, from online stores and news outlets to government services. Wiz, one of the security firms that found the issues, estimated that PHP runs about 70 per cent of the world’s...

• Pakistan and the US factor as China looks to sell its J-35 stealth jets (2026-10-21 21:30)

Last month, the US published the fine print of a US$686 million upgrade deal for Pakistan’s F-16 fighter jets. The deal is for data link systems, new encryption gear and a refit that keeps the jets flying until 2040. The notice says Pakistan can protect the technology to “substantially the same degree” as the US government. The Pakistan Air Force is also the only declared interested buyer of China’s J-35 stealth fighter, a generational leap in technology. The Chinese jet first flew at the Zhuhai...

• China says it allowed Philippines to resupply warship amid diplomatic tensions (2026-10-21 20:57)

China has allowed the Philippines to resupply a grounded warship on a disputed South China Sea reef, the coastguard said on Wednesday, as tension remains high over the Chinese ambassador’s controversial comment. The Philippines delivered necessities to its warship BRP Sierra Madre grounded at the Second Thomas Shoal on Wednesday, “with permission from the Chinese side”, the China Coast Guard said in a statement. “The China Coast Guard conducted confirmation checks and maintained full supervision...

• Top Democrat says chip restrictions are ‘key lever’ for US AI edge over China (2026-10-21 20:36)

Just two weeks before the US midterm elections, Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said he did not believe America would maintain its lead over China in frontier AI indefinitely, describing restrictions on advanced chips as Washington’s key leverage. “I don’t believe for one second that we’re going to maintain a lead over Chinese frontier models forever. But we should for as long as we can,” said Himes at a Brookings Institution event in Washington. “And the one...

• Pope Leo doesn’t need further treatment for lung cancer, doctors say (2026-10-21 20:23)

Pope Leo needs no further treatment for lung cancer after follow-up tests confirmed the disease was localised, the Vatican said in a statement on Wednesday. Leo, 71, had the lower lobe of his right lung removed last week in the first major health event of his 17-month pontificate. The surgery confirmed he had adenocarcinoma, the most common type of lung cancer. He left the hospital on Saturday, four days after surgery and well ahead of the week-long hospital stay the Vatican had initially...

• US colleges scale back cooperation with Chinese institutions after Pentagon's push (2026-10-21 19:38)

Virginia Tech is accelerating the closure of a joint undergraduate programme with China's Xidian University, bringing forward the end of a partnership that it had previously planned to keep running until 2029, according to a university spokesperson and a copy of an official letter reviewed by the South China Morning Post. This decision comes as the Pentagon's push to tighten oversight of US universities' research ties with China has led to more than 80 termination-related actions across 30...

• Meta to pay New Mexico a historic US$25 billion in Cambridge Analytica Facebook case (2026-10-21 19:08)

Meta Platforms was ordered to pay a groundbreaking US$25 billion civil penalty to the state of New Mexico in a consumer deception case spurred by the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The fine issued by state court Judge Francis Mathew is among the largest verdicts issued in US legal history. The award comes after a jury in Santa Fe determined that Meta had violated the state's consumer protection over 43 million times based on widely viewed deceptive statements made by the company and its top...

• Trump faces fresh questions over ties to 'humanitarian' Putin (2026-10-21 17:08)

US President Donald Trump's pivot away from Ukraine has triggered fresh questions about his attachment to Russian leader Vladimir Putin, the man a top American envoy flattered on Wednesday as a "humanitarian". Trump has cast his dealings with Putin as part of a mega-deal that has secured the release of American detainee Stephen Hubbard – and which Trump says will end Russia's war on Ukraine. At the same time, he has repeatedly berated Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and called for him to...

• "Talent in, Impact Out": Inside The Education University of Hong Kong's vision for an interconnected world of talent and expertise (2026-10-21 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) pursues a dual internationalisation strategy: attracting talented students, scholars and researchers from around the world while exporting educational and research expertise to communities beyond Hong Kong. "We live in an interconnected world that goes beyond the West, and it should be viewed as a highly connected whole," says EdUHK President Professor John Lee Chi-Kin....

• A Tale of Two Cities, retold in style (2026-10-21 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] For many of Hong Kong's high-flying executives and entrepreneurs alike, Central is already part of their working day. That proximity is part of the reason why OCBC has chosen the prime location of 35 Queen's Road Central for its Central Branch. Here, clients can access wealth management services close to where they work or spend their time, in a cosy, private setting, while eligible

Premier Private Clients can also...

• Tesla signs deal to integrate Alipay into its cars as China competition heats up (2026-10-21 14:30)

Tesla has agreed a deal to integrate Chinese fintech giant Ant Group's Alipay digital payment software into its vehicles in China, as Elon Musk's firm steps up efforts to offer localised smart features amid intense competition in the Chinese market. The agreement, signed on Tuesday, will see Tesla roll out an Alipay-powered smart parking service across its Chinese fleet, according to the fintech firm. Neither side revealed a launch date or which car models would receive the feature, though...

• Unvaccinated girl, 12, becomes Hong Kong's second child flu death this season (2026-10-21 14:24)

A 12-year-old unvaccinated girl has become the second child to die after suffering from influenza A since the current flu season began in Hong Kong in late June, the Centre for Health Protection has said. Centre controller Edwin Tsui Lok-kin said on Wednesday that local influenza activity remained at a high level. "I urge the public not to take influenza lightly, and to take appropriate preventive measures, including receiving [a vaccination] as early as possible in order to build an immunity...

• Washington's DeepSeek ban may deter US firms from adopting Chinese AI models: experts (2026-10-21 14:00)

The US government's latest ban on Chinese artificial intelligence start-up DeepSeek could have a chilling effect on the wider American business community and deter companies from adopting low-cost Chinese AI models, industry experts say. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ordered federal civilian agencies to remove DeepSeek products and third-party services built on the Chinese AI model from their IT systems, according to a directive signed in July and published on Monday. The...

• Taiwan's Iran-style attack drone could swamp PLA air defences: analysts (2026-10-21 14:00)

A flight-tested attack drone similar to Iran's Shahed model that its Taiwanese maker says could reach military targets in mainland China is meant to swamp PLA air defences, analysts said. Drawing on battlefield lessons from Ukraine and the Middle East, military experts broadly agree on the utility of such low-cost systems, but differ on how the drone could be deployed in a conflict with Beijing should it enter service. While some see greater value in targeting People's Liberation Army forces in...

• Riots unnerve France's US$80 billion tourism sector: 'it's catastrophic' (2026-10-21 13:42)

The images of France's riots posted and broadcast around the world have cast a pall on the country's important tourism sector, with many fearing worse consequences if violence returns. "The surge of violence in the centres of Nice, Paris, Lyon – it's catastrophic," said Christelle Cassagne, head of the ADN Tourisme body covering the country's tourism institutions. "When you book a hotel for a week, it's not so you stay stuck in the hotel," she said. The scenes of clashes with police, public...

• Suspicious letters containing white powder sent to 2 Hong Kong media outlets (2026-10-21 13:34)

Hong Kong police are investigating after two local media outlets received suspicious letters containing white powder – believed to be crushed oatmeal – sent from the United Kingdom. Police said that at around 3pm on Wednesday, online media outlet HK01 received an airmail letter delivered from the UK at its Kwai Chung office. Staff at the office in Tower 1 of Ever Gain Plaza opened the letter and found suspicious white powder inside. They subsequently called police. The police force deployed...

• Hong Kong semi-private schools admit 20 more non-local students under expansion scheme (2026-10-21 13:03)

About 20 more non-local students have been admitted to Hong Kong semi-private schools under a government scheme to boost the city's status as an international education hub, with a principal urging authorities to do more to promote the initiative to prospective pupils. Education authorities said on Wednesday that the non-local students holding student visas this year came from countries including Thailand, South Korea, Singapore, the United States and several European nations. Ida Lee Bik-sai,...

• Is China a Russia-allied Arctic threat to Europe or a potential polar partner? (2026-10-21 13:00)

Europe should work with Beijing to develop shipping through the Arctic rather than trying to advance its transatlantic security alliance by framing China as a threat linked to Russia. That was the assessment of Chinese analysts following the release of the European Union's Arctic policy on Tuesday. In addition to identifying Russia as its main threat, the policy warns of Beijing's growing strategic ambitions in the European Arctic through its deepening alignment with Moscow. "With our new...

• Hong Kong to tighten media access to land records, triggering concerns (2026-10-21 12:39)

Hong Kong lawmakers and the media industry have raised concerns about the authorities' plan to tighten arrangements for journalists searching land records, with some legislators urging the government to explain operational details and streamline the application to support investigative reporting. The Hong Kong Journalists Association voiced objections on Wednesday, after the government tabled eight pieces of subsidiary legislation, including the Land Titles Regulation that covers land record...

• China’s offshore tax crackdown could inadvertently fuel a digital dollar boom (2026-10-21 12:30)

From October 22, China’s grace period for the disclosure and settlement of certain offshore-trust tax liabilities ends. For the Chinese government, this deadline highlights its desire to affirm control over capital outflows, while for Chinese high-net-worth families, it serves as a reminder that it is now harder to keep international assets beyond the reach of the government. The deadline sits against the backdrop of China tightening scrutiny around cryptocurrency, stablecoins and real-world...

• The EU will ‘pull its punches’ on China despite growing trade war talk: analysts (2026-10-21 12:00)

The European Union is likely to avoid a full-blown trade confrontation with China due to internal divisions in the bloc and fear of retaliation, according to a prominent research firm. The projection comes amid speculation that the two sides are on the brink of a trade war, with European policymakers raising the alarm about a looming “China shock 2.0” and pushing for stronger measures to protect domestic producers from Chinese competition. But the bloc would “continue to pull its punches” in any...

• Chinese mathematician Sun Zhiwei proposes 1,000 problems to challenge AI (2026-10-21 12:00)

In an age of AI-induced answers to complex mathematical problems, Chinese mathematician Sun Zhiwei maintains that curiosity and asking good questions are more important then ever. Over a career spent probing the edges of number theory, Sun, a 61-year-old professor at Nanjing University’s department of mathematics, has built a vast landscape of problems – more than 1,000 and counting – for the global research community to tackle. While traditional mathematical training emphasises mastering...

• Star Ferry fares to rise by up to HK$1.80 from January (2026-10-21 11:58)

Star Ferry fares are set to rise by as much as HK$1.80 (23 US cents) from January after Hong Kong authorities endorsed the operator’s application for an increase, taking the cost of a weekend cross-harbour trip to up to HK$8.30. The operator, which last raised its fares in 2023, applied in March to increase charges on its two franchised routes by between 80 HK cents and HK$2 per journey. Under a proposal approved by the Executive Council last Tuesday and announced on Wednesday, fares for the...

• Macron takes veiled shot at Trump, Netanyahu over ‘stupid’ France riot remarks (2026-10-21 11:45)

President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday criticised world leaders for making “stupid” comments about the rioting on the sidelines of protests in France, in an apparent swipe at US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Macron said the

leaders were taking aim at France in the context of coming elections in their countries andadded that they had been influenced by fake videos generated by artificial intelligence aboutthe riots. Some of the worst urban violence to hit...

• Beijing's top Taiwan official meets US think tank to reaffirm red lines (2026-10-21 11:00)

Beijing's director of the Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO), Song Tao, has held a rare meeting with a delegation of US scholars that pledged to push for the peaceful development of cross-strait ties. During the meeting in Beijing on Tuesday with a delegation from the National Committee on American Foreign Policy (NCAFP) led by its president and CEO, Susan M. Elliott, Song spoke of a broader diplomatic context following high-level summit meetings between Chinese and US leadership. "President Xi Jinping...

• Hong Kong tours avoid France protest areas as schools cancel planned trips (2026-10-21 10:39)

Tour operators have changed itineraries and pulled Hong Kong travellers away from protest hotspots in France, while some school groups have cancelled planned trips to the country following the issuance of an official travel warning. EGL Tours chairman and executive director Steve Huen Kwok-chuen said one of the company's tour groups had encountered protests at the Louvre in Paris on Saturday, with police helping clear a route for their coach to return to the hotel. "Our tour group happened to be...

• Why US Secretary of State Rubio is skipping New Delhi for an Indian oil refinery (2026-10-21 10:30)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India's Jamnagar this week – home to the world's largest oil refining complex – signals energy cooperation as the anchor for bilateral ties even as broader policy friction frays relations, according to analysts. On Tuesday, Rubio indicated that India's largest private company, Reliance Industries, which owns the Jamnagar oil refinery complex, will buy more Venezuelan oil. "India is a refining superpower. They have the capability to refine heavy crude....

• Putin holds Ukraine peace talks with Trump's envoy Witkoff, frees American Hubbard (2026-10-21 10:17)

Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted US special envoy Steve Witkoff in a grand imperial palace on Wednesday to review new ideas on ending the war in Ukraine amid Washington's latest push to stop Europe's bloodiest conflict since second world war. The talks in St Petersburg, the ninth time that Witkoff has met Putin in person, began with a goodwill gesture from Russia – the release of a retired US teacher held in Russia. The encounter comes amid concerns in Kyiv and among its allies that the...

• Hong Kong's Election Committee race: should you care? Here's what you need to know (2026-10-21 10:02)

Nominations have closed for Hong Kong's Election Committee election, setting the stage for the November 22 poll. The poll, the second since Beijing overhauled the city's electoral system to ensure patriots rule Hong Kong, will return 1,500 members who will nominate and vote in next year's chief executive election. Here's all you need to know about the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, now that nominations have closed: from the hopefuls' line-up and the heavyweights in the...

• Hong Kong's SHKP sells 128 Sierra Sea flats ahead of possible US rate increase (2026-10-21 10:00)

Sun Hung Kai Properties (SHKP), one of Hong Kong's largest developers, has sold out the latest batch of flats at its Sierra Sea project in the New Territories, where units were offered at discounted prices ahead of a possible US Federal Reserve interest-rate increase by year-end. By 5.40pm on Wednesday, SHKP had found buyers for all 128 flats offered at listed prices in Phase 2C(2) of the development in Shap Sze Heung, between Sai Kung and Ma On Shan, according to agents. Sales began at...

• China's Type 051C gets a refit as the PLA Navy's legacy warships near retirement (2026-10-21 10:00)

China's Type 051C destroyer Shenyang has been spotted undergoing sea trials after a reported refit, as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) begins phasing out legacy warships following the commissioning of a massive wave of new vessels. Witness photographs circulating on social media appear to show the Shenyang, hull number 115 and lead ship of the Type 051C class, with its Russian-made hardware replaced by domestic air defence systems. While precise details have yet to be independently confirmed,...

• China AI researcher rises to Xiaomi's top level in 10 months, talks work-life balance (2026-10-21 10:00)

Beijing-based smartphone and electric vehicle giant Xiaomi announced in mid-October that it would promote 31-year-old Luo Fuli to its highest-level position, once again putting the "AI prodigy" at the centre of heated discussion. The move came 10 months after Luo joined the company as head of its large language model (LLM) unit. Luo attracted significant public attention in late 2024, when Xiaomi founder and CEO Lei Jun said during a live-stream that he hoped to hire her at an annual salary of...

• Attitudes shifting in Hong Kong's favour as city reaps Apec benefits: Paul Chan (2026-10-21 09:50)

Hong Kong has reaped the benefits of the Apec finance ministers' meeting with foreign political leaders broadly supporting cross-border digital finance development and showing renewed appreciation for the city, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po has said. Following the conclusion of the two-day milestone meeting on Wednesday, Chan said senior officials and representatives had discussions in a sincere and open manner over macroeconomic, fiscal and

financial policy, with the overall feedback from...

- ‘Nepo baby’ uproar in Philippines after Gen Z jet-setter named urban poor commissioner (2026-10-21 09:27)

A Gen Z jet-setter in the Philippines has been named commissioner for the urban poor, raising eyebrows over her qualifications for a position dealing with issues such as food and housing insecurity. Zofia Canlas took her oath as commissioner for the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) on Monday, but drew widespread attention for social media photos depicting a fashion-forward lifestyle and lavish getaways, such as posing in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and other trips around...

- Apec meeting highlights Hong Kong’s ‘Going Global’ pathway (2026-10-21 09:06)

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) nations agreed to boost economic coordination amid mounting challenges after a meeting of finance ministers in Hong Kong. “We note that global imbalances have persisted, creating risks to growth and stability,” the finance ministers said in a joint statement following two days of talks. “We recognise that global rebalancing is in our common interest and agree to strengthen communication and cooperation in this regard.” The group also released a policy...

- Hong Kong sees last-minute IPO cancellations amid increased regulatory checks, weak market (2026-10-21 09:01)

Hong Kong’s tougher oversight and weak investor demand have put many mainland China issuers in a dilemma, forcing many small-cap non-technology firms to delay their fundraising plans or even cancel them at the last minute, according to industry players. On Tuesday Jiangsu Slender West Lake Culture and Tourism (SWL Tour) became the latest such case, when the state-owned aquatic tourism service provider postponed a HK$227 million (US$28.93 million) listing. The company attributed the decision to...

- For Filipinos, virtual assistant trumps doctor as ‘dream job’. But what’s the reality? (2026-10-21 09:00)

When Mark Ifurung left his 18-year career as an IT professional in May, he was happy to ditch his two-hour commutes from his home in Cavite province south of Manila to his office in Makati City. So for his fresh start, the 40-year-old father of four wanted something that would allow him to work from home. “After being unemployed for five months, I decided to explore freelancing,” he said. “With my background in IT operations and application support, I realised I already have transferable skills...

- Can China turn national power into world leadership? (2026-10-21 08:30)

As turbulence grows in many countries, it is tempting to ask if there is a global hegemon that can sort everything out fairly. US President Donald Trump has threatened that his country would not defend Nato allies if they failed to spend enough on their defence. Together with new

trade barriers, his words suggest that the US is scaling back its ambitions for global leadershipand concentrating more on its own region. Our latest projections of national strength for 2027take into account...

• Apec finance ministers reach consensus on AI, digital financing in Hong Kong (2026-10-21 08:00)

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) finance chiefs reached a consensus on economic policy coordination and cooperation on financing technology and artificial intelligence at a landmark two-day gathering in Hong Kong, according to China's finance minister. Lan Foan said the outcomes achieved during the Apec Finance Ministers' Meeting would help shape discussions at the leaders' summit in Shenzhen next month. "China will work with all member economies to implement the important consensus...

• Strongest storm of the year barrels towards Taiwan and mainland China (2026-10-21 08:00)

As Super Typhoon Champi – now the strongest storm of the year worldwide – barrels towards eastern China, authorities are planning evacuations and urging those in its path to prepare. Airports in major Chinese cities could be affected by the storm, including Wenzhou Longwan, Fuzhou Changle, Ningbo Lishe, Hangzhou Xiaoshan, Shanghai Hongqiao, Shanghai Pudong and Xiamen Gaoqi, according to aviation data platform VariFlight. Travellers are bracing for potential disruptions, though there have been no...

• Liberty, equality, tear gas: no nation does mass protests quite like France (2026-10-21 07:55)

When the French fight high fuel taxes, they don yellow vests and march. When angry farmers want better pay, hundreds of them drive tractors down the Champs-Elysees. And when museum workers want better tourist management, they strike and shut down the Louvre. Passionate public protest is as French as "La Marseillaise", the 1792 anthem that enshrines the collective duty to fight tyranny in the country's national identity. But this month, the most violent demonstrations in years – and tough...

• Malaysia bars civil servants from using Waze, citing Israel's control of app (2026-10-21 07:53)

All civil servants in Malaysia have been banned from using Waze, following a warning by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of security concerns over the Israeli government's control of the mobile navigation app. The government announced the decision after a National Cyber Security Committee (NCSC) meeting chaired by Anwar on Tuesday, according to an official circular. "In this regard, all ministry secretaries-general and heads of department must make sure this decision is communicated to all officers...

• Outcry after Peak walking trail ‘marred’ by controversial lighting project (2026-10-21 07:50)

Work on a controversial lighting project along a walking trail on The Peak has been suspended amid mounting complaints that the installations were damaging the environment, the South China Morning Post has learned. The project’s future remains uncertain after residents accused the Tourism Board of removing trees and flowers to make way for the installations, while a lawmaker said a district councillor from the city’s largest political party had not been involved in the initial...

• ‘Mourning run’ or clout chase? South Korea divided over runner’s death tributes (2026-10-21 07:50)

South Korean social media posts displaying users’ running records to honour a local woman who died at a Seoul marathon have raised debate over the appropriateness of the gesture for mourning. Yoo Ji-won, a 25-year-old graduate student at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science Technology, collapsed just 500 metres (1,600 feet) from the finish line of the 2026 Seoul Race half-marathon on October 11, local media reported. The cause of her death has not been disclosed. Yoo was a running influencer,...

• Queen Elizabeth visits Hong Kong for the last time in 1986 – from the SCMP archive (2026-10-21 07:50)

This article was first published on October 22, 1986. ‘Our thoughts will always be with you’: Queen confident on HK future Hongkong gave Queen Elizabeth a warm and enthusiastic reception yesterday (October 21, 1986) when she arrived for her long-awaited visit. And in return she gave the people a message of confidence in the future. Fresh from her triumphant tour of the mainland, the Queen told a welcoming ceremony in City Hall that the Sino-British agreement over Hongkong’s future had made...

• Singapore hits back over claims it rigged Indonesia’s stock market crash (2026-10-21 07:42)

Singapore’s state investor Temasek has denied involvement in Indonesia’s looming MSCI reclassification, following accusations that the city state’s sovereign wealth funds were pulling strings behind the scenes for their own gain. On Wednesday, Fock Wai Hoong, head of Asia-Pacific at Temasek Global Investments, said the claims had “no basis” and were “patently untrue”. Former Indonesian trade minister Muhammad Lutfi on Monday claimed that Singapore’s sovereign wealth funds, Temasek and GIC, were...

• China-US team’s ‘gold factory’ relic; next-gen diabetes care: 7 science highlights (2026-10-21 07:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage on science from the past two weeks to help you stay informed. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. China breakthrough unlocks low-cost, high-margin sustainable aviation fuel Chinese

researchers have developed a catalyst that converts synthesis gas into sustainable jet fuel – anadvance that could boost production, help meet net-zero carbon goals and yield a gross profitmargin above 50 per cent. 2. Landmark...

• Does Singapore's tougher stance on haze mark an inflection point? (2026-10-21 07:22)

Singapore has warned it will go after companies responsible for the forest fires in Indonesia causing the regional haze, but cross-border challenges remain stumbling blocks to solving a problem that has plagued the city state for decades. Analysts point to long-standing obstacles hampering the country's decade-old haze legislation, such as complex corporate ownership and opaque transboundary supply chains. To date, no company has been prosecuted under the law. Beyond legal threats, greater...

• Abby Choi's ex-father-in-law pocketed HK$7 million rebate on flat purchase: court (2026-10-21 07:21)

The former father-in-law of slain Hong Kong socialite Abby Choi Tin-fung received a cash rebate of nearly HK$7 million (US$891,900) after buying a HK$72 million flat using the model's money, a court has heard. Property agent Marco Wong Tak-sing told the High Court on Wednesday that Kwong Kau had requested a share of the agency's profit from the 2019 sale of the luxury flat at the Kadooria development in Ho Man Tin. The court previously heard that Choi issued two cheques and bought two cashier's...

• 'How much longer?' Chau Tin-yu's father hits out at last-minute delay to doctor's hearing (2026-10-21 07:00)

A high-profile disciplinary hearing for a doctor accused of leaving a girl in a vegetative state six years ago has been adjourned pending a coroner's inquest, a decision the girl's father learned of just a week before proceedings were due to begin. The Medical Council informed Eddie Chau, father of Chau Tin-yu, on Tuesday night that the hearing, originally scheduled to start on October 27, would be postponed until after the inquest. The decision leaves both proceedings in limbo. Just last month,...

• South Korean bulk buying hits record US$1.1 billion as shoppers trim food bills (2026-10-21 06:45)

A monthly trip to Costco has become routine this year for Kim Eun-young. The 42-year-old mother of two living in Seoul's Gwangjin district used to pick up what she needed at a nearby supermarket, but rising prices prompted her to change her shopping habits. She said buying groceries and household essentials in bulk seemed more economical, at least for her family of four. "The bill is bigger each time, but buying in bulk works out cheaper for the same amount. I mainly buy food we eat regularly...

• Terracotta warriors were mainly built by women and children, batch fingerprints show (2026-10-21 06:17)

Some 5 metres (16.4 feet) underground near one of China's oldest cities lies the life-size army of thousands of terracotta warriors. The purpose of the army, located 35km (22 miles) northeast of historic Xian, was to protect China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, in the afterlife. The Terracotta Army was buried with him after his death in 210BC. Now, a new study shows that a portion of the terracotta warriors was largely made by adult women and minors, not solely by men as previously...

- Drone strike on market in disputed Sudan border region kills at least 153 (2026-10-21 06:16)

A drone strike on a market in Abyei, a border region disputed by Sudan and South Sudan, hit a nearby fuel depot, killing at least 153 people, a local official said on Tuesday. Yohanna Akol Ngor, the Abyei administration's caretaker information minister, blamed Sudan's military for Monday's attack on Amiet Market, north of Abyei town. Ngor told Associated Press by phone that the death toll was continuing to rise as the fire burned. A senior Sudanese military officer said the army carried out a...

- China eases uncertainty over offshore trust taxes before grace period ends (2026-10-21 06:03)

China's tax authorities are accepting reasonable explanations when enforcing new rules on offshore trust gains, according to an executive who says their appeal was successful, offering some reassurance as a 90-day grace period expires on Thursday. The approach appears to be translating into greater clarity from regulators. Earlier this week, the State Taxation Administration published a question-and-answer series that suggested Beijing was implementing the rules in line with international...

- What's behind the quiet US diplomatic thaw with Myanmar? (2026-10-21 05:58)

Fresh from walking down red carpets laid out by his Southeast Asian neighbours, Myanmar's ex-military chief Min Aung Hlaing appears to have a new diplomatic feather in his cap: re-engagement with the United States. Washington slapped sanctions on Min Aung Hlaing just 10 days after his February 1, 2021 coup and the ensuing bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. Waves of subsequent sanctions targeted military-linked companies and cronies. Yet since last month, two rounds of talks with US...

- Hong Kong police arrest 4 teenagers over viral back-alley assault video (2026-10-21 05:22)

Hong Kong police have arrested four boys on suspicion of inciting another person to become a member of an unlawful society and assault causing bodily harm, after a clip of a back-alley dispute in the early hours on Monday went viral. A police spokesman said on Wednesday that officers arrested four local boys aged 13 to 17 the day before, following an investigation based on a clip of a suspected attack in a back alley in Sai Wan Ho that had circulated online. "All arrestees are under custody for...

• DeepSeek seeks ‘total victory’ over closed-source AI with new open-source tool (2026-10-21 05:03)

Chinese artificial intelligence start-up DeepSeek has fully open-sourced an internally developed framework designed to run AI models efficiently, as a senior researcher at the company described the growing divide between open-source and closed-source AI as a battle between “light and darkness”. The company on Tuesday released DeepInfer, an inference framework tailored to support its DeepSeek-V4.1-Flash model on both Nvidia’s SM100 Blackwell graphics processing units (GPUs) and Huawei...

• India’s voter roll overhaul fuels citizenship fears: ‘what if they ask us to leave?’ (2026-10-21 04:46)

Laddli Khatun pulled one document after another from a yellow bag, desperately hoping one would be enough to keep her name on India’s electoral rolls. As the world’s largest democracy overhauls its voter lists, millions like Khatun are scrambling to re-establish their credentials, despite having voted before. Critics and opposition parties say the exercise risks mass disenfranchisement, and those removed fear wider citizenship repercussions. More than 133 million names – including 28 million...

• Why is Hong Kong so hot in October and will winter be warmer than usual? (2026-10-21 04:40)

Hong Kong’s exceptionally warm October weather is being driven by a combination of a super typhoon, El Nino and global warming, a climate expert has said, warning that higher-than-usual temperatures are likely to persist through the winter. The warning came as autumn temperatures across the city topped 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) over the past few weeks. Professor Amos Tai Pui-kuen, of the earth and environmental sciences department at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, explained on...

• China builds the world’s smallest wearable brain monitor with a cortex-wide view (2026-10-21 04:00)

Chinese scientists have developed what they say is the world’s smallest wearable mini brain monitor that can track the activity of thousands of neurons at the same time. Weighing in at one gram (0.35 oz), the wireless “Airscope” is the lightest device of its kind and enables researchers to track a wider range of brain activity in untethered laboratory animals. The device was jointly developed by scientists from Tsinghua University and the Chinese PLA Medical School, and detailed in a paper...

• Malaysia’s border chief charged with assaulting police in viral airport clash (2026-10-21 03:58)

Malaysia’s border control chief pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to two charges of assaulting junior police officers at the country’s main international airport last month, after a video of the confrontation went viral. Mohd Shuhaily Mohd Zain, director general of the Malaysian

Border Control and Protection Agency, was filmed confronting two men at Kuala LumpurInternational Airport on September 28. He previously linked the incident to an operationagainst airport touts following complaints about...

• Days before Brazil's run-off, Lula and Bolsonaro seek to disqualify each other (2026-10-21 03:50)

In the latest showdown from Brazil's increasingly rancorous presidential race Tuesday, both candidates called for the disqualification of their rivals over allegations of social media malfeasance, according to court filings and campaign officials. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's campaign said Tuesday they will request the disqualification of right-wing rival Flavio Bolsonaro on Wednesday over alleged election interference by tech giant Meta. Later Tuesday, Bolsonaro's team struck back with...

• Stinking rich: Malaysia eyes land routes to boost durian trade in China (2026-10-21 03:49)

Malaysia is negotiating with Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia to establish overland transit routes for fresh durian exports to China, according to Agriculture and Food Security Minister Mohamad Sabu. The minister said the move would reduce transport costs and improve access to the lucrative Chinese market. "Durian is a favourite among Chinese consumers, but they sometimes find it difficult to get the fruit at a more affordable price," he said during parliament's question and answer time on...

• Singaporean parents jailed after 8-month-old son dies from severe abuse (2026-10-21 03:12)

A Singaporean couple who regularly abused their first child after he was born, resulting in his death at the age of eight months, were sentenced to jail on Wednesday. Chloe Gan Ci Xuan, 23, and Neo Jia Ming, 27, were sentenced respectively to 15 years and three months' jail and 16 years' jail for various charges over the death of their son, Trevor Neo Yu Hin. Gan pleaded guilty to three charges comprising causing the death of a child, ill-treating a child and permitting such ill-treatment. Neo...

• Only 3% of Hong Kong firms have fully integrated AI into workflows, survey finds (2026-10-21 03:00)

Only 3 per cent of Hong Kong companies have fully integrated AI into their workflows, with many facing hurdles including resistance to organisational change and outdated digital infrastructure, a survey has found. Consultancy Accenture, which polled 150 companies and released the results on Wednesday, said the survey suggested businesses had a strong desire to adopt artificial intelligence (AI) in their work but many struggled to put it into practice. "Hong Kong really has strong AI ambitions...

• Russian satellite's close approach to European spacecraft highlights orbital risks (2026-10-21 02:58)

A Russian satellite moved within just 100 metres of a European commercial spacecraft that supports Ukraine's military at the weekend, orbital tracking data showed, raising concerns about Moscow's activities in space. Russia launched the Cosmos-2612 military satellite into low Earth orbit in April. It began changing course late September and eventually moved into the same orbit as ICEYE-X36, a satellite operated by Finland's ICEYE under contract with the United States. The two spacecraft came...

• Inside scorching Pakistani factories making clothes for global fashion brands (2026-10-21 02:08)

Machines whirred around Siddiqui as her vision blurred and her heart hammered. The garment factory on the outskirts of Karachi was sweltering. The room was packed with sweating fellow workers and huge industrial equipment that radiated heat. The air felt thick with the humidity of this summer's monsoon. Siddiqui, who asked to be identified only by surname, felt like she was suffocating. Concerned colleagues called over her supervisor. "The supervisor said, 'Just complete this work,'" the...

• China university offers course pushing students to call strangers to build confidence, social skills (2026-10-21 02:00)

An unconventional course at prestigious Nanjing University encourages students to call strangers to hone their social skills, challenging the traditional value of "do more, speak less". At the top-tier institution in Jiangsu province, eastern China, former television producer and director Xu Kai launched a course called "Oral Expression" in 2015. Over the years, it has become one of the students' favourite public courses. The course includes a legendary assignment: students must call a stranger...

• BBC slashes 100 jobs, pulls channels amid 'immediate cost pressures' (2026-10-21 01:59)

The BBC announced more than 100 job cuts and the closure of two channels Tuesday as the cash-strapped UK broadcaster aims to save £500 million (US$668 million) over the next two years. BBC News announced the "net closure of just over 100 roles", according to an internal note by director Rachel Jupp, part of some 2,000 job cuts the broader organisation is eyeing to achieve its planned savings. The job cuts represent £5.5 million in savings, said Jupp. She was appointed BBC News' director this...

• Taiwan admits paying for retired US general to observe largest annual war games (2026-10-21 01:30)

Taiwan's defence ministry has confirmed for the first time that it has allocated funding for the US Indo-Pacific Command to send a retired general and other personnel to observe the island's largest annual war games. The disclosure sheds rare official light on military exchanges that Taipei and Washington have traditionally kept out of public view, as security cooperation between the two sides deepens amid growing pressure from Beijing. According to a

defence ministry report submitted to the...

• Burnham's Britain can learn from Trump in engaging with China (2026-10-21 01:30)

Getting relations with China right is widely seen as Britain's epoch-defining challenge. It is also one it is woefully unprepared to face. So concluded a recent audit by the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), which highlighted that top negotiators lacked basic Chinese language skills. More critically, it exposed a deeper deficit: a poor grasp of China spanning political elites and the public alike. This is rooted in a desk-bound classroom sinology rather than a nuanced appreciation...

• Christina Applegate says she was misdiagnosed with multiple sclerosis (2026-10-21 01:29)

Christina Applegate, who has candidly shared raw details about her journey with multiple sclerosis for years, revealed on Monday her doctor says she does not have the autoimmune disease and was misdiagnosed. "I'm back at square one where I don't know what's going on with me," the actor said on the latest edition of her podcast "MeSsy", along with co-host Jamie-Lynn Sigler, who has been public about her own battle with MS. Applegate first publicly announced in 2021 that she had been diagnosed...

• In Japan, Takaichi's first-year leadership style threatens hold on power (2026-10-21 01:17)

With her government entering its second year on Wednesday, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi may face growing questions over whether her leadership style, oft-described as assertive, could fuel discontent within her Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Bolstered by high public approval ratings and an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives, Takaichi has pushed through divisive legislation and made personnel appointments heavily tinged with her will. Political analysts warn that...

• Brazil's family farming backbone embraces Chinese AI to reverse vital sector's decline (2026-10-21 01:00)

The family farmers who produce the lion's share of Brazil's staple foods are opening their arms to cutting-edge Chinese artificial intelligence in a bid to modernise operations and secure their future. Brazil and China agreed to a five-year cooperation programme in September aimed at giving smallholders – the backbone of the Brazilian agricultural sector – an AI boost after a decade of declining employment and limited access to affordable technology. Representatives of the Brazilian Agricultural...

• From ideas to impact (2026-10-21 01:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] The HKUST-SINO One Million Dollar Entrepreneurship Competition and Impactathon take different approaches to helping promising ideas move from early concepts to practical applications in businesses and communities. Across these initiatives, Sino aims to connect innovators with communities,

universities and businesses at critical stages when feedback, practical experience and industryconnections can help their ideas gain...

• Why foreign companies are still betting on Hong Kong's culinary reputation (2026-10-21 00:30)

Despite a downturn in Hong Kong's food and beverage sector, foreign enterprises are still betting on the city as a fine-dining destination, with a South Korean hydroponic ginseng grower and a 123-year-old Japanese confectioner choosing it for their first overseas ventures. Jack Kwon, founder and CEO of Seoul-based Biofx, signed a deal with Hong Kong hydroponics firm Farm66 last Thursday to grow Korean gourmet ginseng in the city and sell it to local consumers and restaurants. The deal marks the...

• Southeast Asian families tying house move to top schools spur privilege worries (2026-10-21 00:00)

Singapore's recent parliamentary debate over primary school admissions has put a familiar parental strategy in the city state under the spotlight – parents moving house to improve their children's chances of getting into popular schools. Speaking with This Week in Asia, property agents say some families in Singapore have been approaching them with the intention of buying or renting particular residences at least two years before their children's primary school admission. Living close to a...

• Why Anthropic has a major China problem ahead of its blockbuster IPO (2026-10-21 00:00)

The growing popularity of Chinese artificial intelligence models has emerged as a key risk factor for Anthropic ahead of its blockbuster initial public offering, according to US research firm Hedgeye Risk Management. "It's all about Chinese competition when analysing Anthropic," said Felix Wang, managing director and global tech sector head at Hedgeye. "Many of my clients are asking the same question." The assessment comes as Anthropic faces renewed investor jitters over whether its massive AI...

Source: The Diplomat China

• Togo's China Pivot: Building a Strategic Gateway to the Sahel (2026-10-27 12:18)

Lomé's maritime ambitions, deepening ties with Beijing, and growing coordination with the AES could reshape West Africa's trade and geopolitical architecture

• Taiwan-Vatican Ties: The Dynamic Interplay Under Pope Leo XIV (2026-10-26 15:44)

Regardless of the Sino-Vatican agreement, the practical, multifaceted ties between Taiwan and the Holy See have deepened over the past year.

• Xi Jinping May Have His Own Reasons to Avert a China-Russia-US Summit (2026-10-23 17:09)

A formal trilateral could raise strategic questions that are awkward for the EU, Ukraine – and China itself.

• The China-Taiwan Diplomatic War Is More About Politics Than Economics (2026-10-23 15:46)

Taiwan's formal relationships in Africa and Latin America point to the real factors driving recognition decisions – and it's not "dollar diplomacy."

• The Next Chapter of Africa-China Climate Cooperation (2026-10-23 12:38)

China's climate cooperation with Africa is becoming more investment-led, with a focus on industrialization.

• China, Djibouti Express 'Serious Concern' Over Threats to Red Sea Shipping (2026-10-22 19:45)

A joint communique ups the diplomatic rhetoric but offers no solutions.

• Hong Kong's Vanishing Rainbow Shows How China's Social Control Travels (2026-10-22 12:25)

From Hong Kong to Bangkok, Paris, Taiwan, and North America, LGBTQ communities are encountering censorship, surveillance, and coercive pressure linked to China.

• Afghanistan's Wakhan Transit Road Is a Long Shot to Connect with China (2026-10-21 12:40)

The road has been officially inaugurated, but China and the Taliban have very different views of its function.

Source: US-China Perception Monitor

• The Making of a National Myth: A People's History of Taiwan w/ Evan Dawley (2026-10-27 12:00)

The post The Making of a National Myth: A People's History of Taiwan w/ Evan Dawley appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

• Globalized Populism w/ Pitman Potter (2026-10-26 12:00)

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• Is Hong Kong Hong Kong Enough? w/ Wang Xiangwei (2026-10-23 12:00)

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- When the Subject is Grandmothers w/ Kate Zhou (2026-10-22 12:00)

The post When the Subject is Grandmothers w/ Kate Zhou appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- Why the U.S. Dollar Isn’t Going Anywhere (Yet) w/ Ho-Fung Hung (2026-10-21 18:53)

The post Why the U.S. Dollar Isn’t Going Anywhere (Yet) w/ Ho-Fung Hung appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.