

HONG KONG SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 23, 2026 - October 30, 2026

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

Security Analysis Report: Hong Kong (October 23 - October 30, 2026)

Executive Summary

During the period of October 23 to October 30, 2026, Hong Kong's security landscape was characterized by a strong focus on cybersecurity resilience and internal security measures, alongside significant geopolitical tensions and diplomatic exchanges. The launch of the "Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026" underscored the government's commitment to bolstering digital defenses against evolving threats. Concurrently, the opening of a "Counter Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition" highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance public awareness and preparedness for potential terror threats. Diplomatically, Hong Kong strongly condemned the UK's latest report on the city, rejecting interference in its internal affairs, while a new report alleged Hong Kong's role as a hub for sanctions evasion, drawing international scrutiny. A notable defense-related incident involved the rerouting of sensitive F-35 fighter jet parts to Hong Kong, prompting a Pentagon investigation and raising concerns about technology transfer.

Key Security Developments

- Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026 Launched

On October 29, the Hong Kong Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026 commenced, a three-day exercise designed to test the cyber defense mechanisms and incident response capabilities of participating organizations. Spearheaded by the Digital Policy Office (DPO) in collaboration with various security and industry partners, this year's drill notably included private enterprises as defending teams for the first time, alongside government departments and public organizations, to enhance overall cybersecurity protection and resilience. The exercise uses simulated cyber threat scenarios to assess operational readiness and strengthen coordination.

- Urgent Cybersecurity Alert Issued for Critical PHP Flaws

On October 22 (reported on October 25), Hong Kong authorities, through the government's Digital Policy Office, issued a security alert regarding two critical vulnerabilities in the widely used PHP programming language. These flaws,

collectively known as "PHP2Shell," could allow remote attackers to execute unauthorized code and take control of servers. Government bureaus and departments were instructed to conduct immediate and comprehensive reviews and complete patching work as soon as possible, with no related cybersecurity incidents reported so far.

- Counter-Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition Opened

The Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), co-organized by the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force and coordinated by the Security Bureau, launched a "Counter Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition" on October 24 at the Hong Kong Museum of History. The exhibition, running until March 1, 2027, aims to enhance public awareness of counter-terrorism (CT) and strengthen public response capabilities through multimedia displays and interactive experiences, emphasizing the need for vigilance against borderless terrorism.

- Hong Kong Government Condemns UK Report on National Security Law

On October 23, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government issued a strong condemnation and firm rejection of the UK's "six-monthly report on Hong Kong: January to June 2026". The HKSAR Government refuted the report's "untruthful remarks, slanders and smears," asserting that the UK has no right to interfere in Hong Kong's internal affairs post-handover and defending the city's National Security Law as having brought freedom, stability, and an improved business environment.

- Report Alleges Hong Kong as a Hub for Sanctions Evasion

A report from the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong (CFHK) Foundation, released on October 19 and reported on October 28, alleged that Hong Kong has become a "world's capital of sanctions evasion," supporting regimes in Russia, Iran, and North Korea. The report, titled "Safe Harbor for Sanctions Evaders: Hong Kong's Brazen Support for Iran and Russia," claims that Hong Kong acts as a connective tissue for finance, technology, and weapons components for these sanctioned entities, calling for secondary sanctions on Hong Kong and Chinese banks.

- F-35 Fighter Jet Parts Rerouted to Hong Kong

The Pentagon and U.S. lawmakers are investigating how sensitive F-35 fighter jet parts, originally bound from Australia to the United States for repairs, were rerouted to Hong Kong this summer. This incident, reported on October 29, has raised significant security concerns that China could gain access to key components of the highly classified weapon system. The F-35 Joint Program Office is actively working to retrieve the components and implement safeguards.

- Successful Security for APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting

The APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) 2026 was successfully held in Hong Kong on October 20-21, marking a historic occasion for the city. Security measures, including contingency plans for potential terrorist attacks and cyber patrols, were implemented to safeguard hotels, venues (Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre), and transport arrangements for the approximately 500 guests, including finance ministers and senior officials. The successful execution of these security protocols ensured the smooth running of the high-profile international event.

- Major Smuggling Operations Intercepted by Customs

Hong Kong Customs detected two suspected smuggling cases involving ocean-going vessels in October, seizing large batches of goods with a total estimated market value of approximately $26 million. The operations, conducted through intelligence analysis and risk assessment, intercepted over 8,000 electronic and household products destined for Australia and over 7,000 used computers bound for India, which were falsely declared. Investigations are ongoing, with the likelihood of arrests not ruled out.

- Drug Trafficking Arrests at Hong Kong International Airport

On October 22, Hong Kong Customs arrested two incoming mainland male passengers at Hong Kong International Airport in separate drug trafficking cases. Officers seized about 8 kilograms of suspected cannabis buds with an estimated market value of approximately HK$1.7 million. This highlights ongoing efforts to maintain border security and combat illicit drug flows into the city.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Hong Kong's security developments during this period are deeply intertwined with broader geopolitical currents, particularly the complex relationship between China and Western powers. The HKSAR Government's strong condemnation of the UK's "six-monthly report" on October 23 underscores the ongoing diplomatic friction over Hong Kong's autonomy and human rights under the National Security Law. This exchange highlights Beijing's firm stance against perceived foreign interference and Hong Kong's alignment with mainland China's foreign policy.

The report by the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong (CFHK) Foundation, alleging Hong Kong as a "safe harbor for sanctions evaders" for Russia, Iran, and North Korea, carries significant geopolitical weight. If these allegations gain traction, they could lead to increased pressure from the United States, the European Union, and other allies for secondary sanctions on Hong Kong and Chinese financial institutions, potentially impacting Hong Kong's status as an international financial hub. This development places Hong Kong at the center of global efforts to enforce sanctions and could strain its economic ties with Western nations.

The investigation into how F-35 fighter jet parts were rerouted to Hong Kong is a critical incident with direct implications for US-China relations and regional defense dynamics. The potential for China to gain access to sensitive stealth fighter technology represents a significant intelligence and security concern for the United States and its allies. This event could exacerbate existing tensions, particularly concerning technology transfer and military modernization in the Indo-Pacific. While not directly involving Hong Kong's military, it highlights the city's strategic vulnerability and its role within China's broader geopolitical ambitions.

Despite these tensions, Hong Kong successfully hosted the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting on October 20-21, which the HKSAR Government leveraged to showcase its role as an international financial center and "super connector". This event provided a platform for diplomatic engagement and economic cooperation, demonstrating Hong Kong's continued efforts to maintain its international standing amidst political challenges. The successful security arrangements for such a high-profile event also project an image of stability and capability, despite underlying geopolitical complexities.

Military and Defense Analysis

Hong Kong, as a Special Administrative Region of China, does not maintain an independent military force; its defense is the responsibility of the People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison. Therefore, direct military activities or defense acquisitions for Hong Kong itself are typically limited. However, the period saw a significant defense-related incident with geopolitical ramifications: the rerouting of F-35 fighter jet parts to Hong Kong. This event, currently under investigation by the Pentagon, raises serious concerns about potential technology acquisition by China, which could contribute to the modernization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Such an incident, if confirmed as a successful transfer of sensitive technology, could influence the regional military balance and accelerate China's defense capabilities, indirectly impacting Hong Kong's strategic environment by enhancing the overall strength of its sovereign power.

In terms of internal security, Hong Kong's police force and other disciplined services remain the primary actors. The "Counter Terrorism Education Thematic Exhibition" launched on October 24, co-organized by the National Security Department of the Hong Kong Police Force, indicates a continued emphasis on enhancing public and institutional preparedness against terrorism. This initiative, along with the successful security operations for the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting, demonstrates the robust capabilities of Hong Kong's internal security apparatus in managing large-scale events and addressing potential threats. Hong Kong Customs also demonstrated its effectiveness in maritime and border security through significant smuggling and drug

trafficking interdictions, underscoring its role in combating transnational crime and maintaining the city's integrity. While there were no reports of direct military exercises within Hong Kong, the broader regional military activities by the PLAN in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, reported on October 23, highlight the dynamic strategic environment in which Hong Kong operates, with China's military posture influencing regional stability.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Hong Kong is likely to continue its dual focus on strengthening internal security and cybersecurity while navigating complex international relations. The "Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026" will likely lead to enhanced inter-agency and public-private collaboration in cyber defense, with potential follow-up initiatives or policy adjustments based on the drill's outcomes. Efforts to raise public awareness of counter-terrorism will also persist, as indicated by the ongoing exhibition. Diplomatically, Hong Kong will likely maintain its firm stance against perceived foreign interference, particularly from Western nations, and continue to align with Beijing's narrative on national security. The allegations of sanctions evasion will likely prompt further international scrutiny and potentially lead to new measures from foreign governments, which Hong Kong will need to address.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: Critical flashpoints include the ongoing international scrutiny over the National Security Law and the "sanctions evasion" allegations. Any further actions by foreign governments, such as additional sanctions or designations, could escalate diplomatic tensions and potentially impact Hong Kong's economic standing. The investigation into the F-35 parts rerouting is another significant risk area; its findings and subsequent actions by the US could further strain US-China relations, with indirect but substantial implications for Hong Kong. Cybersecurity remains a persistent risk, with sophisticated threats requiring continuous vigilance and investment, as highlighted by the urgent patching of PHP flaws. Internal security challenges, including smuggling and drug trafficking, will also require ongoing robust enforcement.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include any further statements or actions from the US Treasury or other international bodies regarding the "sanctions evasion" allegations, as well as the progress and findings of the F-35 parts investigation. The outcomes and public reporting from the "Cybersecurity Attack and Defence Drill 2026" will indicate the effectiveness of Hong Kong's digital defense strategies. Additionally, monitoring the tone and frequency of diplomatic exchanges between Hong Kong/Beijing and Western governments will provide insights into the evolving geopolitical landscape. Any new legislative or enforcement actions related to

national security or counter-terrorism will also be crucial indicators of the city's internal security posture.

Strategic recommendations: Hong Kong should continue to invest heavily in its cybersecurity infrastructure and capabilities, fostering greater public-private partnerships to build a resilient digital environment. Proactive and transparent communication regarding its financial regulatory framework and anti-money laundering efforts could help mitigate the impact of "sanctions evasion" allegations. Diplomatically, while maintaining its stance on national sovereignty, Hong Kong could seek avenues for dialogue to clarify its position and address international concerns, particularly with key economic partners. Internally, continued vigilance and public engagement in counter-terrorism and crime prevention efforts are essential to maintaining stability and public confidence.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: HK Free Press

• Event: ‘The Last Two Cannibals on Cannibal Island’ – new theatre production at The Hive Studios (2026-10-30 05:49)

[Sponsored] Experimental theatre at The Hive Studios, Kennedy Town, this November. Tickets available now. The Last Two Cannibals on Cannibal Island is not an allegory for a failing marriage, or anything so high-minded. It is, in fact, about the last two cannibals left on a small, forgotten island on the day they discover each other’s [⋯]

• Some Wang Fuk Court survivors say top officials’ apology nearly one year since fatal fire lacked ‘sincerity’ (2026-10-30 05:04)

Former residents of the fire-hit Wang Fuk Court housing estate have criticised Hong Kong leader John Lee and top officials for their apology, saying the gesture — coming nearly a year after a blaze claimed 168 lives and left thousands homeless — lacked “sincerity.” Lee led senior officials in bowing in apology during a press [⋯]

• Hello Kitty firm apologises, scraps Japan TV tie-up after China anger (2026-10-30 04:10)

Sanrio, the Japanese company behind the popular character Hello Kitty, apologised on Thursday over its tie-up with a TV spy drama criticised as anti-China, cancelling a merchandise collaboration with the show. It comes days after Chinese sponsors dropped football superstar Kylian Mbappe over comments calling communist leader Mao Zedong a “dictator”, for which the Real [⋯]

• Hong Kong catches nearly 110,000 live rats in first nine months of 2026 (2026-10-29 23:45)

The Hong Kong government has caught nearly 110,000 live rats and collected over 20,000 dead ones in the first nine months of this year as the city steps up efforts to combat rodent infestation. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department told local media in a written response that from January to September, staff caught 109,087 [⋯]

• Tai Po fire: Housing Bureau to replace inspection unit criticised for multiple failings, ‘slack’ attitude (2026-10-29 10:40)

The Housing Bureau will replace an independent inspection unit following heavy criticism over policy and operational failures and a “slack” work attitude in the lead-up to last year’s massive Tai Po fire. Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said on Thursday that a major shake-up will see the Housing Bureau’s Independent Checking Unit (ICU) replaced [⋯]

• Tai Po fire: Hong Kong gov't to set up company to assist owners with building renovations, criminalise bid-rigging (2026-10-29 10:30)

The Hong Kong government will set up a company to provide property owners with building renovations support, authorities have said, as part of reforms announced following the release of an investigation report on the deadly Tai Po fire. Leading a press conference with the city's top officials on Thursday, Chief Executive John Lee said authorities [⋯]

• 70% of Hong Kong subdivided flats register for grace period under new regulatory system (2026-10-29 09:49)

Some 70 per cent of Hong Kong's subdivided flats have been registered under a grace period system that will give landlords three years to ensure their properties meet minimum living standards laid out by a new law implemented eight months ago. Secretary for Housing Winnie Ho told the city's legislature on Wednesday that around 75,000 [⋯]

• Taiwan says Pakistan briefly closed airspace to Taiwanese flights, citing Beijing's 'One China policy' (2026-10-29 08:42)

Pakistan briefly closed its airspace to Taiwanese cargo and passenger flights, Taiwan said on Thursday, suspecting China of being behind the unprecedented move. "We suspect definitely China was behind this," Deputy Foreign Minister Chen Ming-chi told AFP after confirming that Pakistan had closed and reopened its airspace to Taiwanese airlines. China Airlines and EVA Air, [⋯]

• HK officials bow in apology almost a year after Tai Po blaze killed 168, housing chief steps down (2026-10-29 06:56)

Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee and other top officials bowed in apology at a Thursday press conference where Lee announced that housing chief Winnie Ho would step down over the Wang Fuk Court fire, almost a year after the tragedy killed 168 people. Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong, who currently leads the government's task [⋯]

• Australian defence chief says China military buildup creating 'pressure' in SE Asia (2026-10-29 02:32)

Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said Thursday that China's military build-up was creating a "condition of pressure" in Southeast Asia, and urged allies and partners to deepen cooperation. Beijing deploys hundreds of coast guard, navy and other vessels to patrol disputed areas of the South China Sea, which it claims almost entirely despite an international [⋯]

• Hong Kong to distribute 'Security Bear' national security picture books to 900 kindergartens (2026-10-29 01:30)

The Security Bureau held a launch ceremony for its Andy and Security Bear: Young Citizens Safeguarding National Security educational picture books on Tuesday. The three-volume set of titles includes new stories and national security-themed children's songs. They will be

distributed to 900 kindergartens and public libraries by the end of the year. According to a […]

• Samsung to exit Hong Kong's home appliance market – report (2026-10-29 01:24)

South Korean tech giant Samsung is reportedly withdrawing from Hong Kong's large home appliance sector, months after exiting the mainland Chinese market. Korea Economic TV reported on Wednesday that Samsung's smartphone, TV and computer monitor operations in Hong Kong will be unaffected. However, air conditioners, vacuum cleaners and fridges are among the products already marked […]

• Officers lack power to order identity proof under police ordinance, court hears as Ronson Chan seeks top court appeal (2026-10-28 23:30)

The police ordinance does not empower officers to demand identity proof, a lawyer for Ronson Chan has argued as the former head of Hong Kong's largest press union applied to challenge his conviction for obstructing police at the Court of Final Appeal. Ronson Chan, who helmed the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) from 2021 to […]

• Tech and AI leaders expand China's 2026 rich list as DeepSeek founder makes debut (2026-10-28 12:14)

The number of mega-wealthy people in China reached an all-time high this year, with tech tycoons including the founder of DeepSeek joining a closely watched rich list as the country expands its AI reach. The number of people worth more than 5 billion yuan ($750 million) rose to a record 1,529, according to the annual Hurun China […]

• Hong Kong independent bookstore Luck Win to shut Mong Kok branch by year end after half a century (2026-10-28 11:00)

Hong Kong's decades-old bookstore Luck Win has announced the shutdown of its Mong Kok branch by the end of the year, becoming the city's latest independent bookstore to close. Luck Win announced on Tuesday that its Mong Kok bookshop would close by December 31 at the latest. It did not cite any reasons. "Operating for […]

• Rumours that design defect caused waste plant fire 'groundless and entirely fictitious,' gov't says (2026-10-28 09:12)

Hong Kong's environmental authorities have addressed "false rumours" that a fire that broke out at a waste incineration plant was caused by design defects and a collapsed incineration module. The fire that broke out at the I·PARK1 waste management facility in Shek Kwu Chau, south of Lantau Island, on Monday is suspected to have originated […]

• China says it takes Mbappe apology 'seriously' after Mao remark (2026-10-28 08:52)

China said Wednesday it took "seriously" an apology from Real Madrid superstar Kylian Mbappe after comments he made poking fun at Mao Zedong sparked a social media storm and saw Spanish football yanked off state TV. Mocking former leader Mao — blamed by historians

for millions of deaths — is taboo in China and the […]

• Data breach at Hong Kong Airlines, YOHO, and Broadway affects 1,600 customers (2026-10-28 07:54)

Hong Kong's privacy watchdog is investigating reported data breaches affecting 1,600 customers of Hong Kong Airlines, YOHO, and Broadway Photo Supply. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Privacy (PCPD) said in a Monday press release that it had received a report on October 5 that personal data belonging to 790 customers of online electronics […]

• 'Physical hell': Hong Kong hosts gruelling underwater hockey tournament (2026-10-28 07:20)

Swimmers brandishing short, curved sticks held their breath as they somersaulted and dove towards a weighted puck at the bottom of a Hong Kong swimming pool, vying for first place in a sport likened to voluntary drowning. The annual underwater hockey tournament, ominously advertised as "physical hell", nevertheless drew a roster of hardcore enthusiasts from […]

• Proposed twin high-rises along Hung Hom harbourfront will not block iconic Lion Rock ridgeline, gov't says (2026-10-28 06:05)

A proposed twin-tower project to be built along the Hung Hom harbourfront will not block the view of the city's Lion Rock ridgeline, a senior official has said. Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) said on an RTHK radio programme on Wednesday morning that the iconic ridgeline will not be blocked by the proposed […]

• Hong Kong lawmakers' monthly pay tops HK$110K after unannounced 1.6% salary rise (2026-10-27 23:45)

Hong Kong lawmakers have been given a pay rise retroactive to October 1 after a one-year pay freeze, bringing their monthly basic salary to more than HK$110,000. Sing Tao Daily reported on Tuesday morning that legislators had received an unannounced 1.6 per cent pay rise, although the Legislative Council updated figures on its website. Following […]

• Commentator charged with disclosing nat. security probe says unaware investigation was underway (2026-10-27 11:22)

A Hong Kong political commentator charged with revealing details of a national security probe has testified that he did not believe an investigation was underway. Wong Kwok-ngon, known by his pen name Wong On-yin, continued his testimony at the District Court on Tuesday. The 72-year-old, who is representing himself, was arrested last December after publishing […]

• Hong Kong privacy watchdog issues guidance on AI 'smart glasses' to curb covert surveillance (2026-10-27 09:39)

Hong Kong's privacy watchdog has issued guidelines on using AI-powered "smart glasses" in a "privacy-respecting manner," in an effort to prevent covert collection of personal data.

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on Tuesday published the “Smart Glasses: Tips on Protecting Personal Data Privacy” guidance note, warning that misuse of the camera-fitted […]

• Civil servants file lawsuit against colleague accused of pocketing HK$33m Mark Six group jackpot (2026-10-27 05:57)

Fourteen people, including 12 civil servants currently working at the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), have filed a lawsuit against a colleague over an office lottery dispute involving a HK$33 million Mark Six jackpot. Ling Chun-ting, an FEHD health inspector, is accused of pocketing all the Mark Six winnings after he and 14 coworkers […]

• Gov’t demands report within week following blaze at Shek Kwu Chau waste facility (2026-10-27 04:32)

Hong Kong environmental authorities have instructed the works contractor for a waste incineration plant where a fire broke out on Monday to submit an incident report within seven days, after close to 1,000 people were evacuated, with one sent to hospital. The statement came hours after the blaze at the I·PARK1 waste management facility, rated […]

• Mbappe dropped by Chinese brands for ‘offending national sentiments’ after alleged Mao joke (2026-10-27 04:01)

Kylian Mbappe was dropped Tuesday by two major brands in China after a video circulated online in which the French football star apparently joked about former leader Mao Zedong. In China jokes about Mao, the country’s founding leader who died in 1976, are considered disrespectful and remain a social taboo. “Our company firmly opposes and has […]

• Hong Kong police officer stabbed during 2020 protest seeks at least HK$220K in damages (2026-10-26 23:45)

A Hong Kong police officer has sought at least HK$220,000 in damages from a man who stabbed him during a protest in 2020. Lui Chun-kit addressed the courtroom at the District Court on Monday, testifying that he sustained multiple muscle tears and required surgery. The officer was knifed in the shoulder and left elbow on […]

• China condemns US designation of Confucius Institutes as threat (2026-10-26 10:34)

China accused the United States on Monday of “targeted smearing” over Washington’s designation of Beijing-funded Confucius Institute cultural centres as national security threats. Washington considers the centres on American university campuses as propaganda tools of the Chinese Communist Party and has imposed funding restrictions on the institutes since 2025. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said […]

• Lawmaker questions whether proposed HK$100,000 fines for private hospitals will deter hidden fees (2026-10-26 10:00)

A Hong Kong lawmaker has questioned whether fines under a government proposal to increase price transparency among the city's private healthcare providers are too low to serve as an effective deterrent. Under the proposed bill introduced to the Legislative Council by health minister Lo Chung-mau on Friday, private healthcare providers will be required to provide [⋯]

• Close to 1,000 evacuated after No. 3 alarm fire hits Shek Kwu Chau waste incineration facility (2026-10-26 09:17)

Close to 1,000 people have been evacuated from a waste incineration plant off Hong Kong's Shek Kwu Chau island after a No. 3 alarm fire broke out at the facility on Monday. The Fire Services Department said it received reports at 12.42pm on Monday that a fire had broken out at the I·PARK1 waste management [⋯]

• Hong Kong police arrest man allegedly caught lacing cat food with rat poison (2026-10-26 06:28)

Police have arrested a 34-year-old man on suspicion of animal cruelty after animal welfare volunteers caught him lacing bowls of food left out for stray cats with rat poison. In a Saturday statement, police said that a report was received at around 3.37am that day alleging that the man, surnamed Ho, had spiked bowls of [⋯]

• Hong Kong athletes bag 41 medals at Asian Para Games with historic boccia run (2026-10-26 04:10)

Hong Kong athletes have brought home 41 medals from the Asian Para Games, winning three golds and achieving the city's historic best in boccia. The delegation returned on Sunday after the week-long games in Nagoya and the wider Aichi Prefecture in Japan, which began on October 18. Eighty athletes from the city competed in 10 [⋯]

• China's Communist Party elite gather for closed-door governance talks (2026-10-26 02:20)

China's President Xi Jinping and other top leaders meet in Beijing on Monday at a key gathering watched closely for clues as to the country's direction and future leadership. Roughly 300 members of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee in attendance at the meeting, called the fifth plenum, will be looking to tighten discipline within [⋯]

• Cost barriers leave Hong Kong's low-income elderly shut out of advance medical directives despite landmark law (2026-10-25 23:45)

Seventy-eight-year-old Fung Ho-chu has been hoping to put her wishes on end-of-life treatment into writing ever since she learned that a new law on advance medical directives (AMD) came into effect in late July. But as a senior living on government welfare in low-income Sham Shui Po, the costs of the process have forced her [⋯]

• Tropical Storm Champi nears China after battering Taiwan, Japan (2026-10-25 07:28)

A powerful storm swept towards China on Saturday after battering Taiwan and Japan's southernmost islands, knocking out power to thousands of households and forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights. Typhoon Champi was downgraded to a tropical storm as its wind speed dropped to 102 kilometres (63 miles) per hour, according to the latest update [⋯]

• What to know about the Chinese Communist Party's Fifth Plenum (2026-10-25 07:02)

President Xi Jinping and other top members of China's ruling Communist Party will meet in Beijing on Monday for a crucial gathering that could hint at the country's next generation of leaders. The fifth plenary session of the party's Central Committee precedes the five-yearly party congress next year, where Xi will likely secure a fourth [⋯]

• China-funded Confucius Institutes deemed US national security threat: Hegseth (2026-10-24 08:09)

The US Department of Defense has designated Confucius Institutes, Chinese-funded cultural centers on American university campuses, a threat to US national security, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday. Washington considers the centers to be propaganda tools of the Chinese Communist Party, and has taken steps to shut them down. Hegseth said the Defense Department took [⋯]

• Typhoon Champi knocks out power to thousands in Taiwan (2026-10-24 07:57)

Emergency crews scrambled on Saturday to restore power to tens of thousands of homes in Taiwan after Typhoon Champi's fierce winds battered the island, with the storm moving towards China and Japan. Authorities evacuated more than 5,000 people from their homes ahead of the storm, which toppled trees, brought down power lines, and triggered brief [⋯]

• Police arrest 2 over HK$900K street scam involving fake lockout stories (2026-10-24 00:00)

Police have arrested two people after two victims lost a combined HK$900,000 to a scammer claiming to be locked out of their home and in need of money for a locksmith. Police said officers received a report from a Tuen Mun resident on Monday, saying she was approached by a woman on the street who [⋯]

• Grandmother, domestic worker arrested for suspected child neglect after viral videos spark investigation (2026-10-23 10:16)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 61-year-old woman and a domestic worker over suspected child neglect after video clips of a girl crying for help went viral on social media. Police said on Friday they were investigating the suspected maltreatment of an 11-year-old girl by her family, following a referral from the Social Welfare Department. [⋯]

• 'A very sick individual': Hong Kong student convicted of 12 sexual offences against underage girls gets 10 years in prison (2026-10-23 08:24)

A Hong Kong man convicted of 12 sexual offences involving underage girls has been sentenced to 10 years in prison. High Court Judge Andrew Chan on Thursday called Fan Chi-yuen, a 22-year-old associate degree student in psychology at the time of the offences, “a very sick individual” who saw all girls as “targets” and wanted […]

- ‘Game of cat and mouse’: Digital Policy Office urges immediate patching as AI-discovered PHP flaws threaten global web (2026-10-23 05:31)

Hong Kong’s Digital Policy Office has urged government departments, bureaus and other public organisations to perform immediate security reviews after vulnerabilities were found in the PHP web programming language. It urged potentially affected bodies to conduct reviews “to check whether their information systems had been affected and complete all patching work as soon as possible; […]

- China’s first AI film hits cinemas but ticket sales lag (2026-10-23 04:55)

China’s first fully AI-generated feature film opens in cinemas on Friday, in what promises to be a tough box-office test for the country’s booming tech industry as advance ticket sales lag. More than 10,000 screenings of “Sanxingdui: Future Past”, a sci-fi thriller, are scheduled for Friday, according to ticketing platform Maoyan. However, public reception has […]

- Hong Kong slams UK’s ‘untruthful remarks’ in 6-monthly report highlighting ‘expanding scope’ of national security laws (2026-10-23 04:11)

Hong Kong authorities have slammed the UK for making “untruthful remarks, slanders and smears” about the city’s affairs in its latest six-monthly report that described the “expanding scope and application” of national security laws in the financial hub. The Hong Kong government said on Friday that it “strongly condemns and firmly rejects” the UK’s report […]

- Society for Hong Kong Studies to disband after 9 years citing lack of funding (2026-10-23 03:31)

The Society for Hong Kong Studies (SHKS), a locally based academic community providing a global platform for the study of Hong Kong, has announced it will dissolve after nine years. In an email sent to members on Wednesday, the SHKS said it will cease operations on October 31. The group, founded by 250 scholars in […]

- At least 16 dead in Tibet quake: China state media (2026-10-23 01:40)

A strong earthquake killed at least 16 people and injured 46 in China’s remote Tibet region, state media said, citing local authorities. More than 300 houses collapsed in the 7.0 magnitude quake, which struck on Thursday at 10:33 pm (1433 GMT). Officials were still evaluating the damage, and disaster relief work was ongoing, state news […]

Source: RTHK English News

- New council to take over URA's role in building upkeep (2026-10-30 05:34)

Secretary for Development Bernadette Linn on Friday said the government would set up a new council by the end of the year to help homeowners through the full cycle of building repairs – offering a paid service to handle tendering and evaluation on their behalf. Her announcement came after the independent committee investigating the Wang Fuk Court fire called, in its report, for enhanced support services that would be run by a new operator with a clearer, more interventionist mandate. Speaking a day after the report’s release, Linn said the new Building Maintenance Support and Services Council would be a non-statutory body and take over, in phases, building-upkeep subsidy schemes presently being run by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). Unlike the URA's Smart Tender platform, which helps owners solicit bids but does not assess them, the council will arrange for tenders and evaluate them for owners and recommend up to three suitable bids. Owners using government maintenance subsidies must choose from those recommended bids. The council will also assign pre-engaged inspection consultants instead of requiring a fresh tender for each inspection, help appoint supervision consultants and contractors, monitor the supervision consultant during works, and give owners independent advice if contractors propose major scope or cost changes. Linn said the fuller service could cost several thousand dollars per flat, versus the few hundred being charged under the Smart Tender platform. Commenting on the charges for the fuller service, Linn pointed out that the new council would provide a paid service to help owners meet their duty to inspect and maintain private property. Owners, she stressed, remain responsible for major repairs and the government is only stepping in because many of them lack the technical know-how. Linn was also asked whether the council should take responsibility if trouble came up. "Now that we have a new council recommending the consultants and contractors, it also has a role overseeing their performance. In case the council is being lax in its monitoring duty, then the council will have liability," she said. "Likewise, if turn of events show that the council has overlooked some important matters when recommending certain consultants or contractors, then I'm sure the council will also have to take on civil liabilities under the service contract they have signed with the owners." The council is expected to operate on a self-financing basis. The government has reserved HK$300 million, Linn said, adding that the figure is made up of HK$100 million in seed funding and HK$200 million to ease fees for needy owners. She said the council's priority would be the around 1,800 maintenance projects already in the Smart Tender system that had yet to appoint a contractor and were waiting for the new service. At the news conference, Linn was also asked whether she had considered resigning over the fire. She said she had thought about it but added that the decision was not simply down to her personal preference; as a senior member of the administration, she also had a duty to continue in her job to carry out the chief executive's directions. Edited by Tony Sabine

- 'Wang Fuk recommendations will be carried out swiftly' (2026-10-30 01:41)

Most of the 120 recommendations from the independent committee report on the deadly Wang Fuk Court fire could be implemented within a few months, Chief Secretary Eric Chan said on Friday. "To implement the 120 recommendations as soon as possible, I believe, will help to quickly reduce the possibility of similar problems occurring again in the future. This is very important," he said during an RTHK programme. Chan said the recommendations are very comprehensive and the government must draw lessons from the incident to reform and improve existing systems. The chief secretary will lead a steering committee to review each of the 120 proposals, and drive and monitor the implementation of measures. Chan said the committee would meet soon and assign each recommendation to the relevant departments. Where a recommendation involves multiple departments, he said, the lead department responsible for overseeing implementation would be identified. Each department would be required to submit a report to him on how the recommendation would be implemented or improved, and he would oversee the timeline for implementation "There are several principles. First, it must be done very rigorously; second, it must be done very promptly; third, it must be effective — effectively achieving the goal," he said. The chief secretary said some recommendations are already being rolled out. He expressed hope that six bills, including amendments to the Fire Services Ordinance and the Competition Ordinance, could be submitted to the Legislative Council within the year. Once enacted, he said, these laws would give enforcement and regulatory bodies sufficient powers to carry out their work. On the proposal to set up a central database to share information, such as underperforming contractors, among government departments, Chan said preparation work may take a few months due to the need for data conversion and platform design. He expects the system could be initially launched around May or June next year, and that the government would then be able to better serve the public. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Shenzhen Bay port to open longer on Fri and Sat (2026-10-29 14:22)

The Shenzhen Bay control point will extend its opening hours on Friday and Saturday to help facilitate cross-boundary traffic. Clearance time at the crossing will be extended to 2am from midnight, as the number of travellers is expected to surge due to a series of events staged in Hong Kong including Halloween festivities, the Wine and Dine Festival and mega concerts. The government said on Thursday that it reached a consensus with Shenzhen authorities for the arrangement, so as to alleviate the expected surge in passenger and vehicular flows at the round-the-clock Huanggang port and San Tin Highway. SAR authorities have also coordinated with cross-boundary coach operators to extend their service hours serving Shenzhen Bay. Franchised bus operators, for their part, will arrange two special overnight bus routes to ply between the port and Yuen Long/Tin Shui Wai and Tuen Mun respectively. “The implementation of the special arrangement to extend the clearance hours at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point helps divert late-night cross-boundary passenger and vehicular flows and facilitates travel for residents of both places and visitors,” a government spokesman said. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Govt not proceeding with Peak lighting show (2026-10-29 13:52)

The government said on Thursday it won't proceed with a lighting project on the Peak that drew opposition from residents. The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) will remove the installations as soon as possible and restore the site to its original condition, according to a paper submitted by the board and the Tourism Commission to the Central and Western District Council. “As we have just started moving forward, we have only carried out part of the work. We haven’t started operating or doing maintenance and repair work. So the resources we have used are limited," tourism minister Rosanna Law told reporters. "These are resources that were allocated to the Tourism Board a long time ago.” Law also said the light fittings that are to be removed could be useful for other HKTB projects. According to the document, the project had been planned for the area around Lugard and Harlech roads on the Peak, where there would be small-scale lighting installations at designated spots along a walking trail. Upon learning the concerns from the public, the government and HKTB arranged site visits with both lawmakers and district councillors, and looked into various enhancement measures. For instance, the board considered reducing the number of scenic spots along the trail from 10 to seven and shortening the project’s duration from one year to the end of February. It also planned to slash the number of trees used for hanging light fittings by more than half to 24. Still, the government noted that the proposed amendments might not be able to fully ease concerns of residents and trail users. “On the other hand, following a significant reduction in the project’s scale, even with efforts to retain the most distinctive design elements, we are wary that it could be difficult to fully realise the original design concept and lighting effect,” the document read. This would compromise the overall experience and appeal of the project, it added, and might not meet its expected results of encouraging travellers to revisit the SAR and stay longer through infusing traditional attractions with new elements. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 29 (2026-10-29 12:44)

Top stories for Thursday, Oct 29, 2026 - John Lee bows in apology and one of his ministers resigns over last year's Wang Fuk Court disaster. - Various reforms are announced to address shortcomings flagged up by the inquiry into the fire. - Spain begins three days of mourning after one of Europe's deadliest train crash in decades.

- Winnie Ho 'willing to take political responsibility' (2026-10-29 11:18)

Winnie Ho, who resigned as secretary for housing over the Wang Fuk Court fire, said she was willing to bear political responsibility for the deadly blaze. In a statement, Ho said she met with Chief Executive John Lee on Wednesday and tendered her resignation, which Lee accepted. Ho also said the government's reform measures, based on the independent committee's report, demonstrate a strong determination to confront the complex and longstanding problems exposed by the fire. "Since July 1, 2022, I have fought side by side with the Housing Bureau team, working hard to reverse the longstanding housing problems that have plagued Hong Kong for years," she said. Ho also listed achievements during her tenure, including the rapid construction of light public housing, shortening waiting times for public housing, tackling substandard subdivided units and clamping down on public housing abuse. She said she felt

deeply honoured to have served Hong Kong over the past four years, and expressed gratitudeto the central government, the chief executive and the entire government team for their trustand support. Ho also said she hopes those who were killed in the blaze can rest in peace andtheir families can move forward and recover from their grief. Edited by Edmond Fong

- 100 govt officers to be interviewed in Wang Fuk probe (2026-10-29 10:41)

Public Service Commission chairwoman Maisie Cheng said on Thursday that an inquiry team examining civil servants' accountability over the Wang Fuk Court fire will interview about 100 government officers across four departments, with 40 to 50 likely to be investigation targets. She was speaking after Chief Executive John Lee announced the two-tier administrative-accountability investigation covering the Housing Department's Independent Checking Unit, Buildings Department, Fire Services Department and Labour Department. Cheng said although the investigation will be challenging, the team will race against time and go all out to complete the work within three months as the CE requires. She said preparatory work has been underway since August. The team will use the independent committee report and published materials as its starting point, then dig into shortfalls by individual civil servants – including possible breaches of the Civil Service Code – by seeking files and interviewing officers, she added. "This team has already put all their effort to familiarise themselves with the information, especially those abundant information, made public by the independent committee," she said. "With all this preparatory work and also the preparatory work done by the two members and myself in the past few months, we are very confident that although the investigation team and the support office will be officially set up today, we can commence the investigation immediately." Civil Service Secretary Ingrid Yeung said after the probe, the team will decide which civil servants bear administrative responsibility and how serious it is – then recommend to the government whether to take disciplinary action or impose administrative sanctions. She said the government will study the recommendations quickly. Yeung added that for disciplinary cases, hearings will be held – and if charges are proven, the government can dismiss the officer, order compulsory retirement, demote, issue a reprimand or impose a fine. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Govt officers overseeing Wang Fuk works to be probed (2026-10-29 09:20)

Chief Executive John Lee said government officers who oversaw renovation works at Wang Fuk Court before the fire will be investigated under a new accountability system, with results to be announced in three months. A report submitted by an independent committee tasked with probing the deadly inferno was released on Thursday. The report identified "deficiencies and failings" by four government bodies in relation to the oversight of fire risks associated with renovation works at the Tai Po estate. They are the Buildings Department, the Housing Bureau's Independent Checking Unit, the Fire Services Department, and the Labour Department. Lee said these departments will now be investigated under the second tier of the Heads of Department Accountability System. Under the system, a Tier II investigation is carried out "if a serious problem occurs in a department or the problem is widespread or a repetitive, systemic one", or "

there are indications that the head of department concerned is implicated in the problem". Theinvestigation will be commissioned by the Public Service Commission (PSC), an independentstatutory advisory body which advises the chief executive on civil service appointments,promotions and discipline. "The investigation will gather evidence regarding the individualresponsibilities of officers involved, and assess whether there has been any dereliction of duty,violations of departmental regulations, or breaches of the Civil Service Code and other relevantcivil service management provisions," Lee said. "Based on the evidence and facts gathered, theinvestigation will provide recommendations on appropriate disciplinary actions andadministrative sanctions to be considered against the individuals responsible for theseshortcomings or deficiencies." Lee added he expected "40 to 50 officers" to be investigated, andwith even more witnesses to summon, he believed the PSC would be under great pressure tocomplete the probe in three months. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Seven areas of reforms introduced after Wang Fuk blaze (2026-10-29 08:27)

Chief Executive John Lee said the government will roll out comprehensive reforms to address shortcomings exposed by the Wang Fuk Court fire. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Lee said the reforms will cover seven areas. "The reforms that we roll out now are comprehensive reforms. We are restructuring departments so that they will enforce both inspection and also take legal action seriously," he said. "And we see in this case a series of events that happened resulting in this tragedy, and the things that we are rolling out now address each and every one of them." First, authorities will crack down on bid-rigging activities in building maintenance projects by establishing specific criminal offences and incorporating them into the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance. "This will empower law enforcement agencies to exercise statutory authority against suspects, including summoning individuals for questioning, demanding the submission of documents or materials, freezing assets, and confiscating proceeds of crime," he said. The government will amend the law to empower the Competition Commission to combat bid-rigging through a mix of criminal and civil enforcement measures. The commission will also team up with police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in the formation of an inter-departmental task force. The agencies will conduct joint investigations, strengthen intelligence gathering and information exchange. To assist homeowners, an authority will be established to provide independent, reliable, and professional advice on building maintenance. It will take up all related services currently provided by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). Authorities will also review and reform the regulatory frameworks for building maintenance projects to better clarify roles and responsibilities, and to strengthen regulation of professionals and contractors by introducing stiffer penalties. The Buildings Department will be restructured to strengthen its leadership and supervisory roles, while improving collaboration with the Independent Checking Unit (ICU) under the Housing Bureau. A centralised database will be established to facilitate information sharing across government departments, such as past convictions and cases of professional misconduct in relation to building maintenance work. "The government will also reform the existing complaint mechanism concerning building maintenance. The system will be integrated

into the centralised database, utilising artificial intelligence to analyse and monitor the progressand outcomes... to ensure that public complaints are addressed appropriately," Lee said.Finally, a steering committee, chaired by Chief Secretary Eric Chan, will be established to ensurethe independent committee's 120 recommendations on the Wang Fuk Court inferno areimplemented thoroughly and effectively. _____ Last updated: 2026-10-29HKT 16:54 Edited by Aaron Tam

- Govt departments share blame for Wang Fuk fire (2026-10-29 08:11)

An independent committee looking into the Wang Fuk Court fire on Thursday concluded that government regulators must share responsibility for the high death toll in the Wang Fuk Court fire, finding that private-sector misconduct was compounded by decades of official failure, regulatory loopholes and “slack enforcement”. The committee concluded that had officials handled residents’ complaints properly and worked with a sense of crisis about facade fires on occupied renovation sites, private wrongdoing and site hazards “could have been rectified or removed before the fire.” Lax enforcement, it said, “inevitably” breeds lax private-sector performance. The government bodies identified “should bear part of the responsibility for the high casualties”. "Had the staff of the various government bodies handled the complaints properly and done their works seriously given the possible tragic consequences of fire in the building maintenance and repair sites, there was a real possibility that the misconduct of the private-sector parties and the fire hazards in Wang Fuk Court could have been rectified or removed before the fire," it said. It found the Buildings Department (BD) and the Independent Checking Unit (ICU) primarily responsible for failed supervision of the Wang Fuk Court works. The failings were “systemic and multi-layered,” spanning policy design and day-to-day operations. It listed six core failures: over-reliance on the integrity of building professionals; failing to design supervision around the tragic risk of fires at building maintenance and renovation sites; inadequate control of temporary materials such as scaffolding nets, canvas, foam boards and toe-boards; poor complaint handling; slack operational enforcement; and poor BD-ICU coordination, including the BD’s failure to audit the ICU. Despite a contract worth more than HK$330 million covering the external walls of eight high-rise occupied blocks, the works were classified as “lower-risk” minor works under the Minor Works Control System rather than high-risk major works. The committee said the Fire Services Department (FSD) failed its supervisory duty to assess and remove fire hazards at Wang Fuk Court and to supervise shutdowns of fire service installations and the contractors who certify them. Despite 26 visits, FSD crews never inspected escape staircases and never detected access openings. Complaints about foam boards, smoking and blocked escapes were met with referrals and “merry-go-round” replies rather than effective action. It also identified four Labour Department (LD) operational failures: smoking on site; foam-board fire hazards; verifying net fire-retardancy; and access openings. After 16 visits, smoking complaints were marked “not justified”. The committee said that finding was “simply contrary to the reality”, given residents’ photographs, videos and WhatsApp messages. Compared with the BD, ICU and FSD, the LD should bear “lesser” responsibility, the committee said – but still criticised a

“just-following-the-books” attitude and departments that “passed the ball” until hazardsfell through the cracks. "There are already strong indications that persons with dubious or triadbackground are active in the building maintenance and repair industry. Given the probablepresence of black sheep in the industry, it is regrettable that there was practicably no control orsupervision over the actual execution of the building maintenance and repair works," the reportsays. "As a matter of good governance, the services provided by the civil servants should be 'people-centred'", the committee said. In the case that the complainant has raised a matter ofgenuine concern, they should “take an extra step to help” and should avoid saying “this isnot our responsibility and go look elsewhere”, it added. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Contractor, consultant, inspector blamed for fire (2026-10-29 07:53)

The main contractor and project consultant for Wang Fuk Court’s renovation project, and a registered inspector must bear the most significant accountability for a disastrous fire that took 168 lives nearly a year ago, an independent inquiry into the tragedy has concluded. In a 16-chapter report spanning nearly 1,200 pages submitted to the government, the committee stated that Prestige Construction & Engineering and consultancy firm Will Power Architects were fully aware of the fire risks but ignored repeated complaints and safety concerns raised by residents of the Tai Po housing estate during maintenance works. “They put the lives of all residents in Wang Fuk Court at serious risk, apparently with a view to maximising their financial gains,” the report read. The committee slammed the two firms' conduct as going far beyond oversight or negligence, noting that they used substandard building materials and unsafe working procedures, such as non-fire-retardant scaffolding nets and flammable foam boards covering building windows. The report also stated that Will Power and Prestige Construction should be held responsible for fire service installations that did not function properly on the day of the fire. The committee found that Prestige Construction and its management, including Hau Wa-kin and Gordon Ho; as well as Will Power and its management Jason Wong; alongside Wilson Ng, a registered inspector employed by Will Power to oversee the renovation project, " deserve the most severe criticisms". The committee also named other firms as culpable for the disaster to varying degrees. These include Gain Profit Shed Industry, which was aware of and took part in a plot to temporarily replace non-fire-retardant scaffolding nets with fire-retardant ones just for site inspections by authorities. The property management company for Wang Fuk Court at the time of the fire, ISS EastPoint Properties, was also slammed for allowing its staff to switch off the power supply to the fire alarm systems despite lacking the professional qualifications to do so. Meanwhile, Victory Fire Engineering, the registered fire services contractor responsible for annual inspections and related works, was criticised for being passive in dealing with fire safety issues. And the committee described China Status Development and Engineering Company as a "dummy" fire services contractor, saying the firm filed documents simply to feign compliance and satisfy regulators. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Housing chief Winnie Ho resigns over Wang Fuk fire (2026-10-29 07:06)

Chief Executive John Lee on Thursday said he accepted the resignation of Winnie Ho as secretary for housing, saying she took political responsibility for last year's Wang Fuk Court fire that killed 168 people. At a press conference on Thursday, Lee and other principal officials also apologised and bowed. "As chief executive and head of the government, I am deeply saddened. On behalf of the SAR government, I offer my apologies to the victims and the public at large," Lee said in his opening remarks. He added that while Ho committed no personal wrongdoing, she must bear political responsibility as secretary for housing. "I have considered a wide range of factors, including the official's role in the matter, the official's policy portfolio and its relation with the incident, whether the problem relates to policy or execution, the performance of the subordinates, the large amount of work the political team will have to do in the time ahead," Lee said. "Considering that the fire took place in Wang Fuk Court and it falls within the purview of the Housing Department's [Independent Checking Unit], which is under the Housing Bureau, the secretary for housing should take political accountability," he added. Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong will serve as acting secretary for housing. _____ Last updated: 2026-10-29 HKT 16:48 Edited by Aaron Tam

- Bus-only lanes 'just the ticket to cut Huanggang jams' (2026-10-29 04:06)

The chairman of the Non-Franchised Public Bus Association of Hong Kong, Eddie Choi, said on Thursday he believed that dedicated transport lanes at Huanggang checkpoint could effectively reduce traffic congestion during peak hours this weekend. Authorities announced on Wednesday that priority would be given to public transport to manage vehicular traffic peaks at the crossing between 11pm and 2am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Late-night outbound passenger flow surged last weekend as scores of visitors left the city after attending a concert in Kai Tak and Halloween festivities elsewhere. "The reason there was traffic congestion last Saturday is because many cars and taxis used the lanes before they reached the control zone," Choi told an RTHK radio programme. "With the dedicated lanes extended, I think traffic police officers need to be stationed at the scene to prevent cars or taxis at the border crossing from driving onto the lanes and creating traffic congestion on San Tin Highway. “Improvements also need to be made to the holding area for vehicles waiting to enter the new Huanggang Port.” With proper arrangements made to separate the flow of cars from that of buses, Choi said he believed the journey time for cross-border buses from urban areas to the port could be kept within 40 minutes. Legislative Council transport panel chairman Ben Chan also welcomed the government's move to give priority to public transport during vehicular traffic peaks at the crossing, saying it gives travellers an extra incentive to take buses. "I think in Hong Kong the most successful measure is public transport [prioritisation]. This time, the government will arrange more bus lines to service during peak hours, and also the police will facilitate public transport to use the [dedicated lanes] to avoid them from getting trapped on the roads. So I think people will try to use public transport this week," he said. In a Facebook post, the Transport Department said public transport operators have reserved sufficient vehicles and manpower to cope with the expected travel surge over the weekend. It said five cross-border bus routes connecting urban areas to Huanggang Port will step up their services during

late-night periods on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Special cross-border buses will also head forHuanggang and Shenzhen Bay ports from Kai Tak after concerts on Friday and Saturday, andpassengers are reminded to purchase bus tickets in advance. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Firefighters douse Jordan kitchen blaze (2026-10-29 03:14)

A fire broke out in the kitchen of a restaurant in Jordan on Thursday morning, with firefighters called to the scene. Police received multiple reports at around 9.30am that thick smoke was coming from a restaurant near the junction of Nathan Road and Austin Road. Customers were able to leave the premises themselves and the fire was put out later. Preliminary investigations suggest the blaze started from a kitchen exhaust hood. No injuries were reported. Edited by Aaron Tam

- HKMA warns of interest rate risks as Fed holds steady (2026-10-29 03:01)

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on Thursday reminded the public to carefully manage interest rate risks when making property, investment or borrowing decisions, after the US Federal Reserve kept its benchmark rate unchanged. The Fed's Federal Open Market Committee decided to hold the target range for the federal funds rate at 3.75 to four percent, a move in line with market expectations. "Hong Kong's monetary and financial markets have continued to operate in an orderly manner," the HKMA said in a statement. It noted that with the persistent interest rate differential between the Hong Kong and US dollars, trade activities may cause the local currency to gradually ease. However, the HKMA said the outlook for the Hong Kong dollar and interbank rates could vary depending on factors such as market risk appetite for carry trades and the supply-demand conditions for the local currency, which are in turn influenced by capital market activities and other seasonal factors. It added that US interest rate adjustments remain subject to considerable uncertainty and will depend on developments in inflation, the labour market and other economic data, which may in turn affect the interest rate environment in Hong Kong. The HKMA said it will continue to closely monitor market developments to maintain monetary and financial stability. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 28 (2026-10-28 12:33)

Top stories for Wednesday, Oct 28, 2026 - Sources say the government is about to release the findings of the Wang Fuk Court inquiry. - Officials warn Huanggang port will be very busy over the weekend. - Dozens are killed in a high-speed train collision in Spain.

- Priority given to buses at Huanggang this weekend (2026-10-28 12:14)

The government warned that private cars crossing into Shenzhen via the Huanggang checkpoint during peak hours this weekend could face waits of more than an hour, as priority would be given to those arriving by public transport. Late-night outbound passenger flow surged last weekend, with scores of visitors leaving the city after attending a concert in Kai Tak or Halloween festivities elsewhere. In a press briefing on Wednesday, Chief Secretary Eric Chan said more than 1,000 vehicles passed through Huanggang within two hours last Saturday, far

exceeding its capacity of 360 vehicles per hour. With more concerts scheduled this Friday andSaturday, plus the Wine and Dine Festival at the Central Harbourfront, authorities are bracingfor another hectic weekend at the port. Chan said northbound traffic at the crossing is expectedto peak between 11pm and 2am from October 30 to November 1. All inspection counters andvehicle lanes will open during those times to facilitate the travel peak. Chan said priority will begiven to public transport, while private cars will be diverted to a holding area when necessary,with possible waiting times of more than one hour. He also urged travellers not to patroniseunauthorised ride-hailing services. "We will take law enforcement action because this is no goodfor the passengers. There is a risk in case of accidents – the insurance will not cover thedamage," he said, adding that three arrests were made in the past two days. Secretary forTransport and Logistics Mable Chan said cross-border coach operators would ramp up servicesthis weekend, with frequencies of up to five minutes. Secretary for Security Chris Tang said anemergency monitoring and support centre will start operating at noon on Friday to coordinatebetween government departments. Chan once again appealed to travellers to consider stayingovernight. "Rather than being stuck in traffic, why not spend an extra hour at Lan Kwai Fong?"he said. Edited by Raymond Yeung

- HK's exports surge nearly 65pc in September (2026-10-28 09:02)

Hong Kong’s exports and imports both rose for September, according to data released by the Census and Statistics Department on Wednesday, with the increase in exports marking the fastest monthly year-on-year growth in more than four decades. The value of total exports of goods surged by 64.9 percent compared to a year earlier to HK$762.6 billion in September. It followed a year-on-year increase of 53 percent in August. The value of imports also went up by 57.8 percent over a year earlier to HK$808.9 billion last month. A trade deficit of HK$417.7 billion – equivalent to seven percent of the imports value – was recorded in the first nine months of the year. A government spokesman said AI-related electronic products continued to drive the city’s trade performance, and the growth in exports marked a double-digit growth for the 20th straight month. It noted that exports to all major destinations have surged remarkably. “Looking ahead, Hong Kong's merchandise trade performance will continue to benefit from the prevailing wave of robust AI-related investment and the resilient global economic growth,” the statement read. “Nonetheless, external uncertainties warrant close monitoring, including the Middle East conflict, trade protectionist measures by major economies, and risks associated with the rapid expansion of global investment in AI.” Edited by Aaron Tam

- 'Waste facility fire caused by construction materials' (2026-10-28 06:16)

The government on Wednesday said a recent fire at a Shek Kwu Chau waste treatment facility is suspected to have been sparked by construction materials on the roof, rather than the operation of the facility or stored waste. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said preliminary information indicated that Monday's blaze started on the roof of the third incineration module area, where construction works were being finalised. "The EPD will work

with the police, the Fire Services Department and the Labour Department to investigate thecause of fire, and has instructed the contractor to submit an incident report on the fire withinseven days from the day of the incident," according to a statement. The department said it isevaluating the damage and the impact on the facility's processing capacity, and will urge thecontractor to conduct repairs as soon as possible. The facility, I.PARK1, has temporarilysuspended waste reception since October 27. The department said it has extended theoperating hours of the West New Territories Landfill Extension to handle the waste originallydestined for I.PARK1, ensuring the normal operation of the city's overall waste managementsystem. "The EPD will resume waste reception at I.PARK1 as soon as possible, following acomprehensive examination of the facility's structure and all critical systems, and uponconfirming that it is suitable to restart the facility's safe operation," it added. It also issued astrong denial of online rumours about "design defects of the incinerator" and a "collapse of theincineration module under construction", calling them groundless and entirely fictitious. Editedby Aaron Tam

- Major progress in HK's third medical school: HKUST (2026-10-28 05:20)

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) on Wednesday said its new medical school had entered a new stage of development. HKUST officials said that construction of its Medical Education and Research Complex — the core interim facility at the Clear Water Bay campus for its new school of medicine — is ahead of schedule. Updating the media on progress for the city's third medical school, HKUST officials said the eight-storey building topped out last week, less than six months after its groundbreaking. Dean King Li said the school had also made encouraging progress in faculty recruitment, securing candidates for various key roles. The school aims to have at least 100 professors by 2030 to maintain a 1:1 teacher-student ratio, he said. Li noted that the ratio of local to overseas professors is expected to be fairly even. " It's a process, so we want to choose the best candidates instead of where they come from. As time goes on, you will see that more and more global people will show up," he said. "In the beginning, it would seem like it's geared towards the locals, because [it's] easier [for them] to join, but the actual ratio of applicants is not skewed that much that way. It's fairly even, I would say, at this time." One of the newly recruited faculty members is Anskar Leung, a former vice-dean at the University of Hong Kong's medical faculty. HKUST President, Professor Nancy Ip, stressed that the school had not engaged in any talent-poaching from other medical schools, but noted that they have received plenty of interest. "When HKUST indicated its interest to establish the third medical school in Hong Kong, even before the selection process, we received a lot of enquiries already from interested faculty candidates, both locally and overseas," she said. "So I think they share our vision. They would very much like to participate in the founding stage to set up the new medical school." Leung, who has already assumed his new role as Senior Associate Dean of Medicine at HKUST, said he shared the school's vision and described the opportunity as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. He added that he resigned from HKU about four months ago. HKUST also said it remains confident it would meet its target in admitting the first cohort of 50 students in the 2028/2029 academic year. Edited by Tony Sabine

• Hung Hom plan will not block iconic Lion Rock view (2026-10-28 04:19)

Plans for the Hung Hom waterfront will not block the view of the iconic Lion Rock or affect the ridgeline, the Development Bureau's Permanent Secretary Doris Ho said on Wednesday, as the government announced a revised proposal for the area. The new plan features two connected buildings with an elevated viewing platform overlooking Victoria Harbour. "Our two twin-tower developments will not block the Lion Rock view, because the angles are different," Ho told an RTHK programme. Ho stressed the viewing platform will be open to the public, though a decision on whether to charge an entry fee will depend on the project's financial viability. She said authorities hope the new development will inject vitality into the older Hung Hom area. " Usually when you go to enjoy the Victoria Harbour view, you might just walk along the waterfront, a low-level view. But seeing the harbour from a high vantage point gives a rather fresh feeling," Ho said. "We believe that this can achieve the development of a landmark," she added. Ho said the total floor area of the revised plan is similar to the earlier proposal, but the government has reduced commercial space and increased residential floor area after receiving market feedback. About five percent of the floor area will be used for a yacht club, providing around 200 berths. Ho said the larger club facilities would improve the project's financial feasibility and meet market demand. Onshore supporting facilities, such as charging points, will also be required. She said 200 berths is the maximum number, as any more could affect navigation channels. The entire project is divided into two zones – one along the waterfront and another closer to inland areas. Ho said the government is still studying whether to release the site as one single area or in two phases. She said further work is needed, including town planning procedures, but the target of handing over the first batch of land to developers by 2029 remains unchanged. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Wang Fuk fire report expected on Thurs: sources (2026-10-28 04:07)

The government will release the findings and conclusions of the report submitted by the independent committee probing last November's deadly fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po as soon as Thursday, according to sources. It is believed that a steering committee – led by the chief secretary – will be set up to promote reforms and related legislative amendments. The group will review and follow up on the recommendations laid out in the report and oversee the execution and implementation of reforms to ensure a smooth implementation. Sources say the government will hold a press conference on Thursday, during which Chief Executive John Lee and other principal officials will explain the series of reforms that will need to be implemented. Authorities also plan to meet the press for two consecutive days to detail how the reforms will be carried out and how loopholes in building maintenance will be plugged. Sources say the government will introduce legislation to prohibit bid-rigging in building maintenance works, with such actions to be criminalised by law. It is understood that authorities will also promote reform in building renovation projects and step up supervision of contractors and professionals. The government will propose amendments to the Buildings Ordinance, sources say. Instead of having a culture of self-regulation in the industry, the government will take the lead to strengthen verification and inspections. It will also look into rolling out tougher penalties

for violations, and enhance building and fire safety standards. The committee submitted itsreport – which is understood to be hundreds of pages in length with more than 10 chapters – tothe CE last week. Edited by Tony Sabine

• HK home prices rise for second straight month (2026-10-28 03:50)

Government data released on Wednesday showed private home prices rose for a second straight month in September, with the official index climbing 0.19 percent month-on-month to 320.8. On a year-on-year basis, home prices were up 9.3 percent, according to the figures from the Rating and Valuation Department. For the first nine months of the year, prices accumulated a rise of more than seven percent. By unit size, prices for small and medium-sized flats rose 0.16 percent from the previous month, and were up 9.3 percent year-on-year. Larger units saw a 0.8 percent monthly increase and a 9.5 percent annual gain. The rental index hit another record high, extending the upward streak to 11 months. The September reading stood at 212.2, up 0.47 percent from August and 6.2 percent higher than a year earlier. For the first nine months of the year, rents have climbed 5.8 percent. Edited by Aaron Tam

• SAR committed to driving sustainable growth: CE (2026-10-28 03:08)

Chief Executive John Lee on Wednesday said Hong Kong is committed to promoting sustainable growth across Asia and the world, and is leaning on innovation to achieve this goal. Speaking at the annual One Earth Summit, Lee said bridging the gap between green capital, innovation and governance is vital amid accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss. He noted that the city serves as a bridge between the mainland and overseas on testing and developing new green technologies. Government leadership, Lee said, will allow Hong Kong to tackle climate change better. “The Hong Kong SAR Government is setting up an inter-departmental task force to build an ‘AI City Brain’ system,” the CE said. “It will provide early warnings of risks and trend forecasts. It will improve inter-departmental collaboration on extreme weather, major incidents and public order.” Lee went on to say that the SAR has already announced various decarbonisation and environmental-protection targets in its inaugural five-year plan, such as improving air and water quality. He believes the SAR can play a part in driving sustainability by mobilising capital, technology and people. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Shau Kei Wan water supply returns after pipe burst (2026-10-27 15:18)

The government said emergency repair works conducted after a water pipe burst in Shau Kei Wan have been completed, with fresh water supply to users in the area returning to normal from 9.30pm on Tuesday. In a social media post, the Water Supplies Department said that because the incident involved a large and complex system of pipes, people living at the ends of the water supply network or at higher elevations may need to wait up to three to four hours before the water reaches them. The department said it would continue to provide water trucks and tanks until the fresh water supply fully returns to normal. It also said it is normal for the water to appear milky or slightly turbid upon supply restoration. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Evening News on TV32 - Oct 27 (2026-10-27 12:41)

Top stories for Monday, Oct 26, 2026 - Thousands are left without tap water as a pipe bursts in Shau Kei Wan. - John Lee calls on university leaders to join the development of the Northern Metropolis. - Hundreds of people are hit by two new data breaches.

- Hung Hom skybridge 'to serve as viewing platform' (2026-10-27 10:27)

The Development Bureau said on Tuesday a skybridge between two buildings to be constructed on Hung Hom waterfront would also serve as a viewing platform and a venue for public activities. The plan was revealed as the bureau revised its development proposal for sites around Hung Hom MTR station and the district's harbourfront areas following a public consultation. Permanent Secretary for Development Doris Ho told lawmakers the authorities plan to connect two mixed-use towers proposed to be constructed at the waterfront area. The skybridge connecting the buildings would create an open space that could serve as a viewing platform, she said at a meeting of the Legislative Council's development panel. "Our current plan is that the space will be open to the public. But whether it will operate on a commercial basis or be open for free is something we need to keep flexible and decide at the next stage," Ho said. "Apart from allowing people to enjoy views of Victoria Harbour, we also have an idea that this space could be opened up for holding events." According to a document submitted to the legislature, the entire development at Hung Hom is expected to provide more than 200,000 square metres of gross floor area – an increase by three percent compared with the previous plan. This includes more than 60 percent of areas for residential use and over 30 percent for commercial purposes. Ho said the bureau had adjusted the allocation of floor space by cutting the floor area for commercial use and increasing the residential areas amid lower demand for the former. Edited by Edmond Fong

- Water pipe burst in Shau Kei Wan affects 10k homes (2026-10-27 07:14)

The Water Supplies Department on Tuesday said more than 10,000 homes in Shau Kei Wan and its nearby areas saw their fresh water supply suspended following a water pipe burst. The burst occurred at around 10.30am at a construction site along Shau Kei Wan Road. Speaking to reporters, Chief Engineer of Hong Kong and Islands Region Lin Tang-tai said the department aimed to resume water supply by midnight. He said the pipe concerned, with a diametre of 18 inches, had been in use for more than three decades. But the incident was not caused by ageing, instead it was due to external forces, he said, with the crack measuring over one metre. "The scope of the impact involved in the incident covered Shau Kei Wan and parts of Sai Wan Ho. The number of households involved exceeds 10,000," he said. "We will deploy more than 10 water trucks, 100 water tanks and tens of thousands of bottled water, as well as various supporting facilities, to provide temporary fresh water supplies for residents affected." The Highways Department, for its part, apologised for the inconvenience caused. Chief Highway Engineer Alan Chan said contractors had already carried out an inspection ahead of the construction work, adding that his department would look into the cause of the incident and see if the contractors are liable. Police said a care home resident in her 80s was hospitalised after she sustained injuries to her limbs due to the incident. A member of staff told RTHK that

the victim yelled for help when one of the care home’s windows cracked due to the burst pipe,shooting sand and water into one of the rooms. Meanwhile, Eastern District care teams wereseen assisting the public at one of the water collection points where at least dozens of peoplewere in the queue. A resident surnamed Law told RTHK she planned to come down twice to takesufficient water for cooking first. “Of course I am upset there is no water supply. Water is verycrucial, right? Being unable to bathe after work is very uncomfortable," she said. Anotherresident said he was not too optimistic that fresh water supply could resume by midnight,adding his family might go out for dinner instead of cooking at home._____ Last updated: 2026-10-27 HKT 16:36 Edited by Tony Sabine

• Three nabbed in wounding case linked to illegal fuel (2026-10-27 06:09)

Police said they have arrested three men for allegedly conspiring to wound with intent in a case that might involve illicit fuel activity. Officers were alerted by staff at Tseung Kwan O Hospital in the early hours last Thursday that a 35-year-old light goods vehicle driver – who sought treatment at the hospital – suffered knife wounds. Speaking in a media briefing on Tuesday, inspector Fong Miu-kwan said preliminary investigations revealed that he was attacked on Chun Yat Street at Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate. Fong said authorities found 120 litres of suspected illicit fuel in his vehicle. The three suspects are aged 16 to 19 with suspected triad background. “According to the police investigation, the place where the incident occurred – Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate – has seen illicit fuel activities in the past," Fong said. "Police have not ruled out the possibility that the wounding case was linked to a dispute over illicit fuel transactions.” In a separate case, authorities found 750 litres of suspected illicit diesel in a medium goods vehicle as part of their campaign against illegal fuel activity at Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate, and a 25-year-old driver is suspected of involvement. Edited by Edmond Fong

• HSBC net profit rises in Q3 but misses forecasts (2026-10-27 05:07)

Banking giant HSBC on Tuesday said net profit in the third quarter rose a less-than-expected 45.5 percent year-on-year as the London-headquartered lender continued to restructure operations and cut costs. Profit attributable to shareholders for the three months ending in September stood at US$7 billion, from US$4.87 billion a year earlier, HSBC said in a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange. Pre-tax profit grew 32 percent to US$9.6 billion, with revenue increasing by US$0.8 billion to US$18.6 billion. "As we simplify HSBC, we are creating greater capacity to invest, grow and deliver strong returns for our shareholders," chief executive Georges Elhedery said in the filing. The banking giant also approved a third interim dividend of US$0.10 per share, and announced second US$1 billion buyback after completing one in the previous three months. HSBC said it remained "confident in achieving the targets" set out earlier this year. "We continue to target year-on-year growth in revenue from 2026 to 2028, rising to five percent growth in 2028 compared with 2027," it said. The bank also said expected credit losses tumbled 17 percent to US$800 million from the same period a year ago, thanks to a reduction in charges linked to Hong Kong's real estate sector as well as its UK and Mexican wealth businesses. The lender also said it expected net interest income of at least US$46 billion

for 2025. (Agencies) Edited by Edmond Fong

• Over 1,600 affected in airline, retailer data breaches (2026-10-27 04:28)

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on Tuesday confirmed that more than 1,600 people have been affected by data breaches at Hong Kong Airlines and electronics retailer Yoho Hong Kong. The privacy watchdog said the breach at Hong Kong Airlines affected 815 passengers travelling between September 29 and October 22, involving their names, phone numbers and flight information. The Yoho Hong Kong breach affected 790 customers who placed their orders between September 29 and October 12, involving their names, phone numbers along with delivery information. The watchdog said customers received suspected scam calls stating their personal data. Additionally, the privacy commissioner received a data-breach incident report from Broadway Photo Supply. As of Monday, it had received a total of 23 complaints and 20 inquiries, and investigations have been launched. The office urged people to consider carefully should they have any doubts about callers claiming to be merchants, and verify their identities and authenticity of the calls through official channels. Customers should also refuse any suspicious money-transfer requests and keep records of communications. Edited by Edmond Fong

• CUHK to bid for Hung Shui Kiu university town land (2026-10-27 04:17)

Chinese University of Hong Kong will bid for one of the first three sites in the Northern Metropolis University Town in Hung Shui Kiu, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dennis Lo said, but warned that the government's staggered tendering process and high construction costs pose major challenges. In an interview with Ming Pao published on Tuesday, Lo said the university town project would allow the city's eight publicly funded universities to expand their footprint and increase their impact on society. "Our campus is currently relatively small, like a boutique hotel, and I believe this Northern Metropolis University Town has given us a rare opportunity to have some land to expand our footprint," he said. He said Hong Kong universities enjoy strong international reputations and high rankings but are limited in size. Lo said scale is important for universities to produce research that can "change the world", as campus size affects the number of researchers, which in turn affects patents and publications. The university town would help break through the space constraint, he said. He noted that the university had established an InnoHub for New Quality Industries in Qianhai, near Hung Shui Kiu, in March this year, and believed there would be synergy effects. He said the university was considering collaboration with overseas institutions and industries in future at the Hung Shui Kiu university town, but could not reveal further details as it was competing with other universities. However, Lo predicted that due to limited land, the university may prefer to set up research institutes rather than full campuses in the university town. He also said the government's plan to tender the three campuses — in Hung Shui Kiu, San Tin and Ta Kwu Ling — at different times would make planning and collaboration among universities more difficult. "The three plots are being rolled out in batches. For the first ones, you dare not not bid, because each time is an opportunity," he said. On financing, Lo said CUHK would be prudent with possible future

development at the Northern Metropolis. He noted that while the government has earmarkedHK$10 billion for loans to support campus development at the Northern Metropolis UniversityTown, there is a cap on borrowing and construction costs are high. He estimated that HK$10billion would only be enough to build five buildings, and called on the government to increasefunding. Edited by Tony Sabine

- CE homes in on N Metropolis vigour in call to top unis (2026-10-27 03:27)

Chief Executive John Lee has called on global university leaders to join the SAR’s Northern Metropolis development, saying it is where the future of education, research, industry and technology lies. In an opening speech at the Global University Presidents and Leaders Summit at the Convention and Exhibition Centre on Tuesday, he said Hong Kong, with a total land area of about 1,100 square kilometres, is home to five institutions that are ranked among the world’s top 100. The Northern Metropolis mega project lies at the core of Hong Kong’s future, with its main focus being the university towns that will be springing up, he said. Lee said the mega project's university towns of San Tin, Hung Shui Kiu and Ta Kwu Ling are positioned to attract the world’s best scholars and students and that they would each have a distinct focus. “The towns are also designed to empower industry,” he said. “We will encourage university staff to undertake research at companies. We will encourage industry professionals to contribute to university teaching and research. “Our goal is to strengthen the links between industry, academia and research – enabling them to complement and reinforce one another.” The government will also invite universities to establish basic research institutes and large-scale shared research platforms at the university towns, Lee added. The two-day event in Wan Chai has attracted more than 50 renowned university leaders from more than 20 countries and regions. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Pair rescued after working platform plunge (2026-10-26 12:29)

Two workers were left hanging mid-air outside Jardine House in Central for about two hours on Monday evening, after their gondola suddenly dropped and almost hit the ground. Police received a report shortly after 6pm that the suspended working platform had stopped operating, leaving two workers stranded on the exterior wall. Both were wearing safety harnesses. Firefighters first abseiled down to bring one worker safely to the ground at around 7.40pm. Shortly afterwards, the second worker was pulled up to the building's rooftop. One of them suffered hand injuires and was taken to Queen Mary Hospital for treatment. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 26 (2026-10-26 12:20)

Top stories for Monday, Oct 26, 2026 - China congratulates Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his election victory. - President Xi Jinping opens a key Party meeting on governance. - John Lee says Hong Kong can enhance Belt and Road connections.

- HK aviation 'key lies in cooperation with Greater Bay' (2026-10-26 08:42)

Lawmaker Kenneth Fok called on the government on Monday to enhance cooperation with the Greater Bay Area to further enhance Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub. The call was among recommendations proposed by the G19 bloc of Legislative Council members. Fok said the suggestions were made as total passenger throughput at Hong Kong International Airport had yet to get back to pre-pandemic levels. "Compared to our competitors around the region, for example Shenzhen and Guangzhou, we are actually behind in this number," he said. Fok called for more collaboration between airports in the region, adding that regional collaboration had become a norm. "I think the key is to have more collaborative effort with our regional airports and especially the Greater Bay Area," he said. "Can we join hands with them together in some kind of agreement between Hong Kong and mainland and then negotiate with our partners in Europe and elsewhere? "These are the collaborative discussions that can only happen at the government-to-government level. This is very important. "That's why I say we need to have a more open mind, a more aggressive strategy in order to implement these frameworks and strategies." Fok added the government could be more proactive in pitching the airport to the world to attract more foreign airlines. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Athletes honoured for historic Asian Games performance (2026-10-26 08:18)

Hong Kong, China's top-performing athletes at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games were commended by Chief Executive John Lee on Monday for their historic performances. The SAR achieved its best result to date at the Games in Japan, reaching new heights in both the gold medal count and the number of medals won overall. In total, the delegation won 54 medals, comprising 11 gold, 19 silver, and 24 bronze. Lee paid tribute to athletes during a commendation ceremony, noting that their dedication to compete through injuries and persevere when falling behind had earned everyone's deepest respect. He also presented certificates to the top-performing athletes, including wushu star Lydia Sham, who earned the city's first gold medal at the Games. Lee stressed the government would continue to invest in sports development. "During the 2026–27 financial year, the government's resources invested in sports development reached about HK$8.1 billion, nearly a 70 percent increase compared to a decade ago," he said. "We allocated about HK$1 billion to the Hong Kong Sports Institute, providing comprehensive training, direct financial subsidies, and support in sports medicine and sports science. "The government will continue to support the development of sports medicine and sports science, athlete training, and their career development. In the next five years, resources allocated to sports development will cumulatively increase by 20 percent," Lee added. Chief Secretary Eric Chan, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Rosanna Law, President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Timothy Fok, among others, also attended the ceremony. Edited by Tony Sabine

- HK gets world-first secondary tokenised funds trading (2026-10-26 07:13)

The Securities and Futures Commission has approved the world's first secondary trading of tokenised public funds on its licensed virtual asset trading platform (VATP), with

around-the-clock trading of two tokenised money market funds beginning on Monday. Theapproval builds on a new regulatory framework it introduced in April, which sets outrequirements for secondary trading of tokenised funds on licensed VATPs. The frameworkcovers trading channel operations, fair pricing, liquidity provision and disclosure. The first batchof products involves two existing SFC-authorised tokenised money market funds, now availablefor secondary trading on a 24/7 basis. Looking ahead, the SFC said tokenised public funds couldfurther leverage tokenised deposit capabilities being developed in collaboration with the HongKong Monetary Authority under Project Ensemble. This would allow investors to sell tokenisedassets around the clock and instantly transfer proceeds to other investment opportunities. ElisaNg, the SFC's executive director of investment products, said the move " marks an importantmilestone" in the city's digital asset development, adding that it adds "24/7 trading capability" toHong Kong's evolving tokenisation ecosystem. The SFC said it would monitor trading activitiesclosely and consider broadening the product scope over time, taking into account marketdevelopments and experience gained. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Fire sweeps through Shek Kwu Chau waste facility (2026-10-26 06:56)

A No. 3 alarm fire raged for about four hours at a waste-management facility on an artificial island off Shek Kwu Chau on Monday. The fire broke out at 12.43pm and was upgraded to a No. 3 alarm about 40 minutes later. Firefighters used five jets and mobilised five breathing apparatus teams to fight the blaze. One person felt unwell and received treatment at Eastern Hospital, while 930 others were evacuated. The Fire Services Department said the blaze was surrounded at 3.47pm and largely put out about an hour later. _____ Last updated: 2026-10-26 HKT 17:25 Edited by Tony Sabine

- Full MPF portability 'can help drive down fees' (2026-10-26 05:05)

Lawmakers hailed on Monday an upcoming arrangement that allows employees to transfer not only their own mandatory provident fund contributions but also their employer’s to a scheme of their choice once every calendar year. Their remarks came as phase one of the MPF Full Portability scheme – which grants employees greater autonomy by allowing them to transfer accrued mandatory contributions by their employers to a scheme of their choice – is set to begin on December 21. Speaking on a RTHK radio programme, lawmaker Chau Siu-chung said he supported the arrangement as workers would be able to choose the MPF trustee they considered to be the best for them as well as foster more competition and help drive down administrative fees. He also said that the current eMPF platform would make the transfer process simpler and easier. Chau, also a non-executive director of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, noted that many workers remained unclear about what MPF “full portability” means and that public awareness in this regard needed to be strengthened. “I think public awareness right now is indeed not ideal – about 80 percent of people are basically not very clear about what full portability means, there is definitely a need to do more,” he said. Chau also called on the public to be alert to unfair sales practices. He urged the government to take this opportunity to summarise and simplify information about different trustees so that

workers could have clear, easy-to-compare information to take reference from. Speaking onRTHK's Backchat programme, lawmaker Lam Chun-sing also welcomed the arrangement butnoted that employees should avoid changing their scheme frequently as it may cause highadministrative costs and may affect their returns. "MPF investment is a long-term investmentfor retirement [so] that we want to achieve stable growth of the MPF contributions instead ofshort-term returns like share investment or other investment tools," he said. "If youfrequently change your scheme or transfer your MPF contribution to different trustees, this maycause high administrative costs and may affect your return." Lam also encouraged workerswho are not investment professionals or do not have time to manage their scheme to considerusing the default investment strategy, saying it automatically reduces risks and uses adiversified investment approach to bring favourable returns. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Man bitten by dog in Yuen Long (2026-10-26 03:48)

A 26-year-old man was bitten by a dog in Yuen Long on Monday and taken to Pok Oi Hospital for treatment. The incident happened at around 8am near a warehouse on Kam Pok Road. Reports say he was chased by three dogs, one of which bit his leg. The dog has been taken away by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for examination. The incident came just over a month after a 27-year-old woman was found dead on Pok Wai South Road, with multiple animal bite wounds on her body. Edited by Tony Sabine

- HK can assist green push within the Belt and Road: CE (2026-10-26 03:20)

Chief Executive John Lee on Monday said Hong Kong could help enhance connections among Belt and Road economies and combine their strengths to advance the development of green technologies and sustainable businesses. Lee made the remarks at the Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference, which is being held in the SAR for the first time. He said Hong Kong, as a leading green and sustainable finance hub, connects green projects with global capital. "For example, a solar energy project can bring together Chinese mainland equipment suppliers, a Southeast Asian developer and Middle Eastern investors," Lee said. "Hong Kong can help these partners raise finance, structure their investments, arrange insurance and manage cross-border risks. "Our contribution, let me add, is about more than matching capital with projects. Hong Kong's professional services also help ensure that a project is bankable and insurable." Lee said Hong Kong is also able to connect green technologies with the markets that need them. He said the SAR would launch a Green Technology Bridgehead Programme next year, which could help mainland and overseas green enterprises spread their ideas and take their solutions to Belt and Road markets. The city, meanwhile, could also assist firms from Belt and Road countries reach out to the wider world, he added. Lee went on to say that the SAR could provide Belt and Road partners with financing, project management and risk management services for green infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Medical products regulator 'aims to boost innovation' (2026-10-26 01:21)

A new regulatory authority for medical products in Hong Kong aims to gain international trust and serve patients around the world, according to its controller Li Zili. The Hong Kong Centre for Medical Products Regulation, which will be established in the SAR by the end of the year, is expected to promote the “primary evaluation” of drugs and medical devices to speed up their clinical application. Speaking to reporters, Li said the centre’s mission is to protect public health and promote medical innovation. “We need to build a medical products regulatory authority with comprehensive capabilities – one that is trusted internationally,” he said. “We should leverage our unique strategic position in medical products regulation – we not only serve patients in Hong Kong, but also keep the world in mind and serve all patients around the world.” Li said the “primary evaluation” to be established in the future should complement the existing framework and enhance the international community’s trust in the centre through a scientific and transparent regulatory system. He added the centre would not only become a super connector linking the mainland and the world, but also boost medical reforms and innovations. Li went on to say that authorities would set up an interdisciplinary scientific team that focuses on clinical review with the aim of accelerating international cooperation. Meanwhile, Director of Health Ronald Lam said Li possesses practical experience in regulatory affairs and public health and is familiar with international medical products policies. Lam expressed confidence that Li would be able to reform the system with his experience and leadership skills. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 25 (2026-10-25 12:23)

Top stories for Sunday, Oct 25, 2026 - Late night congestion at the new Huanggang port prompts calls for greater efforts to keep travellers moving. - Paul Chan says last week's Apec gathering showcased what Hong Kong can offer the world. - Fresh clashes rock France as protests continue.

- Ensure smooth flow at boundary checkpoints: CS (2026-10-25 10:56)

Chief Secretary Eric Chan on Sunday instructed government departments to ensure the smooth flow of travellers at boundary control points. His comments come after footage circulated on social media showing what appeared to be long queues at the checkpoint of mostly seven seaters waiting to cross into Shenzhen after midnight. The tailback stretched all the way to San Tin Highway at one point. Large numbers of northbound travellers were also stuck in urban areas, with dozens of people lining up for cross-border coach services in Mong Kok. Many of them had come to Hong Kong for Halloween festivities or a concert in Kai Tak. Hong Kong Non-Franchised Bus Association chairman Eddie Choi explained that private cars with permits for other checkpoints all diverted to Huanggang after midnight, since it is the only 24-hour crossing to Shenzhen. Timothy Chui, executive director of the Hong Kong Tourism Association, said there could be even more cross-border revellers next weekend. He suggested creating dedicated lanes for buses and coaches around the port facility. Writing on Facebook, Chief Secretary Eric Chan said he paid a visit to the Shenzhen Bay and Huanggang control points following a visit to Dongguan. Chan said he directed the Security Bureau to continue ensuring

that port operations remain safe, efficient, and orderly. Authorities were told to proactivelyassess and forecast passenger traffic, and open additional inspection counters and vehicle lanesahead of peak periods. Chan also encouraged travellers to consider staying overnight in the SARfor a more comfortable and fulfilling experience. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Families enjoy day out at HK golf open finale (2026-10-25 09:22)

Hundreds of fans enjoyed a day out with their families at the Fanling Golf Course on Sunday for the final day of Hong Kong Open action. The four-day event, which is marking its historic 65th edition, teed off on Thursday to much fanfare as the sport's biggest stars descended upon the SAR. Hans, a local resident attending the tournament for the second time with his kids, told RTHK that the Hong Kong Open is a great opportunity for families to get up close and personal with some of the world's top athletes. "It's a great event, walking around with the kids... getting close with the different golf professionals," he said. "It's an awesome experience, being so close to the professional players and also they do a good job of bringing the fan village together," he added. "It's fun for the kids." Hans also commended the event's fan-friendly atmosphere, saying the interactive stalls, games, and entertainment made the tournament stand out from other sporting events. Another local fan, Leon – who is attending the event for the sixth year in a row – echoed the sentiment. "Personally, I play golf and I'm a member of the club. [This event] has such a nice outdoor area for the kids, every year we take them over and have some fun," he told RTHK. He also pointed out that there were many elements of Hong Kong culture on display at the fan village. "[Besides] the golf, we have Hong Kong culture, cultural stuff... which is very fun for the kids. I'd definitely recommend it." Bryant Lu, captain of the Hong Kong Golf Club, said that the competition is a great opportunity for all sports fans to get a taste of a different side of the bustling city. "I think what we offer is a very unique experience," he told reporters outside course's clubhouse. "Being a golfing event we have outdoors... and we can come all the way up to the Northern Metropolis. I think this is the new future for Hong Kong, and hosting an event here not only brings people to play golf but [they can] also experience what changes the Northern Metropolis brings to Hong Kong, I think that's very important." "I think coming up here you can experience a different side of Hong Kong – beautiful trees, nice grounds, fresh air, and lots of smiling faces." Edited by Aaron Tam

- Around 1m workers to benefit from MPF Full Portability (2026-10-25 05:26)

Around one million workers are set to benefit from an upcoming arrangement that allows employees to transfer not only their own mandatory contributions, but also their employer’s, to an MPF scheme of their choice once every calendar year, the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) said on Sunday. Phase one of the MPF Full Portability scheme is set to begin on December 21. Employees who joined the workforce or changed jobs on or after May 1 2025 – the day the MPF offsetting arrangement was officially abolished – will be eligible for the first phase. Writing in a blog post, MPFA chairman Ayesha Lau said the scheme would improve people’s control over their MPF portfolios and encourage employees to manage their retirement reserves more proactively. She expects the number of beneficiaries to continue to

rise as more graduates enter the workforce and employees change jobs. As for workers whostarted their current jobs before May 1 2025, Lau noted that because their employer mandatorycontributions may continue to be used to offset long service payments or severance paymentsfor employment periods prior to that date, additional legislative amendments would berequired to balance operational needs and enhanced employee control. Transfers for the 2026calendar year can be made between December 21 and 31, while transfers for 2027 will open onJanuary 1. Lau pointed out that the new scheme would not change existing arrangements foremployers, who would continue to make contributions via the MPF schemes they participate in.She also reminded workers that the MPF is a long-term investment, advising them to avoidmaking frequent transfers or switching schemes simply for the sake of it. Edited by Tony Sabine

- 'Strategic enterprise investments in HK hit HK$28bn' (2026-10-25 04:22)

Investments made by the first six batches of firms brought to Hong Kong through the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises reached HK$28.3 billion as of the end of September, according to Financial Secretary Paul Chan. Writing in his weekly blog, Chan noted that, including the seventh batch of 18 firms recently welcomed, a total of 142 strategic enterprises have now established or expanded their operations in Hong Kong. “They are expected to generate around HK$84 billion in investment while creating roughly 27,000 jobs over the coming years,” he said. “More importantly, these investments are materialising on the ground. As of the end of September this year, actual investments by the first six batches reached HK$28.3 billion while employing over 10,300 people – exceeding the initial phased targets by 30 percent and 34 percent respectively.” Corporate confidence in Hong Kong is gradually being reflected in real economic outcomes, Chan said. He added that among the first six batches of enterprises, around 70 percent have established global or regional headquarters in Hong Kong, while nearly 90 percent have set up R&D centres. Chan said this brings not only capital and jobs, but also research and decision-making functions – both of which are crucial to maintaining Hong Kong’s long-term competitive edge. Edited by Tony Sabine

- Apec meeting showcases HK's role as a bridge: FS (2026-10-25 02:58)

Financial Secretary Paul Chan on Sunday said hosting the recently concluded Apec Finance Ministers' Meeting carried multi-layered significance for Hong Kong. The two-day event wrapped up in the SAR on Wednesday. Speaking on a Commercial Radio programme, Chan said many participants came from the political and business sectors, allowing them to see and understand Hong Kong first-hand and observe how the city serves as a bridge connecting the mainland and the rest of the world. He pointed out that there are many areas for collaboration and new market opportunities for the SAR’s professional services sector. “Through communication and exchanges, we understand their needs better. For example, many countries need infrastructure, and infrastructure needs investment, professional services, and even operational management. Some enterprises want to enter the mainland market. We told them that in these areas, they can collaborate with Hong Kong,” he said. The financial secretary

acknowledged that it is sometimes difficult for Apec member economies to reach a consensuson issues, given their differing political stances, development stages, and needs. But hestressed, Hong Kong would strive to seek common ground while respecting differences, aimingto maximise room for collaboration wherever possible. Speaking on a TVB programme,Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui said Hong Kong haddemonstrated its soft power in hosting the event. "The Apec finance ministers issued a jointstatement as the meeting concluded. This proves that Hong Kong not only brings peopletogether, but also helps deliver results," he said. "We can help our country foster regionalcollaboration across the broader Asian region." Some delegates also chose to stay behind for afew extra days after the meetings wrapped up to explore more of the city, Hui said. Edited byTony Sabine

- Evening News on TV32 - Oct 24 (2026-10-24 12:29)

Top stories for Saturday, Oct 24, 2026 - Hong Kong, China athletes clinch a total of 41 medals at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya. - SAR and Shenzhen police arrest 33 people linked to a cross-border credit card fraud syndicate. - France is bracing for another weekend of protests.

- DH probes suspected misuse of HIV service email (2026-10-24 10:00)

The Department of Health (DH) said on Saturday that the email account for its HIV testing service website was suspected of being misused. Emails and text messages had been sent to the public under the guise of the department, claiming the recipients were exposed to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and should seek medical advice and get tested as soon as possible, according to the DH. The department said it is conducting a thorough investigation of the incident, stressing that it would not notify individuals in this manner. “Upon discovering the incident last night, DH staff immediately conducted a comprehensive inspection of the network system with the outsourced service provider and investigated the incident overnight,” it said. “So far, no data loss or leakage has been detected. The DH reported the incident to the police and notified the Digital Policy Office.” The DH added that its HIV testing service website had been suspended from Saturday for the investigation, but members of the public could still book for HIV tests via phone calls. Edited by Azam Khan

- CE praises Para Games contingent for medal haul (2026-10-24 09:30)

Chief Executive John Lee has congratulated Hong Kong, China athletes for winning a total of 41 medals at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya that concluded on Saturday. The haul was made up of three gold, 14 silver and 24 bronze medals. Lee noted that the boccia athletes chalked up their best-ever performance, clinching two gold, three silver and three bronze medals. “Hong Kong, China athletes gave their utmost in the competition, demonstrating superb skills and indomitable determination,” he said in a statement. “Their achievements have not only brought honour to Hong Kong but also inspired the community with their perseverance and never-give-up sportsmanship.” Lee went on to say that their performance has earned the city’s admiration and pride. Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Rosanna Law

congratulated the SAR contingent for bagging five more medals on the final day of the Games –one gold, one silver and three bronze medals. Edited by Azam Khan

• Police ring up 33 arrests for cross-border card thefts (2026-10-24 09:05)

Thirty-three people have been arrested after Hong Kong and Shenzhen officers busted a cross-boundary credit card fraud syndicate that allegedly targeted SAR residents travelling to Shenzhen. The gang is believed to be linked to at least 60 fraud cases involving amount of more than HK$1.8 million, according to the police. Chief inspector Fung Chi-tat said police had received multiple complaints from residents whose credit cards were stolen and used to buy mobile phones. “Investigations showed that these people had been to popular tourist spots or entertainment venues in Shenzhen but had not checked up on their belongings at those places,” he said. “It was only after they were informed by their banks of unusual, large-value credit card transactions that they realised their cards had been stolen and used.” Superintendent Tsang Chun-kit said the gang stole credit cards from Hong Kong residents in Shenzhen and brought the cards back to the SAR immediately to shop at different stores. The suspects would then resell the items the same day before fleeing Hong Kong. Tsang added that the syndicate had mistakenly believed they could evade arrest by fleeing the SAR. However, he said, the Hong Kong police force has been in close communication with mainland law enforcement authorities. Sixteen of the arrests – 11 men and five women aged between 17 and 45 – were made in Hong Kong while Public Security Bureau officers in Shenzhen picked up 11 men and six women aged 36 to 56. Edited by Azam Khan

• HK takes silver in women's sabre at Asian Para Games (2026-10-24 07:37)

Hong Kong, China won silver in the women's sabre team event on Saturday at the Asian Para Games. The SAR quartet of Yu Chui-yee, Lam Ka-man, Tong Nga-ting and Chung Yuen-ping fell to the national team 16-30 in the gold-medal match. Thailand took bronze. In the men's competition, Lee Sheung-ho, Kwong Yuen-hing, Leung Siu-lun and Sean Glass narrowly missed out on a place on the podium after losing to Thailand 10-30. In the mixed team event, the SAR clinched bronze after narrowly defeating the national team 20-17. Edited by Azam Khan

• SAR boccia aces on a roll with gold and two bronzes (2026-10-24 05:10)

Hong Kong, China boccia athletes continued to shine on the final day of the Asian Para Games on Saturday as they seized the chance to take home more medals. In the mixed pairs BC4 event, Leung Yuk-wing and Cheung Yuen dominated the match to beat the national team 9-0 to take gold. Leung and Cheung said they were very happy to be on top of the podium. “Cheung and I played to our usual standards in this competition. Maybe the opponents saw that and were a bit nervous,” Leung said after the competition. “So we built on this momentum.” The pair also said they hope to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics and win gold at the Games. In the mixed BC1/BC2 team event, the SAR trio of John Loung, Yeung Hiu-lam and Chan Pak-lun defeated South Korea 7-5 to take home the bronze medal. Indonesia took the top spot on the podium, with Thailand clinching silver. In the mixed pairs BC3 event, Chan Ho-yan and

Tse Tak-wah fended off Thailand’s Ladamanee Kla-Han and Withun Chanthakhat 3-2 to roundout the podium, with host nation Japan winning gold and Singapore the silver. Edited by TonySabine

• Cross-border yacht scheme to shore up tourist spending (2026-10-24 04:18)

Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan on Saturday said a newly launched scheme that eases cross-border yacht visits would usher in a new wave of tourist consumption. Speaking on an RTHK radio programme, she said the first batch of five mainland vessels that entered the city last Friday through the southbound yacht scheme stayed for three to four days. Some of them reserved hotels in advance of their overnight stays. Those who docked at Lantau Yacht Club could use their craft as accommodation, Chan said, but they would still go on shore to spend. “Some of them visited Stanley, some even headed to Central,” she said. “Apart from sightseeing at sea, they would also go on shore to shop and head to theme parks.” Yacht owners and masters have to register an account with the SAR’s Marine Department as part of the procedure for them to travel here, with Chan saying 32 accounts have already been set up so far. She also said that, ahead of the end of the application period for platform companies to apply for ride-hailing service licences on October 30, the government is considering allowing applicants who are, for instance, particularly able to meet Hong Kong's needs, to have a higher chance of securing a permit. A lottery will be carried out if the number of applications exceeds the 10,000-permit cap. “I think that some of the main considerations include whether they are able to provide transport capacity or if they are really committed – this is very important," Chan said. "We will also take into consideration how long they have owned the vehicles.” Since a new combined written test for taxis and ride-hailing vehicles was launched in early August as part of the new regulatory framework for ride-hailing services, Chan said around 16,000 people have registered for the exam so far. The government was, she stressed, pleased to see the enthusiastic response to the test, which has seen a passing rate of more than 60 percent. Edited by Tony Sabine

• Customs 'using new tech to smoothen Huanggang flow' (2026-10-24 04:06)

Advanced technologies and additional manpower have been deployed at Huanggang Port to ensure smooth border crossings, Commissioner of Customs and Excise Chan Tsz-tat said on Saturday. Speaking after a Commercial Radio programme, he said customs clearances at the redeveloped port had been smooth. “We have deployed some staff from other control points," Chan said. "We have also employed some temp staff and retired officers to be deployed at the Huanggang Port to support the new operation. “We also employed some new technologies at our new control point. “We are seeing quite good effectiveness in deterrence of smuggling at the new Huanggang Port. "If these new equipment are effective, we intend to extend the application of these new detection devices to other control points.” Chan also said more than 600 million illicit cigarettes were seized in the first three quarters of the year – about the same as the full-year figure recorded in 2025. However, he pointed out that more than 200 million of them were not destined for Hong Kong, but were in the process of being transhipped to other

places. Chan said the department had seen “very good enforcement results” so far this yearand that he believed they would deter smugglers. Edited by Tony Sabine

• Fencer Tong named flagbearer at Para Games closing (2026-10-23 14:48)

Para fencer Tong Nga-ting has been named Hong Kong, China’s flagbearer at the closing ceremony of the Asian Para Games on Saturday, the China Hong Kong Paralympic Committee announced. Writing on social media, the committee noted that Tong has been outstanding at the Games this year, capturing three medals. She won silver in the women's foil and épée team events, and bronze in the women's épée individual category B. The Hong Kong, China delegation has won two gold, 13 silver and 21 bronze medals so far. Edited by Edmond Fong

• Evening News on TV32 - Oct 23 (2026-10-23 12:51)

Top stories for Friday, Oct 23, 2026 - President Xi Jinping calls for all-out rescue after an earthquake in Xizang kills over a dozen people. - Top officials pay their final respects to late police officer Chu Chun-kwok. - Treasury chief Christopher Hui says the recent Apec finance ministers meeting sets the scene for the leaders' summit in Shenzhen next month.

• CE expresses condolences to Xizang quake victims (2026-10-23 10:19)

Chief Executive John Lee said he was deeply saddened by the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Xizang Autonomous Region. Writing on social media, he expressed his deepest condolences to those who lost their lives and sympathy to the bereaved families and the injured. Lee said the Hong Kong government will monitor the situation and is ready to provide assistance through the Disaster Relief Fund. He said he hopes rescue work will be carried out safely and smoothly, and those who were affected will overcome the hardship in no time. Edited by Edmond Fong

• Tourism chiefs see a way forward in Peak lighting push (2026-10-23 09:55)

The Tourism Commission and the Tourism Board will submit a revised proposal for a lighting project on the Peak to the Central and Western District Council next month for consultation. This was announced in a social media post by the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau after the tourism commissioner and lawmakers made an on-site inspection, as the government moves to address public concerns over the installation. Tourism Commissioner Ann Chan, together with representatives from the Tourism Board, toured the sites on Lugard Road and Harlech Road with Legislative Council and District Council members on Friday. The tourism officials briefed lawmakers on the project's concept and design, and explained how it had already been adjusted in response to feedback from residents, according to the post. The officials expressed appreciation for the councillors' suggestions, which included removing ground-level lights that encroach on public seating areas, reducing the number of light fixtures at certain locations, and adjusting the lights' positioning and method of suspension. "We highly value the opinions of councillors and residents. In the coming days, we will continue to conduct on-site visits with various councillors to gather feedback, while comprehensively reviewing the overall

arrangements of the project," they said. They also vowed to implement immediateimprovements where possible to allay concerns. Edited by Aaron Tam

• More Para table tennis medals for Hong Kong, China (2026-10-23 09:11)

SAR paddlers have captured a total of five silver and 10 bronze medals at the Asian Para Games. The Hong Kong, China squad added to its medals tally on Friday when Ng Mui-wui and Wong Ting-ting took silver in the women's doubles WD22 event. In the men's doubles MD22 competition, Wan Wai-lok and Yuen King-shing came third in their group and secured a bronze medal. Earlier on Friday, the SAR team won silver in women's doubles WD14 and bronze in men's doubles MD18. In para swimming, Chan Yui-lam claimed a silver medal in the women's 200m individual medley. She finished behind Japan's Aira Kinoshita while Natthariee Khajhonmatha of Thailand came third. And in para fencing, Yu Chui-yee of Hong Kong took bronze in women's sabre category A. She was beaten 14-15 by her Thai opponent in the semi-finals. The competition did not feature a third-place playoff. _____ Last updated: 2026-10-23 HKT 19:10 Edited by Aaron Tam

• Two arrested following a child's plea for help online (2026-10-23 09:06)

Police on Friday said they arrested two people in Wong Tai Sin, after videos of an 11-year-old girl seeking help went viral on social media. Officers detained the girl's 61-year-old grandmother and a 43-year-old foreign domestic helper on suspicion of “ill-treatment or neglect by those in charge of child or young person”, following preliminary investigations. The force had received a referral from the Social Welfare Department amid suspicions that the girl might have been mistreated by her family. She was hospitalised after investigators found her limbs swollen and red. One video purportedly showed the girl – who was believed to be inside a room – calling for help, saying her family was going crazy. Loud bangs could also be heard in the video's background. Another one showed a man shouting aggressively and swearing at the girl. Edited by Aaron Tam

• Health Bureau announces launch of patient pairing plan (2026-10-23 08:55)

The Health Bureau on Friday announced the launch of patient pairing arrangements under the Community Pharmacy Programme and the annual adjustment of consultation co-payment fees under the Primary Healthcare Co-care Network. The bureau said the first phase of the Community Pharmacy Programme, to be trialed in four districts by the end of October, will allow patients to obtain drugs from designated community pharmacies, with pharmacists providing medication counselling and health advice. The programme is being piloted in Eastern, Yau Tsim Mong, Sha Tin and Yuen Long districts, with five community pharmacies selected in each district. The bureau said it aims to extend the programme to all 18 districts by the fourth quarter of next year. Under the programme, participating patients can be paired with a preferred pharmacy for drug dispensing or refill services, a practice that the bureau said would help prevent the accumulation of excess drugs at home and reduce the risk of improper storage or misuse. Meanwhile, the bureau announced that the annual adjustment of consultation

co-payment fees under the Co-care Network will take effect from November 1. Under theco-payment model, the government provides a partial subsidy while participants pay a set fee.The bureau said among 1,239 participating service points, 82.5 percent will keep their existingco-payment fees unchanged. Twenty-eight service points will reduce fees, while 189 willincrease them – with nearly 90 percent of those raising fees by HK$50 or below, with the overallrate of increase of 3.7 percent in the coming year, it said. Following the increase, more than 60percent of service points will charge consultation co-payments at or below thegovernment-recommended level of HK$150, with the median remaining at HK$150. As ofOctober 7, more than 300,000 citizens have enrolled in the Co-care Network, with around70,000 diagnosed with cardiovascular disease risk factors or chronic hepatitis B and havingentered the treatment phase. Edited by Aaron Tam

- RTHK forges bond with Chengdu broadcaster (2026-10-23 07:55)

RTHK signed a memorandum of understanding with broadcaster Chengdu Radio and Television to carry out a series of events there next year, as well as step up people-to-people bonds and cultural connections between the two cities. Director of Broadcasting Angelina Kwan signed the MoU with Yang Xiaoyang, president of Chengdu Radio and Television and chair of the Chengdu Broadcasting (Group) Corporation, on Thursday during her visit to Sichuan's capital. “The two broadcasters will expand cooperation across a range of areas, including programme content exchanges, talent development and related exchanges, collaboration on new media platforms and the organisation of events,” they said in a statement. These include RTHK’s acclaimed signature projects – the “RTHK Vinyl Pop Up” – that will be staged in Chengdu in the second quarter of next year. It was previously held in Hong Kong, Qianhai and Shanghai. “RTHK expressed hopes that bringing the ‘RTHK Vinyl Pop Up’ to Chengdu would allow music to serve as a bridge for introducing Hong Kong's pop culture to a wider mainland audience, while helping to share the stories of both Hong Kong and Chengdu with the world,” the statement added. During the three-day visit that kicked off on Wednesday, the RTHK delegation also met with senior management of the Chengdu Media Group to exchange views and explore further opportunities for collaboration. Kwan said the Hong Kong broadcaster has long been committed to strengthening ties with media organisations across the mainland through broadcasting and cultural exchanges to foster people-to-people bonds between Hong Kong and the mainland. Edited by Aaron Tam

- SAR paddlers claim two more medals at Asian Para Games (2026-10-23 04:18)

Hong Kong, China on Friday continued to shine in table tennis at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya, bagging a silver and a bronze in the men's and women's doubles events. With no third-place play-off, Hong Kong were guaranteed of at least bronze entering the day's last four matches at Sky Hall Toyota. The SAR pair of Chiu Kan-shan and Wong Yue-ching claimed silver in women's doubles class WD14 event, after falling to the national team's Huang Wenjuan and Liu Xiaowu in straight games. Huang and Liu needed just 23 minutes to wrap up the one-sided affair, sweeping to a 5-11, 8-11, 8-11 victory. Fellow paddlers Ho Ka-sing and Wong Chi-yin

added to Hong Kong's medal tally by winning bronze in the semis of the men's doubles classMD18 event. They fell 1-3 to China's Lian Hao and Zhao Shuai. Ho and Wong put up a spiritedfight despite dropping the first game 8-11, taking the second 11-7 to level the best-of-fivecontest. But the SAR pair were unable to maintain their momentum, losing the next two games2-11, 7-11 to claim bronze after 24 minutes. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Apec finance chiefs' meet 'perfect prelude to summit' (2026-10-23 04:09)

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui said on Friday the Apec finance ministers' meeting that concluded in Hong Kong on Wednesday was the "perfect prelude" to the leaders' summit in Shenzhen next month. He told RTHK's Backchat programme that Hong Kong and Shenzhen have plenty of room to work together – making it a great opportunity to showcase both China's stabilising role and Hong Kong's part in driving regional cooperation. "Even though this is really a China Apec year this year, but at the same time, Hong Kong plays a critical role as an accelerator of regionalisation," Hui said. He pointed out the foreign ministers' meeting was the last in a series of ministerial meetings before the leaders' summit and that a joint statement had been reached among delegates – a breakthrough in an increasingly divided geopolitical landscape. "So, it's indeed a very good occasion for us to showcase not just the China voice as a stabiliser but also Hong Kong's element as an accelerator of regionalisation in this increasingly divided world," Hui said. "Hong Kong, being part of Asia and at the same time a financial centre of Asia, needs to have a stable Asia." Delegates, Hui said, agreed to work more closely on fiscal and monetary policy coordination, digital infrastructure, green finance and talent cultivation. He also highlighted the need for inclusive policies to address income and wealth distribution risks arising from artificial intelligence and geopolitics. There is a "wide consensus" that AI is a double-edged sword, Hui pointed out, in its presenting opportunities alongside risks including cyber threats. He said Hong Kong has practical experiences to share, as many financial institutions in the city are already adopting AI across their value chains. "Hong Kong has a lot to share and offer in terms of how we do that and also find a fine line between regulation and also AI application," Hui said, adding the city has developed its own ecosystem for AI deployment in financial infrastructure. On gold trading, he said the subject came up in his bilateral meeting with Brunei's finance minister. Hong Kong, Hui stressed, aims to serve as an Asia hub linking international gold standards with regional liquidity. "Gold, as it is, is a global product, yet at the same time there is ever-stronger demand for such precious metals here in the region," he said. Reflecting on the organisation of the event, Hui credited his colleagues across government for their hard work, saying the effort had paid off. "I heard that some of the delegates are going to get married here in Hong Kong because they see Hong Kong as a very decent place, and they're going to spend their honeymoon here," he said, adding that the city's "charisma" had helped deliver a pleasing result for the country and the world. Edited by Aaron Tam

- Top officials make final farewell to police officer (2026-10-23 03:34)

Chief Executive John Lee and officials paid their final respects to late senior police constable Chu Chun-kwok at a funeral with full honours on Friday. Chu was paralysed after being attacked on duty in 2005 and passed away last month at the age of 52. A funeral ceremony was held at the Universal Funeral Parlour in Hung Hom at 10.30am, followed by a farewell ceremony at Cheung Sha Wan police station and a burial ceremony at Gallant Garden. Others in attendance included Secretary for Security Chris Tang, Secretary for the Civil Service Ingrid Yeung, Police Commissioner Joe Chow and former police chief Lee Ming-kwai. Edited by Aaron Tam

- 'Legislative reforms on fire safety to be rolled out' (2026-10-23 03:05)

Security minister Chris Tang on Friday said the government will roll out a series of legislative reforms to improve fire safety, as the administration mulls sweeping changes in response to the deadly Wang Fuk Court fire. The independent committee looking into the tragedy submitted its report to the Chief Executive on Thursday, and John Lee has said plans for "comprehensive reforms" will be announced shortly. Asked on a radio programme about the government's response to the report -- which has yet to be released to the public -- Tang said that authorities have already introduced a series of administrative measures over the past year to improve the situation, and further legislative changes are pending. He also noted that the Fire Services Department has acknowledged that at the end of the day, it is ultimately responsible for fire safety. "If anyone files a complaint with us regarding a situation related to a fire, even if it is not the Fire Services Department's responsibility, we must follow up until another department takes over," he said. On the question of accountability, Tang pointed to the Chief Executive's earlier statement that anyone found to bear responsibility for the blaze would be held to account. Edited by Cecil Wong

- 130k people used Huanggang over long weekend: Tang (2026-10-23 02:44)

The new Huanggang border crossing facility is operating smoothly but still has room for improvement, Security Minister Chris Tang said on Friday, as he revealed that daily passenger traffic has hit 130,000 during the three-day Chung Yeung festival holiday. Speaking on a radio programme, Tang said the new port is handling about 83,000 passengers on ordinary days – more than double the volume of the old crossing. During the long weekend holiday period, the average daily figure reached 130,000, with the busiest period around midday on the Saturday, seeing waits of up to one hour from alighting to completing clearance, he said. "On the 17th, the number of people exiting was nine times higher than normal. Usually, during peak hours, the wait is 15 minutes; now, it’s nine times longer than peak hours – if you calculate it that way, you might have to wait two hours. Also, don’t forget that this time, our border crossing allows direct entry into the mainland. Previously, after exiting Hong Kong, you still had to queue again on the mainland," he said. Tang stressed that the "one-stop" inspection system still makes the process faster than before, as travellers only need to go through a single check. The minister identified several areas for improvement, saying some travellers have not pre-registered for e-channel services, and children under seven must use manual counters. He said the authorities would learn from the experience and step up crowd management. On

arrangements for non-Chinese passport holders, Tang said the mainland side requires them tofill in forms, and Hong Kong authorities have been assisting travellers in completing thepaperwork while they wait. Tang noted that the new crossing can open up to 90 departurecounters – 60 e-channels and 30 manual counters. However, the manual counters require staffon both the SAR and the mainland sides to operate simultaneously. The minister thankedfrontline staff for their hard work, acknowledging they are under immense pressure and havehad to cancel leave. He said the authorities have deployed additional manpower and extendedworking hours where necessary. On next month's Apec summit in Shenzhen, Tang said if anyVery Important Persons travel via Hong Kong, security preparations must be thorough, thoughthe impact on ordinary citizens is expected to be minimal. He said the authorities will guardagainst anyone using Hong Kong as a gateway to enter the mainland for illegal activities, andwill also watch for drone activity aimed at disrupting the summit. Edited by Aaron Tam