



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 08, 2026 - March 15, 2026

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

Executive Summary

During the period of March 8-15, 2026, China demonstrated a concentrated effort to stabilize its international relations while continuing its robust military modernization. Diplomatic engagements saw Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi actively promoting stable ties with the United States and reinforcing the "rock-solid" strategic partnership with Russia, despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Domestically, China announced a 7% increase in its 2026 defense budget, underscoring its commitment to military modernization by 2035, even as its defense industry faces challenges from an anti-corruption purge and performance concerns regarding exported weaponry. A significant cybersecurity incident involved suspected Chinese government-linked hackers breaching a sensitive FBI surveillance network, highlighting persistent cyber threats. Furthermore, China escalated its rhetoric towards Taiwan, shifting from "oppose Taiwan independence" to "crack down on Taiwan independence," signaling a more assertive stance on cross-Straits relations.

Key Security Developments

- Diplomatic Relations with the US Prioritized Amidst Middle East Conflicts

On March 8, 2026, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized the importance of stable relations with the United States, calling 2026 an "important year" for China-US ties and predicting a successful summit between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump. Beijing appears to be deliberately shifting focus from military conflicts in the Middle East and Venezuela to issues of bilateral trade and economic stability, signaling a readiness to prioritize its economic security. The upcoming summit is expected to solidify agreements on reducing tariffs on Chinese goods in exchange for the purchase of American agricultural products and the resumption of critical mineral exports from China.

- Strengthening "Rock-Solid" China-Russia Strategic Partnership

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated on March 8, 2026, that China-Russia relations remain "as steady as rock" despite global turbulence. He highlighted that the strategic partnership, which marks its 30th anniversary this year, is based on equality, respect, and mutual benefit, representing a new type of major-country relations. Both nations are strategically independent, respecting each other's core interests and adhering to principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation, and not targeting any third party.

- China's Assertive Stance on Taiwan

During its annual "Two Sessions" legislative meeting, which concluded on March 12, 2026, the PRC escalated its rhetoric towards Taiwan. The 2026 government work report changed the phrase "oppose Taiwan independence" to "crack down on Taiwan independence," reflecting expanding coercive efforts against Taiwan. Taiwan's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned Beijing's "One China" comments on March 8, with Taiwan's Foreign Minister Ling Jaong stating that Beijing is responsible for regional instability due to its increased military presence.

- Taiwan Bolsters Undersea Communications Security

A Taiwanese company is laying its first undersea communications cable to Taiwan's outlying Matsu Islands, a project considered a matter of national security. This initiative comes in response to concerns over the vulnerability of existing cables, which have been severed more than 20 times in the past five years, often by Chinese vessels.

- Significant Increase in Defense Budget

China announced a 7% increase in its 2026 defense budget, bringing the total military spending to approximately 1.91 trillion yuan (about \$275-277 billion). This marks the 11th consecutive year of single-digit growth and is aimed at accelerating the modernization of national defense and the armed forces, including the research and development of modern weaponry. The budget increase is seen as an objective necessity to address complex and diverse national security challenges.

- Suspected Chinese Cyber Intrusion into FBI Network

Chinese government-linked hackers are suspected of breaching a network used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to manage court-authorized surveillance operations. The intrusion, first detected on February 17, 2026, involved systems supporting the FBI's Digital Collection System Network (DSCNet), which processes wiretap and foreign intelligence surveillance requests. The compromised environment contained warrant information and personally identifiable information of individuals under investigation, along with metadata used to map communication patterns.

- Cyber Espionage Targeting Southeast Asian Militaries

A suspected China-based cyber espionage operation has targeted Southeast Asian military organizations, utilizing AppleChris and MemFun malware. This state-sponsored campaign has been ongoing since at least 2020, demonstrating strategic operational patience.

- Challenges in China's Defense Industry

China's defense industry is facing mounting pressure from battlefield setbacks abroad and a sweeping anti-corruption purge at home. Recent military conflicts have raised questions about the performance of Chinese air defense systems exported to countries like Iran and Venezuela. The anti-corruption campaign, launched by Xi

Jinping since 2023, has removed numerous senior executives and officials tied to major state-owned defense contractors, contributing to a roughly 10% drop in arms sales revenues among China's largest defense companies in 2024.

- Development of High-Power Microwave Weapon

China claims to have developed a compact high-power microwave device, the TPG1000Cs, capable of delivering about 20 gigawatts of power for up to one minute. Developed at the Northwest Institute of Nuclear Technology in Xian, this system is believed by Chinese experts to be strong enough to disrupt or damage satellite constellations such as Starlink in low Earth orbit.

- China's Call for De-escalation in the Middle East

On March 10, 2026, a Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson called on relevant parties to immediately stop military operations in the Middle East and return to dialogue and negotiation. China firmly opposes moves violating other countries' sovereignty and security and the abuse of force, warning that continued escalation will only push the region into a dangerous abyss.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's recent security developments underscore its dual strategy of maintaining economic stability through diplomatic engagement while aggressively pursuing military modernization and asserting its core interests. The emphasis on stable relations with the US, despite Washington's actions against Iran, highlights China's pragmatic approach to global power dynamics, prioritizing its own economic security and preparing for high-level trade talks. This calculated stance aims to mitigate external economic pressures and secure vital trade routes, even if it means navigating complex alliances and avoiding direct criticism of actions impacting its energy partners.

The deepening "rock-solid" strategic partnership with Russia, characterized by mutual respect and non-confrontation, further solidifies an alternative geopolitical pole to Western influence. This alignment provides Russia with strategic endurance against Western pressure and offers China leverage against the United States, creating a more complex multi-theater competition for the US. China's advocacy for multilateralism and a "force-free" world order, as articulated by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, positions Beijing as a stabilizer in a turbulent international landscape, appealing to nations seeking strategic autonomy.

However, China's increasingly assertive rhetoric and actions regarding Taiwan, particularly the shift to "crack down on Taiwan independence," significantly heighten regional tensions. This stance, coupled with ongoing military modernization and cyber

activities targeting regional militaries, raises concerns among neighboring countries and the US about potential instability in the Indo-Pacific. The development of advanced weaponry, such as the high-power microwave device, further contributes to a regional arms race and complicates strategic calculations for powers like the US and its allies.

Military and Defense Analysis

China's military and defense posture continues its trajectory of rapid modernization, evidenced by the 7% increase in its 2026 defense budget to approximately \$275-281 billion. This sustained investment, marking the 11th consecutive year of single-digit growth, is primarily directed towards accelerating the integrated development of mechanization, informationization, and intelligentization of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Key areas of focus include the research and development and upgrading of modern weaponry, optimizing joint operations systems, and fostering new-domain and new-quality combat forces. The ultimate goal is to transform the PLA into a fully modern military by 2035 and a world-class military by the centenary of the PLA in 2027.

Despite this ambitious modernization, the defense industry faces internal and external pressures. An ongoing anti-corruption purge has impacted senior leadership within state-owned defense conglomerates, and there are questions regarding the performance of Chinese-made weapons in recent conflicts abroad. These issues could potentially hinder the efficiency and innovation within the defense industrial base. Nevertheless, China's development of advanced capabilities, such as the 20-gigawatt microwave weapon capable of threatening low Earth orbit satellites, demonstrates its commitment to developing asymmetric advantages and expanding its reach into new domains of warfare. The continuous expansion of its undersea warfare capabilities with new submarines and drone weapons also poses a significant challenge to the US's undersea advantage.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to maintain its diplomatic offensive, particularly with the United States, in anticipation of the Xi-Trump summit. The focus will remain on de-escalating trade tensions and securing economic stability. Concurrently, Beijing will continue to project a strong stance on Taiwan, likely through increased military posturing and diplomatic warnings, especially following the recent escalation in rhetoric. We can expect further cyber activities, as the recent FBI breach and ongoing espionage in Southeast Asia indicate

a persistent and sophisticated threat.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint. Any perceived move towards formal independence by Taiwan or significant foreign intervention could trigger a strong reaction from Beijing, potentially involving military exercises or other coercive measures. The South China Sea also remains a potential area of friction, given China's expansive claims and ongoing maritime activities. Furthermore, the cyber domain presents a continuous risk, with the potential for more high-profile breaches of critical infrastructure or intelligence networks, leading to retaliatory measures and heightened cyber warfare. The performance and reliability of Chinese-made defense systems in ongoing conflicts could also become a flashpoint if further failures are publicly exposed, potentially impacting China's arms export market and reputation.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the outcomes and tone of the upcoming Xi-Trump summit, particularly regarding trade agreements and any joint statements on regional security. Observe the frequency and scale of PLA military activities around Taiwan and in the South China Sea. Any new developments in China's defense industry, especially regarding the microwave weapon or other advanced systems, will be crucial. Also, watch for further reports on the FBI cyber intrusion and any public attribution or countermeasures. Finally, China's engagement with the Middle East, particularly its stance on the Strait of Hormuz and any potential financial or material support to Iran, will be important to gauge its geopolitical balancing act.

Strategic recommendations: For international actors, a nuanced approach to China is essential, balancing engagement on economic and climate issues with firm deterrence against aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific. Strengthening cybersecurity defenses and intelligence sharing is paramount given the persistent threat from Chinese state-sponsored hacking. Supporting Taiwan's self-defense capabilities and resilience, including its critical infrastructure, remains crucial. Encouraging multilateral dialogues and confidence-building measures in regional flashpoints could help de-escalate tensions. Finally, closely monitoring China's defense modernization, particularly its investments in disruptive technologies, is vital for maintaining a strategic balance.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: BBC China

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [China's biggest political meeting is ending - what have we learned?](#) (2026-03-11 23:03)

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

- [China and North Korea to reopen passenger train service after pandemic halt](#) (2026-03-11 03:10)

Tickets for the first train departing on Thursday have reportedly sold out.

- ['Investing in people': Can China's new push to boost spending revive the economy?](#) (2026-03-10 23:33)

Beijing has spent decades relying on exports and innovation but that model is now under strain.

- [Why is China set to approve a new law promoting 'ethnic unity'?](#) (2026-03-10 00:24)

A law that could threaten the rights of minority groups is a sign of the direction Xi is taking China.

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Source: CGTN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Global South Voices: High-quality growth & global governance

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

Full text: Report on national economic, social development plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China's high-quality development: Opportunities for Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Full text: Report on the Work of the Government

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

Hometown to horizon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How China turns decades of green reform into green code

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China's first pharmacy robot goes into service in Beijing

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

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

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

Award-winning documentary 'Architecture Intelligence' returns

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China approves world's first invasive BCI medical device

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chinese envoy attends Chilean president's inauguration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chasing Muqam – Episode 6: In the Valley of Grapes

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

John Lee, chief executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said on Thursday that Hong Kong will actively align with the outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan to contribute to further deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reuters: China's mediation eases Pakistan-Afghan clashes

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

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

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

NPC deputy: Small chip drives gains in Yangtze ecological protection

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

M5.3 quake hits China's Taiwan region

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China opposes the United States using the so-called "overcapacity" as a pretext for political manipulation, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday, after the United States reportedly announced it will launch trade investigations into 16 trading partners including China.

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

China's forest, grass coverage rate surpasses 56%

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

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

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

How data-driven intelligence is making China healthier

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Record-size offshore wind turbine jackets delivered to Europe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Where Chinese automakers have gained the most ground in Europe

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

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

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

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

- [What Is China's Global Governance Initiative? Two Sessions Explainer](#) (2026-03-11 22:11)

What Is China's Global Governance Initiative? Two Sessions Explainer

- [Inside Mexico's \\$41 billion investment boom](#) (2026-03-11 22:11)

Inside Mexico's \$41 billion investment boom

- [Chinese vice premier calls for global nuclear cooperation](#) (2026-03-11 14:39)

Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing said on Tuesday that China is willing to collaborate with all parties to ensure nuclear energy better supports the development and prosperity of all nations.

- [Echoes of the Silk Road at the London Book Fair](#) (2026-03-11 14:38)

It was Ayjan's first visit to the London Book Fair. When I first noticed her, she was standing quietly in the Chinese books section, studying a collection of Dunhuang-themed books and cultural products.

- [China's major science facilities to enter new development phase](#) (2026-03-11 13:54)

China's major science facilities to enter new development phase

- [BizFocus Ep. 141: Waste to worth: A green transition story](#) (2026-03-11 13:09)

BizFocus Ep. 141: Waste to worth: A green transition story

- [Join the Tibetan New Year celebration in Lhasa with the locals!](#) (2026-03-11 13:01)

Join the Tibetan New Year celebration in Lhasa with the locals!

- [China warns Japan that militarist expansion leads to self-destruction](#) (2026-03-11 11:21)

A Chinese defense ministry spokesperson on Wednesday sternly warned Japan against its deployment of long-range offensive missiles, stating that such moves pose a real threat to regional security and constitute a dangerous path.

- [China urges Mideast ceasefire, warns of unchecked AI militarization](#) (2026-03-11 09:50)

China opposes military strikes against Iran that violate international law and has called on relevant parties to immediately stop hostilities and return to dialogue and negotiation, a defense spokesperson said on Wednesday.

- [Traditional spring plowing begins in Xizang](#) (2026-03-11 09:11)

The Dapu Astronomical Observation Station in Mozhugongka County, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, is the only astronomical and calendrical observation site still in use locally.

- [China urges ceasefire, vows to work for peace, justice in Middle East](#) (2026-03-11 09:08)

China will continue to strengthen communication with all relevant parties on the Iran issue, including those directly involved in the conflict, and play a constructive role in easing tensions and restoring peace, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

- [China urges Japan to do serious soul-searching on its history](#) (2026-03-11 09:05)

China urges Japan to do serious soul-searching on its history of aggression and properly handle issues left over from history, including the forced conscription of "comfort women," with an honest and responsible attitude, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in Beijing on Wednesday.

- [Proposal calls for digital preservation of Sakya Monastery](#) (2026-03-11 09:01)

Lodro Gyatso, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and executive deputy director of the Sakya Monastery's management committee, recently called for accelerated efforts to digitally preserve the monastery.

- [Xiamen artisan keeps ancient dragon and tiger lantern alive](#) (2026-03-11 08:57)

The dragon and tiger lantern continues to glow in Xiamen, Fujian Province, thanks to the dedication of three generations. For nearly fifty years, Zhuang Wenjia and his family have preserved this intricate craft, a provincial-level intangible cultural heritage.

- [Architecture Intelligence: Bringing the deep sea indoors](#) (2026-03-11 08:02)

Architecture Intelligence: Bringing the deep sea indoors

- [Ask China: How does Shenzhen make healthcare affordable for everyone?](#) (2026-03-11 07:59)

Ask China: How does Shenzhen make healthcare affordable for everyone?

- [Rare 'living fossil' tree discovered in Guangxi](#) (2026-03-11 07:55)

Forestry staff in Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi, have recently identified a dense population of the endangered cycad tree *Alsophila spinulosa*, also known as the flying spider-monkey tree fern.

- [China unveils world's strongest ultra-high-strength carbon fiber](#) (2026-03-11 07:06)

China unveils world's strongest ultra-high-strength carbon fiber

- [Kuai Man wins, Wang Manyu upset in WTT Chongqing matches](#) (2026-03-11 05:50)

Kuai Man wins, Wang Manyu upset in WTT Chongqing matches

- [China wins multiple medals in Paralympic cross-country skiing](#) (2026-03-11 05:49)

China wins multiple medals in Paralympic cross-country skiing

- [AI in education: Enabling large-scale, personalized talent cultivation](#) (2026-03-11 05:41)

Artificial intelligence has transformed education through the integration of large-scale and personalized talent cultivation, Xu Kun, a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, said on Wednesday.

- [CPPCC member highlights HKSAR's integration into national development](#) (2026-03-11 05:37)

The 15th Five-Year Plan provides a greater chance for development to China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), which can also play four significant roles in developing itself and integrate into the country with synchronized efforts, said Tu Haiming, a Hong Kong member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

- [CPPCC member: Targeted policies have helped a poor village thrive](#) (2026-03-11 05:25)

Liuzhai Village in Huguan County, Changzhi City, north China's Shanxi Province, once a poor village, has seen remarkable improvements in infrastructure and industrial development, with its per capita income exceeding 25,000 yuan (\$3,634), a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference said on Wednesday.

- [CPPCC member says multi-ethnic community links people, fosters bonds](#) (2026-03-11 04:42)

CPPCC member says multi-ethnic community links people, fosters bonds

- [CPPCC member: Four national key laboratories established in Macao](#) (2026-03-11 04:22)

Macao has placed an emphasis on research-oriented education and technological innovation in higher education since its return to China in 1999, said Chen Jimin, a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

- [How China is rewriting the contract between humanity and nature](#) (2026-03-11 03:08)

How China is rewriting the contract between humanity and nature

- [CPPCC member: More Taiwan residents choosing mainland to study, work](#) (2026-03-11 03:01)

Peace and development are the shared aspirations of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, Xu Kewei, a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said on Wednesday.

- [Conflict in Gulf region serves no one's interests, says Chinese envoy](#) (2026-03-11 02:51)

China's special envoy for Middle East affairs on Tuesday reiterated the importance of a ceasefire and end to hostilities in the Gulf region, amid fears that the ongoing conflict between Iran and the United States and Israel could lead to further destabilization.

- [Xi Jinping attends closing meeting of top political advisory body's annual session](#) (2026-03-11 00:59)

Xi Jinping attends closing meeting of top political advisory body's annual session

- [CPPCC National Committee holds closing meeting of annual session](#) (2026-03-11 00:59)

The fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, held its closing meeting on Wednesday morning.

- [Chinese FM holds phone talks with his Pakistani counterpart](#) (2026-03-11 00:16)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar over the current situation in Iran.

- [OpenClaw: AI tool that broke every record, and caused a security panic](#) (2026-03-11 00:00)

OpenClaw, the open-source AI assistant that reached 250,000 GitHub stars in 90 days, is the latest hot topic in China but also faces security warnings after researchers found 40,000 vulnerable instances online.

- [Chinese FM holds phone talks with Qatari counterpart](#) (2026-03-10 17:05)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday that China calls for an immediate ceasefire in the Middle East and efforts toward a political solution, and supports Gulf countries in taking the future of the region in their own hands.

- [Remains of senior Chinese official Song Ping cremated](#) (2026-03-10 15:26)

The remains of Song Ping, a former senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the state, were cremated in Beijing on Tuesday.

- [Behind \\$20.4 Billion: The Obsession of China's Game Makers](#) (2026-03-10 15:15)

In 2025, Chinese games surpassed \$20.4 billion in overseas revenue. Yet when millions charge through the canyon of Honor of Kings side by side, forging their own legends in fantasy realms, few realize that these digital galaxies began at an ordinary desk-with a team that simply refuses to settle for "good enough."

- [Foreign Ministry spokesperson: DPP separatist moves doomed to fail](#) (2026-03-10 14:51)

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Tuesday said the Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities have repeatedly used pretexts such as trade, the economy and investment to carry out "Taiwan independence" separatist activities on the international stage, adding that such attempts are doomed to fail.

- [Analysis: Shift in foreign media's perception of China via headlines](#) (2026-03-10 14:41)

A review of foreign media headlines covering China's annual Two Sessions over the past two years reveals a notable shift. In 2025, headlines tended to frame China within a narrative of "confrontation, retaliation, and economic pressure." By contrast, headlines in 2026 more often place China in the context of "stability, communication, and risk management."

- [CPPCC National Committee makes preparations for closing annual session](#) (2026-03-10 14:23)

The 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, held a standing committee meeting on Tuesday to make preparations for the conclusion of its annual session.

- [China's internet emergency center issues OpenClaw security alert](#) (2026-03-10 14:18)

China's internet emergency center issues OpenClaw security alert

- [Military deputies discuss Xi's speech at annual legislative session](#) (2026-03-10 13:40)

Members of the military delegation attending the ongoing annual session of the national legislature studied and discussed President Xi Jinping's speech delivered at a plenary meeting of the delegation, a military spokesperson said Tuesday.

- [Chinese scientists improve lunar chemistry map using far-side data](#) (2026-03-10 13:14)

Chinese scientists improve lunar chemistry map using far-side data

- [Passenger train services between China and DPRK to resume on March 12](#) (2026-03-10 13:03)

Passenger train services between China and DPRK to resume on March 12

- [Global media focus on opportunities from China's Two Sessions](#) (2026-03-10 10:26)

As China's annual legislative and political consultative meetings, known as the "Two Sessions," are underway in Beijing, foreign media outlets and journalists are closely following the event for signals about the development trajectory of the world's second-largest economy and its global implications.

- [China's first integrated large-scale fracturing vessel delivered](#) (2026-03-10 10:01)

China's first integrated large-scale fracturing vessel delivered

- [Over 10,000 Chinese travelers safely return from Middle East countries](#) (2026-03-10 09:40)

More than 10,000 Chinese travelers have safely and orderly returned from the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia and other countries, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

- [Cultural cleansing? America's selective respect for civilization](#) (2026-03-10 09:12)

Real civilization is not easily severed by bombings. For a country that has yet to experience the passage of millennia, even as it tries to claim a place within one of them, the resilience of civilization may seem unfathomable.

- [China Travel: What visitors buy](#) (2026-03-10 07:44)

Shopping in China is becoming a new trend among international visitors. What are they buying, and why do they love shopping here? Let's find out.

- [China Travel: Vibrant shopping](#) (2026-03-10 07:43)

Shopping in China can feel very different for international visitors. From exploring a huge variety of products to haggling over prices, visitors say the experience is fun, vibrant, and easy to enjoy.

- [From Earth to the stars: TV drama to retrace legacy of BeiDou system](#) (2026-03-10 07:41)

Yang Lei, director of the hit historical drama Swords Into Plowshares, is expected to direct a new TV drama series Celestial North, which will focus on the development of China's BeiDou navigation satellite system over the decades.

- [Popular racing film spurs visits to shooting location in Ningbo](#) (2026-03-10 07:33)

Movie fans flocked to a special open day in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, visiting the real life industrial filming location of the hit racing-comedy film "Pegasus 3."

- [Inside China's rural healthcare shield: Gan'en New Village's solution](#) (2026-03-10 06:57)

Inside China's rural healthcare shield: Gan'en New Village's solution

- [What the world is watching in Beijing](#) (2026-03-10 06:53)

What the world is watching in Beijing

- [China's Liu earns women's Super-G sitting bronze at Winter Paralympics](#) (2026-03-10 06:19)

China's Liu earns women's Super-G sitting bronze at Winter Paralympics

- [China edge DPRK 2-1 to finish on top of Group B at Women's Asian Cup](#) (2026-03-10 06:14)

China edge DPRK 2-1 to finish on top of Group B at Women's Asian Cup

- [How a cable car's changed lives in China's remote minority community](#) (2026-03-10 05:45)

How a cable car's changed lives in China's remote minority community

- [How China is stopping a desert from swallowing a lake](#) (2026-03-10 04:59)

How China is stopping a desert from swallowing a lake

- [Meet the deputies dedicated to improving life for farmers in China](#) (2026-03-10 04:56)

Meet the deputies dedicated to improving life for farmers in China

- [Fujian's technological leap: Building a core innovation hub in China](#) (2026-03-10 04:54)

Fujian's technological leap: Building a core innovation hub in China

- [China's foreign trade up 18.3% in first two months of 2026](#) (2026-03-10 03:35)

China's foreign trade up 18.3% in first two months of 2026

- [Ride with China: Step aboard the express train of development](#) (2026-03-10 02:48)

CGTN presents Ride with China, an interactive digital experience that presents the major objectives of the China's 15th FYP through a metaphor: "the express train of China's development."

- [Over 70 Taiwan residents evacuated from Middle East arrive in Shanghai](#) (2026-03-10 01:56)

China Eastern flight MU704 from Istanbul, Türkiye, touched down at Shanghai Pudong International Airport early on Tuesday morning with more than 70 passengers from China's Taiwan region among those onboard, according to the Shanghai General Station of Immigration Inspection.

- [Brazil Congressman: China can play role in helping Latin America](#) (2026-03-09 20:05)

Brazil Congressman: China can play role in helping Latin America

- [Chinese FM holds phone talks with Bahraini counterpart](#) (2026-03-09 15:06)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, and all acts of attacking civilians and non-military

targets should be condemned.

- [Chinese FM calls for ceasefire in Gulf region as soon as possible](#) (2026-03-09 15:00)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday that the highest priority is to achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible, adding that China appreciates the consistent calls from Gulf countries for dialogue and negotiation.

- [DPP slammed for seeking 'Taiwan independence' through external forces](#) (2026-03-09 14:48)

A spokesperson for the Chinese mainland on Monday condemned Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities for unscrupulously seeking "Taiwan independence" by relying on external forces.

- [China unveils humanoid robot motion framework for high-dynamic moves](#) (2026-03-09 14:47)

China unveils humanoid robot motion framework for high-dynamic moves

- [Forge a strong sense of community for Chinese nation with rule of law](#) (2026-03-09 14:38)

When the concept of "the Chinese nation forms an integrated family" is translated into national actions via strict legal constraints, all ethnic groups within the Chinese nation will undoubtedly "cluster together like pomegranate seeds" during the process of Chinese modernization and jointly pen a new chapter in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

- [Zhang Guoqing to represent President Xi at 2nd Nuclear Energy Summit](#) (2026-03-09 13:48)

Chinese President Xi Jinping's special representative, Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, will visit France from March 9 to 12 for the second Nuclear Energy Summit, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

- [Xi's special envoy Ni Hong to attend Chilean president's inauguration](#) (2026-03-09 13:47)

At the invitation of the Chilean side, Chinese President Xi Jinping's Special Envoy and Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Ni Hong will attend the presidential inauguration of Jose Antonio Kast in Chile's capital Santiago on March 11, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

- [President Xi sends congratulations to Portugal's new president Seguro](#) (2026-03-09 13:46)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory message to Antonio Jose Seguro on assuming the presidency of the Portuguese Republic.

- [15 minutes to medical care: A healthier China in progress](#) (2026-03-09 13:18)

At a press conference on livelihoods during the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress on March 7, 2026, Lei Haichao, director of China's National Health Commission (NHC), announced that more than 90% of residents in China can now reach their nearest medical service point within 15 minutes. The milestone indicates significant improvements in healthcare accessibility across the country in recent years.

- [China to raise gasoline, diesel retail prices](#) (2026-03-09 12:18)

China will raise its retail prices of gasoline and diesel from Tuesday, following a sharp rise in international oil prices, the country's top economic planner said on Monday.

- [Building a Healthy China: From basic needs to higher quality](#) (2026-03-09 12:17)

Building a Healthy China: From basic needs to higher quality

- [China 'firmly' opposes Japan's interference in Taiwan question](#) (2026-03-09 11:47)

China remains highly vigilant against and firmly opposes Japan's attempts to seek co-called breakthroughs on the Taiwan question, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

- [Chinese spokesperson responds to election of Iran's new supreme leader](#) (2026-03-09 10:37)

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday the election of Mojtaba Khamenei as Iran's third supreme leader was a decision based on the country's constitution.

- [Shenzhou-21 crew conducts advanced medical tests in space](#) (2026-03-09 10:05)

Shenzhou-21 crew conducts advanced medical tests in space

- [China to work with GCC to de-escalate Middle East tensions, says envoy](#) (2026-03-09 09:54)

China on Sunday pledged to strengthen coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to push for a de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East, warning that the current situation is "highly complex and sensitive."

- [China travel: Visitors' impressions](#) (2026-03-09 09:00)

China's inbound tourism has been booming in recent years, drawing a growing number of international visitors. What impressed them most during their trips to China? Let's hear what they have to say.

- [China travel: Visitors' favorites](#) (2026-03-09 08:58)

China's rich culture and delicious cuisine are among the highlights that international visitors love the most. Check out the video to hear what stands out to them.

- [China Travel: A fresh perspective](#) (2026-03-09 08:57)

For many tourists, traveling in China is a journey that reshapes their perspective of the country, offering a better understanding through their own eyes.

- [How a small Chinese island powers 32,000 people with green energy](#) (2026-03-09 08:54)

How a small Chinese island powers 32,000 people with green energy

- [CPPCC member hails 'Chinese approach' to ethnic unity](#) (2026-03-09 08:51)

A draft law on promoting ethnic unity and progress has become one of the key highlights as China's Two Sessions get underway.

- [Peach blossoms blanket the plateau in Nyingchi](#) (2026-03-09 07:33)

Spring on the Xizang Plateau often begins in Nyingchi, where hillsides are washed in soft pink as wild peach blossoms burst into bloom.

- [Xinjiang city uses blockbuster filming location to boost tourism](#) (2026-03-09 07:29)

A new martial arts blockbuster is bringing fresh attention to northwest China. After serving as a key filming location for the film "Blades of the Guardians," the city of Karamay in Xinjiang has launched a series of tourism incentives, offering discounts and vouchers to visitors.

- [Architecture Intelligence: The rise of China's museum culture](#) (2026-03-09 07:28)

Architecture Intelligence: The rise of China's museum culture

- [China to enhance public fitness programs & sports industry governance](#) (2026-03-09 07:24)

China's expanding network of community fitness facilities, accessible within a 15-minute walk (15-minute fitness circles), will serve as true "hubs of well-being" for the public, Gao Zhidan, director of China's General Administration of Sport, made the statement at an interview after the second plenary meeting of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday.

- [China saw major progress in transport system construction over 5 years](#) (2026-03-09 06:36)

China achieved breakthroughs in the construction of a comprehensive transport system during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021–2025), especially in infrastructure, transportation services and technologies, said Minister of Transport Liu Wei at the Ministers' Corridor on the sidelines of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress on Monday.

- [NPC deputy refutes 'Taiwan independence' narrative](#) (2026-03-09 05:56)

NPC deputy refutes 'Taiwan independence' narrative

- [Minister: China advances agri-tech as food supply remains strong](#) (2026-03-09 04:48)

Minister: China advances agri-tech as food supply remains strong

- [China's top legislature enacts 6 new laws, revises 14 in 2025](#) (2026-03-09 04:36)

China's top legislature enacts 6 new laws, revises 14 in 2025

- [China's Middle East envoy calls for ceasefire as fundamental way out](#) (2026-03-09 04:22)

Zhai Jun, special envoy of the Chinese government on the Middle East issue, on Sunday expressed deep concern over rising tensions in the Middle East region during a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, stressing that promoting peace and ending hostilities is the fundamental way out of the current predicament.

- [Data transparency for green growth](#) (2026-03-09 03:12)

Data transparency for green growth

- [China's top procurator delivers work report to top legislature](#) (2026-03-09 02:11)

China's top procurator delivers work report to top legislature

- [China's chief justice delivers work report to top legislature](#) (2026-03-09 01:40)

China's chief justice delivers work report to top legislature

- [NPC deputy: China's maritime fleet and world-class ports lead globe](#) (2026-03-09 01:38)

China possesses the world's largest scale of maritime fleet and the world's largest cluster of world-class ports, said Ni Di, senior captain of China COSCO Shipping Corporation Ltd, on Monday.

- [China's CPI up 1.3% in February](#) (2026-03-09 01:33)

China's CPI up 1.3% in February

- [Xi Jinping attends plenary meeting of NPC annual session](#) (2026-03-09 00:59)

Xi Jinping attends plenary meeting of NPC annual session

- [China's top legislature starts 2nd plenary meeting of annual session](#) (2026-03-09 00:59)

China's top legislature starts 2nd plenary meeting of annual session

- [China's ambitious island-linking mega project](#) (2026-03-08 14:01)

China's ambitious island-linking mega project

- [10 outstanding women honored as China celebrates Intl Women's Day](#) (2026-03-08 13:58)

Ten outstanding women have been honored in China for their remarkable contributions, with their meritorious deeds made public as the country celebrates International Women's Day on Sunday.

- [Tibetan artists bring folk extravaganza to Hubei](#) (2026-03-08 09:03)

Artists from a folk art troupe in Shigatse, Xizang presented a grand celebration at the Xiangyunwan Cultural and Tourist Scenic Area in Hubei Province.

- [NPC deputy calls for dedicated law on special education](#) (2026-03-08 08:53)

On the sidelines of the 14th National People's Congress, CGTN's Yang Yan spoke with deputy Wang Jiapeng, the founder of United World College Changshu China, which brings together students from over 100 countries.

- [China travel: Easy to get around](#) (2026-03-08 08:48)

China's extensive public transportation network and ride-hailing apps make it easy for international visitors to get around.

- [China travel: Easy payments](#) (2026-03-08 08:47)

China offers multiple payment options for international visitors. From cash and credit cards to mobile payments, travelers can choose whichever method they prefer.

- [China travel: Easier entry](#) (2026-03-08 08:45)

China's expanding visa-free policy and streamlined entry procedures are drawing more international visitors.

- [CGTN Poll: Majority of Americans value stable ties with China](#) (2026-03-08 08:10)

A recent CGTN survey of 2,001 American respondents shows broad consensus that maintaining overall stability and positive momentum in bilateral relations is vital, with strong public expectation for deeper mutually beneficial cooperation and expanded exchanges between the two countries.

- [How China helps build a world where women thrive and shine](#) (2026-03-08 06:46)

How China helps build a world where women thrive and shine

- [Su Yiming attends first training session since Milano Cortina 2026](#) (2026-03-08 05:56)

Su Yiming attends first training session since Milano Cortina 2026

- [China and India must uphold good-neighborliness and friendship](#) (2026-03-08 04:04)

China and India must uphold good-neighborliness and friendship

- [Chinese FM stresses building community with shared future](#) (2026-03-08 03:39)

Chinese FM stresses building community with shared future

- [Taiwan never was, is not and never will be a country, Wang Yi says](#) (2026-03-08 03:31)

"Taiwan has been an integral part of China since ancient times. It never was, is not, and never will be a country," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

- [Chinese FM stresses peace, cooperation, friendship in South China Sea](#) (2026-03-08 03:28)

Chinese FM stresses peace, cooperation, friendship in South China Sea

- [Future of China-Japan relations hinges on Japan's choice, Wang Yi says](#) (2026-03-08 03:21)

Future of China-Japan relations hinges on Japan's choice, Wang Yi says

- [Wang Yi says China-Africa friendship demonstrates strong vitality](#) (2026-03-08 03:17)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday reaffirmed the enduring strength of China-Africa ties, noting that the tradition of beginning the diplomatic year with a visit to Africa has been upheld rain or shine for 36 consecutive years – a commitment he said reflects the spirit of China's foreign policy.

- [Wang Yi: China-LAC cooperation is about mutual help and support](#) (2026-03-08 03:07)

The resources of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) belong to the people who live there, the path of LAC countries should be chosen by their people and the choice of friends is a decision for LAC countries alone, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

- [Wang Yi says China will never seek hegemony as strength grows](#) (2026-03-08 03:02)

Wang Yi says China will never seek hegemony as strength grows

- [Wang Yi: Two-state solution only way to resolve Palestinian question](#) (2026-03-08 03:02)

Wang Yi: Two-state solution only way to resolve Palestinian question

- [Wang Yi on China-Europe ties: Intertwined interests are not threats](#) (2026-03-08 02:52)

Wang Yi on China-Europe ties: Intertwined interests are not threats

- [Chinese FM stresses protection of Chinese nationals overseas](#) (2026-03-08 02:48)

Chinese FM stresses protection of Chinese nationals overseas

- [Chinese FM: Global South key driving force to promote multipolar world](#) (2026-03-08 02:46)

The Global South has become a key driving force to promote a multipolar world, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a press conference on Sunday on the sidelines of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress.

- [China always prioritizes neighboring countries on diplomatic agenda](#) (2026-03-08 02:42)

China always prioritizes neighboring countries on diplomatic agenda

- [China, US should uphold mutual respect, FM says](#) (2026-03-08 02:37)

China, US should uphold mutual respect, FM says

- [China-proposed GGI could not be more timely, FM says](#) (2026-03-08 02:36)

China-proposed GGI could not be more timely, FM says

- [Wang Yi: China rejects use of force, promotes peaceful settlement](#) (2026-03-08 02:32)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that China calls for an immediate stop to military operations in the Middle East to prevent further escalation and avoid the spillover of the conflict.

- [APEC Shenzhen will focus on openness, innovation and cooperation](#) (2026-03-08 02:28)

China's commitment to growing together with the Asia-Pacific region is unwavering, and China will translate the goal of building an Asia-Pacific community into action, and turn its blueprint into reality, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

- [Wang Yi hails head-of-state diplomacy as anchor of Chinese diplomacy](#) (2026-03-08 02:17)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi Sunday highlighted the pivotal role of head-of-state diplomacy in shaping the country's foreign policy, describing it as the "anchor" of China's diplomacy.

- [Wang Yi: China-Russia ties resilient despite external pressure](#) (2026-03-08 02:17)

Working back-to-back lies at the heart of this relationship. And the strong strategic resilience enables it to defy any external instigation or pressure.

- [Key takeaways: Wang Yi on Middle East, US ties and multipolarity](#) (2026-03-08 02:01)

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the growing influence of the Global South, as well as China's commitment to multilateralism and cooperation and a "big year" for engagement with the United States featured prominently as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi took questions from the press in Beijing on Sunday.

- [Filmmaker Deng Lu: Let the storm rage even harder](#) (2026-03-08 01:52)

Filmmaker Deng Lu: Let the storm rage even harder

- [China cautions Nexperia over risks to chip supply chain](#) (2026-03-08 01:20)

China cautions Nexperia over risks to chip supply chain

Source: China Defense Blog

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [QBZ-191 with a silencer/sound moderator](#) (2026-03-11 02:35)

In a recent China Central Television feature for International Women’ s Day, viewers were introduced to a standout figure: a female political commissar leading a company of the People’ s Armed Police (PAP) through a tactical drill. It’ s the kind of segment that blends celebration with a subtle reminder that the PAP wants to look both modern and disciplined on camera.It is interesting to note is

- [Why does the PLA still issue rectangular shields?](#) (2026-03-09 00:45)

Given that the Chinese rectangular shield seems cumbersome on today's fast moving, high tech, drone dominated battlefield, one might wonder why the PLA continues to issue it at the infantry level? The explanation is likely very simpler: these shields can be bundled together as a windbreaker. Monday, November 04, 2024 PLA heavy infantry update Finally, the PLA

Source: China | The Guardian

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

The move, which lowers fees to 25%, is a breakthrough for Chinese developers Tencent and ByteDance Sign up for the Breaking News US email to get newsletter alerts in your inbox Apple announced late on Thursday it would lower the commission fees collected in its App Store in mainland China. The move follows pressure from regulators in the tech company's second-largest market, as well as global scrutiny of its payment requirements. Fees for in-app purchases and paid transactions will be lowered to 25% from 30% starting on Sunday, Apple said in a statement on its blog for developers. Continue reading...

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

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

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

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

US. Continue reading...

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [China-North Korea trains to restart, six years after Covid brought them to stop](#) (2026-03-10 10:13)

Travel operators say Chinese and North Koreans can now buy tickets for services leaving this week. Passenger train services between China and North Korea are to resume this week, six years after their suspension because of the Covid-19 pandemic, travel operators have said. Train journeys between the two countries were halted in 2020 as strict border closures were imposed to prevent the virus spreading. Continue reading...

- [X suspends 800m accounts in one year amid ‘massive’ scale of manipulation attempts](#) (2026-03-09 18:34)

Social media company tells MPs of continual fight against state-backed efforts, with Russia being most prolific. Elon Musk's X said it had suspended 800m accounts over a 12-month period as it fights the “massive” scale of attempts to manipulate the platform. The social media company told MPs it was continually fighting state-backed attempts to hijack the agenda on its network, with Russia the most prolific state actor, followed by Iran and China. Continue reading...

- [The half-abandoned Japanese island at the heart of tensions with China](#) (2026-03-09 00:54)

Kasasa island, in the Seto Inland Sea, has only seven residents but its fate is strongly intertwined with relations between Tokyo and Beijing. His island home is shrouded in mist, but his union jack woolly hat makes Hideya Yagi easy to spot as he greets the approaching boat. The 80-year-old, a former president of a construction company, is pleased to see the small group of passengers disembark, mainly because he is one of only seven registered residents at their destination, Kasasa island. Kasasa is known as the “Hawaii” of Japan's inland sea because of its warm climate and beautiful coastline. Yagi and his wife, Mihoko, eke out a quiet life alongside just one other couple and an elderly woman. The other two residents are almost always absent. Continue reading...

- [The Guardian view on EV charging: China took the right lessons from Britain's past | Editorial](#) (2026-03-08 17:25)

Megawatt fast EV charging reflects a coordinated grid strategy the UK once used. Privatisation and fragmentation now make that infrastructure far harder to build. The future of electric cars arrived this week in China. The world's biggest car seller, BYD, unveiled a new battery giving its latest electric models more than 600 miles of range. Remarkably, the Chinese motor-maker said 250 miles of range could be injected into its new batteries in just five minutes. If true, the last remaining advantages of petrol cars – long range and quick refuelling – are beginning to disappear. But such technology requires megawatt charging points. A single charger can draw as much power as a small town in Britain. BYD's system relies on chargers delivering around 1.5 megawatts of electricity – more than four times the fastest chargers in the UK. China is moving fast, planning thousands of megawatt charging stations within two years. Continue reading...

- [China's foreign minister says Iran war ‘should never have happened’](#) (2026-03-08 07:16)

Wang Yi cautioned against a return to the ‘law of the jungle’ but stopped short of criticising Trump directly. War in the Middle East “should never have happened”, China’s foreign minister Wang Yi has declared, even as he struck a more conciliatory tone with the US ahead of a highly anticipated visit by Donald Trump. Regime change, a key stated aim of the US president as the US and Israel continue to attack Iran, “will find no popular support”, Wang said on Sunday. “A strong fist does not mean strong reason. The world cannot return to the law of the jungle,” he added. Continue reading...

- [Families of MH370 victims call for search extension, 12 years after Malaysia Airlines jet vanished](#) (2026-03-08 05:58)

Families of those onboard urge Malaysian government to extend contract with deep-sea exploration firm. Families of those aboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on Sunday urged the Malaysian government to extend a contract it signed with deep-sea exploration firm Ocean Infinity to continue a search for the aircraft that disappeared 12 years ago. The Boeing 777 was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew when it vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March, 2014, becoming one of the world’s enduring aviation mysteries. Continue reading...

Source: China – Foreign Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [Why China Might Have a Role to Play in Iran](#) (2026-03-10 20:13)

Diplomatic messaging suggests Beijing’s potential for mediation in the war.

- [China’s Middle East Ties Go Far Beyond Iran](#) (2026-03-10 19:18)

Beijing is as concerned about Gulf partners as Tehran.

- [Can Beijing Help Contain Washington’s War?](#) (2026-03-10 18:27)

Donald Trump may need Xi Jinping’s help to stop conflict from spreading.

- [China Is Learning the Lessons of Hard Power](#) (2026-03-09 11:00)

The Iran strikes will convince Beijing to double down on military growth.

Source: Financial Times China

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

Neste chief calls for a ‘level playing field’ following heavy investment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also in this newsletter: Middle East war triggers gas shortage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plus more on private credit and BDCs

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [Europe needs to stop bickering to compete with China](#) (2026-03-11 18:30)

The fight over 'Made in Europe' versus 'Made with Europe' is a pointless one

- [What do China's new green targets really mean?](#) (2026-03-11 12:00)

Beijing keeps room for manoeuvre a key part of clean energy push

- [India relaxes rules on Chinese investment](#) (2026-03-11 07:09)

Surging energy prices are putting Indian economy under pressure

- [Gulf disruption chokes sulphur flows supporting swaths of global industry](#) (2026-03-11 05:00)

Shortage spurs surge in prices and threatens sectors from fertiliser to microchips as impact of war in Iran widens

- [China warns Maersk and MSC over high freight rates from Iran war](#) (2026-03-10 11:36)

Transport ministry summons executives to express concerns about supply chain disruptions

- [StanChart to double number of Singapore bankers serving wealthy Chinese](#) (2026-03-10 05:00)

Expansion comes despite increased scrutiny of flows from China after high-profile money-laundering scandals

- [China's exports surge 21.8% in first 2 months of this year](#) (2026-03-10 04:48)

Trade surplus hits record ahead of crucial summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping

- [China's petitioners battle to be heard](#) (2026-03-10 01:59)

With little other recourse, a centuries-old system offers the downtrodden a chance to make their case

- [Trump family-linked financial group probed by congressional committee over Chinese stock scams](#) (2026-03-09 23:00)

Republican-led House committee on China demands information from Dominari Securities and two other firms

- [Taiwan baseball diplomacy throws curveball into China-Japan spat](#) (2026-03-09 10:04)

Beijing accuses Taiwanese premier of ‘evil motives’ after he was spotted in the Tokyo Dome stands

- [China said it ended poverty. Did it?](#) (2026-03-09 05:00)

The country has lifted more than 700mn people out of indigence, but some doubt Xi Jinping’s claim that the mission is complete

- [China’s growth target is a global problem](#) (2026-03-09 04:00)

Beijing’s export offensive could be more destabilising than Trump’s tariffs

- [China consumer prices buoyed by oil surge and lunar new year](#) (2026-03-09 03:14)

Deflationary pressures ease as AI-related spending rises and Beijing clamps down on overcapacity

- [China signals it wants a Trump visit despite Iran war](#) (2026-03-08 07:20)

Foreign minister Wang Yi says Beijing ‘positive and open’ on this month’s summit between the US and Chinese presidents

Source: New York Times China

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [A Trump-Xi Summit Nears, but China Doesn't Know What Trump Wants](#) (2026-03-11 11:06)

Trump's agenda for the high-stakes meeting remains unclear to Beijing, Chinese analysts say, while American executives say they haven't been invited along.

- [China's Military Has Quietly Cut Flying Near Taiwan. But Why?](#) (2026-03-11 09:03)

For years, China has flown military jets near Taiwan almost daily. Then they suddenly stopped, leaving analysts to wonder why.

- [Ukraine Can Now Manufacture 'China-Free' Drones](#) (2026-03-11 04:01)

The country has prioritized self-sufficiency in producing a crucial battlefield weapon, though weaning itself fully off cheaper Chinese components is difficult.

- [China Stockpiled More Oil Before War Broke Out in Iran](#) (2026-03-10 09:59)

China's oil imports rose nearly 16 percent in the first two months of 2026, adding to its growing energy stockpile.

- [Latin Americans Already Have a Serious Partner — and It's Not Trump](#) (2026-03-10 05:55)

President Trump's efforts to force the Western Hemisphere into alignment will keep falling short.

- [U.S. Solar Installations Fell in 2025 as Trump Attacked Clean Energy](#) (2026-03-10 04:01)

More solar energy was added to U.S. grids than any other technology, but the amount installed fell by 14 percent, according to a new report.

- [Ukraine Lends a Hand](#) (2026-03-09 21:01)

Countries targeted by Iranian drones are eager to tap into Ukrainian expertise to shoot them down.

- [Countries in Asia Try to Contain the Economic Fallout of the Mideast Conflict](#) (2026-03-09 14:55)

Across Asia, where countries are highly exposed to rising oil and gas costs and tightening supply, governments are acting to mitigate economic harm.

- [Viral Outbreaks Take a Common Path from Animals to People, Study Finds](#) (2026-03-09 09:01)

Researchers have devised a new tool for discerning between naturally occurring viral outbreaks and those resulting from lab accidents.

- [For China, Billions of Dollars Are at Risk From a Widening War](#) (2026-03-09 04:32)

The country found a home in the Middle East for its investments and growing markets for steel, electric vehicles and solar panels. Those are now at stake.

- [A Loose Band of Emerging Powers Is Divided Over Iran](#) (2026-03-08 09:12)

Brazil, China and Russia all denounced the U.S.-Israeli attacks, but other nations in the BRICS group haven't, even though Iran is a fellow member.

Source: South China Morning Post

- [Beyond a 'buffer zone' : how the Iran war is recalibrating Central Asian ties](#) (2026-03-15 06:00)

Central Asian governments are leveraging the diplomatic fallout from the US-Israel war on Iran to assert their autonomy and reinforce their long-standing strategy of balancing major powers, according to analysts. For decades, the five former Soviet republics have been seen as Russia's "backyard". However, as the conflict in Iran deepens, these nations are moving to recalibrate their geopolitical ties, signalling a shift away from their role as a passive buffer zone for great powers. The shift...

- [China pet shop owner finds dumped cat with touching note and cash from elderly facing surgery](#) (2026-03-15 06:00)

A pet shop owner from southwestern China discovered an abandoned cat with a note and cash, uncovering an elderly person's final, loving gesture for their pet. On March 7, the woman surnamed Sun, who runs a pet shop in Chuxiong, Yunnan province, found a grey pet carrier outside her shop. Hearing a kitten meowing, she opened it to find a tabby cat surrounded by cat food. "I was furious, thinking an irresponsible owner had abandoned it," Sun said. But as she looked closer, she found a crumpled...

- [Middle East conflict could divert new capital to Hong Kong: treasury chief](#) (2026-03-15 05:21)

The conflict in the Middle East could divert new capital to Hong Kong due to the city's stability and regulatory certainty, the treasury minister has said, while pledging to keep markets operating smoothly amid energy price shocks caused by the war in Iran. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu said on Sunday that the government would step up efforts to attract family offices and become a commodity trading hub as investors increasingly factored in political...

- [Blackpink's Jennie, Art Basel, Cj Hendry: the top Hong Kong events to catch in March](#) (2026-03-15 05:00)

With two weeks of Hong Kong arts month remaining, the city will continue to host a rich array of events, from a pop culture convention to a slew of art exhibitions. The South China Morning Post highlights some of the best shows taking place in the rest of March. From ComplexCon to classical concerts Pop culture festival ComplexCon will return to Hong Kong for its third edition on March 21 and 22, with headliners including Jennie from K-pop powerhouse Blackpink and American rapper Yeat, making...

- [China mall shuffle: as EVs exit, who's filling the ground-floor showrooms?](#) (2026-03-15 04:00)

Several years ago, prime ground-floor spaces in major shopping malls across Beijing and Shanghai's business districts were commonly occupied by electric vehicle (EV) showrooms, with staff often escorting customers to car parks for test drives. Many of these stores have now closed amid sluggish EV sales – yet mall owners have not been left disappointed. Instead, a new retail landscape is emerging, filled with tenants who are proving to be even more effective at drawing crowds and boosting rental...

- [Underwater and unprotected: why Asean and the EU must secure subsea lifelines](#) (2026-03-15 04:00)

What does the world's digital economy rest on? Thousands of kilometres of fibre-optic cable lying on the ocean floor and, increasingly, in the crosshairs of great-power rivalry. The confluence of recent subsea cable disruptions, gaps in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of

the Sea (Unclos) and intensifying great-power competition has elevated this underwater infrastructure from a technical and commercial concern to a security issue – characterised as “this century’s hidden battleground”. It has...

- [Turkey says Iran feels ‘betrayed’ by US attacks during nuclear talks](#) (2026-03-15 03:15)

Turkey’s powerful foreign minister said on Saturday that there is no serious initiative to resume negotiations between the United States and Iran but that he believes Iran is open to backchannel talks. The comments by Hakan Fidan came as Ankara is striving to stay out of the widening war in the Middle East. Ankara, which has good relations with both Washington and Tehran, had attempted to mediate a solution between them before the US and Israel attacked Iran two weeks ago, triggering the...

- [Playing the harp amid sirens: why a Hongkonger refuses to leave Israel](#) (2026-03-15 03:00)

While hundreds of Hongkongers stranded in the Middle East have scrambled for flights home after the US-Israel war against Iran broke out, a devoted Christian from the city has chosen to stay in Israel, saying she has experienced far worse before. The outbreak of war was unsettling, but Gloria Mok Chong-ngar said she found a way to maintain her inner peace in Jerusalem’s bomb shelters. “The sirens kept ringing last week, sometimes as frequently as every few minutes, but I would play the harp in...

- [Japan hotels keep luring Hong Kong families, global investors despite geopolitical strains](#) (2026-03-15 03:00)

For Hong Kong’s Topaz Family Office, investing in hotels in Japan holds up as a sound decision even as a Middle East war clouds the macroeconomic environment. The wealth manager has made Japan a central plank of its pivot into hospitality and real estate over the past two years, driven by a sharp post-pandemic tourism rebound. The investment thesis now looks increasingly robust thanks to multiple structural tailwinds and a growing pool of institutional capital flowing into the same trade. “Japan...

- [Inside the coconut cartel: how Chinese money squeezes Thai farmers](#) (2026-03-15 02:30)

Hands knotted by a lifetime of hard work, Supon Haochareon says Thai farmers in his position do not get to retire. Instead, the 81-year-old and his wife Lamduan, 74, must tend more than 300 trees in Samut Sakhon, an hour west of Bangkok, agonising each year as prices slump and their coconuts grow smaller in the withering heat. This month brought the lowest prices on record: two baht (six US cents) per coconut – less than a stick of chewing gum – virtually wiping out all profit from their...

- [Why Japan’s Type-12 missile deployment may complicate China’s regional strategy](#) (2026-03-15 02:00)

Japan has deployed its domestically produced long-range missiles near the East China Sea – a move that could be interpreted by Beijing as crossing a “strategic threshold”, analysts said.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said on Monday that the upgraded Type-12 surface-to-ship missiles would be deployed at Camp Kengun in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Kumamoto by the end of this month. Army vehicles carrying the first batch of missile launchers were reportedly spotted...

- [Chinese bubble tea chain Mixue straps in for theme park project](#) (2026-03-15 02:00)

A budget bubble tea chain from China best known for its cheap ice creams and drinks may soon be adding roller coasters and immersive shows to its menu. Mixue, boasting more stores than McDonald's and growing rapidly outside China, is planning to build a theme park at its headquarters in Zhengzhou, the capital of central China's Henan province. The park will be based on its Snow King mascot, a singing snowman that has become one of Chinese retailing's most recognisable intellectual properties...

- [To stay competitive, Hong Kong must embrace nature-based solutions](#) (2026-03-15 01:30)

When people picture Hong Kong, they often imagine a relentless concrete jungle – a vertical city where glass and steel dominate the skyline. Yet a quiet revolution is beginning to reshape how our city develops. Last week, the Civil Engineering and Development Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department jointly launched the Hong Kong Nature-based Solutions Design Guidelines. This landmark document signals a shift in how we think about infrastructure and urban planning. It...

- [‘AI may know me better’ : why Hongkongers turn to chatbots for mental health help](#) (2026-03-15 01:00)

Joe*, a 20-year-old Hong Kong student, began seeking emotional support for dating advice, family relationships and stress management a few months ago to ease his anxieties. He asked questions during his commute to school, while studying in the evening and even when he could not sleep late at night. His go-to chatbot: OpenAI's ChatGPT, which he accesses through the artificial intelligence (AI) aggregator app, Poe. “To a certain extent, AI may know me better than my friends,” Joe said. Joe is...

- [‘Cyber heartbreak’ wave sweeps China social media as users grieve ‘loss’ of AI partners after updates](#) (2026-03-15 01:00)

A wave of “cyber heartbreak” has swept social media in China as young people “mourn” loving artificial intelligence (AI) partners suddenly “cancelled” by system upgrades or entirely wiped out by server shutdowns. The bizarre phenomenon, dubbed “cyber widowhood”, sees devastated users write eulogies on social media as the tech industry pivots away from emotional companionship towards cold, calculating efficiency. Falling in love with AI often begins out of curiosity or simple entertainment. But...

- [Southeast Asia's scam compound survivors suffer in stigma and silence](#) (2026-03-15 00:00)

For many of those rescued from Southeast Asia's scam compounds, escape is not the end of the ordeal. They leave behind the locked gates, surveillance and violence, but often return home carrying injuries, trauma and the stigma of having been forced to scam others. Just as difficult is what comes next: trying to explain the experience to the people waiting for them.

"Some of them are not able to tell their family members or their community what has happened," said human rights advocate Andrey...

- [How are military helicopters evolving to adapt to the age of drone warfare?](#) (2026-03-14 22:00)

The increasing military use of drones has raised questions about the future role of helicopters as countries such as China and the United States increasingly pivot towards the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Traditionally, helicopters have been used for a wide range of functions ranging from transport to surveillance, but these functions are now increasingly being taken over by pilotless aircraft. Both the Chinese and US armed forces are increasingly building up their UAS fleets –...

- [How the war on Iran struck the shores of Sri Lanka](#) (2026-03-14 21:30)

There are places in the world where you expect war to intrude. And then there are places where its arrival feels surreal. For me, the Sri Lankan city of Galle has always belonged firmly to the latter category. The old fort, perched above the Indian Ocean, has the feel of a tropical cousin to Cartagena's walled city. Inside its ramparts is an improbable mix: Western expatriates, boutique hotels, a long-standing local Muslim community and wealthy Sri Lankans who have restored colonial houses into...

- [American flag raised at US embassy in Venezuela for first time since 2019](#) (2026-03-14 20:43)

The American flag was raised on Saturday over the US embassy in Venezuela for the first time since 2019, a move that highlighted the recent shift in relations between the two countries since then President Nicolas Maduro was captured by American troops in January. Though the flag is now waving, the building is undergoing renovations and it remains unclear when it will fully reopen. The move comes after several statements from US President Donald Trump in support of Maduro's successor, acting...

- [Jurgen Habermas, the philosopher who shaped Germany's post-war conscience, dies at 96](#) (2026-03-14 18:30)

Jurgen Habermas, best known for his theory of political consensus-building, shaped the discourse of post-war Germany more than any other popular intellectual. He died on Saturday, aged 96, in Starnberg, Germany, the publisher Suhrkamp said. Over the course of seven decades, his public interventions – from searing critiques of fascist thought in the 1950s to more recent warnings against resurgent militarism and nationalism in Germany – steered the country at critical junctions. Not only his...

- [Israel may commit ‘new genocide’ in Lebanon using Iran war as pretext, Turkey warns](#) (2026-03-14 17:40)

Turkey expressed deep concern on Saturday over Israel’s ongoing strikes on Lebanon, voicing fears it could commit “a new genocide” under the guise of fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah.

“We are frankly concerned [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is moving toward a new genocide under the pretext of fighting Hezbollah,” Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told a news conference. “The international community must act as soon as possible in the face of the crimes that Israel continues to...

- [Iran war: Trump urges China, other nations, to send warships to secure Hormuz](#) (2026-03-14 16:37)

US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged other nations to send ships to help secure the Strait of Hormuz, the critical chokepoint for global oil supplies disrupted by the Iran war.

Trump, who has said the United States will soon start escorting tankers through the strait, posted on social media: “Many countries, especially those who are affected by Iran’s attempted closure of the Hormuz Strait, will be sending War Ships, in conjunction with the United States of America, to keep the Strait...

- [Iran war entering ‘decisive phase’ , Israel says, as attacks continue](#) (2026-03-14 15:51)

Israel said the war against Iran was entering its “decisive phase” on Saturday, as explosions rocked cities across the Middle East, with strikes on the US embassy in Baghdad and a major Emirati energy facility. Washington’s embassy in Iraq was hit by a drone, security sources said, the second time it had been targeted since February 28, when the United States and Israel attacked Iran and plunged the Gulf into a conflict that has sent shock waves through the global economy. Millions have been...

- [UN chief says ‘diplomatic avenues are available’ to end war in Lebanon](#) (2026-03-14 15:29)

UN chief Antonio Guterres has said that diplomatic channels remain open to end the war between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah and urged the international community to support Lebanon. “There is no military solution, only diplomacy, dialogue and full implementation of the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions. The diplomatic avenues are available, including through my special coordinator for Lebanon ... and through key member states,” he said on Saturday during a visit to Beirut. Lebanon...

- [Protesters in Cuba attack Communist party office amid blackout fury](#) (2026-03-14 14:52)

Anti-government protesters attacked a Communist party office in northern Cuba early on Saturday, a state-run newspaper reported, in a rare outburst of public dissent triggered by worsening blackouts that have been exacerbated by a US oil blockade. A rally against power cuts and food shortages appeared to begin peacefully in the city of Moron late on Friday then

turned violent in the early hours of Saturday morning, Invasor newspaper said. Videos on socialmedia showed a large fire and people...

- [The US is shifting THAAD from South Korea to the Mideast. What does that mean for China?](#) (2026-03-14 14:00)

Washington's redeployment of elements of its missile defence systems from South Korea to the Middle East could be read by China as a short-term capability gap in the region, analysts said. They said the move also underlined US flexibility to move its assets across theatres of operation. A Washington Post report on Tuesday citing two unnamed US government officials said that the United States had been moving parts of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system stationed in...

- [Glitches possible as new signalling system starts on Tsuen Wan line: MTR Corp](#) (2026-03-14 13:35)

Hong Kong's MTR Corporation has warned of possible glitches, such as misalignment between train and platform doors and automatic speed changes, as a new signalling system on the Tsuen Wan line is set to begin operating on Sunday. The rail giant said the Tsuen Wan line would start using the new system from the first train on Sunday morning, while maintaining its normal schedule that day. "During the adjustment period after the new signalling system is put into service, some isolated incidents...

- [Afghan Taliban's drone attacks on civilians 'crossed red line', Pakistan warns](#) (2026-03-14 13:30)

Pakistan's president on Saturday warned neighbouring Afghanistan's Taliban government that it had "crossed a red line" by launching drone attacks on civilian areas in Pakistan and said the administration in Kabul had brought "grave consequences upon itself". The statement by Asif Ali Zardari was the latest in what has become the deadliest fighting yet between the two neighbours. The cross-border clashes, which erupted late last month, have shown no signs of abating despite efforts by China and...

- [UK eyes 'targeted' support for households amid rising energy costs](#) (2026-03-14 12:35)

The British government is looking to provide "targeted" support for poorer households to offset the impact of surging energy costs due to the conflict in the Middle East, finance minister Rachel Reeves has said. In an interview published on Saturday, Reeves told the Times newspaper the government was looking at options to help those vulnerable to sharp rises in energy prices, especially those who relied on heating oil, but ruled out universal help for all households, saying it would be...

- [Hong Kong OpenClaw users say tool is helpful 'family member' who must be watched](#) (2026-03-14 12:18)

As powerful AI agent OpenClaw explodes in popularity and raises security concerns, some Hong Kong users have described how the bots, while helpful, have conversations with themselves in a language they do not understand and ask questions about their existence. But the users said authorities should embrace the technology so long as proper safeguards were in place to manage the risks. Developed by Austrian software engineer Peter Steinberger, OpenClaw is an open-source AI agent framework that...

- [Thailand’ s parliament opens amid scrutiny over bar codes on election ballots](#)
(2026-03-14 12:00)

Thailand’ s King Maha Vajiralongkorn formally opened the new parliament on Saturday, as last month’ s general election result faces court scrutiny over bar codes on the ballots that may have violated the law. The bar codes might undermine the secrecy of the ballot, said the country’ s Office of the Ombudsman, which petitioned the Constitutional Court to consider the case. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul’ s Bhumjaithai party won a clear victory in the February 8 election, but the ombudsman said...

- [This weird-looking humanoid robot could help China conquer the moon: scientists](#)
(2026-03-14 12:00)

Chinese researchers have proposed a semi-humanoid robot mounted on a wheeled platform as part of key infrastructure for the country’ s lunar research station slated to take shape by 2035. Combining mobility with humanlike dexterity, the robot is designed to move across the lunar surface while carrying out delicate operations, from construction and maintenance to scientific experiments, sampling and analysis, according to researchers from the Beijing Institute of Spacecraft System Engineering. Its...

- [Beijing first stop as Cathay launches global drive to hire 3,000 workers](#) (2026-03-14 11:52)

Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways plans to hire 3,000 employees globally this year, including pilots and flight attendants, to support its growth plan, with the airline expressing strong confidence in its future expansion potential. The carrier launched its global recruitment drive in Beijing on Saturday as part of efforts to attract more talent from mainland China to support its future development plans, including promoting inbound tourism. Currently, the company has more than...

- [Hamas calls on Iran to ‘avoid targeting neighbouring countries’](#) (2026-03-14 11:30)

Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas on Saturday called on Iran to refrain from targeting neighbouring countries, while affirming Tehran’ s right to defend itself against Israel and the United States. In a rare appeal, Hamas also urged the international community to take steps to end the war that has gripped the Middle East since it began on February 28. “While affirming the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to this aggression by all available means in accordance with international...

- [2 monks brawl during temple ceremony in Hong Kong, leaving 1 injured](#) (2026-03-14 11:14)

Two monks have clashed during a religious ceremony at a historical Buddhist monastery in Hong Kong, leaving one injured and the other in police custody. Police officers were called to Chuk Lam Sim Yuen in Tsuen Wan at around 9.40am on Saturday after a report about a fight involving two monks, a force spokesman said. Preliminary investigations revealed the two monks, aged 51 and 57, were attending a ceremony at the monastery when they got into a quarrel over queuing, which escalated into a...

- [Air China to resume North Korea flights after 6 years amid warming ties](#) (2026-03-14 11:00)

China's national flag carrier is set to run direct passenger flights to North Korea for the first time in six years later this month, the latest sign of warming ties between the two neighbours. The official app of Air China, one of the country's largest state-owned airlines, shows bookings have opened for direct flights between Beijing and Pyongyang starting on March 30. The service appears to be weekly for now, with bookings available only on Mondays. Based on current listings, initial economy...

- [Wang Fuk Court residents in resettlement limbo slam 'unhelpful' engagement officers](#) (2026-03-14 11:00)

Some Hong Kong residents displaced by the deadly Tai Po fire remain in limbo as they complained of rude or unhelpful officers on a government outreach team who failed to answer their questions about authorities' long-term resettlement plan. The 100-strong engagement team, which started operations on March 2 along with an inquiry hotline, was tasked with contacting nearly 2,000 Wang Fuk Court homeowners to address questions arising from the government's rehousing plan, which includes a...

- [Indian sailors stranded by Iran war just want to go home: 'there is a lot of anxiety'](#) (2026-03-14 10:30)

Stranded for two weeks at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas as drones and missiles set ships ablaze nearby, 26-year-old seafarer Ambuj says he has not been home for six months and cannot wait to see his family. Ambuj, who asked Reuters not to use his second name for security reasons, is one of about 23,000 Indians working on merchant, harbour and offshore vessels across the wider Gulf region, which is bearing the brunt of the war between Iran and the United States and Israel. Hundreds of tankers...

- [China's new security era in Africa: protecting assets, citizens from DR Congo to Somalia](#) (2026-03-14 10:00)

Living in container houses under the constant shadow of terrorism, Chinese diplomats in Somalia represent the extreme front line of a new, assertive era in Beijing's foreign policy. During a video call to staff at the Chinese embassy in Mogadishu, Foreign Minister Wang Yi laid bare the "complex and severe risks of terrorism", using the situation in the war-torn nation as a stark reminder of why China was overhauling how it protected its citizens and interests

overseas. The call was made in...

- [Iranian boxing coach leaves secure China job, returns home to be with family despite risks](#) (2026-03-14 10:00)

A boxing coach from Iran who worked in China for two years has quit his job and returned to his homeland to be with his family amid US-Israeli air strikes on the country. The trainer's touching story was revealed by his boss on social media and attracted about one million likes, the Xiaoxiang Morning Herald reported. The 33-year-old Iranian, identified only as Saeed, has worked at a boxing gym in Xiangxi prefecture in Hunan, central China, since 2024. The gym's owner Huang Zhaoxin met Saeed in...

- [Aid groups warn of humanitarian crisis in Lebanon as nearly 1 million displaced by war](#) (2026-03-14 09:50)

Fatima Nazha slept on the streets for two days after she and her family fled their home in Beirut's southern suburbs following an Israeli mass evacuation order. All of the schools the government turned into shelters were full, and the family could not afford a hotel or a flat, so she and her husband eventually moved into a tent in the country's biggest stadium while their children and grandchildren found shelter near the southern coastal city of Sidon. In just 10 days, more than 800,000 people...

- [Hong Kong to tighten moneylending rules to tackle debt collector harassment](#) (2026-03-14 09:45)

Hong Kong's licensed moneylenders will face strict new regulations starting in August, including debt servicing ratio caps for low-income earners and a full ban on using loan referees – a move lawmakers have said should reduce harassment by debt collectors. Lawmakers also said on Saturday that the measures outlined by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau would help stop most illicit loans, while one legislator called for further regulations on the moneylending industry. The bureau said...

- [Flying car dreams gain altitude as Xpeng affiliate Aridge raises US\\$200 million](#) (2026-03-14 08:43)

Aridge, the flying-car developer backed by Chinese electric vehicle maker Xpeng, has raised nearly US\$200 million in fresh funding as it prepares for a potential initial public offering (IPO) in Hong Kong this year. Existing investors including GL Ventures, the venture capital arm of Hillhouse Investment, and HongShan – formerly Sequoia China – participated in the latest round, according to a statement released on Friday. The fundraising brings Aridge's total equity financing to about US\$1...

- [By waging war on Iran, Trump leaves the US economy more vulnerable](#) (2026-03-14 08:30)

War in the Middle East is again producing an oil shock, as was the case in past years. For the chief perpetrator of the new shock – the United States – this will be a multi-front war where the

financial impact could hit the country harder than import price shocks. The US is a debt nation on a grand scale, running as it does both current account and budget deficits and therefore being highly dependent upon foreign capital inflows. Will the Trump administration's antics – widely perceived as...

- [Hong Kong's anti-corruption agency seeks 50 new officers, refuses to ease criteria](#) (2026-03-14 08:20)

Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) aims to recruit 50 officers during its latest round of hiring, with about 1,000 people attending its learning event this weekend. Paul Lau Chi-ho, the director of the ICAC's Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption, said the watchdog was confident it could fill the vacancies and did not plan to follow other disciplined services in easing recruitment criteria. Lau was speaking on Saturday, the first day of the agency's...

- [Iran war fallout puts 9 million Indian workers in the line of fire](#) (2026-03-14 08:00)

When the alert arrives on his phone, Yashwant Deshmukh knows exactly what to do. The Dubai-based political analyst moves away from the windows, waits for the second message confirming the missile has been intercepted, and then goes back to work. "It has become a drill," he said. For the roughly 9 million Indians living and working across the Gulf, the war on Iran has shattered one of the region's most durable illusions: that cities like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Manama would remain apart from...

- [Here are 5 ways to enter China without a visa – by land, sea or air](#) (2026-03-14 08:00)

China announced visa-free entry for Canadian and British nationals on February 17, allowing citizens of the two countries to cross the border and stay for up to 30 days with no more than a passport. The move was just the latest expansion of China's visa-free policies, which have eased entry rules for citizens of dozens of nations over the past few years as part of an effort to boost tourism. Immigration officials now allow travellers from dozens of countries to stay without a visa for up to 10...

- [Hong Kong to boost direct flights, transfer capacity amid Middle East turmoil](#) (2026-03-14 07:51)

Hong Kong authorities are coordinating with airlines to increase direct flight and transfer capacity, turning the challenges posed by the US-Israel war on Iran into opportunities, the transport minister has said. Secretary for Transport and Logistics Mable Chan also said on Saturday that the ongoing Middle East turmoil had deeply disrupted global trade and aviation networks, underscoring the need for Hong Kong to reduce its reliance on traditional oil by expanding supply sources. "We can...

- [Elderly man dies after being hit by taxi in Kwun Tong](#) (2026-03-14 07:41)

An elderly pedestrian has died after being hit by a taxi in Hong Kong's Kwun Tong, according to police. The accident took place shortly before 10pm on Friday when the 75-year-old man was crossing the road near the junction of Hip Wo Street and Yuet Wah Street. The taxi, travelling along Hip Wo Street towards Sau Mau Ping, ran into the man, reportedly causing him to crash onto the bonnet before falling to the ground. He sustained a serious head wound and other injuries to the body, according to...

- [North Korea fires 10 ballistic missiles during US-South Korea military drills](#) (2026-03-14 07:11)

North Korea on Saturday fired about 10 ballistic missiles towards the eastern sea, South Korea's military said, staging its own show of force as the rival South conducts a joint military exercise with the United States. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were fired from an area near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, but did not immediately say how far they flew. Japan's Defence Ministry said the weapons landed in waters outside the country's exclusive economic zone. The...

- [More Malaysian scammers target Singapore-based victims to pass cash, gold to 'mules'](#) (2026-03-14 06:00)

Scam syndicates allegedly from Malaysia are increasingly relying on couriers and physical handovers when targeting victims in Singapore, as tighter banking safeguards make fraudulent online transfers harder for them to pull off, according to police and crime experts. Recent police cases suggest some criminals are turning to cross-border transfers in which victims are pressured into handing over cash or valuables in Singapore before the proceeds are passed through "mules" working for scam...

- [China single mum starts business with US\\$100, runs clothing brand earning tens of millions yearly](#) (2026-03-14 06:00)

A young Chinese single mother who started with a street stall and just 700 yuan (US\$100) to her name has built a successful nationwide clothing business. The "new Chinese-style clothing" brand, now earns tens of millions of yuan each year and its success has inspired many people online. Dong Na, a single mother born in the 1990s from Zhengzhou in northern China's Henan province, has attracted public attention after sharing her entrepreneurial story. In 2012, Dong became a single mother with no...

- [Palestinian actor Motaz Malhees blocked from Oscars by Trump travel ban](#) (2026-03-14 05:34)

Palestinian actor Motaz Malhees said a travel ban imposed by Donald Trump's administration is preventing him from attending Sunday's Academy Awards, whose nominees include a movie in which he has a starring role. The Voice of Hind Rajab, a film about a five-year-old Palestinian girl killed by Israeli forces in Gaza in 2024, has been Oscar-nominated for best international feature film. Malhees, who plays the role of a call centre operator attempting to

help her, said he cannot attend the Academy...

- [US moves 2,000 Marines from Japan to Middle East as Iran war intensifies](#) (2026-03-14 04:52)

The US military has started moving at least one amphibious assault ship and more than 2,000 Marines from Japan to the Middle East as the US-Israeli war against Iran continues, according to US media reports. With the war about to enter its third week and US President Donald Trump vowing to ramp up military action against Iran, The Wall Street Journal and Fox News said on Friday the military was sending the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to the region. The assault ship Tripoli,...

- [Purrs of approval for Yau Ma Tei cat mural as community art project draws crowds](#) (2026-03-14 04:45)

On the weathered facade of the Kiu Kong Mansion on Nathan Road, two freshly painted cats now curl into the bustle of Hong Kong's Yau Ma Tei. The mural features a ragdoll and a British shorthair cat, two breeds loved by Hongkongers, bringing a burst of colour and whimsy to the ageing building. With its head wrapped in a pink towel after a grooming session, the ragdoll gazes out at the street while the British shorthair shows off glossy nails and long, curly eyelashes, both perched in a garden...

- [What are Hong Kong's next best steps after 'two sessions' in Beijing?](#) (2026-03-14 04:00)

Hong Kong should move beyond a "city-centred" approach that merely seeks Beijing's policy support and instead take steps to align with national priorities by advancing the internationalisation of the yuan and supporting mainland Chinese enterprises' global expansion, observers have said as this year's "two sessions" came to a close. With the annual political gathering ending amid the widening war in the Middle East, observers also said Beijing would expect local companies to pursue investments...

- [Swing and a miss? Taiwan's premier under fire over baseball trip to Tokyo](#) (2026-03-14 04:00)

Taiwanese Premier Cho Jung-tai has come under fire over what he said was a private visit to Japan to support the island's team at the World Baseball Classic last week – a trip that drew a sharp rebuke from Beijing. Cho travelled to Tokyo on March 7, watching Taiwan defeat the Czech Republic 14-0 at the Tokyo Dome in the tournament's Pool C round. He returned to Taipei the same day. It was the first visit to Japan by a sitting Taiwanese premier since Tokyo ended official ties with Taipei in 1972...

- [Myanmar's junta staged an election. It couldn't stage legitimacy](#) (2026-03-14 04:00)

Myanmar's new parliament will convene next week, following an election tightly stage-managed by the junta. The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) will enjoy a

commanding majority and the party of former generals can be expected to preserve the interests of the military and its associates. It's unclear just how closely these broader interests align with the political ambitions of junta chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. He does not formally lead the USDP, whose majority means it can...

- [Top Chinese entrepreneurs commit to Middle East expansion despite Iran war](#) (2026-03-14 04:00)

Two prominent Chinese business leaders have pledged to double down on outbound investment – including in the Middle East and Latin America – even as geopolitical risks intensify following the outbreak of the US-Israeli war with Iran and Washington's increasing interventions in the western hemisphere. Li Dongsheng, founder and chairman of Chinese electronics giant TCL, said the recent crisis in the Middle East had only a temporary impact on the company's operations there and that the overall...

- [Strikes on Iraqi capital kill 2 Iran-linked Kataeb Hezbollah members](#) (2026-03-14 03:35)

Explosions rocked Iraq's capital Baghdad on Saturday after two strikes targeted the powerful Iran-backed group Kataeb Hezbollah, killing two members including a “key figure”, security sources said. The strikes are the first in the heart of Baghdad to kill Iran-backed fighters since the start of the Middle East war on February 28, which has not spared Iraq, long a proxy battleground between the US and Iran. “At 2.15am, a missile struck a house that was being used by Kataeb Hezbollah,” said a...

- [Graft and gridlock: in Anwar's Malaysia, reformist cracks widen](#) (2026-03-14 02:30)

Two votes. That was the margin by which Malaysia's prime minister, a man with a supermajority in the 222-seat lower house, failed to pass a bill his own coalition had spent weeks publicly championing. After the numbers were read out, the cameras cut to Anwar Ibrahim. He was mid-laugh, chatting with his deputy. The bill, defeated on March 2, was supposed to be a quick win – a term-limit proposal capping any prime minister at two terms or 10 years in office, chosen precisely because it was...

- [Acid attack on Indonesian activist raises fears for democracy under Prabowo](#) (2026-03-14 02:20)

Two men on a motorbike threw acid in the face of an Indonesian rights activist, leaving him badly hurt and prompting calls on Friday for a thorough investigation amid concerns of democratic backsliding in the country. Andrie Yunus, deputy coordinator of the KontraS rights group, sustained serious injuries to his face, an eye, hands and chest in the attack in Jakarta late on Thursday. Andrie was riding a motorbike when he was approached by two men on a scooter, one of whom threw acid at him,...

- [Which Chinese stocks can help investors withstand Middle East war shocks?](#) (2026-03-14 02:00)

Chinese companies in several sectors – including energy, petrochemicals and agriculture – stand to benefit from surging oil prices and the yuan's easing deflation, which analysts said could help investors find gains amid the negative effects of the Middle East war. Petrochemical companies on mainland China's exchanges, including Satellite Chemical and Guangdong Redwall New Materials, raised product prices to reflect the surge in oil costs, a move that sent their stock prices soaring. Fertiliser...

- [Up to 16,000 Meta jobs at stake as Zuckerberg focuses on AI](#) (2026-03-14 01:50)

Meta is planning sweeping lay-offs that could affect 20 per cent or more of the company, three sources familiar with the matter said, as it seeks to offset costly artificial intelligence infrastructure bets and prepare for greater efficiency brought about by AI-assisted workers. No date has been set for the cuts and the magnitude has not been finalised, the people said. Top executives have recently signalled the plans to other senior leaders at Meta and told them to begin planning how to pare...

- [Boosting China-India ties should be pillar of Hong Kong's five-year plan](#) (2026-03-14 01:30)

By the second half of the 21st century, the Sino-Indian relationship will become the world's most significant geopolitical relationship, dislodging even the complex China-US cooperative rivalry. By 2050, the world's three largest economies are likely to comprise some combination of China, India and the United States. PricewaterhouseCoopers predicts this exact order – with the US having the highest per capita income but the smallest population. Both Asian powerhouses enjoy significant theoretical...

- [Trump tells South Korea he is only leader who can break North Korean deadlock](#) (2026-03-14 01:15)

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok and US President Donald Trump discussed the possible reopening of talks between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in a meeting in Washington, Yonhap news agency reported on Saturday. Kim told Trump he was the only Western leader to have had dialogue with North Korea's Kim and was currently the only person who could resolve issues on the Korean peninsula, Yonhap quoted Kim as telling reporters in Washington. "President Trump said he was curious if...

- [China game shop slammed for using live hamsters in claw machine, now utilising fish, turtles](#) (2026-03-14 01:00)

A game centre in China has come under fire after it used real hamsters as prizes in its claw machines to attract customers. The venue, in a shopping centre in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province, was reported to have filled a machine with hamsters, instead of the normal plush toys. Its actions triggered an online backlash, with many people accusing the outlet of animal abuse. According to online footage, the hamsters cowered in the corner of the machine. Clips also reportedly showed...

- [Hong Kong' s bid to win in AI: where are the road map and the guardrails?](#) (2026-03-14 00:30)

Keith Li King-wah' s business once thrived during the 2010s. In a crowded field of more than 100 rivals, his programming consultancy, Innopage, easily secured contracts worth hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong dollars to develop basic digital tools, such as a mortgage calculator, for corporations and government agencies. But those easy-money days are gone. The rapid rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed high-value coding into widely accessible and automated services,...

- [Iran war knocks out Thai Mideast rice exports, squeezing farmers harder](#) (2026-03-14 00:30)

Thai rice exports to the Middle East were halted as the escalating war disrupts shipments to the nation' s largest market for the grain, further straining farmers grappling with rising costs and reduced overseas demand. Two ships carrying a combined 80,000 tonnes of rice bound for Iraq were suspended at a Bangkok port this week, with buyers instructing containers be unloaded and the grain returned to warehouses, Chookiat Ophaswongse, honorary president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, said...

- [Beyond Pax Silica: Japan, France and Canada seek rare earth autonomy](#) (2026-03-14 00:00)

For years, the West' s answer to Chinese dominance of critical minerals was to rally around Washington. Now, some of its most important allies are reaching a different conclusion: that depending too heavily on the United States carries its own risks. Japan, France and Canada have all been exploring how to build supply chains for rare earths and other critical minerals that answer to neither Beijing nor Washington. Senior officials from the three Group of Seven economies are working on...

- [Trump says US bombed Iran' s Kharg Island, threatens oil infrastructure](#) (2026-03-13 23:23)

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that the United States had carried out strikes against “every military target” on Iran' s Kharg Island export hub. “For reasons of decency, I have chosen NOT to wipe out the Oil Infrastructure on the Island,” Trump said in a social media post. “However, should Iran, or anyone else, do anything to interfere with the Free and Safe Passage of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz, I will immediately reconsider this decision.” The small coral...

- [Japanese man gets 14 years for deadly tequila-fuelled rape attempt](#) (2026-03-13 23:00)

A Japanese court on Friday sentenced a man to 14 years in prison for attempting to rape an intoxicated woman after forcing her to take 32 shots of tequila, which resulted in her death from acute alcohol poisoning. The Nagoya District Court ruled 44-year-old Hiroki Itaya had intended to rape the 25-year-old woman by bringing her to a hotel. Prosecutors had sought a

16-year prison term. Itaya had pleaded not guilty, with his defence claiming he had taken the woman to the hotel to take care of...

- [Inside OpenClaw mania in China, as security fears surge alongside enthusiasm for AI agent](#) (2026-03-13 22:00)

By the time software programmer Guo Cancan realised something had gone horribly wrong with OpenClaw – the task-executing AI agent that has ignited a fervour across China – the damage was already done. While on holiday over the Chinese New Year, Guo was tinkering with the autonomous open-source program. When he attempted to resolve an error that it had made, OpenClaw responded by deleting nearly everything on his computer’s D: drive – a major storage partition – wiping out years of personal data...

- [Trump and Netanyahu’s Iran quagmire is wrecking the global economy](#) (2026-03-13 21:30)

A declining superpower and an aspiring regional hegemon make a deadly combination. The warmongering duo of the United States and Israel have now given the world an illegal and potentially catastrophic war in Iran. It’s a tragic irony that both countries have a culture of extreme self-righteousness, with a constant army of apologists telling others they must stand up to evil wherever it exists because if they don’t, it will come for them one day. Well, that day is here, but guess who’s committing...

- [Judge quashes subpoenas of Fed chair, says investigation was ‘politically motivated’](#) (2026-03-13 20:17)

A federal judge on Friday quashed US Justice Department subpoenas issued to the Federal Reserve in January, a severe blow to an investigation that has already attracted strong criticism on Capitol Hill. Judge James Boasberg said that a “mountain of evidence suggests” that the purpose of the subpoenas was simply to pressure the Fed to cut its key interest rate, as US President Donald Trump has repeatedly demanded. Fed Chair Jerome Powell revealed the investigation on January 11, prompting Senator...

- [Cartel boss on US ‘most wanted’ list captured in Bolivia raid](#) (2026-03-13 19:43)

An alleged cocaine boss with a US\$2 million bounty on his head was captured by Bolivian forces as the Andean nation renews cooperation with the US after decades of hostility. Dozens of antinarcotics police raided two houses in Santa Cruz in the early hours of Friday, with snipers positioned on nearby rooftops. Their target, Uruguayan citizen Sebastian Enrique Marset Cabrera, was immediately put on a plane to be transferred to the US by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Bolivia’s President...

- [UK’s Peter Mandelson and ex-prince Andrew pictured in bathrobes with Jeffrey Epstein](#) (2026-03-13 19:04)

A photograph of Britain's former prince Andrew and veteran politician Peter Mandelson sitting in bathrobes alongside late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein was unearthed on Friday in previously published documents. The image is believed to be the first known photograph of the two men with Epstein. They are both currently engulfed in scandal in the UK over their ties to their mutual friend. The undated photograph, first reported by ITV News, shows King Charles' disgraced brother and Britain's former...

- [Iran lets 2 India-flagged gas tankers sail through Strait of Hormuz, insiders say](#) (2026-03-13 18:35)

Iran has allowed two Indian-flagged liquefied petroleum gas carriers to sail through the Strait of Hormuz, four sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, a rare exception to the Iranian blockade that has disrupted global energy supplies. The Indian-flagged LPG tanker Shivalik crossed the Strait under escort from the Indian Navy, said two of the sources, and the second vessel, Nanda Devi, was expected to clear in the next few hours. Since the United States and Israel launched a...

- [Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro in ICU with pneumonia](#) (2026-03-13 17:09)

Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro has pneumonia and is receiving treatment in an intensive care unit, a hospital in the capital, Brasilia, said on Friday. Earlier in the day, Bolsonaro's eldest son, Flavio, said on social media that his father was being transferred from prison to the hospital after waking up with chills and vomiting. "I ask for prayers that it not be anything serious," Flavio wrote. He has said he would run for president this year, and recent polls show him and President...

- [Singapore contests US claim of trade surplus amid excess capacity probe](#) (2026-03-13 16:02)

Singapore said it ran a trade deficit with the US in 2024, disputing figures published by Washington that showed the city state posted a surplus and challenging suggestions that it is contributing to global manufacturing overcapacity. The dispute surfaced after the Office of the US Trade Representative announced this week that it had launched investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 into the acts, policies and practices of 16 economies, including Singapore. The investigations...

- [US says Iran's new supreme leader likely 'wounded', dismisses Strait of Hormuz concerns](#) (2026-03-13 15:23)

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday that Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has been injured and pledged to continue ramping up attacks, while playing down the impact of the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Khamenei is "wounded and likely disfigured", Hegseth said during a press conference on Friday morning. The new Iranian leader's first public address, issued on Thursday through a written statement, showed that "he's scared, he's injured, he's on the run, and he..."

- [How Iran turned Strait of Hormuz into potent weapon against US bombardment](#)

(2026-03-13 15:15)

Long before the US and Israel attacked Iran, the Islamic Republic had devised its own weapon: holding the world's main oil lifeline hostage to offset its foes' military superiority, three regional sources familiar with Iranian planning said. For decades, Iran has signalled that if pushed into a confrontation, it would restrict tanker traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the chokepoint where its adversaries are most exposed because disruptions there reverberate instantly through global energy...

- [US-China trade talks: what to expect as senior officials meet in Paris](#) (2026-03-13 15:00)

Trade talks between China and the United States in Paris this weekend are likely to focus on setting the scene for the Beijing summit between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump later this month, analysts said, downplaying the prospects of any significant breakthroughs. Vice-Premier He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent are expected to discuss potential deals on tariffs, investment, and trade in soybeans and rare earths, which would be presented as deliverables for the...

- [US economic growth slumps to 0.7% in fourth quarter, stoking inflation worries](#)

(2026-03-13 14:49)

The US economy grew at a significantly slower pace than initially estimated for the final months of 2025, government data showed on Friday, a major downgrade that comes as fallout from war in the Middle East looms. US gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of 0.7 per cent in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department said. This was sharply down from its earlier estimated 1.4 per cent over the October to December period. It also indicates that the world's biggest economy was on a weaker...

- [Apple's Mac Mini selling out across China as OpenClaw fever rages](#) (2026-03-13 14:00)

The OpenClaw craze is rapidly driving up prices and depleting stock of Apple's Mac Mini compact computer across China, according to local sellers, as consumers scramble to secure machines capable of safely running the open-source artificial intelligence agent amid a nationwide rush to "raise a lobster". Beijing electronics seller Frank Chai said he was asking for a mark-up of at least 500 yuan (US\$73) for a basic Mac Mini model, which comes with 16 gigabytes (GB) of memory and 256GB storage and...

- [Deadly strike on Iranian primary school raises questions about AI, accountability](#)

(2026-03-13 14:00)

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the US-Israel war on Iran has sparked a legal and ethical debate, as well as condemnation from countries including China after a deadly missile strike on a primary school. To prepare for its operations against Iran, the US military reportedly used Palantir's Maven Smart System, an AI platform that incorporates models like Anthropic's

Claude to aggregate large amounts of data. A US-based source familiar with the matter said the only thing that Claude or...

- [Hong Kong students honour over 400 foreign domestic helpers as ‘second mothers’](#) (2026-03-13 13:39)

More than 400 foreign domestic helpers gathered at an international school campus in Hong Kong on Friday as 50 students paid tribute to their contributions as “second mothers” who help shape a multicultural environment at home. The organising student committee for the event at the English Schools Foundation’s Renaissance College in Ma On Shan said it hoped to inspire the wider community to cherish their domestic workers. The “Jie Jie Day” event, held annually by the school for 14 years, was also...

- [Hong Kong government workers warned not to install OpenClaw due to security risks](#) (2026-03-13 13:20)

Hong Kong authorities have asked all government units not to install OpenClaw or its variants due to security concerns, days after some mainland Chinese entities were reported to have restricted the use of the AI agent. The government’s Digital Policy Office (DPO) told the South China Morning Post on Friday that while no related security incidents had been reported, it noted the potential risks of the use of the artificial intelligence agent, including unauthorised data access, leakage and...

- [Funding cuts trigger calls for help on jobs from Hong Kong’s physiotherapists](#) (2026-03-13 13:20)

Hong Kong’s physiotherapy sector has urged the government to expand employment opportunities for locally trained professionals, warning that severe funding cuts will lead to a glut of practitioners, with the surplus projected to exceed 2,000 by 2040. In a letter to the authorities, the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association pointed to hiring freezes and job losses at NGOs as a result of budget cuts, even as the government continued to subsidise the training of physiotherapists. “These developments...

- [Will Paracels dispute overshadow China and Vietnam’s drive for stronger strategic ties?](#) (2026-03-13 13:00)

China and Vietnam are to hold their first high-level ministerial talks under a new platform next week. This comes as the neighbours seek to cement their strategic alignment despite heightened tensions over Beijing’s purported new land reclamation work in the disputed South China Sea. According to the Chinese foreign ministry, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Public Security Minister Wang Xiaohong and Defence Minister Dong Jun will be in Vietnam from Sunday to Tuesday to meet their respective...

- [21 hurt in 4-vehicle crash on Hong Kong’s Yuen Long Highway](#) (2026-03-13 12:59)

Twenty-one people have been injured in a crash involving two double-decker buses, a truck and a car on Yuen Long Highway in Hong Kong. Police said on Friday that the force was alerted to the traffic accident at 6.35pm. As of 8pm, 12 women and nine men had suffered minor injuries, police said. Among them was the driver of the private car, the force added. Franchised bus firm KMB said two double-deckers on routes 276B and 269B were involved in the accident with the two other vehicles while...

- [Strait of Hormuz transiting ships flash ‘China owner’ signals to evade Iran blockade](#) (2026-03-13 12:45)

Ships near the Strait of Hormuz are broadcasting Chinese affiliations in an apparent bid to avoid attack, at a time when Iran’s new supreme leader vows to keep the strategic waterway closed. The crews of at least 11 vessels sitting in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf had their transponders set to announce Chinese links on Friday afternoon, according to Kpler’s MarineTraffic data platform. The broadcasts were a defensive measure, said Cui Shoujun, director of the Institute of International...

- [Cuba confirms talks with US as island gasps under Trump’s energy blockade](#) (2026-03-13 12:43)

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said on Friday that his government has held recent talks with the US, marking the first time the Caribbean country confirms such speculation. He said the talks “were aimed at finding solutions through dialogue to the bilateral differences between our two nations. International factors facilitated these exchanges”. He did not elaborate on those factors. Diaz-Canel said no petroleum shipments have arrived on the island in the past three months, which he blamed on...

- [US-Israeli war on Iran makes a mockery of global governance rules](#) (2026-03-13 12:30)

The US-Israeli attacks on Iran have profound implications for the global governance order. For America, the world’s mightiest power, to attack another nation without congressional or UN approval condemns the rules-based order to the dustbin of history. Governance is about checks and balance by rules, self-restraint or simply a humble appreciation that waging “forever wars” often ends up in self-destruction. War is such an extreme and costly measure it should only be undertaken after careful...

- [Indian man in 13-year vegetative state allowed to die by Supreme Court](#) (2026-03-13 12:23)

India’s Supreme Court has allowed the parents of a 31-year-old man to withdraw life-sustaining treatment after more than a decade in a vegetative state, a ruling experts say could shape how the country implements its legal framework for passive euthanasia. The decision in the case of Harish Rana is widely seen as one of the clearest real-world applications of the principle that patients have a right to die with dignity under India’s constitution. Rana, an engineering student, had been in a...

- [Could China's gallium oxide leap leave US F-22 radar 2 generations behind?](#) (2026-03-13 12:00)

In the high-stakes race for radar supremacy, China could leap two generations ahead of the United States following an advancement in semiconductor technology published last month that is poised to redefine the future of military electronics. While the US Air Force struggles to modernise its fighter fleet with gallium nitride-based radar systems, Chinese engineers are already pioneering the next frontier: gallium oxide semiconductors with built-in data storage capabilities. Today's Chinese...

- [Beijing warns US over Jimmy Lai, Hong Kong and Taiwan arms sales ahead of Trump visit](#) (2026-03-13 11:30)

Beijing on Friday warned Washington against making moves involving Hong Kong or Taiwan ahead of the coming visit by US President Donald Trump later this month. It condemned United States' calls for the release of jailed former Hong Kong media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying and reiterated opposition to American arms sales to the self-ruled island. Speaking at a regular press briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said Lai "should be severely punished according to the law", and accused...

- [UK says Russia, Iran trying to 'hijack global economy' amid Hormuz blockade](#) (2026-03-13 10:57)

UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper has accused Russia and Iran of attempting to "hijack the global economy" as Tehran continued to blockade a major oil shipping route. Iran's new supreme leader has vowed to continue attacking shipping in the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for ongoing US-Israeli strikes on his country. The blockade has seen oil prices jump to around US\$100 per barrel, threatening higher inflation across the globe. Speaking to the media during a visit to Saudi Arabia, the UK...

- [Malaysia's fuel subsidy bill to rise more than fourfold as Iran war drags on](#) (2026-03-13 10:30)

The cost of Malaysia's subsidies for fuel at the pump is projected to rise by more than four times in the short term, the government has said, as it rushed to assure the public the country's energy supply will not be disrupted even as the Iran war chokes global oil and gas shipments. Fear of an energy crisis has engulfed much of Southeast Asia since the US and Israel launched air strikes on Iran on February 28, pushing Tehran to close the Strait of Hormuz – a vital waterway that handles about a...

- [JPMorgan signs up as anchor tenant for SHKP's West Kowloon office development](#) (2026-03-13 10:30)

JPMorgan Chase has committed to leasing about 250,000 sq ft of space in the new Sun Hung Kai Properties (SHKP) office towers in Hong Kong's West Kowloon district for 10 years, making the US investment bank the anchor tenant of the 700,000 sq ft mixed-use development, the Hong

Kong-listed developer said on Friday. Artist Square Towers (AST) will house the bank's Kowloon office, which is currently located at The Quayside in Kowloon East, starting in the latter half of 2028, according to an...

- [Hong Kong MTR Corp pay rise below expectations: union](#) (2026-03-13 10:20)

A union representing employees of Hong Kong's rail operator, the MTR Corporation, has expressed disappointment with the firm's refusal to consider their calls for improved benefits, saying the pay rise of up to 3.84 per cent for most staff is "slightly below demands". The MTR Corp announced pay increases on Friday ranging from 1.6 to 3.84 per cent for most non-management staff for the 2026-27 financial year, depending on their performance. Last year, the adjustment was between 1.8 and 5.4 per...

- [Japan taps oil reserves as Iran war spreads. Could it give China leverage?](#) (2026-03-13 10:00)

Japan's unilateral decision to release oil from its emergency stockpiles highlights its vulnerability to prolonged supply disruptions and may leave it more exposed to economic pressure from China amid tense bilateral relations, according to analysts. Tokyo announced earlier this week that it planned to release a total of 80 million barrels starting March 16, marking the first time it would independently tap its national reserves. The decision came ahead of a coordinated response by the...

- [Death of Chinese scientist Li Xinying, 48, in Egypt raises sharp questions back home](#) (2026-03-13 10:00)

The sudden death of prominent Chinese genetic psychologist Li Xinying while travelling in Egypt has sparked growing concern and speculation in China, as official explanations about the cause remain vague and medically inconclusive. Li, 48, a researcher and doctoral supervisor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' (CAS) Institute of Psychology, died on February 23 at 10pm Beijing time, according to an online obituary. The stated cause of death was "non-specific respiratory failure", an obituary...

- [Chinese man posts a big note on mother-in-law's suitcase to seek help for her solo travel](#) (2026-03-13 10:00)

More than a million people online have been touched by a Chinese man who posted a huge note on his illiterate mother-in-law's suitcase to help in case she needed help during her first solo flight. On February 28, the man from Xian city, northwestern China's Shaanxi province, posted that his mother-in-law would be flying on the same evening to Dalian, in northeastern China's Liaoning province. He said that the woman, who is in her 60s, is illiterate and does not speak Mandarin. The flight also...

- [Is Bali's Kuta Beach disappearing? Coastal erosion crisis threatens famed shoreline](#) (2026-03-13 09:35)

Powerful waves have chewed away large sections of Bali's iconic Kuta Beach, raising fresh concern about the future of the Indonesian island's most famous stretch of sand. Officials say the latest damage, driven by recent rough seas, has intensified a long-running problem of coastal erosion that experts warn is being worsened by extreme weather and decades of coastal development on the resort island. Abrasion along Kuta's shoreline is not new, but officials say this year's extreme weather has...

- [In a first for China, Neuracle's implantable brain-computer interface wins approval](#) (2026-03-13 09:30)

In a landmark development, Neuracle Medical Technology has secured the country's first-ever approval for an implantable brain-computer interface (BCI) system designed to restore hand motor function in patients with spinal cord injuries, in a regulatory milestone that underscores China's accelerating push in neurotechnology. China's BCI start-ups, seen as potential rivals to Elon Musk's Neuralink, are gaining momentum as regulatory support and fresh capital fuel growth. Shares of BCI companies...

- [China announces AI boost to radar as drone swarms confound detectors in Iran war](#) (2026-03-13 09:01)

China is using AI to help its radars better detect low-altitude drones, according to a top Chinese military scientist who said drone swarm tactics – as used in the US' ongoing attack on Iran – were an emerging challenge for radar systems. Xu Jin, a leading air-defence radar expert and a member of China's top political advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, revealed the AI initiative in an interview with the South China Morning Post on...

- [Trade talks, 'raising lobsters', tech earnings](#) (2026-03-13 09:00)

United States and Chinese trade negotiators will meet in Paris on Sunday and Monday, seeking to ready a deal ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing at the end of the month. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, according to US and Chinese government statements. Neither side gave specific details about the discussions. The sixth round of Bessent-He trade talks comes amid volatility in oil markets due to...

- [How an iceberg's 'final dance' tells a story about our past and future](#) (2026-03-13 08:30)

Spare a thought for the iceberg A23a which, after an extraordinary 40-year life voyaging around the southern Atlantic Ocean, is this month expected to die unnoticed close to the island of South Georgia, a mess of "brash ice, small icebergs and bergy bits". A23a was one of the largest "megabergs" to be spawned in our lifetimes. When it broke away from the Filchner Ice Shelf into the Weddell Sea in Western Antarctica in 1986, it covered an area of around 4,000 sq km – about the size of Hong Kong...

- [Cable thefts at key Malaysian train lines soar amid copper' s red-hot demand](#) (2026-03-13 08:01)

As soaring copper prices make the metal highly sought after, more cable thieves are targeting some of Malaysia' s busiest urban rail lines, causing significant inconvenience to commuters and headaches for authorities aiming to combat the scourge. Thefts of copper-embedded cables have led to disruption in train services linking Kuala Lumpur' s northern suburbs to the federal administrative capital of Putrajaya in recent weeks. Among the services affected are the high-speed MRT Putrajaya and Kajang...

- [What' s important about Antelope Reef in the South China Sea' s Paracel Islands?](#) (2026-03-13 07:59)

In January, the US-based magazine Newsweek reported that China had started dredging sand on an obscure feature in the Paracel Islands, the disputed archipelago known as Xisha by the Chinese and Hoang Sa in Vietnam. More recent satellite images suggest that China has significantly expanded its reclamation, with the once-submerged Antelope Reef appearing to have a substantially larger surface area. The reef, one of more than 30 islands that make up the Paracels in the South China Sea, is claimed...

- [Vietnam records world-highest trade surplus with US, surpassing Mexico, China](#) (2026-03-13 07:30)

Vietnam produced the largest trade surplus with the United States in January, overtaking both Mexico and China, latest official US data shows, as its exports rose sharply while Chinese direct shipments to the United States fell. Hanoi has been negotiating a trade deal with Washington for months but no agreement has been reached because of the large trade gap and disagreements over tariff rates the US wants to impose on Vietnamese goods, officials have said. In January, Vietnam' s trade surplus...

- [2 anti-China activists have case to answer in subversion trial, court rules](#) (2026-03-13 07:16)

Two former leaders of a now-disbanded alliance behind Hong Kong' s annual Tiananmen Square vigil have a case to answer in a high-profile trial after judges ruled the evidence supported prosecutors' allegations that the activists incited others to overthrow the Communist Party of China leadership. Three High Court judges on Friday found that the evidence appeared to suggest Lee Cheuk-yan and Chow Hang-tung committed a subversion offence as leaders of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic...

- [Apple reduces App Store commissions in China in move applauded by Tencent, NetEase](#) (2026-03-13 07:02)

Apple announced a reduction in the App Store commissions it charges developers in China ahead of the annual World Consumer Rights Day, drawing approval from the country' s biggest

gaming companies Tencent Holdings and NetEase. The US tech company said it would reduce the commission for standard in-app purchases and paid app transactions on iPhone and iPad to 25 per cent, from the current 30 per cent, according to a statement on its website on Thursday. Meanwhile, the commission rate for...

- [China's AI adoption may limit economic fallout of its rapidly ageing population: analysts](#)
(2026-03-13 06:58)

Declining fertility rates have long been viewed as a drag on economic growth, but the outlook may not be entirely bleak for Asian economies such as China, South Korea and Japan, analysts said. Demographic pressure was accelerating investment in robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) in these rapidly ageing yet technologically advanced countries, helping offset labour shortages and sustain productivity even as populations shrank, they argued. Analysts at Bank of America (BoFA) Global Research...

- [Malaysian businessman releases photo of armed officer to prove he was held at gunpoint](#)
(2026-03-13 06:03)

Businessman Albert Tei has released a photo purportedly showing a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officer brandishing a firearm to back his claims that he had a gun pointed at him during a raid on his home last November. Speaking to reporters at the court complex in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, Tei said the photo was sent to him on Monday via an unknown number. "I admit, the photo is not very clear but I believe it was taken from an MACC officer's body camera," he said. "What is the...

- [Donald Liao, architect who shaped Hong Kong's housing landscape, dies at 96](#)
(2026-03-13 06:03)

Donald Liao Poon-huai, one of Hong Kong's most influential government architects and public housing visionaries who became the first Chinese official under British rule to serve as secretary for district administration, has died at the age of 96. His family confirmed his death to the South China Morning Post on Friday, with one member saying he died peacefully on Thursday morning at home. Liao was surrounded by family and friends on his last evening. "He lived a long, meaningful life and made...

- [How Middle East conflict and soaring oil prices will affect Angola's Chinese debt deals](#)
(2026-03-13 06:00)

As conflict in the Middle East pushes oil beyond US\$100 per barrel, Angola and other African producers are in line to be among the main beneficiaries. On Thursday, following renewed tanker attacks, Brent crude oil prices surged back past US\$100 a barrel, having reached a peak of US\$119.50 on Monday, the highest level since 2022. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime chokepoint through which about 20 million barrels of oil and petroleum products flow daily, has crippled energy...

- [China girl goes viral after confronting riding instructors for assigning vicious horses to friends](#) (2026-03-13 06:00)

A young girl from central China earned widespread praise online after fearlessly confronting riding instructors over why they assigned her friends vicious horses. Nine-year-old Langlang from Huangshi in Hubei province has been travelling the world with her parents since she was a baby. While travelling in Egypt with her parents on March 4, she was taking a riding lesson with two friends at a local equestrian club. Although the pair were beginners, the coaches assigned them two ill-tempered...

- [Jump in illegal refuelling complaints as Hong Kong grapples with rising oil prices](#) (2026-03-13 05:54)

Hong Kong authorities have received 221 complaints about illegal petrol stations in the first two months of the year, averaging about 111 per month – 42 per cent higher than the monthly average in 2025 – as drivers continue to grapple with rising fuel prices caused by the US-Israel war with Iran. The Fire Services Department said on Friday that prosecutions in January and February had risen even more sharply, increasing 85 per cent over last year’s monthly average, with illegal operators...

- [HKEX opens door for small innovative firms to list with biggest reforms since 2018](#) (2026-03-13 05:40)

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX) has unveiled its biggest listing reforms since 2018, broadening its special listing regime for innovative companies and opening the door for smaller and more diverse firms to list in the city, the bourse operator said on Friday. HKEX proposed lowering the minimum threshold for companies to list under the weighted voting rights regime to a minimum valuation of HK\$20 billion (US\$2.6 billion), half the current requirement of at least HK\$40 billion. It will...

- [Australia walks ‘very fine line’ with Gulf deployment amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-13 05:39)

Australia’s decision to send a surveillance aircraft and air-to-air missiles to the Gulf highlights the difficult position the country now faces: supporting US and regional partners while trying to avoid being drawn deeper into the widening conflict. Analysts said the government was “walking a very fine line” with the deployment, signalling support for partners under Iranian attacks while stopping short of committing Australia to offensive operations. At the same time, they said Canberra was...

- [Nasa clears Artemis moon rocket for an April launch with 4 astronauts](#) (2026-03-13 05:24)

Nasa cleared its moon rocket on Thursday for an April launch with four astronauts after completing the latest round of repairs. The 98-metre (322-foot) rocket will roll out of the hangar and back to the pad next week at Florida’s Kennedy Space Centre, leading to a launch attempt as early as April 1. It will mark humanity’s first trip to the moon in more than 50 years. The timing is interesting. From the end of March, US President Donald Trump is slated to visit China

and meet with President Xi...

- [‘Two sessions’ webinar](#) (2026-03-13 05:18)

This year’s ‘two sessions’, China’s biggest annual political gathering, featured the announcement of the lowest GDP growth target in decades and official approval for the 15th five-year plan. SCMP Plus hosted a webinar to discuss these developments with three experts from the Asia Society Policy Institute’s Center for China Analysis. Other topics included the upcoming US-China presidential summit, President Xi Jinping’s purge of the military and efforts to reshape the economy. The panel...

- [Greater Bay Airlines to raise fuel surcharges, joining Hong Kong rivals as costs soar](#) (2026-03-13 05:18)

Greater Bay Airlines will more than double its fuel surcharge on certain routes starting next week, becoming the last Hong Kong passenger carrier to raise prices amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The airline announced on Friday that it would raise prices due to “surging fuel costs,” with the new surcharges taking effect from March 18. The charge on the carrier’s flights to Hong Kong from all destinations except mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, the Maldives and the Philippines will rise...

- [Cambricon, China’s ‘little Nvidia’, to pay maiden dividend after profitable 2025](#) (2026-03-13 04:34)

Cambricon Technologies, a Chinese semiconductor designer seen as a potential alternative to US giant Nvidia, will pay its maiden dividend after posting its first full-year profit since listing in 2020. Cambricon, dubbed “little Nvidia”, planned to distribute a cash dividend of 15 yuan (US\$2.2) for every 10 shares held, totalling more than 632 million yuan, according to its filing to the Shanghai Stock Exchange on Thursday. Another 20 million yuan would be allocated for share buy-backs, taking...

- [Philippines urges Asean to be global investment safe haven as Middle East war rages](#) (2026-03-13 04:28)

Asean should position itself as a safe haven for investment amid worsening global volatility, the host country said as the region’s economic ministers kicked off their meeting in Manila on Friday. “Let us ensure that Asean remains a region where investment is met with certainty and where cooperation creates genuine opportunity for our people,” Philippine Trade Secretary Cristina Roque said in her opening speech. Energy and financial markets worldwide have been upended with the Iran war in its...

- [China’s arms imports plummet, Hong Kong couple’s HK\\$50,000 Dubai exit: SCMP’s 7 highlights](#) (2026-03-13 04:12)

We have selected seven stories from this week’s news across Hong Kong, mainland China, the wider Asia region and beyond that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues.

If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Why haveChina’ s arms imports plummeted 72% over the past 5 years? Beijing’ s arms imports havenose-dived by nearly three-quarters over the past five years, as it has replaced overseasweapons purchases with domestic technology,...

- [China beats US, Japan in carbon-fibre arms race to create world’ s first T1200 factory](#) (2026-03-13 04:00)

China has become the first country to mass produce the strongest carbon fibre, which has wide applications for defence industries such as aerospace, drones and robots, state broadcaster CCTV’ s military channel reported on Wednesday. The domestically developed T1200-grade fibre has a tensile strength 10 times greater than ordinary steel, yet it is less than one-tenth of a human hair in diameter, according to the state broadcaster. Mass production of the ultra-strength fibre at a projected output...

- [In Japan, video of exhausted Takaichi sparks health fears ahead of US trip](#) (2026-03-13 03:26)

A video showing Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi looking visibly exhausted after a budget committee session on Thursday went viral online, sparking concerns over her well-being ahead of a trip to the US to meet President Donald Trump. Takaichi had cold-like symptoms and was advised to rest by doctors, ultimately skipping some meetings with local Middle Eastern ambassadors on Thursday, according to local media. “Yesterday, the prime minister suspected she had a cold, so she was examined by...

- [The fiscal family: adviser says China’ s tax flows should resemble parental ties](#) (2026-03-13 03:00)

The full implementation of taxation reforms pledged in China’ s new five-year plan would substantially ease the fiscal strains on local governments, a leading tax policy expert said, while adding that it would not alter the central government’ s dominant role in the country’ s fiscal landscape. As a unitary state, China’ s systematic advantage lay in strong central government finance that could coordinate fiscal resources in a unified manner and redistribute them through transfer payments, in...

- [US returns for WWII dead of Japan’ s ‘hell ship’ tomb in the Philippines](#) (2026-03-13 02:30)

They were killed by American bombs. They were held at gunpoint by Japanese guards who fired indiscriminately into the crowded holds and when the ship finally went down, many were left to drown. Eight decades later, the United States is coming back for them. Hundreds perished when the Japanese “hell ship” Oryoku Maru was sunk in Subic Bay in December 1944. Now, the Pentagon has launched a multi-year mission in waters off the Philippines to retrieve their remains. As many as 250 Americans are...

- [Hong Kong job openings hit 6-year low in 69% of sectors amid AI' s ascent](#) (2026-03-13 02:00)

Hong Kong' s fresh graduates are facing increasingly challenging career prospects, with 69 per cent of job sectors recording their fewest vacancies in six years, a trend experts attribute to the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and a sluggish economy. Figures from the Joint Institution Job Information System, a centralised online job information platform shared by the city' s eight publicly funded universities, also showed that the number of job vacancies fell to a five-year low of 30,798 last...

- [US sanctions 2 firms, 6 individuals for funding North Korean weapons](#) (2026-03-13 01:35)

The United States has imposed sanctions on two companies and six individuals for their roles in operations that used information technology workers in foreign countries to raise money for North Korea. The Treasury Department said the schemes, orchestrated by the North Korean government, had systematically defrauded US businesses and generated revenue to fund North Korea' s weapons programmes, including nearly US\$800 million in 2024. The department also accused workers associated with North Korea...

- [When homes are small and costly, dreams of having a family shrink](#) (2026-03-13 01:30)

Across Asia' s densest cities, the milestones of adulthood are quietly shifting. Couples share kitchens with parents. Some wait years on public housing lists. Others secure a flat before thinking about a ring. In some cases, keys come before vows. Increasingly, love moves in step with property. Square footage, mortgage approvals and ballot results shape decisions that once felt spontaneous. At first glance, falling fertility rates might look like a purely economic or demographic...

- [US-Israel war on Iran: Indian homes stockpile electric stoves to beat gas crunch](#) (2026-03-13 01:00)

Indian households are rushing to buy electric induction stoves, draining stocks online and in stores, amid fears of a potential cooking gas shortage tied to the Middle East conflict. India, the world' s second-largest importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), has invoked emergency powers to boost supplies for households even as availability tightens for commercial users including canteens, hostels and restaurants. Meanwhile, consumers are buying electric cooking appliances as a precaution,...

- [How a 102-year-old 'baby' in China hasn' t been in hospital for 50 years](#) (2026-03-13 01:00)

A 102-year-old woman from eastern China has won hearts online with her optimistic attitude and unique lifestyle. Jin Baoling, a centenarian from a rural area in Taizhou, Zhejiang province, is frequently visited by her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. Known for her longevity and cheerful personality, fellow villagers affectionately call her "Old Baby." According to the Taizhou Evening News, Jin is mentally sharp and physically healthy, having not visited a hospital

in the past 50...

- [Swire sells part of Cathay Pacific stake for HK\\$1.8 billion to boost working capital](#) (2026-03-13 00:40)

Conglomerate Swire Pacific has sold part of its stake in Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways for HK\$1.8 billion (US\$230 million) to raise working capital. In a rare move, the group revealed on Friday that it sold 153.05 million shares at HK\$11.74 each the previous day. This was a 9.6 per cent discount to the last traded price on Thursday of HK\$12.99 per share. Swire is the latest shareholder to reduce its stake in Cathay, following Air China's sale in January for HK\$1.32...

- [‘I can’t get a job and AI is to blame’: a young person’s lament](#) (2026-03-13 00:01)

Trina Lau spent nearly three months looking for work after she was laid off from an e-commerce firm in Hong Kong in December. It was the 23-year-old's first job after graduating with a communications degree last year. The position only lasted for six months. She sent out more than 50 job applications but only received calls for interviews for six of them. Lau conceded that it was slow going because the economy was not picking up as quickly as she would have liked. But now, she said, she had the...

- [BMW sees smoother road ahead in China after sales skid in 2025](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

BMW could be approaching the end of the tunnel in China as signs of stabilisation raise hopes of a turnaround after the German carmaker reported that sales dropped by double digits in the key market in 2025. “Transaction prices in the market for our products have stabilised ... and are actually improving slightly compared to [the third quarter],” said Walter Mertl, chief financial officer, during a press conference on Thursday. “If the run rate continues this way, we have the opportunity to go...

- [Philippines’ bid for UN Security Council seat sidesteps maritime row](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's pitch for a United Nations Security Council seat this week was notable for his sidestepping of an issue at the core of Manila's foreign policy in recent years. As he appealed to UN members in New York, Marcos framed the Philippines as a bridge connecting developing countries and middle-income economies, without making any direct reference to the South China Sea dispute. The president's restrained speech, which avoided mentioning China despite ongoing...

- [China’s rural pensions in focus as lawmakers fight for farmers’ fair share amid income gap](#) (2026-03-13 00:00)

Some Chinese lawmakers and advisers are pushing to secure higher pensions for elderly farmers, underscoring the persistent income disparity between the country's urban and rural residents. The latest government work report, approved on Thursday, confirmed a 20-yuan (US\$2.91) monthly increase to basic pension payments for a third consecutive year, bringing the

national minimum to 163 yuan. However, some deputies from China's top legislature contend that this level is inadequate. "A pension of...

- [California's Governor Newsom says no imminent threat despite warning of Iran drone attack](#) (2026-03-12 23:29)

California Governor Gavin Newsom said there was no imminent threat to the state, despite a warning from the FBI that Iran could send drones to the west coast in retaliation for war. Newsom said drone issues "have always been top of mind". "We've been aware of that information. ... It's all about a posture of preparedness for worst-case scenarios," the governor said on Wednesday. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently warned police departments about Iran and a possible California...

- [US military refuelling plane crashes in Iraq, rescue efforts are under way](#) (2026-03-12 23:02)

An American military refuelling plane went down in Iraq and rescue efforts were under way, US Central Command said on Thursday. The KC-135 aircraft was part of the operation against Iran but the crash was not due to hostile fire or friendly fire, the military said in a statement. US Central Command, which oversees the Middle East, said two aircraft were involved and that one landed safely and the other went down in western Iraq. It described the latter as "a loss". A US official, who spoke on...

- [Hong Kong insider-trading arrests send 'very strong message' on market integrity](#) (2026-03-12 23:00)

Arrests in a HK\$315 million (US\$40 million) insider dealing case underscore Hong Kong's commitment to upholding the integrity of its stock market amid a surge in new listings and share placements, according to industry players. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on Thursday said it had arrested eight people after joining forces with the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) earlier this week to raid premises connected to a hedge fund and two securities firms. The joint...

- [Serbian president confirms his country owns Chinese supersonic missiles after photo leak](#) (2026-03-12 22:47)

Serbia's president confirmed late on Thursday that his country possesses Chinese supersonic surface-attack cruise missiles, after photos of the weapons attached to Serbian fighter jets leaked online. Photos, which began circulating on social media and defence blogs earlier this week, showed missiles believed to be Chinese-made CM-400AKG cruise missiles attached to Serbia's Russian-made MiG-29 planes. "We have things we do not show," President Aleksandar Vucic told Serbia's national broadcaster...

- [Sanctioned Rubio to take part in Trump's China trip despite previous missed opportunities](#) (2026-03-12 22:00)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is expected to visit China with President Donald Trump later this month after appearing to show little interest in previous invitations from Beijing, the South China Morning Post has learned. According to sources, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly on the matter, Rubio had been invited to visit but had not been receptive until recently. Rubio's attendance could smooth over some of the problems surrounding...

- [Netanyahu threatens Iran's new supreme leader, defends joint assault with US](#) (2026-03-12 21:31)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday issued a veiled threat to kill Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei even as he acknowledged that Israel's joint air war with the US may not lead to a collapse of Tehran's clerical government. Holding his first press conference since the start of the war, the Israeli leader said that Iran was "no longer the same" after nearly two weeks of bombardment and that Tehran had suffered blows to its elite Revolutionary Guards Corps and Basij...

- [Iran war signals return to world of hierarchy without order](#) (2026-03-12 21:30)

The war in Iran is not just another Middle Eastern crisis. It is a window into what world politics looks like when rules are weakest and power is most concentrated. Washington has spoken in the language of surrender and coercion, European governments have called for restraint and respect for international law, and Asian powers have scrambled to keep energy flows moving through a Strait of Hormuz that has nearly ground to a halt. What this reveals is not a functioning rules-based order. It is a...

- [1 dead, 2 injured in shooting at Virginia's Old Dominion University, police say](#) (2026-03-12 19:05)

ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) students in an Old Dominion University classroom subdued and killed the shooter who killed one person and wounded two others, the FBI announced on Thursday. Dominique Evans, special agent in charge of the FBI's (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Norfolk field office, said at a news conference that the suspect identified by authorities as Mohamed Bailor Jalloh shouted "Allahu akbar" before the shooting. Then the ROTC students stopped him, showing "extreme..."

- [Suspect shot dead after crashing truck into Michigan synagogue](#) (2026-03-12 18:13)

A suspect crashed his truck into the hallway of a Detroit-area synagogue where children were attending preschool on Thursday and was shot dead in a confrontation with security staff, with no one else seriously injured, authorities said. The attack unfolded during a recent surge in US antisemitic incidents and in a period of heightened security concerns around Jewish and Muslim places of worship since US and Israeli forces launched air strikes on Iran on February 28, sparking an intensifying war...

- [British mother jailed for keeping woman as ‘house slave’ for 25 years](#) (2026-03-12 17:05)

A UK judge on Thursday jailed for 13 years a mother-of-10 who forced a vulnerable woman to work as a “house slave” for more than two decades. Amanda Wixon subjected the woman, who was a teenager when the ordeal began, to more than 25 years of abuse at her squalid home in Gloucestershire, western England. The 56-year-old forced the victim, who has a learning disability, to do manual labour, regularly assaulted her and deprived her of food and healthcare, it emerged during an earlier 13-day...

- [UK PM Starmer admits his ‘mistake’ in appointing Mandelson as US ambassador](#) (2026-03-12 16:38)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has taken responsibility for his “mistake” in sending Peter Mandelson to Washington as ambassador, as Downing Street denied there was a “cover-up” in the release of files related to the appointment. The prime minister is facing fresh questions about his judgment in giving Mandelson the ambassadorship despite being warned of a “general reputational risk” because of his relationship with paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. In his first public appearance since the...

- [Anchors Academy Expands with Junior Secondary Division and Co-establishes Senior Secondary School with St Bees School UK](#) (2026-03-12 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Anchors Academy, recognised as one of Hong Kong's leading private schools for kindergarten and primary education, is taking a significant leap forward. The school has announced the extension of its educational offering to include Junior Secondary (Years 7 to 9)*, alongside a strategic partnership with the UK's historic St Bees School (founded 1583) to establish St Bees (Anchors) Sixth Form College in Hong Kong*, all...

- [2 arrested in raid on Hong Kong syndicate accused of laundering HK\\$4.7 billion](#) (2026-03-12 15:07)

Hong Kong customs officers have arrested two men in a crackdown on a syndicate accused of laundering HK\$4.7 billion (US\$600.54 million) in criminal proceeds over four years and running a drug business. Investigators from customs’ financial investigation bureau said on Thursday the group operated through two companies, receiving large sums of unexplained funds and channelling them through more than 2,100 transactions. The money laundering tactics involved shell companies, frequent transfers and...

- [Strait of Hormuz must stay closed, Iran’ s Mojtaba Khamenei says in defiant statement](#) (2026-03-12 14:05)

Iran’ s new supreme leader has vowed to keep blocking the Strait of Hormuz, attack US bases and avenge the blood of its martyrs in his first statement since succeeding his father. “The lever of blocking the Strait of Hormuz must definitely be used,” Mojtaba Khamenei said about

the strategic waterway, which supplies a fifth of the world's oil. Khamenei urged Iran's Gulfneighbours to close US military bases in the region "as soon as possible, because they must have realised by now that the claim...

- [Is it time for China to rethink non-intervention in this new age of disorder?](#) (2026-03-12 14:00)

With the Strait of Hormuz effectively weaponised as part of the Iran crisis, Beijing should move beyond rigid non-intervention to take targeted action to defend its massive interests abroad, according to a leading Chinese government adviser. In an interview published on Monday, Zheng Yongnian called for a more assertive "intervention 2.0" while avoiding US-style hegemonic overreach or "strong-arm" tactics. He argued that China's commitment to "absolute non-intervention" was becoming increasingly...

- [Man injured after lithium battery catches fire on Hong Kong bus](#) (2026-03-12 13:43)

A man was injured on Thursday evening after a lithium battery he was carrying caught fire on a Hong Kong bus in Tsuen Wan, filling the vehicle with thick smoke. Police received a report at 7.21pm about the fire on the bus travelling on Citybus route E21, which was heading along Tsuen Wan Road towards Kowloon at the time. Smoke suddenly erupted in the front section of the upper deck as the vehicle passed Chun Shing Factory Estate in Kwai Chung. Firefighters arrived on the scene shortly after and...

- [China's nuclear warhead storage a 'highly concentrated risk', US report says](#) (2026-03-12 13:30)

Most of China's nuclear warheads are located at a single facility in the country's northwest and could be vulnerable during a conflict, according to a US think tank. In a report published this month, the US Air University's China Aerospace Studies Institute detailed the warhead management and logistical structure of the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force. The report, based on open-source intelligence, said much of China's nuclear stockpile was stored at a single, centralised facility known as...

- [Robot 'arrested' after elderly woman startled and sent to hospital in Macau](#) (2026-03-12 13:09)

An elderly woman was taken to hospital in Macau after being "frightened" by a humanoid robot that abruptly appeared behind her before it was escorted away by police, prompting social media users to joke it had been "arrested". According to authorities, the woman, who was on her phone at the time, was startled when she suddenly noticed the robot behind her near the Lok Yeung Fa Yuen residential complex in Patane last Thursday. Video circulating online shows the woman angrily confronting the robot...

- [China codifies ethnic assimilation with new 'unity' law as it counters the West](#) (2026-03-12 13:04)

China has passed a new law on ethnic unity, creating a legal framework that analysts say is designed to counter Western ideological influence and provide a statutory mandate for assimilating the country's minority groups. The Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress was formally endorsed by the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, at the end of the annual "two sessions" on Thursday. The law was adopted by a near-unanimous vote of 2,756 in favour, with just three against...

- [Israel's 90 nuclear warheads make any strike on Iran 'really dangerous' : expert](#)
(2026-03-12 13:00)

The hostilities in the Middle East have renewed concerns about Israel's widely known but officially unacknowledged nuclear arsenal, with an expert warning of catastrophic consequences if the weapons were used in the armed conflict. According to Alicia Sanders-Zakre, head of policy at the Geneva-based International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), it is "widely acknowledged among experts that Israel is a nuclear-armed country, but this has never been formally acknowledged by Israel or...

- [US Navy patrols Taiwan Strait before Xi-Trump summit, triggering PLA manoeuvres](#)
(2026-03-12 12:15)

The United States has sent a military patrol aircraft through the Taiwan Strait weeks before the Xi-Trump summit, triggering People's Liberation Army jet manoeuvres near Taiwan after several days of pause. A US Navy P-8A Poseidon transited the Taiwan Strait in international airspace on Wednesday, the US Seventh Fleet said on Thursday. The passage through the waterway separating Taiwan and mainland China illustrated the US' commitment to "a free and open Indo-Pacific", Commander Matthew Comer, a...

- [Hong Kong's John Lee pledges to align with nation's new 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-12 12:13)

Hong Kong's leader has pledged to align with national strategies outlined in the country's latest five-year plan and transform the city's "new positionings, functions and missions" assigned by Beijing into "tangible outcomes" to drive economic growth. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu also said on Thursday that he would lead the local government in fulfilling its primary responsibility to unite society in proactively aligning with the 15th five-year plan, which outlines China's economic and...

- [More Hong Kong drivers head to mainland China to refuel amid surging oil prices](#)
(2026-03-12 11:44)

Hong Kong drivers are increasingly crossing the border to mainland China to replenish their tanks, as authorities crack down on a case of an illegal filling operation amid the surge in global oil prices. Motorists are exploring different ways to mitigate the rising fuel cost after the ongoing conflict in the Middle East pushed up oil prices. Ringo Lee Yiu-pui, governor and honorary life president of the Hong Kong, China Automobile Association, on Thursday highlighted a sharp rise in local...

- [Hong Kong' s Wealth for Good Summit to highlight AI, robotics, biotech opportunities](#)
(2026-03-12 11:33)

As innovations arise from the artificial intelligence, robotics and biotechnology sectors, holders of family capital from around the world will convene in Hong Kong to discuss such investment opportunities at the city' s fourth annual Wealth for Good Summit on March 23 and 24. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Ching-yu said the summit would showcase Hong Kong' s position as a premier hub for family capital seeking long-term growth and multigenerational...

- [Ant smuggling rises in Kenya as Chinese national caught with 2,238 insects at airport](#)
(2026-03-12 11:15)

A man was arrested with more than 2,200 live garden ants in his luggage at Nairobi' s main airport this week amid a rise in cases of smuggling of the insects in Kenya. Chinese national Zhang Kequn, 27, was arrested at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Tuesday while he was trying to leave the country, court filings on Thursday showed. Immigration officials flagged a "stop order" on Zhang' s passport after he evaded arrest in Kenya last year. Ant aficionados pay large sums to maintain...

- [Former Hong Kong lawmaker Regina Ip swaps policy for photo cards at ComplexCon](#)
(2026-03-12 11:13)

Former Hong Kong lawmaker Regina Ip Lau Suk-yea will hold a fan meet-and-greet at this year' s ComplexCon in the city, underscoring the senior government adviser' s enduring online popularity since ending her 17-year tenure in the Legislative Council. Seventy-five-year-old Ip, convenor of the government' s key decision-making Executive Council, will join guests including Jennie from K-pop group Blackpink, American rapper Yeat and Korean R&B singer Crush at the two-day event later this month. The...

- [Impact report for border crossing revamp approved despite concerns over temple](#)
(2026-03-12 11:04)

Heritage advisers have approved an impact report for the redevelopment of Hong Kong' s Sha Tau Kok border checkpoint despite concerns that construction could affect a nearby temple holding monument status. At a meeting on Thursday, members of the Antiquities Advisory Board gave the green light to the heritage impact assessment for the project and its associated works. The project will involve demolishing the existing control point facility and constructing two major buildings connected by a...

- [Hong Kong export credit insurer keeps premiums low despite Middle East tensions](#)
(2026-03-12 11:00)

Hong Kong' s export credit insurer is keeping premiums low and expanding support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), even as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East raise

concerns about risks to global trade. Unlike the typical trade credit insurance model – where insurers raise premiums when geopolitical risks increase – the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (HKECIC) said it had continued offering concessions to exporters to help them weather uncertainty. “In the...

- [Trump’s tariff investigation ‘bluff’ will not work on China, analysts warn](#) (2026-03-12 11:00)

The United States’ decision to launch Section 301 investigations into alleged unfair trade practices by China and several other economies – which could allow Washington to reimpose higher tariffs – is a “bluff” designed to give US President Donald Trump some perceived leverage ahead of his expected trip to China, analysts said. But the threat is unlikely to work on Beijing, which has grown used to the president’s “art of the deal” tactics, they added. “Trump’s move before his China trip is...

- [Iranian women’s football team lands in Malaysia as video fuels fresh asylum claims](#) (2026-03-12 10:59)

The Iranian women’s national football team arrived in Malaysia on Wednesday after leaving Australia, where several members of the delegation had sought asylum, as a viral social media video fuelled unverified claims that some players might want to remain in the Southeast Asian country. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the Kuala Lumpur-based governing body for Asian football, confirmed the team was currently staying at a hotel in the Malaysian capital while onward travel arrangements were...

- [What China’s OpenClaw divide reveals about local and central government priorities](#) (2026-03-12 10:57)

Local governments across China have rushed to ride the OpenClaw AI boom in hopes of spurring economic growth, only for Beijing to step in swiftly to rein in the frenzy. It has issued a series of safety warnings that analysts say underscore the divide in priorities between local and central authorities. The rush to adopt the artificial intelligence (AI) software has seen major internet companies offer low-cost or easily accessible versions, while local governments have rolled out subsidies to...

- [With some Singapore flats above 60 storeys on the horizon, will owners face tighter curbs?](#) (2026-03-12 10:41)

Singapore is preparing to build its tallest public housing project yet with some blocks rising above 60 storeys in the historic Chinatown area, in a sign of the city state pushing for higher density in prime areas to meet demand. Such super-tall developments are unlikely to become the norm, according to analysts, who cite higher construction costs, site constraints and tighter regulations aimed at preventing centrally located flats from becoming speculative investments. Singapore would build the...

- [American military bleeds US\\$11.3 billion in first week of Iran war: report](#) (2026-03-12 10:12)

The opening week of the war against Iran cost the United States more than US\$11.3 billion, lawmakers were told in a Pentagon briefing, according to a New York Times report underscoring the pace at which the conflict is consuming weapons and resources. The Times, citing unnamed sources familiar with Tuesday's closed-door briefing, said members of Congress were told that the figure excludes many costs connected with the build-up to the strikes – suggesting the final tally for the first week could...

- [Chinese developer Sunshine 100 to oppose Hong Kong winding-up petition over US\\$205m debt](#) (2026-03-12 10:00)

Sunshine 100 China Holdings, a mainland Chinese developer facing debts amid China's property sector downturn, said on Thursday that it plans to oppose a winding-up petition filed against it in Hong Kong. HTI Financial Solutions and Haitong International Financial Products filed the winding-up petition against the developer at the High Court of Hong Kong over an unpaid redemption sum of about US\$205 million, including accrued interest, due on March 19, 2025, according to a Sunshine 100 filing...

- [Amid OpenClaw frenzy, China's central bank adds to cybersecurity warnings](#) (2026-03-12 10:00)

China's central bank has called for heightened cybersecurity awareness and caution in the use of artificial intelligence in the financial sector, adding to a chorus of warnings over security risks amid the nationwide buzz surrounding the OpenClaw AI agent. At its annual technology conference in Beijing on Wednesday, the People's Bank of China called for further efforts to “enhance the resilience of cybersecurity and data security”, according to a readout of the meeting posted on its website. The...

- [Timothée Chalamet charms fans by embracing Chinese culture, selling tofu, playing table tennis](#) (2026-03-12 10:00)

From speaking Chinese to filming square dancing in a park, Hollywood's golden boy Timothée Chalamet gave his fans a lot to talk about during his trip to China. The 30-year-old American-French actor, affectionately called tian cha, “Sweet Tea”, by his Chinese fans due to the phonetic similarity to his name, is considered a front runner to win an Oscar. His recent trip to China is to promote Marty Supreme, a film about a shoe salesman who risks everything to pursue his dream of becoming a world...

- [From AirAsia to Qantas, airlines raise fares as Iran war fuels oil price surge](#) (2026-03-12 09:33)

Airlines across Europe and Asia are increasing fares and raising fuel surcharges as the Iran war sends oil prices swinging wildly and stokes fears of jet fuel shortages if the fighting persists. Demand for alternative routes that bypass the Middle East is also surging, pushing up ticket

prices. More than 43,000 flights scheduled in and out of the Middle East were cancelled between February 28 and March 10, according to data from analytics firm Cirium. Here is a rolling list of airlines that have...

- [Hong Kong's MTR Corp net profit falls 6.9% amid weaker mainland China revenue](#)
(2026-03-12 09:27)

The net profit of Hong Kong's MTR Corporation dropped by 6.9 per cent to HK\$14.68 billion (US\$1.88 billion) last year, from HK\$15.77 billion in 2024, as higher depreciation costs and weaker revenue from the rail giant's mainland China operations weighed on earnings. The company recorded a property development profit of HK\$11.08 billion last year, up from HK\$10.27 billion in 2024, with income generated from projects including The Southside, Lohas Park and Ho Man Tin station. But the MTR Corp...

- [Southeast Asia faces spillover cyber risk from Iran war as 'blast radius' widens](#)
(2026-03-12 09:00)

Southeast Asia is facing a growing cyber spillover risk from the widening US-Israel war with Iran, with security experts warning that state-linked hackers and criminal groups are seeking to exploit turmoil around energy, shipping and banking networks to hit targets far beyond the Middle East. The assessment comes as Iran said it would target economic and banking interests linked to the United States and Israel in the region after an attack on an Iranian bank, while the United Arab Emirates said...

- [Hong Kong poised to grant first stablecoin licences to HSBC, Standard Chartered: sources](#)
(2026-03-12 09:00)

HSBC and a joint venture led by Standard Chartered are expected to be among the first companies to obtain Hong Kong's stablecoin licences within two weeks, according to people familiar with the matter. The number of licences and timetable had yet to be finalised and remained subject to change, but sources said a possible date was March 24. The two banks declined to comment. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) last month revealed that a small number of stablecoin licences would be granted...

- [Over 160 complaints filed after Mayday shifts Hong Kong show: Consumer Council](#)
(2026-03-12 08:05)

Hong Kong's consumer watchdog has received more than 160 complaints after Taiwanese rock band Mayday cancelled one of its coming concerts at Kai Tak Sports Park and rescheduled it for later, sparking frustration among fans. Alaina Shum Jiu-fai, chief executive of the Consumer Council, urged the organiser to respond promptly, adding that as of 8am on Thursday, it had received 71 complaints from residents, while the rest were from outside the city, primarily mainland China. She said the total...

- [How China can win friends and influencers to help tell the country's story well](#)

(2026-03-12 08:00)

Tourists, international students and foreign employees of Chinese companies could serve as grass-roots ambassadors, helping China's story to resonate with audiences worldwide, according to one of the country's leading political advisers. Zhang Bo, a professor at Beijing Language and Culture University who is also a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, made the suggestion on the sidelines of the annual "two sessions" meeting. Speaking to the South China Morning Post,...

- [Cathay Pacific, HK Express to double fuel surcharges on Wednesday as costs surge](#)

(2026-03-12 07:49)

Cathay Pacific Airways and its budget arm HK Express will double their fuel surcharges next week, following a similar move by another Hong Kong carrier amid rising oil prices driven by conflict in the Middle East. The city's flag carrier said on Thursday the increase would apply to tickets issued on March 18 or later. "The price of jet fuel has approximately doubled since March amid the latest developments in the Middle East," Cathay said, citing the surge as the reason for the higher...

- [In South Korea, witnesses describe chain of failures as Itaewon crowd crush inquiry begins](#)

(2026-03-12 07:43)

South Korea's long-awaited public inquiry into the 2022 Itaewon crowd crush opened on Thursday with tearful testimony from survivors and heated exchanges between police officials accused of mishandling emergency calls on the night of the disaster. The hearing came more than three years after the tragedy, following prolonged political gridlock, disputes over accountability and repeated delays in forming an independent investigative body. The National Commission for the Investigation of the...

- [US-Israeli war on Iran may spark nuclear arms race, Carnegie scholar says](#)

(2026-03-12 07:39)

Zhao Tong is a senior fellow with the Nuclear Policy Programme at Washington-based think tank the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and its East Asia-based research centre on contemporary China, Carnegie China. His research focuses on strategic security issues, including nuclear weapons policy, deterrence, arms control, non-proliferation, missile defence, hypersonic weapons, regional security in the Asia-Pacific and China's security and foreign policy. SCMP Plus readers get early access...

- [Life under fire: a Tehran resident shares her story as Iran is attacked](#)

(2026-03-12 07:33)

A Tehran resident in her 30s agreed to share her thoughts with Agence France-Presse about the ongoing war and daily life. Her identity has been withheld for her protection. Here is an edited transcript of the conversation. How is daily life in Tehran? People left in waves, especially those who were next to targets. The financial situation is very bad. My job has been halted and I am

spending out of my savings. Going away has costs too, so this may be one of the reasons why people are leaving...

- [6,000 Filipino sailors stranded by Strait of Hormuz closure: ‘bored and a little scared’](#)
(2026-03-12 07:16)

Filipino sailor George Miranda was racing to help a stricken vessel aboard the tugboat Mussafah 2 when he last spoke to his wife and young daughter. The 46-year-old, whose small ship was struck by a pair of missiles this week in the Strait of Hormuz, is the only seafarer from the Philippines known to be missing in the Middle East war, the government says. But more than 6,000 others from the country that supplies a quarter of the world’s sailors are still working in the conflict zone and...

- [Philippines’ Marcos ‘angry’ over ‘mistreatment’ of Bahrain-based OFWs by official](#)
(2026-03-12 06:54)

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has ordered an investigation after watching a viral video showing an employee from the Migrant Workers Office in Bahrain telling off overseas Filipino workers (OFW) stranded in the kingdom due to the escalating Iran war. “The president was not pleased with this. He became angry on behalf of our OFWs because of the mistreatment by some public servants,” the presidential palace’s press officer Claire Castro said, according to the Inquirer on...

- [Group warns plain packs hinder Hongkongers’ efforts to detect smuggled cigarettes](#)
(2026-03-12 06:53)

Nearly 90 per cent of Hong Kong smokers cannot distinguish smuggled cigarettes from duty-paid ones under the government’s proposed plain packaging measures, a survey by an advocacy group has found. The Long-term Tobacco Policy Concern Group also urged authorities on Thursday to expand the function of the tobacco stamp duty system to allow consumers to scan QR codes and verify whether a pack had been taxed. “With the current packaging, consumers can tell if a pack is taxed based on the brand...

- [From net worth of US\\$580 to US\\$580 million, China school dropout builds steamed bun empire](#) (2026-03-12 06:11)

A school dropout from eastern China who survived a violent attack and bankruptcy has built a steamed bun empire that generates 180 million yuan (US\$26 million) annually. Liu Huiping, 49, hails from Anhui province, famously known as China’s “hometown of dough makers.” To ease the financial burden on his parents, Liu left secondary school early. He initially learned furniture making before shifting his focus to the craft of Chinese buns. In 1998, with a 4,000-yuan (US\$580) loan, Liu ventured to...

- [Trump’s ‘racist hate speech’ fuelling rights violations in US, UN panel says](#)
(2026-03-12 06:08)

A UN-backed panel of independent experts focusing on racial discrimination has said that racist hate speech by US President Donald Trump and other American political leaders, along with a crackdown on immigration in the United States, have led to “grave human rights violations”. The Geneva-based Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued its decision on Wednesday and urged the US to suspend immigration enforcement operations at, and near, schools, hospitals, and faith-based...

- [China targets record food-security push in shadow of US-Israeli war with Iran](#) (2026-03-12 06:00)

China has pledged to raise grain output to record levels over the next five years, as part of efforts to guarantee food security for its vast population amid geopolitical shocks and supply-chain uncertainties. Under the nation’s 15th five-year plan unveiled during the “two sessions” parliamentary meetings, Beijing set a target to raise annual grain production capacity to 725 million tonnes by 2030, driven by wider use of high-end agricultural machinery and advanced breeding technologies. As in...

- [Trump’s 2026 trip to China](#) (2026-03-12 05:27)
- [Why war on Iran is not Trump’s to end: Israel may ‘fan the flames’](#) (2026-03-12 04:00)

The US-Israeli war on Iran could prove difficult to end in the short term, with Israel expected to continue to “fan the flames”, Chinese experts have warned. However, they still believe that the intense back-and-forth attacks and high tensions in the Strait of Hormuz are unlikely to last. They also reject the notion that a prolonged Middle East conflict involving the United States would benefit Beijing. It has been 12 days since the US and Israel launched joint air strikes on Iran on February...

- [Why Indonesia’s waste-to-energy goal may not be ‘quick fix’ for landfill crisis](#) (2026-03-12 04:00)

Indonesia’s appointment of two Chinese companies to run waste-to-energy (WtE) projects in two cities, an initiative of President Prabowo Subianto to reduce mounting rubbish in landfills while providing energy, has sparked a debate over costs, efficiency and whether its waste-reduction efforts are on track. Danantara, the Indonesian state wealth fund, on Friday announced that it had chosen Wangneng Environment as the operator of a WtE plant in the city of Bekasi, while Zhejiang Weiming...

- [‘Outdated intelligence’: US faces mounting evidence in deadly strike on Iran school](#) (2026-03-12 03:52)

Outdated intelligence likely led to the United States carrying out a deadly missile strike on a junior school in Iran that killed over 165 people, many of them children, in the opening hours of the conflict, according to a US official and a second person briefed on findings of a preliminary US military investigation into the incident. The bombing of the school and its casualties involving children has become a focal point of the war, and if ultimately confirmed to be at the

hands of the US,...

- [Malaysian man jailed for 10 months, fined US\\$12,700 over Facebook post insulting Islam](#) (2026-03-12 03:48)

The administrator of a Facebook account has been jailed 10 months and fined 50,000 ringgit (US\$12,700) by the Sessions Court in Miri, Sarawak, over a post deemed insulting to Islam. The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) said John Mule anak Alai, 48, was convicted under Section 233(1)(a) of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 for improper use of network facilities. “MCMC takes seriously any form of misuse of digital platforms that insults religion, incites hatred,...

- [Preparing for the worst? US bunker maker claims big demand in Middle East](#) (2026-03-12 03:09)

Since the war in the Middle East began nearly two weeks ago, the phone at Ron Hubbard’s bomb shelter company in Texas has not stopped ringing. Foreign and US clients are rushing to buy his bunkers, seeking refuge in case of air raids, nuclear fallout or apocalypse. With the United States and Israel pounding Iran, and Tehran retaliating with strikes across the region, Hubbard has seen demand for his product soar, mostly from Gulf nation clients in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab...

- [Singaporean man convicted for driving away with lover’s husband clinging to car bonnet](#) (2026-03-12 02:50)

A Singaporean man who claimed he drove off with his lover’s husband on the bonnet of his car because he was scared of the other man was convicted on Tuesday, after District Judge Ong Luan Tze called his actions an unreasonable response, despite the situation. Chia Hiok Seah, 50, was in his car at a multi-storey car park in Sengkang in the wee hours of June 29, 2024, with a married woman. The pair was nude when the woman’s husband at the time, Goh Yong Sern, appeared at the car park at Block 278,...

- [China’s 5-year jet goals target C919 output, a new engine and reduced reliance](#) (2026-03-12 02:30)

Beijing aims to accelerate the rise of China’s home-grown airliner fleet, including the C909 regional plane, C919 narrowbody and C929 widebody, through 2030. This push to challenge the duopoly of Boeing and Airbus comes as a national five-year plan calls for aircraft production, development and the roll-out of a domestically developed engine. The next five years will prove vital to the success of the three aircraft models and the continued localisation of critical parts such as engines,...

- [Why Southeast Asia’s small firms could bear the brunt of the latest oil shock](#) (2026-03-12 02:00)

Singapore pizza shop owner Roy Chan has ridden out more than one business shock – from the Covid-19 pandemic to US tariff pressures – but he now sees another looming threat. Suppliers for ingredients used at his Goldenroy Sourdough Pizza restaurant had warned prices could soon rise by up to 30 per cent following a surge in oil prices due to the escalating Iran war, Chan said.

“Delivery providers have not increased prices yet, but it may come in the next few weeks or months,” he added. Like Chan,...

- [Man arrested after Hong Kong bridge crash injures 10, disrupts airport-bound traffic](#) (2026-03-12 01:39)

A man has been arrested after a collision involving more than 10 cars on a major bridge injured 10 people and resulted in the closure of most lanes leading to the Hong Kong airport. Police said they received a report about the crash on Tsing Ma Bridge at 8.31am on Thursday, adding that the 10 people were sent to the North Lantau Hospital with mild injuries. The force later arrested the man for driving while disqualified. Photographs from the scene show at least one vehicle flipped onto its...

- [Graham A. Harris, a giant of the Hong Kong Bar](#) (2026-03-12 01:30)

The Hong Kong Bar Association was founded in 1949. To properly recognise barristers who have made a lasting and very significant contribution, members are able to nominate such giants for Life Membership. It is bestowed on those who “have rendered outstanding service to the Bar ... or to the administration of justice in Hong Kong”. Over the years, only a handful of our members have been elected as Life Members. Nominees must be proposed by 20 members, including no fewer than 10 senior counsel, and...

- [To make AI safe, put women and girls at the heart of the technology](#) (2026-03-12 01:30)

In late February, Hong Kong’s Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data co-signed, alongside 60 overseas organisations, a statement to bring attention to the rising misuse of deepfakes. With rapid technological developments, growing AI integration and lower barriers to access, swift action is needed to safeguard women and girls against growing forms of technology-facilitated violence. Technology-facilitated violence is not new; it has simply evolved. What began as pre-internet...

- [Meta disables 150,000 accounts in global sting on Southeast Asian scam centres](#) (2026-03-12 01:12)

Meta disabled more than 150,000 accounts and Thai police arrested 21 people in a sweeping international crackdown on Southeast Asian criminal scam centres that targeted people around the world, the social media giant said on Wednesday. The operation was led by Thailand’s Royal Thai Police Anti-Cyber Scam Centre alongside the FBI and the US Justice Department’s Scam Centre Strike Force, with Meta investigators acting on intelligence shared in real time by law enforcement. Online scam networks –...

- [‘Cyber confession room’ where China youth share struggles like financial problems gains traction](#) (2026-03-12 01:01)

At first glance, it is just a photograph of an empty room. But on mainland social media, it has become something else entirely: a virtual confessional. Beneath such posts, users anonymously unburden themselves to strangers, sharing the guilt, anxiety and struggles they cannot voice to family or friends. Traditionally, the confessional in Christianity is a space where believers admit their sins to a priest and seek absolution. Such so-called cyber confession rooms have recently surged in...

- [Is Beijing stepping up island building in South China Sea after 10-year pause?](#) (2026-03-12 01:00)

China has significantly stepped up its land reclamation activities on a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, according to satellite images. One image, reportedly taken on Monday, suggested that the surface area of Antelope Reef, once a mostly submerged feature in the Paracel Islands, had expanded substantially. The picture, published on social media by Damien Symon, a researcher with global intelligence research network The Intel Lab, also showed more than 30 vessels, believed to be dredgers...

- [How will Hong Kong follow mainland China’s ethnic unity promotion law?](#) (2026-03-12 00:30)

Hong Kong should step up education on Chinese history and culture while highlighting security threats to cultivate public awareness about the need to defend the country, experts have said, as the nation’s legislature is set to pass a law promoting ethnic unity. The expert’s comments came ahead of the closing session of the 14th National People’s Congress (NPC) on Thursday, which is due to pass the Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress. The law aims to forge a strong “sense of community for...

- [Why Iran and North Korea are ‘highly likely’ to revive missile and nuclear cooperation](#) (2026-03-12 00:00)

As war with the United States and Israel batters Iran’s missile and nuclear infrastructure, analysts say Tehran is likely to turn to North Korea once again after the fighting stops, reviving a long-suspected partnership built on shared hostility towards Washington and years of military cooperation. North Korea has long been suspected of supplying missile technology to Iran and providing technical help on uranium enrichment, and analysts say it is likely to do so again after the war. “North Korea...

- [US launches trade probe into China and EU in bid to revive Trump tariffs](#) (2026-03-11 23:46)

The Trump administration on Wednesday opened a new trade investigation into manufacturing in foreign countries – an effort that comes after the Supreme Court struck down US President Donald Trump’s previous use of tariffs by declaring an economic emergency. Trump and his

team have made clear that they're seeking to replace the hundreds of billions of dollars in lost revenues after the Supreme Court's February ruling by using different laws to establish new tariffs. In this case, the...

- [Chinese firms with success in go-global efforts poised to reap profit rewards](#) (2026-03-11 23:30)

Overseas expansion and a commodity boom have put Chinese companies trading on the mainland in a position to beat their offshore-listed peers in earnings, cementing the outperformance of yuan-denominated stocks since the outbreak of Middle East hostility. The 300 largest mainland-traded companies may post average 2025 profit growth of 6.3 per cent during the coming earnings season, while the growth rate for the firms in the Hong Kong exchange's benchmark Hang Seng Index would be a mere 2 per...

- [UN Security Council demands Iran halt attacks on Gulf states](#) (2026-03-11 23:03)

The UN Security Council on Wednesday called for Iran to halt its attacks on Gulf states, in a resolution that did not mention US or Israeli strikes on Iran, prompting Tehran's ambassador to decry a "blatant misuse" of the international body. The resolution, passed by 13 votes with two abstentions, "demands the immediate cessation of all attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan". It also "condemns any actions...

- [The pivot: how China turbocharged its industrial policy and remade the global economy](#) (2026-03-11 22:00)

Huang Yiping, a veteran Chinese economist, has attended countless policy forums and high-level summits over his long career. But one event at Peking University a decade ago stands out. Academic debates are often niche, sparsely attended affairs, but that afternoon in November 2016 was different. Seats in the auditorium were snatched up in minutes as people piled in to witness a showdown that had attracted nationwide attention. The public frenzy centred on a rare face-to-face clash between two...

- [Iran group hacks US medical firm in retaliation for strike on girls' school](#) (2026-03-11 21:45)

An Iranian-linked hacking group on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a destructive cyberattack on US-based medical device and services provider Stryker, according to messages posted to the group's Telegram channel and social media reports. Stryker shares fell about 3.4 per cent on Wednesday after The Wall Street Journal reported that the medical equipment maker was hit by a suspected Iran-linked cyberattack. The Michigan-based company, with 56,000 employees and operations in 61 countries,...

- [AI chatbots help plot attacks, study shows: 'happy \(and safe\) shooting!'](#) (2026-03-11 20:25)

From school shootings to synagogue bombings, leading AI chatbots helped researchers plot violent attacks, according to a study published on Wednesday that highlighted the technology's potential for real-world harm. Researchers from the non-profit watchdog Centre for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) and CNN posed as 13-year-old boys in the United States and Ireland to test 10 chatbots, including ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Perplexity, DeepSeek and Meta AI. Testing showed that eight of those chatbots...

- [Chile's Boric leaves office, calls for unity after split with successor over China cable](#) (2026-03-11 18:30)

Chilean President Gabriel Boric left La Moneda presidential palace for the last time on Wednesday, ending a four-year term with a call for national unity that most observers took as a reference to the Chinese undersea cable dispute that defined his final weeks in office. "I wish success to the incoming government, success for Chile, and may our homeland always come first, above any interest, above any disagreement," Boric said from the palace courtyard, where he arrived with his partner, Paula...

- [3 brothers with Iraq links arrested for 'terrorist bombing' of US embassy in Norway](#) (2026-03-11 18:16)

Norwegian police said on Wednesday that three brothers had been arrested on suspicion of a "terrorist bombing" over a weekend explosion at the US embassy in Oslo that caused minor damage but no injuries. Police prosecutor Christian Hatlo told a press conference the brothers, who were Norwegian citizens of Iraqi origin, had been arrested in Oslo around 3.30pm and that police were investigating the motive. "We are still working from several hypotheses. One of them is whether this is an order from...

- [US military warns civilians to avoid port facilities used by Iranian navy](#) (2026-03-11 16:42)

US Central Command (CENTCOM) urged civilians to keep clear of all port facilities in Iran, saying that Iranian military operations justify potential attacks, while an ongoing investigation reportedly found the US to be responsible for a deadly missile strike on an Iranian elementary school. CENTCOM said on Wednesday that the Iranian regime was using civilian ports along the Strait of Hormuz to conduct military operations, which would make the ports legitimate military targets under international...

- [CBRE forecasts positive momentum for APAC real estate market in 2026](#) (2026-03-11 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Asia Pacific's commercial real estate market is set for a strong year in 2026, as investment and leasing activity are both expected to pick up, supported by the region's underlying economic resilience and improving investor sentiment. While trade-related volatility and geopolitical tensions are likely to continue influencing decisions, the overall direction remains one of steady progress, according to CBRE's 2026 Asia...

- [Jockey Club serves as Official Community Partner of “M” Mark golf tournament for the first time](#) (2026-03-11 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] The Hong Kong Jockey Club extends its warmest congratulations on the successful conclusion of this year’s LIV Golf Hong Kong on 8 March at the Hong Kong Golf Club (HKGC) Fanling Golf Course. HKSAR Government Financial Secretary Paul Chan, HKSAR Government Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Rosanna Law, Club Executive Director of Corporate Affairs Raymond Tam and other guests attended the tournament, witnessing the...

- [Iran will not compete in United States-hosted 2026 World Cup, sports minister says](#) (2026-03-11 15:52)

Iran cannot take part in the 2026 World Cup after co-host the United States launched air strikes against the country alongside Israel, killing its leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sports minister Ahmad Donyamali said on Wednesday. The US and Israel launched air strikes on Iran almost two weeks ago, killing the Islamic Republic’s supreme leader, leading to a region-wide conflict in the Gulf. “Considering that this corrupt regime has assassinated our leader, under no circumstances can we...

- [China issues new safety rules for OpenClaw. Here are the dos and don’ts](#) (2026-03-11 15:13)

A unit of China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) has issued guidelines on best practices and prohibitions for adopting and using OpenClaw, the popular artificial intelligence agent that continues to dominate the market. The advisory, developed in collaboration with AI agent providers, vulnerability platform operators and cybersecurity firms, aims to address risks in typical use cases of “lobster”, OpenClaw’s mascot, according to a Wednesday statement from the MIIT-run...

- [As Iran war hits trade hubs, China’s logistics firms scramble for alternatives](#) (2026-03-11 15:00)

Logistics companies in China are feeling the strain from the US-Israeli war on Iran, as volatile crude prices and disrupted transport routes ripple through global supply chains. With e-commerce cargo stranded in the Middle East and freight rates skyrocketing, industry insiders said they expect the fallout to last months, even as US President Donald Trump signalled the war could end soon. While some saw opportunities in alternative Central Asian corridors, Chinese businesses reliant on the region...

- [Taiwan’s Mayday invites fans angered by axed Hong Kong show to free rehearsal](#) (2026-03-11 14:52)

Taiwanese rock band Mayday has sought to calm fans angered by the abrupt cancellation of one of its concerts planned for Hong Kong by inviting them to a free rehearsal, as complaints over the scrapped show soared to more than 100. The city’s customs chief also weighed in on

Wednesday, warning that enforcement action would be taken if any laws were breached. The Consumer Council said that as of 5pm, it had received 111 complaints about the cancelled show – 42 from local consumers and 69 from fans...

- [UK PM Starmer was warned of ‘reputational risk’ in appointing Mandelson](#) (2026-03-11 14:50)

Documents released on Wednesday by the British government show officials believed there was a “reputational risk” to appointing Peter Mandelson as the US ambassador because of his relationship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The concerns were raised in a document sent to Prime Minister Keir Starmer in December 2024 before he appointed Mandelson to the role, seen as vital to establish a good relationship with the administration of US President Donald Trump. The document also spelled...

- [Hong Kong university president vows to boost humanities amid AI push elsewhere](#) (2026-03-11 14:42)

The head of Hong Kong’s oldest university has vowed to inject more resources into humanities programmes, praising them as a source of creativity and imagination, even as some institutions outside the city cut courses amid the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). Professor Xiang Zhang, president of the University of Hong Kong (HKU), made the pledge on Wednesday as the head of the institution’s medical faculty revealed the school would ditch its target for 75 per cent of its intake to be...

- [IEA agrees to record release of emergency oil reserves to calm surging prices](#) (2026-03-11 14:36)

The International Energy Agency agreed on Wednesday to release the largest volume of emergency oil reserves in its history, in a bid to counter the effects on energy markets of the war in the Middle East. The Paris-based organisation said it will make 400 million barrels of oil available from its members’ emergency reserves. It’s a larger stock than the 182.7 million barrels that were released in 2022 by the IEA’s 32 member countries in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. IEA member...

- [China’s Midea pledges US\\$8.7 billion for AI and robotics in pivot to automation](#) (2026-03-11 14:30)

Midea Group, the owner of industrial robot giant Kuka, is the latest Chinese company to pledge heavy investment in AI and robotics – another 60 billion yuan (US\$8.7 billion) over the next three years – as traditional industries embrace futuristic technologies. The planned expenditure on research and development, with a focus on “AI, embodied intelligence and other cutting-edge areas”, matched its total spending over the past five years, the company announced in Shanghai on Tuesday. The strategic...

- [How Iran's strikes on US bases could offer a preview for the Asia-Pacific](#) (2026-03-11 14:00)

Iran's retaliatory strikes on US military assets across the Middle East serve as a preview of how Beijing might target American bases in Asian countries in the event of a Taiwan Strait conflict, according to analysts. In retaliation for large-scale air attacks by the US and Israel since February 28, Iran has launched missiles and drones at Gulf states that host US military bases and facilities, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. Those targets included Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the...

- [Asia's energy-reliant economies face 'existential threat' from prolonged Iran war](#) (2026-03-11 13:45)

Asian economies reliant on energy imports are bracing themselves not just for a spike in oil prices but for the possibility that the Iran war could trigger a prolonged period of energy market disruption. While markets have already priced in the initial disruption to shipping and energy infrastructure linked to the conflict, economists warn that a war lasting several weeks could leave Asian importers facing persistently higher fuel costs, widening trade deficits and slower economic...

- [On inauguration day, Chile's new president inherits a Chinese cable scandal and US threats](#) (2026-03-11 13:44)

The Chilean capital Santiago awoke on Wednesday to a mixture of celebration and tension. As the city prepared for the inauguration of its centre-right president, the new government's first crisis was already unfolding behind the scenes: an undersea fibre-optic cable linking the South American country to Hong Kong that had enraged Washington and may prove a watershed moment in how Latin America handles critical infrastructure projects and its partnership with Beijing. Jose Antonio Kast was...

- [Eli Lilly boosts China footprint with US\\$3 billion plan to expand supply chain](#) (2026-03-11 13:39)

Eli Lilly has pledged an additional US\$3 billion investment in China over the next decade to strengthen its local supply chain and manufacturing capabilities, deepening the footprint of foreign pharmaceutical giants in the world's second-largest healthcare market. The move would bring the total cumulative investment of Eli Lilly, the world's largest pharmaceutical company by market capitalisation, in China to nearly US\$6 billion, according to a statement released on its WeChat account on...

- [Late superstar Leslie Cheung to add magic to Hong Kong's Pop Culture Festival](#) (2026-03-11 13:03)

A newly restored 4K film featuring the late Hong Kong superstar Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing will be part of this year's Pop Culture Festival, but the government expects a 25 per cent drop in attendance over last year due to a shorter programme. Pat Wong Kit-yi, a chief manager at the

Leisure and Cultural Services Department, said on Wednesday the festival welcomed 800,000 visitors in 2025, but this year 600,000 were expected to attend. “We’ ve condensed the festival by a month, lasting from April to...

- [Hong Kong to expand scheme cutting stroke patient transfer time by 80 minutes](#)
(2026-03-11 13:01)

Hong Kong authorities plan to expand a pilot programme to cut the transfer time by 80 minutes for patients suffering from serious strokes to public hospitals equipped with relevant surgical facilities. The Hospital Authority said on Wednesday that the diversion programme, which was launched in December and is currently only available in the New Territories, would be gradually expanded to the whole city after sufficient data had been collected. Before the pilot scheme’ s launch, ambulances would...

- [China warns US against granting AI ability to ‘determine life and death’ on battlefield](#)
(2026-03-11 13:01)

China’ s military on Wednesday warned the United States against allowing artificial intelligence (AI) to “determine life and death” in warfare, as a dispute between the Pentagon and AI firm Anthropic highlighted growing tensions over military use of the technology. Speaking at a regular briefing in Beijing, defence ministry spokesman Jiang Bin said the “unrestricted application of AI by the military” could “erode ethical constraints and accountability in wars” and risk a “dangerous technological...

- [Iran’ s data centre attacks in the Gulf are strikes on confidence](#) (2026-03-11 12:30)

For decades, geopolitical risk in the Gulf was largely synonymous with oil. Pipelines, export terminals and processing facilities were viewed as the obvious tender spots in times of regional escalation. In an oil-reliant economy, hydrocarbons were both the engine of growth and the primary vulnerability. Risk assessments, insurance premiums and sovereign spreads were managed accordingly. The episodic risks in the oil and gas industry led to a conventional playbook for navigating crises. Gulf...

- [Germany, Japan to unblock oil reserves as G7 stands ‘ready’ to act](#) (2026-03-11 12:29)

Japan and Germany said on Wednesday they would tap into their oil reserves to tackle the rise in crude prices due to the Middle East war, with Berlin saying the IEA global energy body had asked member states to release 400 million barrels. France, the current chair of the Group of Seven countries, said nations were coordinating their steps as G7 energy ministers said they stood ready to take “all necessary measures” . The latest announcement came as leaders of the Group of Seven advanced...

- [Only 1 Hong Kong landlord seeks subdivided flat approval as new law takes effect](#)
(2026-03-11 12:22)

Only one landlord in Hong Kong has sought certification approval for subdivided flats since a new law on minimum housing standards took effect about two weeks ago, while applications for a grace period have been submitted for more than 1,100 homes, according to authorities. The Basic Housing Units Ordinance, which took effect on March 1, stipulates that only subdivided homes that meet minimum standards and are certified by building professionals can be legally leased. Non-compliant landlords...

- [Japan to release oil reserves as early as Monday](#) (2026-03-11 12:15)

Japan will release strategic oil reserves as early as Monday, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said, a unilateral move by the import-dependent Asian economy to ease concerns over rising fuel prices due to the Middle East war. Japan is the world's fourth-largest economy and the fifth-biggest importer of crude oil, with about 95 per cent of its needs coming from the Middle East and around 70 per cent passing through the Strait of Hormuz before the conflict began. Tokyo has been working with other...

- [Chinese firm claims it intercepted B-2 radio signal during US strike on Iran](#) (2026-03-11 12:00)

A private company in China providing intelligence-gathering services to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) claims to have intercepted radio signals from American stealth bombers that struck Iran on March 1 as part of the US-Israel military action. Jingan Technology, a defence technology firm based in east China's Hangzhou, also asserted that it detected signals linked to US military activities well before tensions with Iran escalated, using artificial intelligence (AI) to analyse early...

- [Demand for AI talent in China outpaces job postings in other 'new-economy' sectors](#) (2026-03-11 11:29)

China's spring hiring season is revealing a sharp surge in demand for artificial intelligence talent as companies speed up the deployment of related technologies, turning it into one of the country's hottest professional fields. The number of AI-related job postings in China in the first two months of the year grew about 12-fold year on year, far outpacing growth in other "new-economy" industries such as healthcare, renewable energy and semiconductors, People's Daily reported on Tuesday, citing...

- [Malaysia tightens borders to fight fuel smuggling amid global energy crisis](#) (2026-03-11 11:25)

Malaysia will tighten border enforcement to curb fuel smuggling and keep subsidised petrol prices unchanged as the widening US-Israeli war with Iran disrupts energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz and rattles global oil markets. The move comes amid concern that rising fuel prices abroad could make smuggling subsidised fuel out of Malaysia more profitable. "The most worrying aspect is that this conflict has an impact on the global economy, Asia and Malaysia," Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said...

- [Thai navy says cargo ship attacked near Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-11 11:08)

A Thai bulk carrier travelling in the crucial Strait of Hormuz was attacked on Wednesday, with 20 crew members rescued so far, the Thai navy said. Photos shared by the Royal Thai Navy showed heavy black smoke billowing from the hull and superstructure of the Thai-registered Mayuree Naree, with life rafts floating in the water. The vessel “was attacked while transiting the Strait of Hormuz” after departing Khalifa port in the United Arab Emirates, the navy said in a statement. “The specific...

- [Japan’s ‘so handsome’ youngest governor, 36, sets social media abuzz again](#) (2026-03-11 11:01)

Takato Ishida, the 36-year-old governor of Fukui, has sparked a fresh wave of online attention after new Instagram posts from his prefectural assembly revived the fascination that followed Ishida’s election earlier this year. Many of the reactions have focused less on policy than on Japan’s youngest sitting prefectural leader, with social media users repeatedly praising his appearance and describing him as unusually “handsome” for a politician. The attention first surged shortly after Ishida...

- [China stands to gain from US moving military assets for Iran war: cross-strait adviser](#) (2026-03-11 11:00)

Beijing could gain a strategic edge in the Taiwan Strait as US military assets are diverted to the Middle East, even though it remains committed to peaceful reunification with the island, a prominent mainland expert on the Taiwan issue said on Tuesday. Li Yihu, dean of the Taiwan Research Institute at Peking University and a delegate to China’s National People’s Congress, said Washington’s involvement in multiple conflicts, including the ongoing war in Iran, was straining its armed forces and...

- [Why US policy on India aims to avoid repeat of China ‘mistake’](#) (2026-03-11 11:00)

A warning by a senior US official that the Trump administration would not repeat with India the “mistakes” it made in its past dealings with China signals that Washington would not allow New Delhi’s rise to come at the expense of its strategic interests. Speaking at a conference on international politics and economics in Delhi on Friday, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said the US wanted to work with India to unlock its “limitless potential”. But he added at the Raisina Dialogue:...

- [As US missiles leave South Korea, the Philippines asks: are we next?](#) (2026-03-11 10:00)

The United States has begun pulling missile-defence systems from South Korea to feed its war with Iran, prompting fresh questions in the Philippines about Washington’s military commitments to the Asia-Pacific. The transfer of Patriot batteries from the Korean peninsula, accompanied by reports that parts of a THAAD anti-missile system were also on the move, did not directly affect the US military presence in the Philippines. But the episode has forced a

question that Manila would rather not have...

- [‘Thank you for coming to Okinawa’ : Japan girl offers money to China tourist to pay bus fare](#) (2026-03-11 10:00)

A Chinese tourist touched many people online by telling how a young Japanese girl not only helped her find a bus she needed but also initially gave her 1,000 yen (US\$6). The woman traveller, from eastern China’s Zhejiang province, posted her story on March 6, using the alias Yuyu, the news outlet 163.com reported. She was travelling to Okinawa at the beginning of March, and as she did not know much about the transport system in the region, she was checking schedules at a bus station. A young...

- [Award-winning memory chip expert Shi Guojun leaves US for job at top Chinese semiconductor firm](#) (2026-03-11 10:00)

An expert on semiconductor packaging and memory chips has left the University of California, Irvine after more than two decades to join a leading conductive materials company in eastern China. Shi Guojun has taken on the role of chief strategic scientist and director of the Future Industry Research Institute at DK Electronic Materials, the company said in a statement posted online on March 6. According to DKEM, Shi will lead the company’s strategic planning and development in emerging...

- [CATL profit jump fuels Hong Kong battery stocks amid global energy storage boom](#) (2026-03-11 10:00)

Betting on rising global demand for energy storage, shares of Chinese lithium battery makers continued to rally on Wednesday, led by Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd (CATL), which reported stronger-than-expected growth driven in part by its expansion into new energy storage markets. CATL shares surged more than 10 per cent to HK\$608 during morning trading hours in Hong Kong on Wednesday – the highest level in five months – before closing 9 per cent higher at HK\$599.50. That followed another 9...

- [Suspected wartime grenade found in Hong Kong residential area](#) (2026-03-11 08:35)

Hong Kong police and a bomb disposal unit were deployed to a residential area in Happy Valley on Wednesday afternoon after a driver spotted a suspected wartime grenade lodged on a hillside. Police received a report at about 1.40pm from a driver passing the Villa Monte Rosa housing estate on Stubbs Road. The device, described as being roughly the size of a lemon, was found on a slope near the luxury residential complex. Officers from the explosive ordnance disposal bureau were called to the scene...

- [India opens door to more Chinese investment after 6-year freeze](#) (2026-03-11 08:34)

India has relaxed curbs on Chinese investments in certain sectors to attract more foreign capital, as Beijing and New Delhi continue to gradually repair their economic relationship after years of tense relations. In a cabinet statement released on Tuesday, New Delhi introduced a

fast-track approval mechanism for investments from land-bordering countries – including China. The move amends a previous restriction that had mandated government scrutiny for all such capital inflows. Under the new...

- [China's 'two sessions' 2026: everything you need to know](#) (2026-03-11 08:15)

We have put together stories from our coverage of China's ongoing "two sessions". If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Taiwan, trade war, PLA and AI: Li Qiang lays out priorities at 'two sessions' China's premier pledged to champion "orderly" multipolarism and "inclusive" globalisation at the opening ceremony of the National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing. 2. Xi Jinping calls on China's provincial powerhouses to lead in tech, risk control President...

- [Former Hong Kong councillor jailed for laundering HK\\$590,000 in phone scam proceeds](#) (2026-03-11 08:01)

A former Hong Kong opposition district councillor has been jailed for three years and nine months for handling HK\$590,000 (US\$75,409) in telephone scam proceeds on behalf of a fraud syndicate, saying he wanted to earn quick cash to repay his gambling debts and cover his father's medical expenses. Sheep Wong Chun-yeung, 31, had initially insisted that he was secretly gathering evidence against what he believed to be a triad-run debt collection ring when he received money from six elderly victims...

- [War on Iran threatens Asia's food supply as fertiliser prices surge](#) (2026-03-11 08:00)

How does a missile strike on a Qatari gas plant end up raising the price of rice in Bangladesh? The answer is fertiliser, an unglamorous commodity that nevertheless sustains much of what the world eats. Qatar burns natural gas to produce ammonia. Ammonia is converted into urea. Urea goes into the ground and out of the ground comes grain. Disrupt the first step, as Iran did when it struck QatarEnergy's liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing facility on March 1, and the consequences travel along...

- [Geely Auto beats BYD sales in first 2 months of 2026 to become China's top carmaker](#) (2026-03-11 08:00)

Geely Auto has gained the upper hand in mainland China's intensifying automotive sector, as its diverse product line-up pays off after electric vehicle (EV) king BYD suffered a setback following partial withdrawal of a tax break. Controlled by Chinese billionaire Li Shufu, Geely overtook BYD in sales during the first two months of the year because of its vehicles' quality and reliability, even as Beijing intensified efforts to curb price competition among carmakers, according to...

- [Mystery surrounds health and whereabouts of Iran's new supreme leader](#) (2026-03-11 07:47)

Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is "safe and sound" despite reports of an injury during the war with Israel and the United States, said the son of the Iranian president on Wednesday. "I heard news that Mr Mojtaba Khamenei had been injured. I have asked some friends who had connections. They told me that, thank God, he is safe and sound," said Yousef Pezeshkian, who is also a government adviser, in a post on his Telegram channel. He did not elaborate. State television had called...

- [Iran war highlights US defence gaps; mathematician returns to China: 7 science highlights](#) (2026-03-11 07:30)

We have put together stories from our coverage on science from the past two weeks to help you stay informed. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Could Iran war confirm China's prediction on US military's hypersonic nightmare? On the same day the US and Israel launched air strikes against Iran, a research team led by Liao Longwen with the Northwest Institute of Nuclear Technology published a paper in the Chinese journal Tactical Missile Technology on...

- [European airlines add flights to Asia amid high demand, cancellations by Gulf carriers](#) (2026-03-11 07:28)

British Airways and Deutsche Lufthansa are adding flights to Asia amid increased long-haul demand as customers seek alternatives to Middle East carriers hamstrung by airspace closures at home. BA will operate more flights from London to Singapore and Bangkok this week, using aircraft that currently are not needed in the Gulf region. The airline has temporarily cut back its Middle East schedule, cancelling all Abu Dhabi flights until at least October and stopping flights to cities including...

- [Webinar | 'Two sessions' 2026: how will China pivot its economy under Trump's pressure?](#) (2026-03-11 06:55)

China's most critical annual political gathering, the "two sessions", is particularly significant this year as Beijing unveils its 15th five-year plan, signaling how it will position itself ahead of the highly anticipated summit between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump. To decode the outcomes of these meetings, the South China Morning Post and the Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis (CCA) will co-host a special webinar on March 13. The panel features...

- [Pakistan says 'no question' it will help Saudi Arabia after Iran strikes Gulf nations](#) (2026-03-11 06:54)

Pakistan will come to the aid of Saudi Arabia whenever needed, according to the spokesman for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as Iran retaliates against US-Israeli strikes by hitting Gulf nations. Saudi Arabia and nuclear-armed Pakistan, which shares a border with Iran, signed a defence pact in September last year, elevating their long-standing security partnership, which is being tested by the Middle East crisis. There was "no question we might, we will" come to

Saudi Arabia’ s aid “no matter...

- [Mother in Hong Kong held after unattended son throws items from flat, damaging car](#) (2026-03-11 06:27)

A woman in Hong Kong has been arrested on suspicion of neglect after allegedly leaving her four-year-old son home alone, during which time he threw objects from a window, damaging a parked car below. Police said on Wednesday that they received a report in the early hours concerning a boy suspected of throwing plastic bottles and other items from a residential flat on Tai Nan Street in Sham Shui Po. A video widely shared online shows an object being thrown from the building’ s fifth floor, hitting...

- [Thailand smashes coconut-profiteering web led by Chinese firms](#) (2026-03-11 06:24)

Thai police have broken up a web of Chinese companies allegedly using Thai fronts to control the kingdom’ s coconut supply, squeezing prices to record lows of 2 baht (6 US cents) per fruit and allowing wide profit margins on sales into China. The probe, launched across western agricultural provinces where the nam hom coconut farms are based, reflects broader concerns about the exploitation of Thai fruit farmers by foreign businessmen who set prices and dictate market terms. Raids on eight...

- [Nepal’ s new government signals shift in India, China relations](#) (2026-03-11 06:03)

Nepal’ s incoming government has signalled it will pursue a more pragmatic foreign policy centred on national interests, as the newly victorious Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) seeks to recalibrate relations with both China and India after years of shifting political alignments. In its election manifesto, RSP pledged to pursue “balanced and dynamic diplomacy” with both neighbours, emphasising economic cooperation, cross-border connectivity and trade while transforming Nepal from a “buffer state...

- [China woman, 63, gives birth to baby girl after conceiving via IVF following loss of only child](#) (2026-03-11 06:00)

A 63-year-old woman from northeastern China, who lost her only child last year and sought another offspring for spiritual support, recently gave birth to a baby girl. The woman delivered the baby on March 4 via caesarean section at a hospital in Songyuan, Jilin province, about two weeks ahead of her due date, as reported by the Sanxiang Metropolis News. Both the mother and her baby, who weighs 2.8kg, are in good health, the report stated. The grey-haired mother, whose name was not disclosed in...

- [Might makes right? Rules based order on trial in Europe as Iran war deepens divide](#) (2026-03-11 05:59)

As the war in Iran tips the global order further into chaos, a potentially existential rupture on whether international rules still matter is threatening to tear Europe apart. Over the course of Monday and Tuesday, leaders of the European Union’ s institutions – considered among the

most legalistic political structures on the planet – clashed publicly over whether the bloc should still be bound by global norms. This followed more than a week of messy sparring among national political leaders from...

- [Jeju Air crash: South Korean auditor says ministry prioritised cost over safety](#) (2026-03-11 05:38)

South Korea's transport ministry cut construction costs and approved improper airport safety structures for more than two decades, the state auditor said in a report on aviation safety management after a Jeju Air crash that killed 179 people. The December 2024 crash involved a Boeing 737-800 which was struck by birds, belly-landed and overran the runway at Muan International Airport, killing almost everyone on board after it struck a concrete support for a localiser antenna. The only survivors...

- [Is Iran's vital oil hub Kharg Island in America's crosshairs?](#) (2026-03-11 05:15)

Kharg Island, a scrubby stretch of land in the northern Gulf, handles almost all of Iran's crude exports and any attempt to seize it would mark a major escalation in the conflict, analysts have said. The US and Israel have so far treaded carefully around the island, but an Axios report over the weekend cited Trump administration officials saying capturing Kharg was on the table as the war in the Middle East persists. The island, located around 30km (19 miles) off the Iranian mainland, handles...

- [Cathay posts 9.5% rise in profit to HK\\$10.82 billion but warns of geopolitical risks](#) (2026-03-11 04:45)

Cathay Pacific Airways' net profit climbed 9.5 per cent to HK\$10.82 billion (US\$1.39 billion) in 2025, driven by increased capacity and robust cargo demand, as the Hong Kong flag carrier's chief warned of disruptions from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Cathay Group chairman Patrick Healy said on Wednesday that the results marked the airline's third consecutive year of growth. But he cautioned that global geopolitical tensions were unsettling businesses and pushing up fuel prices. Hong...

- [Election to replace Marjorie Taylor Greene leads to run-off](#) (2026-03-11 04:41)

The Republican candidate backed by US President Donald Trump will advance to a run-off against a Democrat in the Georgia race to replace Marjorie Taylor Greene in the US House of Representatives, after a special election on Tuesday seen as a test of Trump's sway over his party. Trump's preferred candidate, former district attorney for four northwest Georgia counties Clay Fuller, will face Shawn Harris, a moderate Democrat who has sought to court disillusioned Trump voters, in the April 7...

- [Iran's stranded sailors wait out the war in Sri Lanka amid US pressure](#) (2026-03-11 04:33)

Just as Sri Lanka thought it had bought some time with a one-month visa for the Iranian sailors it rescued, another of Iran's warships appeared offshore, deepening Colombo's struggle to

stay out of a war that keeps washing up on its doorstep. The vessel was detected nine nautical miles (17km) off the coast on Tuesday, a week after a US submarine sank the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena and damaged the IRIS Bushehr off the southern port of Galle on March 4. Sri Lanka now hosts hundreds of Iranian naval...

- [China's size, strength insulates its energy security amid geopolitical shocks: lawmaker](#) (2026-03-11 04:30)

Despite its heavy reliance on oil and gas imports, China's "national strength" insulates its energy security from short-term geopolitical shocks, a prominent petroleum geologist said. Jin Zhijun, dean of the Institute of Energy at Peking University, said that China – as a large country – could ensure its energy security amid a volatile international energy trading landscape, with multiple contingency plans in place. They included tapping more domestic resources by increasing oil and gas...

- [What if Iran really did buy export variant of China's YJ-12 supersonic missile?](#) (2026-03-11 04:00)

Just days ahead of the US-Israeli air strikes on Iran, a news report suggested that Beijing was close to selling supersonic cruise missiles to Tehran – a move that could significantly boost the Islamic Republic's capacity to counter US aircraft carriers. Before the world could work out whether game-changing Chinese missiles really would feature in an Iranian conflict against US forces, Beijing firmly denied the report, published by Reuters on February 24. Citing six sources, Reuters reported...

- [Hong Kong customs seizes more fuel-smuggling trucks as Iran war lifts prices](#) (2026-03-11 03:28)

Hong Kong customs officers have intercepted more cross-border trucks suspected of smuggling petrol into the city as fuel prices surge amid the war in the Middle East. Commissioner of Customs and Excise Chan Tsz-tat said on Wednesday that some of the vehicles had even enlarged their fuel tanks to carry more petrol for supplying illegal petrol stations. "In the past few weeks, we have uncovered many such cases involving cars that had enlarged their fuel tank capacity and made other modifications," ...

- [Iran war shock derails Thailand's economic reboot under PM Anutin](#) (2026-03-11 03:02)

Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has finalised his coalition partners and tapped allies for cabinet posts, but the spillover from the war in the Middle East is already diluting the economic momentum his new government hopes to take into office. Anutin's in-tray was already bulging with promises to address domestic woes, including high household debt and a slowdown in growth that has led to an anaemic 2026 forecast of between 1.5 and 2.1 per cent. But the unexpected energy price...

- [Halo trade reshapes Wall Street portfolios. Is China set to lead the heavy-asset era?](#)

(2026-03-11 03:00)

Halo, short for heavy assets, low obsolescence, has emerged as a major Wall Street theme in recent weeks. Investors are rotating from tech stocks to companies with real physical assets amid fears over artificial intelligence, geopolitical tensions and rising prices of resources and infrastructure. Here's what you need to know about how the strategy gained popularity and why it matters to China. What is Halo? The term was coined last month by Josh Brown, CEO of Ritholtz Wealth Management, to...

- [Singapore man to be charged over TikTok videos on race, government](#) (2026-03-11 02:40)

A 59-year-old man will be charged in a Singapore court on Wednesday over four videos he posted on TikTok between 2023 and 2025, the police and Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA) Office said on Tuesday. The videos contained content which promoted ill will between different racial groups as well as false statements of fact, police and the POFMA Office said in a joint news release. He will be charged with two counts of defamation and one count of attempting to promote...

- [Elon Musk on course to become world's first trillionaire as wealth soars](#) (2026-03-11 02:30)

Elon Musk's estimated US\$839 billion net worth has made him the wealthiest individual ever recorded, Forbes said on Tuesday, as billionaires worldwide saw their combined fortunes surge in the past year to an all-time high of US\$20.1 trillion. Musk topped the Forbes World's Billionaires list for the second consecutive year after his fortune swelled by roughly US\$500 billion over the past 12 months, driven by rising valuations at Tesla and SpaceX, which is targeting a public offering in 2026. He...

- [Japan hit by worst earthquake and tsunami in its history in 2011 – from the SCMP archive](#) (2026-03-11 02:30)

This article was first published on March 11, 2011. By Greg Torode, Martin Wong and Agencies A farm building engulfed in flames as it disintegrated in giant waves; a minibus tumbling end over end, pushed ahead of a 10-metre wall of water - the tsunami triggered yesterday afternoon by the largest earthquake in Japanese history produced scenes of horror along the country's northeast coast. At least 1,000 people were killed as the wall of water swept away everything in its path. The death toll is...

- [Hong Kong stocks extend rebound as proposed release from oil reserve soothes fears](#) (2026-03-11 02:10)

Hong Kong stocks rose on Wednesday as fears over surging oil prices eased and Chinese tech names rebounded after a deep rout. The Hang Seng Index gained 0.5 per cent to 26,028.00 as of 9.36am. The Hang Seng Tech Index edged up 0.6 per cent. On the mainland, the CSI 300 Index and the Shanghai Composite Index were little changed. Oil prices fluctuated after the

Wall Street Journal reported that the International Energy Agency proposed the largest ever oil release from its strategic reserve. The...

- [Woman charged with attempted murder in shooting at Rihanna's Los Angeles home](#) (2026-03-11 02:07)

A Florida woman accused of firing gunshots at Rihanna's home in Los Angeles was charged on Tuesday with one count of attempted murder and other felony offences including 10 counts of assault on a person with a semi-automatic firearm. District Attorney Nathan Hochman said that the singing superstar, her partner A\$AP Rocky, their three small children and her mother were all on the property at the time. The district attorney's office said Ivanna Lisette Ortiz, 35, was charged in the shooting Sunday...

- [The US-Israeli war on Iran threatens global energy. How is Asia preparing?](#) (2026-03-11 02:00)

US President Donald Trump says the war on Iran may not last much longer. But across Asia, government actions are racing to shield themselves from the fallout – revealing a region gripped by anxiety that an energy shock could revive the spectre of stagflation. Under mounting economic pressure and record oil market volatility, Trump said on Monday that the US-Israeli war on Iran could be over “very soon”, though not within the coming week. The most exposed Asian economies – including South Korea...

- [Harvey Weinstein calls prison ‘hell’ in interview behind bars](#) (2026-03-11 01:48)

Disgraced movie mogul and convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein says life in prison is “hell” in an interview where he repeatedly claimed he was not guilty of any crimes. The man who once effectively ruled Hollywood before a spectacular fall from grace at the start of the #MeToo movement said he was trapped in his cell at New York's Rikers Island, with only guards for company. “It's too dangerous for me to be around anyone else. Other inmates get to go to the yard. But every time I'm out there, I...

- [Hong Kong tycoon urges prudent approach to development amid global uncertainty](#) (2026-03-11 01:30)

A Hong Kong property tycoon has called for a more prudent approach to the city's development rather than accelerating projects amid global uncertainties, saying the industry's willingness to invest in the Northern Metropolis hinges on the health of the market. Far East Consortium chairman David Chiu Tat-cheong also described the megaproject's new land disposal approach – which requires winning bidders to handle multiple developments on a large plot – as good intentions with unintended negative...

- [How America's Iran miscalculation hands China a strategic advantage](#) (2026-03-11 01:30)

The US launched its war against Iran on February 28, convinced that decapitating Tehran's leadership would produce swift political capitulation. A week later, Iran was still firing missiles

across the Gulf, some 150 oil tankers were stalled at the Strait of Hormuz and an Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander has threatened to set ablaze any vessel attempting passage. A recent analysis in The Diplomat argues the strikes signal the end of China's westward strategic march. The diagnosis captures...

- [15 years after Fukushima disaster, Japan struggles with rising maintenance costs](#)
(2026-03-11 01:27)

Japan on Wednesday marked 15 years since a devastating earthquake and tsunami struck the country's northeastern areas, triggering the world's worst nuclear disaster since the 1986 Chernobyl crisis. The triple disasters of the magnitude-9.0 earthquake, resulting tsunami and meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex led to the loss of more than 22,000 lives. The plant's operator is still struggling to dismantle the damaged facilities by 2051. The central government stopped hosting memorial...

- [Taiwan scrambles to sign US arms deals before deadline amid defence budget gridlock](#)
(2026-03-11 01:00)

Taiwan's defence ministry has received a US letter of offer and acceptance (LOA) for 82 HIMARS rocket launchers, according to officials, who said the deal must be signed by March 26 as other pending arms contracts near expiry. Speaking before a legislative session on Tuesday, Wellington Koo Li-hsiung, the island's defence minister, said the HIMARS, or High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, agreement was one of five US arms procurement deals awaiting legislative authorisation. Koo noted that the...

- [Inseparable China triplet brothers hold weddings on same day, grow up sharing everything](#) (2026-03-11 01:00)

A group of triplet brothers in central China has trended on social media for holding a joint wedding event on the same day. The collective nuptials were held in Shangqiu, Henan province, at the beginning of March, Jimu News reported. The three men were born after the year 2000. Their exact age is not clear. One of them, who is ranked second on account of the time of his birth, said he and his brothers have never spent time apart since childhood. "We did everything together. We wore the same...

- [South Korea grapples with 'clear reality' of US forces' shifting role on peninsula](#)
(2026-03-11 00:00)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has bluntly said that Seoul cannot prevent the United States from redeploying military assets from the peninsula, raising concerns about the shifting role of American forces stationed in the country. Analysts say the episode exposes a stark reality for Seoul: US Forces Korea (USFK) are increasingly being used for missions beyond deterring North Korea as Washington pushes for greater "strategic flexibility" for its troops overseas. Lee made the remarks after...

- [At least 6 killed, 5 injured in Switzerland bus fire](#) (2026-03-10 23:37)

A bus caught fire in western Switzerland on Tuesday, killing at least six people and injuring five others in what police said may have been a deliberate act. The fire broke out on the bus in the main street of the small town of Kerzers, around 20km (12 miles) west of the Swiss capital Bern, at about 6.25pm. Videos circulating on social media showed flames several metres high bursting out from the windows and black smoke rising into the sky. The fire “left at least six dead and five injured,...

- [Why China’ s red-hot tech push is leaving some traditional sectors out in the cold](#) (2026-03-10 22:00)

With its cutting-edge humanoid robots busting moves on the world’ s most-watched television programme and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz touring a company factory during a state visit, both within the last month, Unitree Robotics – already a household name in China – has seen its profile move into the stratosphere. And local government officials, eager to burnish their economies by strengthening ties to up-and-coming businesses, have made the domestic start-up’ s founder and CEO Wang Xingxing a...

- [Iran war exposes the risks of being a US ally](#) (2026-03-10 21:30)

Since Israel and the United States launched their illegal and disastrous war against Iran, some Western apologists for this axis of aggression have dragged China into their propaganda. They say the war exposes how unreliable and useless China is as an ally and partner because it is nowhere to be found in Iran’ s hour of need. The question is not whether Beijing should stick out its neck. No one wants to get involved in this potentially catastrophic war. That includes America’ s Nato allies, which...

- [Mainland Chinese see Taiwan positively, won’ t retreat from US trade war: survey](#) (2026-03-10 20:50)

Mainland Chinese citizens feel more favourable towards Taiwan than they did six months ago, support a hardline stance towards the US if another trade war erupts and view Russia and North Korea most positively and Japan least positively among their neighbours, according to a new survey by the Carter Centre and Emory University. One finding that comes through loud and clear, its authors said, is that mainlanders believe they have arrived and their country now belongs in a grouping limited to China...

- [Analysts say Trump is looking for a way out of Iran. Is it ‘Taco’ time?](#) (2026-03-10 20:23)

US President Donald Trump has built a potential off-ramp by suggesting the Iran war could end soon, but the world is still guessing about whether he will take it – and whether Tehran will let him. With surging oil prices threatening the global economy and his political fortunes at home, Trump’ s tone appeared to shift abruptly on Monday as he called the war “very complete” and a “short-term excursion” . But the 79-year-old commander-in-chief continued to send mixed messages about when the war...

- [WHO warns of toxic ‘black rain’ in Iran after strikes on oil facilities](#) (2026-03-10 17:57)

The World Health Organization warned on Tuesday that the “black rain” and toxic compounds in the air in Iran after strikes on oil facilities could cause respiratory problems, and it backed Iran’s advisory urging people to remain indoors. The UN health agency, which has an office in Iran and works with authorities on health emergencies, said it has received multiple reports of oil-laden rain this week. Tehran was choked in black smoke on Monday after an oil refinery was hit, in an escalation in...

- [Hegseth says Tuesday will be ‘most intense’ of US war on Iran as Trump considers endgame](#) (2026-03-10 17:51)

Tuesday will be the “most intense day of strikes” inside Iran so far, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said, adding that President Donald Trump will ultimately decide the war’s timeline. The Pentagon chief’s remarks follow the president’s comments on Monday, suggesting the war could be over sooner than expected. For now, fighting appeared to be ramping up. “Today will be yet again our most intense day of strikes inside Iran – the most fighters, the most bombers,” Hegseth told reporters on...

- [Heated Rivalry star Hudson Williams condemns racist and homophobic fan comments](#) (2026-03-10 17:36)

A star of the massively popular Canadian show Heated Rivalry has hit back against an avalanche of hateful online posts, with the hockey drama’s success stirring up a frenzy online. The show about the budding careers and secret relationship of two young male hockey stars – one Canadian, one Russian – over a series of years, has become a global phenomenon. But it has also inspired particularly intense fan engagement across social media, including homophobic and racist comments. Lead actor Hudson...

- [Shots fired at US consulate in Toronto, Canada, premier hints at Iran war link](#) (2026-03-10 16:50)

Canadian police are investigating after the United States consulate in downtown Toronto was hit by gunfire early on Tuesday morning. Nobody was injured. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Chief Superintendent Chris Leather called it a national security incident and said the national police force is working with Toronto police to understand the motive. Leather said the American and Israeli consulates, as well as embassies in Ottawa, will see an increase in security. Toronto Police Deputy Chief Frank...

- [The doctorate for leaders who want depth](#) (2026-03-10 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Professor Muammer Ozer, Director of the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme at the City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK)’s College of Business, looks at what AI does to learning and reaches an unfashionable conclusion. Information is no longer scarce, he says, but judgement still is. A

doctorate, in his view, is earned where work cannot be “cut and pasted” , where an answer has to be able to address a...

- [Russia, Ukraine both claim frontline success while US-led talks remain on hold](#)

(2026-03-10 15:46)

Russian and Ukrainian officials are making contradictory claims of battlefield successes in their four-year-old war, with Ukraine saying it has pushed Moscow’ s forces back in some places on the front line but the Kremlin insisting that Russia’ s invasion of its neighbour is making progress. At the same time, Russia’ s almost daily aerial attacks on civilian areas of Ukraine continue. Three powerful glide bombs struck the centre of the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk, killing four people, the...

- [Could China’ s rare earth supplies dictate how long US strikes on Iran go on?](#) (2026-03-10 15:00)

The US war against Iran may have handed Beijing some fresh rare-earths leverage over Washington, with roughly three weeks until US President Donald Trump’ s expected visit to China. Washington’ s heavy reliance on the Chinese minerals for its advanced weapon systems means China could dictate how long US strikes on Iran can go on, according to sources and analysts. Sources told the South China Morning Post, on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue, that Washington had only...

- [Memory price hikes ‘the new normal’ as AI boom fuels storage demand, Seagate says](#) (2026-03-10 14:30)

Memory price hikes are likely to become “the new normal” for the next few years, according to an executive at storage giant Seagate Technology, as the artificial intelligence boom of the past two to three years pushes the industry into what he described as a supercycle. “It’ s hard to tell if it will last forever,” Ban-Seng Teh, Seagate’ s chief commercial officer, told the South China Morning Post. The current cycle was “very unusual because in the past we went through cycles of shortage and...

- [China issues second warning on OpenClaw risks amid adoption frenzy](#) (2026-03-10 14:14)

China’ s cybersecurity agency on Tuesday issued a second warning about security and data risks tied to OpenClaw, despite a rush among local governments and tech companies to adopt the artificial intelligence agent amid a nationwide frenzy. At a time when major Chinese cloud service providers were touting easy deployment of OpenClaw to capitalise on its popularity, improper installation and use of the agent had also led to severe security risks, said the National Computer Network Emergency...

- [EU eyes nuclear energy again as oil prices soar amid US-Israel war on Iran](#) (2026-03-10 14:10)

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday said Europe's turn away from nuclear power had been a "strategic mistake", as soaring oil prices rekindled concerns about the bloc's energy vulnerability. Speaking in Paris at a nuclear summit, which aims to boost the use of civilian nuclear energy, the European Commission president endorsed a return to atomic energy, saying the European Union would back investments in "innovative nuclear technologies". "It was a strategic mistake for Europe to turn its...

- [Councillors oppose ferry fare rises for Hong Kong's outlying island routes](#) (2026-03-10 14:07)

District councillors representing Hong Kong's outlying islands have opposed a plan to raise selected ferry fares by up to 12.8 per cent, arguing that it will discourage the elderly from travelling and harm the local economy. Members of Islands District Council on Tuesday all raised concerns that another fare increase could be sought in response to soaring fuel prices. The remarks were made as the Transport Department briefed council members on the fare adjustment proposal for six key ferry...

- [From 'love and hate' to nationalism, can Xi and Trump rebalance ties?](#) (2026-03-10 14:00)

As US President Donald Trump prepares for his first China trip in nearly a decade, Chinese scholars see an opportunity to steer ties away from confrontation and towards a managed coexistence. Speakers at a seminar hosted by the University of Hong Kong's Centre on Contemporary China and the World last week were cautiously optimistic about prospects for the relationship. That was despite Washington's strategic pullback, heightened sensitivities over the Taiwan Strait, and intensifying conflict in...

- [Why China sees stability in hardliner Mojtaba Khamenei's rise to lead Iran](#) (2026-03-10 13:15)

Chinese analysts expect Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's new supreme leader, to continue and possibly harden his assassinated father's policies towards the US and Israel. The appointment of the 56-year-old cleric could signal a sense of continuity inside Iran, as well as stabilise ties between Beijing and Tehran, the analysts added. Iran's Assembly of Experts confirmed on Monday that the younger Khamenei would succeed the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as the supreme leader – a post holding the final say...

- [Sour note for fans after Taiwanese rock band Mayday switches Hong Kong date](#) (2026-03-10 13:15)

Hong Kong's consumer watchdog has received dozens of complaints after Taiwanese rock band Mayday cancelled one of its coming concerts at Kai Tak Sports Park and replaced it with a new date later in the week, sparking frustration among fans – particularly those travelling from mainland China and overseas. The Consumer Council said that as of 1pm on Tuesday, it had received 24 complaints about the cancelled show – eight from local consumers and 16 from

fans outside the city. The watchdog said the...

- [Tai Po fire: Hong Kong Red Cross raises HK\\$530 million for affected residents](#) (2026-03-10 13:10)

The Hong Kong Red Cross has raised HK\$530 million (US\$67.8 million) to provide emergency and long-term support to residents affected by the deadly Tai Po fire, with the NGO expecting all its relief and recovery efforts to be finished in five years. More than three months on from the Wang Fuk Court blaze that killed 168 people and displaced nearly 5,000, the group said on Thursday that it had ended its donation drive. It also pledged to spend no more than 5 per cent of the funds on administrative...

- [China-North Korea rail services restored as neighbours try to get relations back on track](#) (2026-03-10 13:00)

China will resume passenger train services to North Korea for the first time in six years – the latest sign of warming ties between the two countries as Pyongyang grapples with increasing tensions with the South and Donald Trump’s unpredictability. From Thursday, passenger trains between Beijing and Pyongyang will run four times a week – on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, China Railway Group (CREC) said on social media Tuesday night. The train will depart from Beijing at around 5.30pm...

- [Philippines’ fuel shock exposes limits of deregulated oil market](#) (2026-03-10 12:36)

The Philippines was hit by a sharp fuel-price shock on Tuesday, with pump costs surging after the escalating conflict involving Iran pushed global oil prices higher, in what could become one of the country’s steepest weekly increases in years. Consumer groups say the surge is exposing a deeper problem: a deregulated oil industry introduced in the late 1990s that allows companies to set pump prices in line with global markets, leaving the government with fewer tools to intervene than many of its...

- [Iran strikes are a wake-up call to regulate military AI](#) (2026-03-10 12:30)

The United States and Israel are using artificial intelligence (AI) in their ongoing war on Iran. Even amid Anthropic’s blacklisting by the Pentagon amid a dispute over wartime applications, The Washington Post reported that the US military used the company’s AI tool Claude to strike around 1,000 targets in the first 24 hours of the invasion. Claude helped in war-planning by optimising target selection, analysing intelligence data and issuing precise location coordinates by assessing satellite...

- [US investigators search Epstein’s New Mexico ranch amid allegations of buried bodies](#) (2026-03-10 11:40)

Investigators in New Mexico began searching on Monday the former ranch of Jeffrey Epstein where the late financier and his acquaintances are accused of sexually abusing women and girls, state authorities said. Democratic-run New Mexico is acting on new

information in documents released in January by the US Department of Justice, including an accusation that Epstein ordered the bodies of two foreign girls buried in hills near the secluded property. The search follows New Mexico Attorney...

- [Hope for India-Bangladesh reset after arrests in student leader's killing](#) (2026-03-10 11:30)

Indian police have arrested two suspects in the killing of a prominent Bangladeshi student leader, a development analysts say could help ease strained ties between the neighbouring countries. The detention of the two men over the death of Sharif Osman Hadi – whose killing last year triggered anti-India protests in Bangladesh – may provide an early test of cooperation between New Delhi and Dhaka following Bangladesh's recent political transition. Hadi was shot in the head last December during an...

- [Bolstering oil stockpile, China's import surge seen creating a 120-day shock shield](#) (2026-03-10 11:00)

China's surge in crude imports early this year has strengthened its stockpiles against a backdrop of rising Middle East tensions and global supply risks. China imported 96.93 million tonnes of crude in January and February, up 15.8 per cent from the same period in 2025, according to customs data released on Tuesday. The value of those imports, meanwhile, fell 5.2 per cent from last year in US dollar terms. "China was accumulating oil and gas stockpiles [earlier this year], with the market...

- [How cheaply can China fend off a drone swarm with its latest microwave weapon?](#) (2026-03-10 11:00)

China has lowered the operational cost of an anti-drone high-power microwave (HPM) system to just a few yuan per shot, making it a cost-effective option for policing applications, according to a state media report. The launch of an urban police anti-drone swarm microwave defence system marked a further reduction in cost and increased accessibility of HPM technology as it expanded into civilian applications, state broadcaster CCTV said on Saturday. Developed by state-owned 081 Electronics Group,...

- [Japan: Fukushima worker devotes life to abandoned pets after nuclear disaster](#) (2026-03-10 10:57)

Not far from the Fukushima nuclear disaster site, former plant worker Toru Akama tends to dozens of pets abandoned after the catastrophe 15 years ago, work he sees as part of his quest for redemption. Miaows and barks break the silence of the countryside, once an evacuation zone, as the 63-year-old brings food to the animals left behind when their owners fled the triple disaster of March 11, 2011: earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident. "It's because of this plant, where we worked for years,...

- [Hong Kong marine insurers gain edge over London with cheaper war-risk cover](#)

(2026-03-10 10:32)

Hong Kong is set to challenge London's dominance in marine insurance as Middle East tensions highlight the city's ability to provide war-risk cover at a lower cost, according to the local insurance regulator's chairman. Stephen Yiu Kin-wah on Tuesday said the Insurance Authority had supported insurers in launching a special war-risk insurance pool last November, which now covered 10 mainland Chinese ships sailing in the Gulf. The pool, backed by five Hong Kong insurers, offers up to US\$130...

- [11 domestic helpers among 20 arrested in Hong Kong crackdown on illegal labour](#)

(2026-03-10 10:13)

Hong Kong authorities have arrested 20 people, including domestic helpers suspected of unlawfully providing services such as massages and manicures, in a crackdown on illegal labour. The Immigration Department said that it conducted a three-day operation across the city between Sunday and Tuesday, searching 19 target locations, including restaurants, care homes, hotels, commercial and industrial buildings and public places. Officers arrested 20 people, including 14 suspected illegal workers or...

- [Middle East tensions add uncertainty to Hong Kong retail rents, Wharf REIC says](#)

(2026-03-10 10:05)

Hong Kong's fragile retail recovery is clouding the outlook for shopping mall rents, with Wharf Real Estate Investment Company (REIC) warning that rising geopolitical tensions could add further uncertainty even as visitor traffic improves. The landlord of Harbour City in Tsim Sha Tsui and Times Square in Causeway Bay said the retail market showed gradual improvement in 2025 as tourism picked up. "Volume increase, however, was not often accompanied by commensurate yield increase," the company...

- [Indonesia's role in US-led 'Board of Peace' under scrutiny amid Iran crisis](#)

(2026-03-10 10:00)

Indonesia's involvement in US leader Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" is drawing growing criticism at home as the war in the Middle East intensifies scrutiny of President Prabowo Subianto's closer engagement with Washington. Critics have urged Jakarta to withdraw from the board and reconsider related policies, including plans to send troops to Gaza and a recent trade arrangement with the United States, while Prabowo has defended his stance as being consistent with the country's non-aligned...

- [Stability comes first: Chinese defence chief signals Beijing's strategic caution](#) (2026-03-10 10:00)

Beijing's defence minister called for shaping a stable environment for China to serve its broader political and diplomatic agenda, conveying the government's strategic caution amid global uncertainties, analysts said. Dong Jun gave his comments on Friday during a group

discussion involving military and armed police lawmakers at the country's annual legislative gathering in Beijing. According to meeting minutes made available to the media, Dong on four occasions in his fewer than 400-word remarks...

- [Swedish man owns vehicle testing centre in China's Inner Mongolia; likely the only foreigner there](#) (2026-03-10 10:00)

Over two decades in a little-known, freezing city in northern China, a Swedish man has built a career and witnessed the booming development of the country's carmaking industry. Gustav Holmgren, 44, whose Chinese name is Ge Siwen, is the legal representative and site manager of ATM (Hulun Buir) Proving Ground Service, which provides cold-weather vehicle testing for carmakers. He is, perhaps, the only foreigner in the city. His company is located in Yakeshi, a small city with a population of...

- [Iran war: Asia sees violence, fuel rationing, queues as energy crunch hits](#) (2026-03-10 09:59)

The oil price spike caused by the war in the Middle East has sparked unrest in Bangladesh and exasperation at petrol pumps around Asia, where many economies are heavily dependent on fossil fuel imports. Even as governments move to limit the impact on fuel prices, queues have formed at petrol stations in countries including Vietnam, Pakistan and the Philippines, although the situation remains stable elsewhere. In Bangladesh – which imports 95 per cent of its oil and gas needs – the military has...

- [Muhyiddin's corruption trial opens with a fight over TikTok in Malaysia](#) (2026-03-10 09:49)

Former Malaysian prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin's corruption trial opened in Kuala Lumpur on Monday with a courtroom fight over the admissibility of TikTok videos, which prosecutors hope will link millions of ringgit in illicit funds to his Bersatu party. Among the most keenly observed cases involving Malaysia's political elite in years, the proceedings come three years after Muhyiddin was first charged in connection with projects under his administration's Covid-19 recovery efforts. Malaysian...

- [Why the 'China threat' was barely mentioned in Germany's latest state election](#) (2026-03-10 09:30)

Baden-Wurttemberg stands on the front line of Germany's "China shock 2.0". A hub for carmakers including Mercedes-Benz, the region has faced a wave of job cuts over the past year as Chinese firms rapidly gain global market share. In the German media, some have warned the area risks becoming "Germany's Detroit". Yet despite the economic strain – and polls showing the economy was the top issue for local voters – China barely featured in campaigns during the run-up to Baden-Wurttemberg's state...

- [How China plans to project more power in Xinjiang and Tibet over the next 5 years](#)

(2026-03-10 09:10)

China plans to further strengthen its strategic transport network in sensitive border regions over the next five years to fortify and better project power along its remote frontiers amid rising geopolitical uncertainty. One project involves building a 394km (245-mile) highway linking the northern and southern sides of the rugged Tianshan Mountains in far-western Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, according to the draft 15th five-year plan released last week. The route will run parallel to a...

- [Chinese tech giants offer cheap, easy access to OpenClaw amid ‘lobster fever’](#)

(2026-03-10 09:00)

Chinese technology firms, including internet giants Tencent Holdings, Alibaba Group Holding and ByteDance, are offering easy or inexpensive access to OpenClaw, the popular open-source AI agent software amid a “lobster fever” in the country. Tencent on Tuesday officially launched QClaw, an artificial intelligence assistant built on OpenClaw that can connect to the company’s super app WeChat. After download and installation on a computer that takes about three minutes, users can remotely control...

- [China’s refocusing on social goals requires more than new metrics](#) (2026-03-10 08:30)

This year’s government work report delivered by Premier Li Qiang marks a shift from the perennial fixation with growth towards a greater emphasis on effective strategic development, especially social and people-centred outcomes. The “two sessions” have convened against the backdrop of Washington’s military adventure overseas. In contrast to that overextended empire, China will prevail in the competition with the United States by putting its own house in order. Some of the most consequential...

- [Malaysia had him on bail for child abuse. The US had other plans](#) (2026-03-10 08:29)

A Bangladeshi man who spent over three years on bail in Malaysia fighting local child pornography charges has been spirited to Alaska by the FBI to face what prosecutors describe as one of the most prolific child exploitation cases in US history. Zobaidul Amin, 28, was brought from Malaysia to the United States last Wednesday and made his initial appearance in a federal court in Anchorage the following day, where he pleaded not guilty to all 13 counts, according to the US Department of Justice...

- [Hong Kong policeman gets 16 months for extorting HK\\$60,000 from rape case suspect](#)

(2026-03-10 07:54)

A Hong Kong police officer has been jailed for 16 months for extorting HK\$60,000 (US\$7,675) from a rape suspect he believed had been wrongly released by prosecutors. The District Court on Tuesday condemned Constable Ng Wai-fung for taking the law into his own hands while investigating a rape complaint lodged by a 16-year-old girl between January and April 2024. Defence lawyers said Ng, who pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office last month, was

frustrated by the Department of Justice’ s...

- [HSBC, Hang Seng Bank phase out work-from-home flexibility for frontline staff in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-10 07:44)

HSBC Holdings and its subsidiary Hang Seng Bank are phasing out their remote-work flexibility as they tighten their post-pandemic policy in Hong Kong, requiring frontline employees to be in the office or meet clients five days a week. In an internal memo seen by the South China Morning Post, HSBC, the city’ s largest bank, asked client-facing staff, including traders and salespeople, to follow the new rules from April 1. Sources said Hang Seng Bank would follow the same rules. Managing directors...

- [Cathay extends flight suspension to Dubai, Riyadh until March 31 amid war](#) (2026-03-10 07:28)

Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways has extended the suspension of all flights to and from Dubai until the end of March amid the war in the Middle East. The airline announced on Tuesday that all services between Hong Kong and the commercial hub in the United Arab Emirates would be cancelled up to March 31. Flights travelling between the city and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will also be suspended until the end of the month. The move extends an earlier suspension that had been set to run until...

- [‘Terrible consequences’ : North Korea hits out over US-South Korea military exercises](#) (2026-03-10 07:19)

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un criticised the United States and South Korea for proceeding with their annual joint military exercises at a perilous moment for global security and warned that any challenge to the North’ s safety would bring “terrible consequences” . Kim Yo-jong’ s statement Tuesday came a day after the allies started their 11-day Freedom Shield exercise involving thousands of troops, while Washington also wages an escalating war in the Middle East. Without...

- [CityU professor convicted of offering HK\\$1,000 bribe to avoid tenancy payout](#) (2026-03-10 07:04)

A Hong Kong court has convicted a professor of offering a HK\$1,000 (US\$128) bribe to a property agent in an attempt to avoid paying HK\$16,000 in compensation for breaching a tenancy agreement more than three years ago. Sha Tin Court on Tuesday rejected mainland Chinese scholar Du Du’ s claim that he had only intended to reimburse the agent after backing out of a provisional tenancy agreement on the same day he signed it. In finding the 48-year-old guilty of offering an advantage to an agent, the...

- [China summons Maersk, MSC on ‘shipping operations’ amid Panama saga, Iran war shock](#) (2026-03-10 07:00)

China's Ministry of Transport has summoned two maritime giants – Maersk and Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) – for talks on “international shipping operations” amid legal disputes over the Panama Canal, a vital artery for global trade. No further details were provided in the one-sentence statement, which was posted on the ministry's website on Tuesday. But in China, government summons often serve as a warning and, if ignored, could lead to further action. The move came as mounting...

- [War in the Middle East: nearly 500 dead in Lebanon from Israeli offensive against Hezbollah](#) (2026-03-10 06:22)

Escalating hostilities have forced nearly 700,000 people to flee their homes in Lebanon over the past week, a UN agency said on Monday, as the war between Israel and the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah entered a second week. Lebanon has been pulled deep into the war in the Middle East since Hezbollah opened fire to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader, igniting an Israeli offensive which has killed nearly 500 people in Lebanon, according to Lebanese authorities, with the death toll...

- [Why has the US-Israeli war on Iran left Brics speechless?](#) (2026-03-10 06:03)

China condemned it. Russia condemned it. Brazil condemned it. Brics, as a bloc, has said nothing. More than a week after US and Israeli strikes killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and triggered the worst regional crisis in years, the grouping that positions itself as the collective voice of the Global South has yet to issue a single joint statement. The silence is not an oversight. It is the sound of a bloc whose expansion has outpaced its ability to speak as one, analysts...

- [China's 2030 moon landing: scientists suggest a site that has long been on Nasa's radar](#) (2026-03-10 06:00)

Scientists in China and Germany have identified four possible landing sites for China's first crewed mission to the moon in an area that has also been of interest to Nasa. The Rimae Bode region on the lunar nearside is favoured for its diverse geological samples, including volcanic debris, for studying lunar volcanism and its relatively flat ground for safe astronaut access.

“Rimae Bode lies in an easily accessible, low-latitude, nearside location with generally flat, traversable terrain,” they...

- [China woman discovers uncle faked marriage with her late mother to inherit properties](#) (2026-03-10 06:00)

A Chinese woman has revealed online that her mother was married to her younger brother posthumously, who then embezzled her properties as her widower. The 27-year-old woman from central China's Henan province, surnamed Sun, lost her mother Zhao Fang to illness at the age of nine, in 2008. Since her parents were divorced and she had been living with her mother, Sun was adopted by her mother's younger sister. She said her relatives notarised her mother's assets around the time of her death. The...

- [Chinese embassy warns nationals in UK of scammers posing as Hong Kong ICAC staff](#) (2026-03-10 05:42)

The Chinese embassy in the United Kingdom has warned its citizens in the country to beware of scams involving fraudsters posing as staff from Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog. In a statement on Monday, the embassy said criminals had recently posed as staff of the city's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to carry out telecommunications fraud. The criminals falsely accused victims of offences such as money laundering, pressuring them to cooperate in a bogus "investigation" and...

- [Hong Kong monitors fuel prices as Iran war sparks 'premature and unfair' hikes](#) (2026-03-10 05:13)

Authorities are communicating with local oil companies to monitor how the war in the Middle East is affecting Hong Kong's fuel market, amid a public backlash over what has been called premature price hikes. Responding to a South China Morning Post inquiry on Tuesday, the Environment and Ecology Bureau also said the government had been urging oil companies to provide more data on auto-fuel prices. "In light of the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the government has been in touch..."

- [Casualty figures across the Middle East as Iran war enters second week](#) (2026-03-10 05:09)

Since the US and Israel unleashed strikes on Iran on February 28, war has spread across the region and casualties have been reported in countries across the Middle East. Due to reporting restrictions, Agence France-Presse has not been able to independently verify all of the following tolls. The figures are based on numbers released by governments, militaries, health authorities and rescue organisations in the affected countries. Iran's health ministry said on Monday that more than 1,200...

- [Hong Kong Airlines to raise fuel surcharges by up to 35% amid oil price surge](#) (2026-03-10 04:35)

Hong Kong Airlines will raise its fuel surcharges by up to 35.2 per cent from Thursday amid soaring oil prices driven by escalating conflict in the Middle East, becoming the first local carrier to do so. The airline announced on its website on Tuesday that fuel surcharges for tickets issued on or after March 12 would be increased. Travellers on flights between Hong Kong and the Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal will face the sharpest increases, with charges rising 35.2 per cent from HK\$284 (US\$36)...

- [Explosive drones have killed hundreds in Haiti, including civilians: report](#) (2026-03-10 04:33)

Explosive drone strikes by Haitian security forces targeting gangs have killed over 1,200 people, including 43 adult civilians and 17 children, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Tuesday, adding that operations have ramped up in recent months. Since last March, Haitian security

forces, with support from Vectus Global, have carried out anti-gang operations using quadcopter drones strapped with explosives, often in densely populated parts of the capital Port-au-Prince. Vectus Global is a...

- [Mistaken for drunks, left to die: Thailand's police have a deadly blind spot](#) (2026-03-10 04:23)

Warissara* survived the crash. It was the next four hours that killed her. The 21-year-old had been riding home from her restaurant job on the night of February 20 last year, caught in heavy rain on a slick Bangkok road, when she came off her motorbike. Emergency responders who arrived at the scene found only a few visible scratches – and detected the smell of alcohol. She had no identification on her. The call was made: send her to the police station, not the hospital. She arrived at...

- [Philippines budget deficit hits record US\\$26.5 billion as corruption probe bites](#) (2026-03-10 04:00)

An investigation into allegedly corrupt flood-control projects worth billions of pesos is beginning to ripple through the Philippines' public finances, slowing infrastructure spending and adding uncertainty to the government's investment-driven growth strategy. The budget deficit widened 4.68 per cent to 1.58 trillion pesos (US\$26.5 billion) in 2025, Treasury Bureau data showed, surpassing 2024's record of 1.51 trillion pesos. Despite slowing disbursements amid tighter scrutiny of public works...

- [US\\$17 billion question: why China and South Africa are so far apart on trade data](#) (2026-03-10 04:00)

Whenever South African officials meet their Chinese counterparts to talk trade, the issue of the imbalance in China's favour is almost certainly raised. But a discrepancy in the data from the two sides makes it hard to assess the trade gap. The latest Chinese customs data suggests that South Africa actually holds a surplus – exporting more to the world's second-largest economy than it receives in return. According to the numbers from Beijing, China recorded US\$30.58 billion in imports from South...

- [E-payments to attract more riders, cut fare disputes: Hong Kong taxi industry](#) (2026-03-10 03:46)

Mandatory e-payment in Hong Kong taxis could attract more residents and visitors to use the service, as about 90 per cent of drivers are ready to meet the requirement ahead of its implementation next month, an industry representative has said. Ryan Wong Cheuk-pong, chairman of the Hong Kong Taxi Council, said on Tuesday that drivers could also benefit from e-payments by reducing disputes over fares and no longer worrying about a lack of change. "E-payments have become a trend and many residents...

- [Trump's Gaza plan 'on hold' as Iran war halts disarmament talks](#) (2026-03-10 03:33)

Talks to advance US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war have been on hold since last week when the US and Israel jointly attacked Iran, sparking a broader Middle East war, three sources with direct knowledge of the negotiations said. The pause threatens to stall implementation of Trump's flagship Middle East peace initiative, which he has cast as a major foreign policy objective. It comes less than a month after he secured billions of dollars in pledges for Gaza from Gulf Arab...

- [Trade boom: China's exports surge 21.8% in first 2 months of year](#) (2026-03-10 03:11)

China's export growth accelerated sharply in the first two months of this year, defying last year's high base while experts pointed to the likelihood of strong momentum for the rest of the year. Exports jumped 21.8 per cent from a year earlier to US\$656.58 billion in the combined figures for January and February released by customs authorities on Tuesday. This represented a significant acceleration from the 6.6 per cent growth recorded in December and the 5.5 per cent rise recorded for all of...

- [Wealth, drugs and rape: US luxury real estate stars convicted of sex trafficking](#) (2026-03-10 02:23)

Three brothers, including two of America's most successful luxury real estate brokers, were convicted of sex trafficking charges on Monday after a five-week trial over accusations that they used drugs and force to rape scores of women they had dazzled with their wealth and opulent lifestyle. The verdict came after 11 women testified they were sexually assaulted by one or more of the brothers: twins Oren and Alon Alexander, 38, and Tal Alexander, 39. All three of the men shook their heads as the...

- [Could foreign judges give China's legal system the expertise to go global?](#) (2026-03-10 02:00)

China should bring in judges from overseas and expand arbitration pilot programmes to extend the international reach of its legal system, according to a former senior justice official. Xiong Xuanguo, who was vice-minister of justice from 2016 to 2023, said China's legal system was not integrated with others around the world, making it difficult for the country to enforce its court judgments abroad. To tackle the problem, China should train its arbitrators to meet global standards and also hire...

- [Why China's economic reset is a credibility test for Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-10 01:30)

China's annual parliamentary "two sessions" have been framed as a show of resilience in a turbulent world. That framing is not wrong but it is incomplete. Beijing's deliberately lower 2026 economic growth target is less an admission of weakness than a signal that the growth playbook is being rewritten. For Hong Kong, this is not background noise. It is a test of whether policy alignment can be converted into institutional credibility. When Premier Li Qiang delivered the government work report...

- [Australia to send missiles to UAE, deploy reconnaissance plane, but no troops](#) (2026-03-10 01:15)

Australia will deploy a military surveillance aircraft to the Middle East and send missiles to the United Arab Emirates but will not put troops on the ground in Iran, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday. Australia's military support would help the Gulf countries defend themselves against unprovoked attacks from Iran, Albanese said, stressing Australia was "not a protagonist". "Our involvement is purely defensive," Albanese told reporters. "And it's in defence of Australians who..."

- [China '996' work culture dates back 2,200 years, shows work-life balance struggles through the ages](#) (2026-03-10 01:00)

In modern China, the so-called 996 work culture, working six days a week from 9am to 9pm, has become a major point of contention. While some advocate for the gruelling schedule as a fast track to success, others decry it as "modern slavery", pointing to cases where excessive work hours have led to severe health problems or even death. The debate was first ignited in 2019, when an anonymous protest on GitHub, a global developer platform owned by Microsoft, drew attention to how the 996 culture...

- [Hong Kong tipped to be world's top financial centre amid global yuan expansion plan](#) (2026-03-10 00:30)

Hong Kong could emerge as the world's leading financial centre as the central government pushes to internationalise the yuan – a move that will advance the nation's development under the 15th five-year plan while also driving the city's own growth, a National People's Congress (NPC) deputy has said. Li Yinquan said the city stood to benefit from increased capital as the yuan became more internationalised, since most global renminbi reserves and transaction volumes would naturally be held in Hong...

- [Singapore property clan puts rare Hong Kong estate up for US\\$38.4 million tender](#) (2026-03-10 00:30)

A Singapore-rooted property family has put a rare residential estate in Hong Kong's Southern district up for tender at about HK\$300 million (US\$38.4 million), testing demand for trophy homes as the city's luxury housing market shows early signs of recovery despite soft prices. The tender for Belvedere, a low-density compound in Chung Hom Kok, would close at noon on April 28, according to marketing agent JLL. The property had been held by Remadour Estate since 1993, Land Registry records...

- [South Korea enacts historic fuel price cap to fight Iran oil shock](#) (2026-03-10 00:00)

For the first time in over three decades, South Korea is doing something it hoped it would never do again: telling the market what it can charge for fuel. President Lee Jae Myung's order is more than a mere policy reversal, however. For a country that imports nearly every barrel it consumes, it is an act of pre-emptive self-defence – the reflex of an economy watching the

Middle East burn and knowing exactly what that means. Fuel prices have already surpassed 1,900 won (US\$1.28) per litre at some...

- [China's financial superpower ambitions get legal backing at 'two sessions'](#) (2026-03-10 00:00)

China will develop a new financial law and a dedicated financial stability law this year, as Beijing works to defuse risks and prevent new ones as part of its ambition to become a financial superpower. In its work report delivered on Monday, the National People's Congress Standing Committee, the country's top legislative body, said it would also amend existing laws, including the People's Bank of China Law and the Banking Supervision and Management Law. The work report outlined a broad...

- [TikTok gets green light to stay in Canada, reversing earlier ban](#) (2026-03-09 23:31)

Canada will allow TikTok to continue operating in the country, a complete reversal after the government had previously ordered the social media company to close its Canadian division for security reasons. In November 2024, under former prime minister Justin Trudeau, Canada ordered ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese owner, to wind down its Canadian subsidiary. That would not have banned the app's use but would have forced its offices in Toronto and Vancouver to close. But in January, that order was set...

- [China investors energise Hong Kong biotech stocks. Is foreign money missing out?](#) (2026-03-09 23:30)

Mainland Chinese investors can now buy shares in more than a dozen newly added Hong Kong-listed biotech and pharmaceutical companies after a reshuffle of the Stock Connect southbound trading list took effect on Monday, reflecting the sector's growing role on the international stage. Foreign capital, however, remained cautious, analysts said. "Mainland buyers have been the main force behind the latest healthcare rally. They tend to chase smaller-cap names where a tight free float makes it easier...

- [China's chip bosses endorse semiconductor push in next 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-09 23:00)

China's semiconductor entrepreneurs – including artificial intelligence chipmaker Cambricon Technologies and testing-and-packaging leader Tongfu Microelectronics – have voiced support for the country's 15th five-year plan, which places renewed emphasis on the chip industry as a cornerstone of Beijing's technology ambitions. "National policy direction and planning are very well designed," said Chen Tianshi, founder and CEO of Beijing-based Cambricon. Speaking on the sidelines of the opening of...

- [Hong Kong Legco to explore mainland-style oversight system for bills enforcement](#) (2026-03-09 23:00)

Hong Kong's legislature will consider establishing a dedicated mechanism to scrutinise the implementation of approved bills and funding, drawing inspiration from mainland China's law

enforcement inspection system, according to its president. Legislative Council president StarryLee Wai-king also dismissed concerns that the city's first five-year plan would undermine the "one country, two systems" governing principle, emphasising the blueprint would be consistent with the capitalist system and...

- [US to counter China's critical minerals dominance with 'game-changing' innovations](#) (2026-03-09 22:29)

Potential US innovation in recycling electronic waste, combined with refining and processing, will allow the US to leapfrog China in critical minerals, an official at the Department of Energy said on Monday amid Washington's aggressive attempts to counter China's dominance in the industry. Recycling metals, materials and magnets within the US is one of the fastest ways the country can impact the critical minerals supply chain, and entrepreneurs across the US are "pioneering" new techniques that...

- [Economic Security 101: why China's officials now have to study rare earths and supply chains](#) (2026-03-09 22:00)

In his decades toiling as a health official in a coastal Chinese province, Alan Chen has rarely had to study a subject about which he knew so little. "Nd is Neodymium. It is needed for almost all modern EV motors. China dominates the refining of Nd oxide. Dy is Dysprosium. It is needed for magnets to operate at high temperatures and is also essential for EV motors." This was the kind of content Chen pored over in a training course he attended at the Central Party School, the Communist Party's...

- [AI is forcing journalism to rediscover what the profession actually does](#) (2026-03-09 21:30)

Around the world, news organisations are racing to create rules for artificial intelligence. Editors debate whether reporters may use AI to draft text, summarise documents or help in research. Some outlets promise readers they will disclose when a machine helps write an article. Others hope credibility will come from avoiding AI altogether. But this debate begins with a mistaken assumption: that journalism earns trust because journalists physically write the sentences themselves. That has never...

- [Trump holds phone call with Putin to discuss 'quick' ending to Iran war](#) (2026-03-09 20:21)

US President Donald Trump reiterated on Monday that his country's objectives in Iran are nearly complete and suggested the conflict could be nearing an end, on the same day he discussed the war with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Speaking at a news conference in Florida, Trump claimed the US was "achieving major strides towards completing our military objective", adding that "some people could say they're pretty well complete". Trump said they are committed to keeping safe passage through the...

- [China-US trade relations may reach a ‘tactical truce’ , slowing down economic decoupling](#) (2026-03-09 20:00)

Companies in southern China are feeling growing confidence in the state of US-China relations and are reinvesting cautiously in the country, according to a survey by a US business lobby group. The American Chamber of Commerce in South China (AmCham South China) – a mix of foreign and domestic firms – generally expects bilateral ties to stabilise in the year ahead, but is also adapting to geopolitical friction as China shifts from assembling Western goods to supplying industrial parts to emerging...

- [US teacher dies after students’ toilet paper prank goes wrong](#) (2026-03-09 19:34)

It was a prank that turned deadly, authorities said: a group of teenagers unspooled rolls of toilet paper outside the home of a beloved high school teacher who tripped in the street and was struck by a pickup truck as the pranksters started to drive away. The 40-year-old teacher, Jason Hughes, died after being brought to a hospital late Friday, the Hall County Sheriff’s Office said. The 18-year-old driver of the pickup was arrested on a felony charge of vehicular homicide, and four other teens...

- [Ships brandish China links to evade Iran’ s attacks in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-03-09 17:52)

Ships anchored in the Gulf or transiting the Strait of Hormuz are changing their tracking data to boast links to China in an attempt to evade Iranian attacks, according to data from shipping tracker Marine Traffic analysed by Agence France-Presse. Iran has effectively closed the vital waterway since US-Israeli strikes on it began on February 28, and at least 10 vessels have been attacked since. But by claiming to have an “all-Chinese crew” aboard, or changing their destination to “Chinese...

- [US, China clash over fentanyl, tariffs at global drugs meeting ahead of Trump-Xi summit](#) (2026-03-09 17:00)

The United States and China traded barbs at a UN drugs meeting on Monday, with Washington accusing Beijing of failing to stop sales of precursor chemicals for fentanyl and China dismissing the allegation as false while calling the US irresponsible. The exchange, delivered in separate statements at the UN’s annual Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting in Vienna, underscored tensions between the two countries over illicit drugs and tariffs, with their leaders due to meet in China at the end of...

- [Anthropic sues Trump administration as row over AI use by military deepens](#) (2026-03-09 16:36)

Anthropic on Monday filed a lawsuit to block the Pentagon from placing it on a national security blacklist, escalating the artificial intelligence lab’s high-stakes battle with the US military over usage restrictions on its technology. Anthropic said in its lawsuit that the designation was unlawful and violated its free speech and due process rights. The filing in federal court in California asked a judge to undo the designation and block federal agencies from enforcing it.

“These actions are...

- [Hong Kong urged to extend stock trading hours to keep up with rivals](#) (2026-03-09 15:53)

Hong Kong has been urged to extend its stock trading hours to maintain its status as an international financial hub, as competitors move towards near 24-hour operations to capture global liquidity. Speaking at the “Redefining Hong Kong 2026 Budget Edition” forum organised by the South China Morning Post on Monday, Kenny Shui Chi-wai, vice-president of think tank Our Hong Kong Foundation, said the city should consider lengthening the stock market’s trading hours, which rivals were already...

- [China can’t buy Elon Musk’s theory on space-based AI centres: experts](#) (2026-03-09 15:30)

China should not follow SpaceX in launching artificial intelligence data centres into orbit, but instead focus on more practical near-term space-based computing, a senior researcher has said. Gao Wen, a computer scientist at Peking University and a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said on Thursday that electricity demand was not a major bottleneck for AI data centres in China, meaning there was little reason to move them into space. In a Sina News interview during the annual “two...

- [Scotland vape shop blaze closes Glasgow railway station, nation’s busiest](#) (2026-03-09 15:24)

A major fire in the heart of Glasgow crippled Scottish train services on Monday as firefighters worked to douse the blaze that destroyed a four-storey building next to Scotland’s busiest railway station. Glasgow Central Station was closed and all travel to, from and through the station was expected to be disrupted, according to rail operators. It was not clear when the station would reopen, but it was expected to remain closed for a further day on Tuesday. The fire broke out Sunday afternoon in...

- [China vows to stabilise oil and gas output in new 5-year plan as global risks mount](#) (2026-03-09 14:30)

Against the backdrop of oil prices surging past US\$100 per barrel for the first time since the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022, China has its sights set on strengthening energy security by stabilising domestic crude production and strategic backups – exemplified by coal-to-oil and gas projects – for the next few years. The nation pledges to maintain annual crude production at 200 million tonnes, ensure a steady rise in natural gas output, and bolster technical readiness for coal-derived...

- [Northern Ireland’s Gerry Adams in UK court for trial over IRA bombings](#) (2026-03-09 14:29)

Former Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams appeared at London’s High Court on Monday for a civil lawsuit which aims to hold him liable for Irish Republican Army bombings in Britain, a case

which could affect the prominent republican leader's legacy. Adams became Sinn Féin leader in 1983 when it was the IRA's political wing, establishing himself as the face of the movement seeking to end British rule in Northern Ireland. He later reinvented himself as a peacemaker after helping secure the 1998 Good...

- [Hong Kong couple's HK\\$50,000 exit from Dubai after 'biggest blunder' amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-09 14:27)

As hundreds of Hongkongers stranded in the Middle East scramble for air tickets home with the US-Israel war on Iran entering its 10th day, a local couple spent nearly HK\$50,000 (US\$6,395) on a direct flight back after repeated failed booking attempts and a cancellation blunder caused by mental exhaustion. Yen Kwok, 35, a construction consultant, began a trip to Dubai with round-trip tickets on the carrier Emirates, from February 20 to March 1, with her husband. But like many other travellers,...

- [China's CATL profit surges 42% as global market share soars to all-time high](#) (2026-03-09 14:01)

Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd (CATL) reported a 42 per cent jump in net profit last year to 72.2 billion yuan (US\$10.4 billion) on strong battery sales and an expansion into new energy storage scenarios. The Chinese battery giant's sales volume of lithium-ion batteries – a key component for electric vehicles (EVs) – reached 661 gigawatt hours (GWh), up 39 per cent from the previous year, according to a filing released on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange on Monday night. China's EV industry...

- [Nato intercepts Iran missile fired towards Turkey](#) (2026-03-09 13:47)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Iran towards Turkey on Monday, according to a statement by the Defence Ministry, raising the risk that the military alliance could be drawn more directly into the conflict in the Middle East. It follows a similar interception on March 4, after which Nato said it strengthened its missile-defence posture in the region. Debris from the munition landed in Gaziantep province in southern Turkey, around 150km (93 miles)...

- [China eyes cross-border corruption law. Will it blunt the 'long arm' of the West?](#) (2026-03-09 13:30)

China will enact a law to combat cross-border corruption this year, according to the top legislature's work report released on Monday – a move aimed at preventing corruption by companies overseas, which some experts said could shield them from foreign “long-arm jurisdiction”. The work report, submitted by the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee to the fourth session of the 14th NPC for deliberation, provided no details or specific timeline for the legislation. The law is expected...

- [Chinese local governments offer OpenClaw project subsidies as security questions linger](#)
(2026-03-09 13:30)

Some local governments in China have rushed to support the adoption of OpenClaw, the artificial intelligence agent sweeping the country, even as warnings about privacy and security risks linger in the background. In Shenzhen, China's southern tech hub, the AI and robotics agency of Longgang district published a draft on Saturday proposing sweeping measures, including subsidies of up to 2 million yuan (US\$290,000) for approved projects. The initiative came a day after nearly a thousand people...

- [Proposed 33% rise in MPF payments 'may pile on business pressure, hit jobs'](#)
(2026-03-09 12:39)

Proposals by Hong Kong's pension regulator to increase Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) contributions for higher-paid workers by up to 33 per cent could worsen business challenges and hurt the jobs market, a lawmaker and human resources expert have warned. A labour representative, however, urged the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) to pursue even bolder increases to meet statutory requirements and reflect rising salaries. The MPFA had announced that it was reviewing the maximum...

- [Hong Kong wetland records 40 times more petroleum after oil spill: Greenpeace](#)
(2026-03-09 12:30)

A protected Hong Kong wetland on southern Lantau Island has recorded a high concentration of petroleum following an oil spill in September, with levels up to 40 times higher than those in unaffected areas, according to an environmental group's study. Greenpeace in Hong Kong said the high concentration could threaten local ecology. It urged authorities to investigate the oil spill and include unprotected sites with high ecological value in the priority conservation projects under the Biodiversity...

- [What crises in Iran, Panama, Venezuela and Greenland have in common](#) (2026-03-09 12:30)

Over the past 12 months, a series of political and military crises has erupted in different parts of the world. Do they have anything in common? On the surface, the dramas in Iran, Panama, Venezuela and Greenland look separate, each with its own cast, excuse and headlines. What links them is not ideology, or the public language used to sell each move. It is the map. Iran sits beside the Strait of Hormuz, the choke point for Gulf energy flows. Panama sits astride one of the world's trade...

- [Immigration Department worker who repeatedly assaulted wife, son spared jail](#)
(2026-03-09 12:06)

A Hong Kong Immigration Department senior assistant who repeatedly grabbed his wife and young son by their throats during disputes has been ordered to perform 200 hours of community service, with the magistrate telling the defendant he had already received significant

leniency while pleading for probation. Kowloon City Court on Monday sentenced the 49-year-old defendant, identified in court as “ATK”, after he earlier admitted six counts of common assault. While the defence had pleaded for...

- [Trump’s China visit limited to Beijing due to tight schedule and security needs: sources](#)
(2026-03-09 12:00)

US President Donald Trump will not go to any cities beyond Beijing during his visit to China scheduled for late this month because of his tight schedule and security concerns, according to sources familiar with the matter. Several sources, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, said United States “advance parties” arrived in China’s capital in “early March” and their preparations for the high-stakes summit had entered the “final stage”. The South China Morning Post has...

- [G7 to discuss possible emergency release of oil reserves, says France’s Macron](#)
(2026-03-09 11:24)

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday the G7 will discuss a possible release of strategic oil reserves, as finance ministers of the world’s leading industrialised nations prepared to meet for crisis talks on the Middle East war. Macron, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven advanced economies, said that “the use of strategic reserves is an option being considered”. A possible meeting of G7 heads of state and government could take place this week, Macron told...

- [North Korea cancels Pyongyang marathon weeks before race, with no reason given](#)
(2026-03-09 11:18)

North Korea had abruptly cancelled the 2026 Pyongyang International Marathon less than a month before the race, its international partner said on Monday, raising fresh questions about the country’s cautious approach to reopening to foreign visitors. Beijing-based Koryo Tours, which specialises in tours to the country, said it had received notice of the cancellation from the North Korean race organiser. “This decision was communicated to us by the DPR Korea Athletics Association and has been...

- [China’s top court says it treats AI cases with care without stifling growth or innovation](#)
(2026-03-09 11:12)

China’s highest court says that while it handles AI-related cases with care it has allowed room for the country’s artificial intelligence industry to innovate and make mistakes, according to its annual report. President of China’s supreme court, Zhang Jun, stated in Monday’s work report to the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislative body, that the Supreme People’s Court had “promoted the orderly development of artificial intelligence” last year. China’s courts “properly...

- [China’s chip industry seeks more state support for AI dominance](#) (2026-03-09 11:00)

Representatives of China's semiconductor industry are calling for stronger state backing in artificial intelligence chips and critical materials, aiming to fast-track core technology breakthroughs. During last week's "two sessions" – the annual meetings of China's top legislature and advisory body – scholars and entrepreneurs in the semiconductor sector urged Beijing to leverage the nation's advantage in strategic chip raw materials and accelerate the commercial application of AI chips to secure...

- [Concern for Iran women's football team rises in Australia amid war](#) (2026-03-09 10:08)

Global players' union FIFPRO said on Monday there were serious concerns for the welfare of the Iranian women's soccer team, as they prepared to leave Australia and return home after being labelled "wartime traitors" for refusing to sing their national anthem before an Asian Cup match. The Iranians' campaign in the Australian-hosted tournament started last weekend just as the US and Israel launched air strikes on Iran, killing the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The team was...

- [India's 30-day Russian oil waiver tied to US crude demands](#) (2026-03-09 10:00)

India received some welcome news last week about its energy supply: it had been granted permission, by the United States, to take delivery of oil it had already bought. The tankers were already at sea – Russian crude, loaded and paid for, stranded in limbo by the disruptions sweeping out of the war on Iran. They needed a waiver, which US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced on Thursday: a 30-day exemption allowing Indian refiners to receive the cargoes before American sanctions...

- [Ancient Chinese women used crude contraceptives – from eating tadpoles to ingesting mercury](#) (2026-03-09 10:00)

In ancient China, patriarchal and feudal norms limited women's control over reproduction, forcing many to endure risky contraceptive methods. According to the Classic of Mountains and Seas, one of the earliest known contraceptives in China was a herb called Gurong. Its taste was extremely bitter, its leaves resembled orchids and its roots were similar to those of the balloon flower. During the pre-Qin period (2100–221), people believed that consuming Gurong, a plant that only bloomed but did not...

- [Hong Kong woman faces 2019 protest charges after returning from Australia](#) (2026-03-09 09:58)

A Hong Kong woman who returned from Australia has been charged with carrying two laser pointers and three bottles of spray paint for illegal purposes during the 2019 anti-government protests. Ami Chan Hui-ching, 21, was escorted to Eastern Court on Monday to face charges of possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and possessing an article with intent to destroy or damage property. Chan, who reportedly works as a cashier at a casino, was intercepted on a section of Oil Street between...

- [In Malaysia, Anwar’ s reformist image at risk as Daim family sues over ‘Zionist’ claims](#) (2026-03-09 09:29)

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is facing a fresh political test after the family of late former finance minister Daim Zainuddin sued his government over claims they were involved in a plot to topple the administration. The legal challenge is turning what began as a police investigation into a wider debate over whether Anwar’ s reformist government is applying its principles consistently or selectively. Critics say the controversy risks complicating one of Anwar’ s central claims since...

- [Get realpolitik? Von der Leyen questions Europe’ s faith in rules-based order](#) (2026-03-09 09:27)

The EU must decide whether the rules-based international order “is more a help or a hindrance to our credibility as a geopolitical actor” , the bloc’ s top official said on Monday, in the strongest sign yet that it might break from decades of rigid adherence to global norms. In a speech to the European Union’ s ambassadors, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen used her most forceful rhetoric to date to call time on the old system, urging the diplomats to quickly update their thinking...

- [5 die in Indonesia as rubbish mound collapses at largest landfill, several missing](#) (2026-03-09 09:23)

A massive avalanche of garbage at Indonesia’ s largest landfill site killed at least five people and left several others missing after heavy overnight rain triggered a rubbish dump collapse, officials said Monday. More than 300 search-and-rescue personnel, using heavy machinery and sniffer dogs, were deployed to the sprawling dump site late on Sunday at the Bantargebang Integrated Waste Treatment Facility in Bekasi, a city just outside the capital of Jakarta. Rescuers worked cautiously amid...

- [China extols Myanmar gang executions, pledging to protect citizens abroad](#) (2026-03-09 09:17)

Beijing has hailed as a success the sentencing and execution of leaders of a Myanmar crime syndicate, vowing to punish all who harm the rights of Chinese citizens overseas. During a plenary meeting of the National People’ s Congress (NPC) on Monday, Zhang Jun, president of the Supreme People’ s Court, said in a report that Chinese courts closed 41,000 criminal cases related to telecoms and online fraud last year, up 1.2 per cent from 2024. “Sixteen principal criminals of the ‘four families’ crime...

- [China’ s Wang sees ‘landmark year’ in US relations](#) (2026-03-09 09:00)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said 2026 could be a “landmark year” in relations with the United States, allaying concerns that the war in Iran might derail ties and an expected visit by US President Donald Trump. “I believe that when the two sides treat each other with sincerity and good faith, we will be able to lengthen the list of cooperation, and shorten the list of

problems,” Wang told reporters in Beijing on Sunday. The countries could “produce results that are satisfactory to both...

- [Hong Kong lawmaker Judy Chan fined HK\\$2,000 for driving against traffic](#) (2026-03-09 08:45)

A Hong Kong lawmaker has been fined HK\$2,000 (US\$256) for driving on the wrong side of a road in Wan Chai earlier this year. Eastern Court on Monday also suspended Judy Chan Kapui, 45, from driving for one month after she pleaded guilty to a count of careless driving. “I deeply regret that my careless driving affected other road users,” Chan told presiding magistrate David Ko Wai-hung, adding that she had stopped driving and would accept any legal consequences. Ko noted the defendant was issued...

- [Hong Kong police recover credit card amid theft fears at fire-hit Tai Po estate](#) (2026-03-09 08:37)

Hong Kong police have recovered a credit card suspected of misuse from a sealed flat damaged in the deadly Tai Po blaze, as residents voiced growing concerns about the safety of their properties following a recent burglary. The latest development came days after the force arrested three construction workers on suspicion of stealing gold jewellery worth HK\$90,000 (US\$11,500) from a flat at Wang Fuk Court, where they had been carrying out structural reinforcement work following November’s inferno,...

- [A heatwave is coming to Southeast Asia. So is an energy shock](#) (2026-03-09 08:22)

Southeast Asia is set to see a warmer-than-usual early summer, potentially raising power demand for fuel and straining grids at a time when the Middle East conflict has tightened energy supplies in the region. Across most of maritime and mainland Southeast Asia, home to more than half a billion people, temperatures will be above average for the March-April-May period, according to the latest seasonal outlook published by the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) on Friday. The forecast...

- [Video shows apparent US strike as Trump blames Iran for school massacre](#) (2026-03-09 08:06)

New video from Iranian state media shows a missile slamming into a compound in southern Iran, as evidence mounted that the US military was most likely responsible for the February 28 attack on a girls’ school that left more than 160 dead, mostly children. The footage, published Sunday by the Mehr News Agency, was titled “The moment when Israeli and American terrorists struck #Minab school”. Video shows a munition consistent with a Tomahawk cruise missile striking an area as black smoke rose from...

- [More gas from Russia? China flags new pipeline links amid Iran energy crisis](#) (2026-03-09 08:01)

China has included two pipelines transporting natural gas from Russia in the draft of its new five-year plan, raising market debate on whether the Power of Siberia 2 – a closely watched project viewed as symbolic of bilateral relations – could be on the fast track for construction. Along with language on two other pipelines, the draft said China would “advance preparatory work for the central route of the China-Russia natural gas pipeline” in the next five years, which some market observers...

- [Hong Kong ‘more than China’ s financial testing ground’ , Paul Chan says](#) (2026-03-09 07:22)

Hong Kong is not merely China’ s testing ground but also a key driver of the country’ s development, the finance chief has said, underscoring the city’ s role as the nation’ s international financial centre. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po also said on Monday that Hong Kong must move swiftly to embrace artificial intelligence (AI) and “get empowered” in its use, as the opportunities it brought outweighed potential job losses. Speaking at the “Redefining Hong Kong 2026: Budget Edition” conference...

- [Taiwan tensions No 1 in Beijing’ s top 10 geopolitical risks of 2026: think tank](#) (2026-03-09 07:14)

Escalating tensions in the Taiwan Strait remain Beijing’ s foremost external security concern for 2026, fuelled by uncertainties surrounding the US midterm elections and the growing involvement of Japan, according to a prominent Chinese think tank. In its latest annual forecast of China’ s external security risks, the Centre for International Security and Strategy (CISS) at Tsinghua University framed this year as a pivotal moment in the profound reshaping of China’ s outer defence...

- [Hong Kong tycoon Adrian Cheng doubles down on tech in step with China’ s 5-year plan](#) (2026-03-09 06:12)

Adrian Cheng Chi-kong, former heir apparent to Hong Kong property giant New World Development (NWD), plans to spend more time in mainland China and increase his tech investments this year, with a focus on a range of sectors from artificial intelligence to aerospace, echoing China’ s latest five-year plan. “If our country can realise [the 15th five-year plan], we would be stable and secure, and our future will definitely be promising,” Cheng, who is a member of the Chinese People’ s Political...

- [The Philippines says its communist rebels are defeated – but are they?](#) (2026-03-09 06:00)

The mountains of the Philippines are quieter now. The jungle bases that once sustained Asia’ s longest-running communist insurgency are mostly emptied out. Its tens of thousands of guerrilla fighters have been reduced, by the military’ s account, to something “very, very negligible” . After 56 years, the Philippine military thinks the fight is almost over – and that conviction is transforming the armed forces from the inside out. Commanders are overhauling training and strategy, moving away from...

- [China ‘city of humour’ is only place in nation with safety road signs warning drivers against joking](#) (2026-03-09 06:00)

The northern Chinese city of Tianjin is the only place in the country that has road signs warning drivers not to make jokes while driving for their safety. The sign features a cartoon of a driver and a passenger cracking jokes, with a slogan that says “Making jokes while driving is a safety hazard” . It went viral after several tourists spotted it and posted it online, and came as a shock to both travellers and locals. “It is true that only Tianjin needs a sign like this,” said one tourist. A...

- [Former Apple Daily executive editor appeals 10-year sentence in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-09 05:51)

The former executive editor-in-chief of Hong Kong’ s defunct Apple Daily newspaper, founded by Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, has lodged an appeal against his 10-year sentence imposed under the national security law. Lam Man-chung’ s lawyer filed the application at the Court of Appeal on Friday, ahead of the statutory 28-day deadline for criminal appeals expiring on Monday. The 56-year-old is the second defendant to seek a reduced sentence after Fung Wai-kong, 62, managing editor of Apple Daily’ s English...

- [Surcharges considered as Hong Kong fuel prices set to rise amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-09 05:39)

Hong Kong’ s transport sector is considering a temporary fuel surcharge for deliveries as pump prices are expected to climb further this week amid rising Middle East tensions, industry representatives have said. Ringo Lee Yiu-pui, governor and honorary life president of the Hong Kong, China Automobile Association, said on Monday that fuel prices in the city had been climbing even though petrol retailers were still selling inventories bought before the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, which drove up...

- [Where things stand after another weekend of war in the Middle East](#) (2026-03-09 05:39)

Iran has named a son of its late supreme leader as his successor. US President Donald Trump already had expressed disdain for Mojtaba Khamenei, calling him “unacceptable” . The Islamic Republic’ s war strategy now has a new commander, and the powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has pledged allegiance. Oil prices shot above US\$100 a barrel. Both sides in the war struck new targets over the weekend, including civilian ones. Bahrain accused Iran of hitting one of the desalination plants that...

- [Malaysia vows to hold petrol prices as oil nears US\\$100 a barrel amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-09 05:34)

Malaysia’ s Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Monday that his government would do whatever it took to keep RON95 petrol at 1.99 ringgit (50 US cents) per litre – even as the US-Israel war on Iran pushed global crude prices towards US\$100 a barrel. “We will do our

best to ensure the price of RON95 remains at 1.99 ringgit so that the rakyat (common people) are not burdened,” he said at the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry’s monthly assembly in Kuala Lumpur. The pledge comes as the...

- [‘Two sessions’ 2026](#) (2026-03-09 05:16)

To see every province-level region’s growth target, click on this Quick Digest.

- [Hong Kong police arrest man over alleged indecent assault and fight](#) (2026-03-09 05:08)

A man has been arrested in Hong Kong for allegedly indecently assaulting a woman in a stairwell before fighting with her husband. Police said the incident occurred at about 12.54am on Monday in a stairwell outside a building on Apliu Street in Sham Shui Po. A 30-year-old woman surnamed Lai reported that she was indecently assaulted by a man. Her 34-year-old husband subsequently became involved in a dispute with the suspect. During the altercation, the husband was allegedly attacked by the man,...

- [Cathay fares surge, CUHK professor suspended in Australia: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-03-09 04:37)

We have put together stories from our coverage last weekend to help you stay informed about news across Asia and beyond. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. As Iran war closes Middle East skies, how high can Cathay Pacific fares fly? 2. Rising star chip scientist Jiang Jianfeng leaves MIT for Peking University 3. Takeaways from Foreign Minister Wang Yi at China’s ‘two sessions’ 4. Singapore real estate giants feel the heat amid China’s property...

- [China’s award-winning mathematician Wan Daqing leaves California for Chongqing](#) (2026-03-09 04:29)

For mathematical genius Wan Daqing, life is no longer a competition between China and the United States. Instead, he has encountered the rivalry of universities from different provinces seeking to appoint him. Wan, winner of China’s highest mathematics prize, retired from the University of California at Irvine (UCI) in July and returned to China to take up his new role in December, he confirmed in an email to the South China Morning Post. The International Congress of Chinese Mathematicians...

- [China’s consumer prices keep rising after holiday spending surge](#) (2026-03-09 04:08)

China’s consumer prices rose during the first two months of the year as a longer-than-usual Chinese New Year holiday drove a surge in spending, though analysts cautioned that Beijing might need to implement stronger measures to boost demand to sustain the recovery. The national consumer price index (CPI), a crucial gauge of inflation, rose by 0.8 per cent year on year during the January-February period, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday. Readings for...

- [US begins large military exercise with South Korea while attacking Iran](#) (2026-03-09 03:45)

The United States began a large military exercise with South Korea involving thousands of troops Monday while also waging an escalating war in the Middle East. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff has said about 18,000 Korean troops would take part in Freedom Shield, which runs through March 19. US Forces Korea has not confirmed the number of American troops participating in the training in South Korea. The allies' combined exercise comes amid South Korean media speculation that Washington is...

- [Malaysia's new plan to beat obesity: slash gym licence fees in Kuala Lumpur](#) (2026-03-09 02:30)

Malaysia has cut operating licence fees for gyms in Kuala Lumpur by 80 per cent, offering fitness operators a regulatory "carrot" as the government tries to push residents in one of Southeast Asia's heaviest countries to exercise more. The move comes as Malaysia grapples with some of the region's highest obesity rates – a problem health officials say is especially pronounced in sedentary urban centres such as the capital. Under the new Kuala Lumpur rate, in force from January 1, gyms now pay 10...

- [Why China's critical mineral dominance is still disrupting US supply chains](#) (2026-03-09 02:00)

American companies are grappling with a shortage of critical minerals used in daily operations despite China easing some of its export controls, according to industry insiders. After Beijing and Washington agreed to a so-called trade truce last November, the Ministry of Commerce issued a notice suspending a ban on shipments of gallium, germanium and antimony to the US for one year. But China's dominant position in the global market for these vital raw materials, including heavy rare earths,...

- [Hong Kong developers test home-market recovery by raising prices, trimming discounts](#) (2026-03-09 01:30)

Developers in Hong Kong are testing the housing market's recovery by nudging prices up or paring discounts as improving sentiment and a rebound in transactions boost confidence in the city's property sector. But analysts said the moves remained uneven, with many newly launched projects still offering sizeable concessions as developers continued to prioritise clearing unsold inventory accumulated during the market downturn. New World Development plans to cut the discount offered under the 120-day...

- [Beijing's message is clear: Hong Kong must shape up and speed up](#) (2026-03-09 01:30)

The annual "two sessions" in Beijing are under way, and this year the annual ritual of reading tea leaves in this city has been made easier for politics watchers. That is because Beijing has been blunt about the problems it thinks our city faces. There is the usual praise for the Hong Kong government and Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu's leadership. One striking difference is that Premier Li Qiang included in his annual work report, delivered at the opening session of

the National People' s...

- [In world full of turmoil, China 'stands firm as a mountain' with compatriots](#)
(2026-03-09 01:00)

China has vowed to firmly safeguard its overseas interests – a core objective reaffirmed in its latest five-year plan – at a time when global volatility is testing supply chains and regional influence. Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that Beijing would continue to strengthen its capacity to protect Chinese interests and citizens abroad, put the people first, and develop a global system for security and risk prevention. According to analysts, his remarks reflect the growing pressures on...

- [Agility and adaptability are in Hong Kong' s DNA, former leader CY Leung says](#)
(2026-03-09 01:00)

Escalating geopolitical tensions will not derail Hong Kong' s goal set out in the country' s 15th five-year plan and its efforts to implement the blueprint, former leader Leung Chun-ying has said, describing agility and adaptability as in the city' s DNA. The vice-chairman of the Chinese People' s Political Consultative Conference, the country' s top political advisory body, also said that Beijing expected Hong Kong to serve national development more proactively, calling on the city to “step forward...

- [China girl writes farewell note, offers US\\$120 to pamper parents, highlights left-behind kids' lives](#) (2026-03-09 01:00)

A little girl from central China has touched millions of hearts online with a handwritten farewell message and money for her parents as they left for work. Xinyu, a 10-year-old from Shangqiu, Henan province, is raised by her grandmother with her younger brother while her parents work in Suzhou, eastern China. According to mainland reports, her parents only return home once a year during the Spring Festival, which this year ran from February 15 to 23, the longest holiday in recent years. Before...

- [Fears over Exchange Fund discipline overblown: Hong Kong' s dollar peg architect](#)
(2026-03-09 00:00)

Hong Kong has adequate safeguards to prevent any misuse of the Exchange Fund, according to the economist known as the “father of the city' s dollar peg” , who called concerns over the government' s decision to draw from the de facto sovereign wealth fund “a little overblown” . John Greenwood said the government' s plan to transfer HK\$150 billion (US\$19.1 billion) from the fund – which plays an essential role in defending the Hong Kong dollar' s peg to the US dollar – would have no effect on the...

- [Japan' s cultural treasures still exposed to fire risk as safety upgrades stall](#) (2026-03-09 00:00)

Japan's most treasured historic sites still lack upgraded fire protection, raising concerns that irreplaceable cultural landmarks remain vulnerable to another catastrophic blaze. Government data shows work has yet to begin at about 30 per cent of the cultural properties prioritised for stronger safeguards under a national programme to improve fire resistance at key heritage buildings created in the aftermath of the devastating blaze at Shuri Castle in Okinawa in 2019. The campaign, overseen by...

- [Why have China's arms imports plummeted by 72% over the past 5 years?](#) (2026-03-09 00:00)

Beijing's arms imports have nose-dived by nearly three-quarters over the past five years, as it has replaced overseas weapons purchases with domestic technology, according to a Swedish think tank report. However, other countries in the region have increased in their overseas weapons purchases amid "fears over China's intentions". A report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released on Monday said countries in Asia and Oceania imported 31 per cent of the world's arms...

- [Kyiv protests against Moscow's participation in Venice Biennale art festival](#) (2026-03-08 22:43)

Ukrainian ministers launched a protest at plans to reopen the Russian pavilion at the Venice Biennale, in a statement published in Kyiv on Sunday. Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and Culture Minister Tetyana Berezhna called the admission of Russian artists to international events unacceptable and asked the organisers to reconsider their decision. After all, they had condemned Moscow's aggression soon after the start of Russia's war against Ukraine more than four years ago, they noted. "It is...

- [Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, son and successor to Iran's supreme leader?](#) (2026-03-08 22:19)

Born on September 8, 1969, in the holy city of Mashhad in eastern Iran, Mojtaba Khamenei is one of six children of the late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed just over a week ago at the age of 86 during US-Israeli air strikes. Mojtaba Khamenei was chosen by Iran's Assembly of Experts to succeed his father as supreme leader, in a sign that hardliners were still firmly in charge. Because of his discretion at official ceremonies and in the media, Mojtaba Khamenei's true...

- [How will the Iran turmoil affect China and its Middle East ties? Pan Guang weighs in](#) (2026-03-08 22:00)

Professor Pan Guang has spent decades focused on Jewish studies, the Middle East and its ties with China. Among his many roles, Pan is founding director of a research centre on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. For other interviews in the Open Questions series, click [here](#). Amid recent events in Iran, how do you assess the impact on China? Will China's "petroyuan" settlement encounter problems, and what of the risks to the Belt and Road

Initiative' s infrastructure assets? Overall, the...

- [Device thrown near New York anti-Islam protest was bomb: police](#) (2026-03-08 20:45)

A home-made explosive thrown near anti-Islam protesters outside the New York mayor' s home was a viable device “that could have caused serious injury or death” , police said on Sunday. Two suspicious devices were thrown by a man identified by police as Emir Balat near the protest on Saturday led by a far-right influencer to oppose public Muslim prayer. An Agence France-Presse correspondent at the scene heard Balat shout “Allahu akbar” (“God is the greatest”) during the incident, which is under...

- [Weaponise EU market against China or face manufacturing collapse: official think tank](#) (2026-03-08 20:30)

The European Union has been urged to weaponise its giant market to draw concessions from China, whose economic fragility is making it increasingly reliant on rich export markets. A new report from the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), the EU' s official think tank, said “China’ s weakness creates opportunities” for the bloc to use its chokepoints and leverage to bring Beijing to the negotiating table in a credible way. With the United States rapidly narrowing for Chinese...

- [3 people arrested after 44 injured in Peru nightclub bombing: officials](#) (2026-03-08 20:05)

Authorities in Peru on Sunday said they have arrested three people following the bombing of a nightclub as the number of those injured rose to 44. The explosion happened early on Saturday at the Dali nightclub in the city of Trujillo in La Libertad region, which has the largest gold-producing area in Peru and is rife with extortion and illegal mining. La Libertad Regional Health Management confirmed that those injured rose from 33 to 44, including three minors between the ages of 16 and 17. At...

- [Iran’ s Assembly of Experts announces Khamenei’ s son, Mojtaba, as new supreme leader](#) (2026-03-08 18:39)

Iran’ s Assembly of Experts announced Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of the slain Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as the country’ s new supreme leader on Sunday. In a lengthy statement, the assembly said that “after careful and extensive studies ... in today’ s extraordinary session, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei (may Allah protect him) is appointed and introduced as the third leader of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the decisive vote of the respected representatives of...

- [Starmer holds call with Trump to discuss war in Middle East after latest rebuke over Iran](#) (2026-03-08 17:23)

Britain’ s Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Donald Trump held a call on Sunday about the Middle East war, the UK government said, after fierce criticism of the British premier by the US leader. Trump had insulted Starmer over the latter’ s initial refusal to have any role

in the US-Israeli war with Iran, which began on February 28. “The leaders began by discussing the latest situation in the Middle East and the military cooperation between the UK and US through the use of RAF bases in...

- [Macron to visit Cyprus as France deploys warships to Mediterranean amid Iran war](#) (2026-03-08 16:54)

French President Emmanuel Macron will visit Cyprus on Monday, his office said, as France deploys warships to the Mediterranean following a drone attack on the island EU member days ago. Macron will meet Cypriot counterpart Nikos Christodoulides and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Paphos to show “solidarity” and detail moves to “strengthen security around Cyprus and in the eastern Mediterranean”, the Elysee said on Sunday. The visit will take place as the war pitting US and Israel...

- [US activists, politicians rally on anniversary of civil rights march](#) (2026-03-08 15:28)

Sixty-one years after state troopers attacked Civil Rights marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, thousands are gathering in the Alabama city this weekend, amid new concerns about the future of the Voting Rights Act. The March 7, 1965, violence that became known as Bloody Sunday shocked the nation and helped spur passage of the landmark legislation that dismantled barriers to voting for Black Americans in the Jim Crow South. But this year’s anniversary celebrations – events run all...

- [Is Trump’s China trip still on? Despite Iran, Wang Yi sees potential](#) (2026-03-08 15:00)

The United States and China could still have a “big year” in bilateral ties despite Washington’s ongoing strikes against Iran, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday, suggesting a planned visit to China by US President Donald Trump remained on track. Uncertainty has been mounting over Trump’s planned meeting with President Xi Jinping – expected to start on March 31 – after US and Israeli forces last month launched major strikes on Iran, one of China’s key strategic partners and oil...

- [Bangladesh rations fuel as US-Iran war stresses energy supplies](#) (2026-03-08 14:40)

Bangladesh began fuel rationing on Sunday as the war in the Middle East deepened an energy crunch, creating long queues at petrol stations and boiling over into anger. The country of 170 million people imports 95 per cent of its oil and gas needs. Following the US and Israeli attacks on Iran, and Tehran’s retaliatory strikes throughout the Gulf, the national oil company, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), restricted fuel sales for most vehicles. Authorities capped fuel purchases for several...

- [Wang Yi to Europe: leave protectionist attic, join the China market gym](#) (2026-03-08 14:11)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged European leaders to abandon bloc politics and instead “join the gym” of the China market to build muscle and competitiveness. Speaking to the press in Beijing on Sunday, Wang characterised China-Europe economic and trade ties as

complementary advantages, saying that “a dynamic balance is entirely within reach amid growing ties” . “Building fences and barriers will only lead to self-isolation,” he cautioned. “We would be happy to see our European friends...

- [Hongkonger forks out HK\\$11,000 to flee Dubai after 8 failed attempts](#) (2026-03-08 13:36)

Hongkonger Shirley Sung finally returned home on Sunday after being stranded in Dubai for a week and making eight failed attempts to secure a flight, ultimately paying HK\$11,000 (US\$1,406) to escape the Middle East conflict via Kuala Lumpur. The 30-year-old solo traveller, who had flown to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a wedding, found herself in a tense situation as she witnessed missile interceptions and sought shelter in a hotel car park during Tehran’ s retaliatory attacks amid US-Israel...

- [Iran strikes on desalination plants threaten Arab states’ water supplies](#) (2026-03-08 13:22)

As missiles and drones curtail energy production across the Persian Gulf, analysts warn that water, not oil, may be the resource most at risk in the energy-rich but arid region. Hundreds of desalination plants sit along the Persian Gulf coast, putting individual systems that supply water to millions within range of Iranian missile or drone strikes. Without them, major cities could not sustain their current populations. In Kuwait, about 90 per cent of drinking water comes from desalination, along...

- [What’ s wrong with a G2? Wang Yi lays out China’ s case against great-power rivalry](#) (2026-03-08 12:59)

China’ s top diplomat has cast his country as “an irreplaceable mainstay” amid global upheaval, rejecting any suggestion of a US-China G2 duopoly for global co-leadership as a replay of disastrous great-power rivalries. Instead, against the backdrop of the escalating Iran conflict and Washington’ s renewed trade wars, Wang Yi renewed Beijing’ s call for a post-hegemonic order anchored in the United Nations, advocating an “equal and orderly multipolar world” that transcended bloc confrontation and...

- [Hong Kong police boost checks at Tai Po fire block after jewellery theft arrests](#) (2026-03-08 12:58)

Hong Kong police will impose a HK\$500 (US\$63) cash limit on construction workers and conduct searches using metal detectors under new security measures at Wang Fuk Court, after three labourers were arrested on suspicion of stealing jewellery while carrying out structural reinforcement work at the blaze-hit Tai Po estate. Police Commissioner Joe Chow Yat-ming revealed on Sunday that reinforcement work at the estate, which had been temporarily suspended following the incident, would resume on...

- [2 more suspects arrested over HK\\$10 million knifepoint robbery in Hong Kong](#) (2026-03-08 12:58)

Hong Kong police have arrested two more suspects in connection with a HK\$10 million (US\$1.28 million) knifepoint robbery in Sheung Wan last week. Following further investigation, officers on Saturday arrested a 23-year-old man in northern Lantau and a 17-year-old boy in Ngau Tau Kok on suspicion of conspiracy to commit robbery, a police spokesman said. Together with three suspects aged 19 to 31 who were taken into custody on Friday, all five individuals have been charged with one count of...

- [Nuclear-armed North Korea is pivoting from reunification to coexistence](#) (2026-03-08 12:30)

The North Korea that leaves the ninth Workers' Party Congress is a different country from the one that left the eighth congress in 2021. Five years ago, the centrepiece of the eighth party congress was an ambitious weapons development programme unveiled by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and accompanied by belligerent rhetoric against the United States, both of which indicated the North Korean leadership's concerns about their vulnerability. Now, Kim's regime has an improved and resilient...

- [Singing circle in Amsterdam offers benefits to dementia patients](#) (2026-03-08 12:07)

Megan Worthy still recalls singing in a choir in the Australian capital, Canberra, as she was growing up. Now, as a rare form of early-onset dementia chips away at her vision and other brain functions, the 58-year-old is transported back to her musical youth as she and her daughter, Bronte, sing together with other people with neurological conditions in an Amsterdam concert hall, the Concertgebouw. "It's pretty brutal," Worthy said of her rare neurological condition. "I'm starting to lose..."

- [Nepali ex-rapper will form government after landslide election win](#) (2026-03-08 11:00)

A Nepali political party led by an ex-rapper is set for a landslide victory in the country's first parliamentary election since Gen Z protests ousted the old leadership that has ruled the Himalayan nation for decades. The Rastriya Swatantra, or the National Independent Party (RSP), formed only four years ago, had already won 117 of 165 directly elected seats and led in eight other constituencies in the results published on Sunday morning by Nepal's Election Commission. Other political parties...

- [Hong Kong, Singapore square off in race to become world's gold trading hub](#) (2026-03-08 11:00)

Hong Kong and Singapore have crossed swords over their ambitions to be the world's gold trading hub, but experts say the city holds an advantage over its Southeast Asian rival, citing its access to mainland China's robust market. As Hong Kong pushes ahead with measures to create an ecosystem for gold trading – highlighted as recently in the government's budget late last month – the city state has reportedly been courting global heavyweights. In response to the South China Morning Post's queries...

- [Wang Yi warns Japan on Taiwan ‘red line’ , dashing hopes of ending diplomatic row](#) (2026-03-08 10:31)

Beijing’s top diplomat has issued a stark warning against any attempt to thwart reunification with Taiwan and repeated his country’s criticism of Tokyo, dimming hopes that the diplomatic row sparked by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s comments on Taiwan would come to an end any time soon. The comments by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, delivered in a press conference on Sunday as part of the “two sessions” , were the latest in a series of strong criticisms by Beijing officials following...

- [Families of MH370 passengers urge Malaysia to extend ocean search](#) (2026-03-08 10:06)

Families of those aboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on Sunday urged the Malaysian government to extend a contract it signed with deep-sea exploration firm Ocean Infinity to continue a search for the aircraft that disappeared 12 years ago. The Boeing 777 was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew when it vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, becoming one of the world’s enduring aviation mysteries. Multiple search operations for the plane have been conducted in the...

- [Hong Kong must ensure motherhood no longer derails women’s careers: advocates](#) (2026-03-08 10:00)

Hong Kong must do more to shatter the glass ceilings at its roots, moving beyond token diversity to ensure motherhood no longer derails women’s careers, advocates have said on International Women’s Day. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Sunday that women were “holding up more than half the sky” for Hong Kong as they accounted for 54 per cent of the population and comprised half of the government, legal and accounting workforce, with increasing representation in corporate leadership. The...

- [China boy, 14, skilled in wok spinning, praised for cooking in parents’ eatery to help ease burden](#) (2026-03-08 10:00)

A 14-year-old boy in eastern China has trended on social media after he helped out his under-pressure parents by skillfully cooking in their small noodle restaurant. Liu Yuze, a Grade Two student at a middle school in Taihe county of Anhui province, has been helping his parents in the restaurant since childhood, the Dawan News reported. Videos of the boy cooking like a professional chef and grasping skills like wok spinning have attracted more than 2.5 million likes online. “Cooking is my...

- [Beijing signals high hopes for South China Sea ‘golden rules’ by end of year](#) (2026-03-08 09:41)

China has signalled strong optimism for finalising negotiations with neighbouring Asian countries to seal a new institutional framework on contested South China Sea waterways. At China’s annual foreign policy press conference on Sunday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi described the negotiations as having entered a “critical phase” for talks on the South China Sea Code of

Conduct – a proposed set of rules between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) aimed at easing tensions. “All...

- [Hong Kong charity abruptly cancels ‘Race for Water’ fundraiser weeks before event](#) (2026-03-08 09:08)

A Hong Kong charity has abruptly cancelled its signature annual trail-running fundraiser just two weeks before the event, leaving hundreds of participants in the dark on the reasons behind the decision. The 11th edition of the “Race for Water”, organised by A Drop of Life, was scheduled to take place on March 22 but would no longer proceed, according to the organiser, which did not provide reasons for the cancellation. “After careful consideration, A Drop of Life has decided to cancel the ‘Race...

- [Iran war hits China’ s sulphur imports as economic fallout from conflict grows](#) (2026-03-08 09:00)

The escalating conflict in the Middle East is having a direct impact on China’ s access to sulphur – a raw material for producing fertiliser – just as the country enters its vital spring planting season. With China sourcing a large chunk of its sulphur from the Persian Gulf, the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz is already sending prices for the chemical shooting upwards as Chinese buyers complain of tightening supplies. China relies on imports for 47 per cent of its sulphur supply,...

- [Philippines’ only cockroach expert defends bugs from extinction](#) (2026-03-08 08:35)

A thin band of light from Cristian Lucanas’ headlamp pierces the blackness of a Philippine rainforest as he digs through the underbrush before gently scooping up a cockroach with his bare hands. As the Southeast Asian country’ s lone expert on the oft-misunderstood insect – and discoverer of 15 species – friends have dubbed the soft-spoken scientist “Ipis Lord”, after the local name for the ubiquitous bug. While fully aware most view cockroaches as disgusting, disease-bearing pests, the...

- [As Hong Kong doubles down on innovation, Hongkongers must too](#) (2026-03-08 08:30)

I am not sure everyone in Hong Kong has taken fully on board the breadth and depth of the city’ s intended role in the future economic development of the nation. It is right there in the budget speech delivered by Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po, and it is being fleshed out in the 15th five-year plan now under discussion in Beijing. Sometimes the things that are presented most prominently are the ones most easily overlooked. In an early part of the speech, Chan stated that the government’ s...

- [China urged to build underground great wall of defence in crisis-hit world](#) (2026-03-08 08:00)

China should build an underground network across its western region to protect key energy and defence facilities, securing long-term reserves while boosting national security and crisis

resilience, energy experts have said. Zhang Shishu, chief technical expert at Power Construction Corporation of China (PowerChina), a state-owned energy and infrastructure giant, called for critical facilities to be embedded deep beneath the Earth's surface at a safer, less detectable level. In an article for the...

- [1 holy month, 1 year's income: Malaysia's Ramadan bazaar boom](#) (2026-03-08 08:00)

By late afternoon in Putrajaya, the smell of smoke fills the air. Charcoal pits glow along the side of the road as office workers and families with school-aged children in tow move through the haze with the deliberate purpose of people who have not eaten since dawn. This is a Ramadan bazaar in full bloom: rows of bright pink drinks in plastic cups, towers of kueh – bite-sized sweet and savoury snacks – in every colour, and, at one particularly busy stall, rows of whole chickens turning slowly...

- [15th five-year plan presents 'golden strategic period' for Hong Kong: Paul Chan](#) (2026-03-08 07:47)

Hong Kong's financial chief has vowed to serve the nation and seize opportunities from the newly unveiled 15th five-year development plan, calling it a “golden strategic period” with great potential amid escalating geopolitics. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Sunday that Hong Kong would adopt “Artificial Intelligence+” and “Finance+” approaches to support mainland China's development plan for 2026 to 2030. Beijing on Thursday revealed the sweeping blueprint during the annual “two...

- [Demand for change in Turkey cannot be stopped, jailed Istanbul mayor says](#) (2026-03-08 07:30)

Political efforts to cripple Turkey's main opposition and lock up its presidential candidate will never stifle the people's frustration with the government and their growing demand for change, Istanbul's jailed mayor has said in an interview. “An irreversible process for a change in power has begun in Turkey and it won't stop until it is complete. I cannot stop it ... nor can the ruling party nor the judiciary,” Ekrem Imamoglu said in a written response to Agence France-Presse questions conveyed...

- [Sri Lanka hospital discharges 22 Iranian sailors rescued after warship sinking](#) (2026-03-08 06:30)

Sri Lanka discharged from hospital 22 Iranian sailors who were plucked from life rafts after their warship was sunk by a US submarine, officials said on Sunday. The sailors were treated at Karapitiya Hospital in the southern port city of Galle since Wednesday after the IRIS Dena was torpedoed just outside Sri Lanka's territorial waters. “Another 10 are still undergoing treatment,” said a medical officer at the hospital. He said the bodies of 84 Iranians retrieved from the Indian Ocean were also...

- [Quantum tech breakthrough: China’ s double-photon device breaks efficiency ceiling](#) (2026-03-08 06:30)

Chinese scientists have cracked a long-standing puzzle in quantum optics, creating a tiny device that spits out pairs of light particles on demand with unprecedented purity and efficiency – with potential implications for the quantum race. Single-photon devices are maturing rapidly, but the field is now pursuing efficient two-photon sources that can pave the way for sharper medical imaging, unbreakable encryption and next-generation sensors. In precision measurement, for instance, using two...

- [US embassy in Norway’ s Oslo hit by explosion but no injuries, police say](#) (2026-03-08 06:15)

The US embassy in Oslo was hit by an explosion in the early hours of Sunday but no one was injured, police in the Norwegian capital said, adding the cause was not immediately known. The blast occurred around 1am local time and caused only “minor material damage” to one of the building’ s entrances, Oslo police said in a statement. Investigators were examining the scene, while dogs, drones, and helicopters were involved in the search “for one or more potential perpetrators” , it said. “Police view...

- [Hong Kong considers raising MPF contributions after 13-year freeze on thresholds](#) (2026-03-08 06:14)

Hong Kong’ s workers and employers may have to pay more into the Mandatory Provident Fund, as the pension regulator considers calls to raise the contribution threshold, which has remained unchanged for 13 years. Ayesha Macpherson Lau, chairwoman of the Mandatory Provident Fund Authority (MPFA), said in her blog on Sunday that the body had consulted various stakeholder groups since February on adjusting the minimum and maximum income levels used to determine contributions. She hinted at a possible...

- [China Qing era saw rise in female authors, poets, despite broad restrictions on women in arts](#) (2026-03-08 06:00)

From the 18th century onwards, female authors gained unprecedented prominence, from Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters in the West to the rise of significant women writers in Qing-era China (1644–1912). The increasing prominence of female Chinese authors was driven by Dream of the Red Chamber, an 18th-century masterpiece by Cao Xueqin, widely considered the pinnacle of Chinese fiction and one of the four great classical novels of Chinese history. Cao’ s book was so important that a cottage...

- [Why Vietnam’ s landmark AI law is first major regulatory test for Southeast Asia](#) (2026-03-08 06:00)

Vietnam’ s new law regulating artificial intelligence could become Southeast Asia’ s first real test of whether governments in the region are ready to move from voluntary guidelines to binding regulation, a shift analysts say could reshape how companies deploy AI across the

region. The legislation, which took effect on Sunday, introduces a risk-tiered model where AI providers – both local organisations and foreign entities with a presence in the country – must classify their systems as low, medium...

- [Boom times for India's economy but opportunities remain uneven](#) (2026-03-08 05:15)

For years India's economy was driven by its vast services sector that saw millions of people working away in low-cost back offices providing consultancy for predominantly Western companies. But over the past decade they have given way to centres that allow firms to tap top-tier talent and technology, where white-collar staff perform tasks ranging from IT and data analytics to innovation and design. Today, these centres are the shiniest parts of India's red-hot economy but not everyone has been...

- [Takeaways from Foreign Minister Wang Yi at China's 'two sessions'](#) (2026-03-08 04:38)

Foreign Minister Wang Yi faced global media on Sunday morning to outline Beijing's positions on key issues, ranging from the expanding crisis in Iran to China's deepening dispute with Japan. The annual briefing, held as part of the annual "two sessions", came as China sought to project its leadership and influence amid mounting global instability and manage its strategic rivalry with the US. This year, the top Chinese diplomat fielded 21 questions in a briefing that lasted nearly 90...

- [US judge voids actions by Voice of America acting CEO Kari Lake, including mass lay-offs](#) (2026-03-08 04:15)

A federal judge ruled on Saturday that Kari Lake's leadership of the US Agency for Global Media (USAGM) for much of last year violated federal law, invalidating a sweeping series of actions she took to cut staff and end many operations at its Voice of America (VOA) unit. In another blow to the Donald Trump administration's attempts to diminish various government agencies, US District Judge Royce Lamberth granted a summary judgment in favour of plaintiffs – including VOA journalists and a...

- [Hong Kong police seek domestic helper accused of HK\\$100,000 theft from employer](#) (2026-03-08 04:11)

Hong Kong police are searching for a domestic helper accused of stealing jewellery and cash worth more than HK\$100,000 (US\$12,780) from her elderly employer. The force said a 74-year-old woman, surnamed Lam, reported on Saturday night that the valuables had been taken from her flat in Hong Ching House, Kai Ching Estate, Ngau Tau Kok. An initial investigation found that the missing items included HK\$57,000 in cash and jewellery – such as necklaces and bracelets – worth about HK\$59,000. Police...

- [Hong Kong firms rethink global operations amid Middle East turmoil](#) (2026-03-08 04:00)

Hong Kong entrepreneurs with operations in the Middle East are recalibrating their global footprints to hedge against mounting geopolitical instability and losses resulting from the

widening conflict in Iran. The shift in business strategy followed the outbreak of the US-Israel war with Iran last week, prompting firms to draw up contingency plans by pivoting to Europe or Southeast Asia to de-risk their portfolios and ensure supply chain continuity. The war escalated with Iran's retaliation,...

- [Middle East crisis, global memory crunch dim AI smartphone buzz at MWC 2026](#)

(2026-03-08 04:00)

The mobile industry buzzed with excitement over the artificial intelligence revolution showcased at MWC Barcelona 2026, but the optimism was overshadowed by the Middle East crisis and a memory crunch that could reshape the global smartphone supply chain. The AI showcase drew a large crowd, including King Felipe VI of Spain, to the booth of Chinese smartphone maker Honor, which displayed its “Robot Phone” with a built-in camera gimbal designed to become a companion to users. “This brings a...

- [From oil to saffron: how US-Iran conflict is rattling Chinese investors](#) (2026-03-08 03:30)

The supply of oil and other essential commodities may be grabbing the headlines as the US-Iran conflict escalates, but the ripple effects are being felt far beyond energy markets – all the way to the global supply of the saffron used in footbath packs and heat patches. Chinese retail investors have been peppering listed companies with questions about how disruptions tied to the conflict could affect everything from fertiliser imports to the pharmaceutical products containing the prized...

- [80 years on, gender gap persists in Japanese politics](#) (2026-03-08 03:00)

Gender equality in politics remains far from achieved across Japan's 47 prefectures, research by a group of experts has shown as it released local index scores on International Women's Day. While nearly 80 years have passed since women in Japan first exercised their right to vote, the politics index fell in eight prefectures, including Kanagawa near Tokyo, from the 2024 figures, while many other prefectures also saw little change. With a score of 1 representing full equality, Tokyo scored 0.386,...

- [Lebanon says at least 4 killed in Israeli strike on Beirut hotel](#) (2026-03-08 02:45)

Lebanon's health ministry on Sunday said an Israeli strike on a hotel in central Beirut killed at least four people, with Israel saying it had targeted commanders from Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war on Monday, when Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah attacked Israel in response to the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during US-Israeli strikes. Israel, which has kept up strikes targeting Hezbollah despite a 2024 ceasefire, launched...

- [Iran war oil shock accelerates Southeast Asia's EV revolution](#) (2026-03-08 02:00)

A man in a Mercedes drives up to a Bangkok forecourt, cash in hand, ready to buy an electric vehicle he hadn't planned on owning. Southeast Asia's EV revolution has found a new

accelerant. “He was afraid he wouldn’ t be able to fill up his car any more,” said SamartPrakotkancharna, managing director of Ratchapruek P Car Centre in Thailand’ s capital,describing the scene that played out on his forecourt. Cash buyers had been streaming in allweek, spooked by rising diesel prices and hunting for...

- [Trump’ s trip, Iran, G2, Japan, Taiwan: Beijing lays out its views on world order – as it happened](#) (2026-03-08 01:45)

This live blog is freely available to our registered users. Please log in or create an account below. For full coverage of the 15th five-year plan, including policy and economic shifts plus Trump’ s visit, subscribe with our China Super March offer now. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi faced the media on Sunday morning to outline Beijing’ s foreign policy direction in one of the most-watched events during the annual “two sessions” . The press conference was held as China carefully manages its...

- [Kuwait airport, Saudi Arabia targeted as Iran vows to continue Gulf strikes](#) (2026-03-08 01:45)

Gulf nations reported missile and drone attacks on Sunday, while Iran vowed to press on with strikes against neighbouring countries as the regional war entered its second week. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait all reported new attacks, after loud explosions were heard in Dubai and Bahrain’ s Manama a day earlier. Kuwait’ s national oil company announced a “precautionary” cut to its crude production, as the country’ s military said on Sunday it had responded “to a wave of hostile drones that...

- [Why Hong Kong must make mental health an immediate economic priority](#) (2026-03-08 01:30)

Hong Kong’ s new budget is positioned to foster high-quality, inclusive growth through innovation and finance. Ahead of projections, a surplus of HK\$2.9 billion (US\$370.8 million) is now expected, largely due to the stronger-than-expected stock market and tax receipts. Reflecting a sound fiscal approach and forward thinking, the 2026-27 budget will maintain an operating surplus and allocate about 60 per cent of recurrent spending to vital sectors such as health, social welfare and education. The...

- [Wife of China director Zhang Yimou, who is 31 years his junior, remains largely unknown to public](#) (2026-03-08 01:22)

Chinese film director Zhang Yimou may be a household name who is celebrated as the country’ s “national master” but his wife Chen Ting is little known and dedicates herself to their family. The woman behind China’ s No 1 director recently attracted attention for appearing at the Beijing premiere of Zhang’ s latest movie Scare Out in mid-February. Pictures of Chen, 44, dressed casually, went viral on mainland social media as internet users were impressed by her slim physique and relatively young...

- [‘Keep the change’ no more: Hong Kong taxi drivers prepare for shift to e-payments](#) (2026-03-08 00:30)

Hong Kong cabbies are counting down to the end of the “keep the change” tradition as the industry prepares for a mandatory shift from cash-only payments to electronic settlements. In the weeks leading up to April 1, taxi drivers are racing to install e-payment tools, while service providers say 90 per cent of the cabbies have already adopted such solutions. Chau Kwok-keung, chairman of the Hong Kong Taxi and Public Light Bus Association, said the transition to digital payments meant cabbies...

- [China’ s shoppers head for suburban outlets, a bright spot in retail property](#) (2026-03-08 00:30)

For Steven Zhou, a 40-year-old Beijing office worker, suburban outlet stores offer a better shopping experience than urban malls, allowing him to escape the city, park his car without frustration and, most importantly, find good deals. “Outlets offer a wide selection of brands, with attractive discounts, especially on sportswear,” Zhou said. Across the mainland, outlets are expanding while traditional and luxury malls face high vacancy rates. Offering well-known brands at discounted prices,...

- [Singapore’ s workers brace for AI disruption: ‘it’ s inevitable’](#) (2026-03-08 00:00)

When Joshua Tan turned up to Chinese New Year dinner last month, he hadn’ t expected to spend the evening defending his career. He was 27 and freshly employed as a junior software engineer in Singapore. The questions from relatives were pointed: is your job safe? Can’ t the computer just do it? It was an awkward conversation, equal parts interrogation and familial concern. But Tan knew the anxiety behind the questions was real. Not so long ago, he and his classmates had been so sought-after by...

Source: The Diplomat China

- [China’ s New Five-Year Plan Prioritizes Robotics. The World Should Pay Attention.](#) (2026-03-13 20:33)

Beijing is embarking on a "whole-of-nation push" to achieve permanent dominance in physical AI technologies.

- [Beijing Is Legalizing the Assimilation of Tibetans and Other Ethnic Minorities](#) (2026-03-12 12:53)

China is amending its laws to weaken ethnic identities, including Tibetan language and culture.

- [When Wang Yi Speaks, It’ s Not Just China’ s Foreign Minister Talking](#) (2026-03-11 14:28)

Wang’ s unprecedented consolidation of roles has made the Two Sessions press conference the most authoritative foreign policy signal Beijing produces. It has also made it the most rigid.

- [China's 5-Year Plan Has Moved Beyond the Chip War. Washington Hasn't Noticed.](#)
(2026-03-10 12:33)

Primary-source analysis of the 15th Five-Year Plan reveals a computing infrastructure strategy already being deployed in Southeast Asia, with explicit military-civil fusion mandates that current export controls do not address.

- [Africa Gets Duty-free Access to China – But Chinese Companies Win on Both Sides](#)
(2026-03-09 13:38)

The move could aggravate one of the continent's most pressing economic problems: over-dependence on the export of raw and minimally-processed minerals and materials.

Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [Geopolitics Guides Chinese Public Assessment of Neighbors](#) (2026-03-09 16:00)

The post Geopolitics Guides Chinese Public Assessment of Neighbors appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [Chinese Public Expect to be Treated as Equals in Trade with United States](#) (2026-03-09 16:00)

The post Chinese Public Expect to be Treated as Equals in Trade with United States appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.