



CHINA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 19, 2026 - April 26, 2026

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

Executive Summary

China's security posture during April 19-26, 2026, was characterized by heightened military assertiveness in regional waters, escalating cybersecurity tensions with Western nations, and complex diplomatic engagements. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted significant naval exercises in the Western Pacific and South China Sea, coinciding with multilateral drills by the US and its allies, underscoring persistent regional flashpoints. Simultaneously, a British government report exposed extensive cyberattacks by China-linked groups targeting critical infrastructure and Taiwan, further exacerbating digital security concerns. Diplomatically, Beijing engaged in both conciliatory gestures, such as lifting sanctions on EU banks, and firm responses to perceived provocations, including criticism of Japanese naval transits and new export controls against EU entities. These developments collectively indicate China's continued pursuit of its strategic objectives through a combination of military modernization, cyber operations, and calibrated diplomacy, maintaining an elevated level of regional tension.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities and Exercises in Western Pacific

On April 19, 2026, China dispatched its vessel formation 133 to transit the Yokoate Waterway and conduct training in the Western Pacific. This routine exercise, organized in accordance with the annual plan, is intended to test the forces' far-seas operational capabilities and complies with international law and practice, according to a spokesperson for the Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

- Naval Drills in South China Sea Amid Balikatan 2026

The People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command announced on April 24, 2026, that a naval fleet had "recently" held drills in waters east of Luzon, the northernmost major island of the Philippines. These drills were described as a "necessary action taken in response to the current regional situation" and coincided with the launch of "Balikatan 2026," a 19-day annual joint exercise led by the United States and the Philippines.

- Taiwan Monitors Chinese Military Drills

Taiwan's defense ministry reported on April 20, 2026, that it was closely monitoring Chinese military drills in the East China Sea. These joint air and naval patrols by

Beijing were announced after Japan's Navy sent warships through the Taiwan Strait and waters off Taiwan's east coast to join the US-Philippines Balikatan exercises.

- Chinese Naval Presence in South China Sea

A large Chinese naval fleet, reportedly including the aircraft carrier Liaoning, appeared to be deployed to the South China Sea around April 24, 2026, according to satellite imagery circulating on social media. Taiwan's defense ministry also noted the Liaoning's transit through the Taiwan Strait on April 22, 2026. Separately, the PLA announced that the Sichuan, China's first Type 076 amphibious assault ship, sailed from Shanghai to the South China Sea for "scientific research trials and training missions."

- Japanese Destroyer Transits Taiwan Strait, Draws Chinese Criticism

On April 17, 2026, the Japanese destroyer JS Ikazuchi transited the Taiwan Strait. China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun strongly criticized Japan on April 24, 2026, stating that Japan's dispatch of a Self-Defense Forces (SDF) vessel into the Taiwan Strait to "flex its military muscle and deliberately provoke trouble is compounding its mistakes."

- US Concerns Over China's Accelerating Military Buildup

US officials voiced concerns on April 22, 2026, over China's accelerating military buildup across multiple domains, including advanced missile forces, cyber capabilities, space systems, and a growing nuclear arsenal. During a House Armed Services Committee hearing, officials highlighted that Chinese forces are conducting persistent pressure operations around Taiwan, which they view as rehearsals for a potential invasion.

- China Tightens Control of Scarborough Shoal

Satellite imagery obtained by Reuters on April 15-16, 2026, showed China employing ships and a floating barrier to tighten control of the entrance to the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea. This action comes amid rising tensions with the Philippines over the disputed feature, which lies within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone but is also claimed by China.

- Chinese Hacking Groups Use Covert Networks for Cyberattacks

A British government security report, made public on April 24, 2026, revealed that Chinese hacking groups, identified as Volt Typhoon and Flax Typhoon, are using covert computer networks for large-scale cyberattacks and intrusions of critical infrastructure. These groups have been linked to operations against Taiwan, as well as compromising networks in the United States, Europe, and Africa.

- China Imposes New Security Curbs After Supercomputing Data Breach

Following reports of an alleged major data breach at a national supercomputing center around April 11, 2026, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) imposed sweeping

new security restrictions across government agencies. The compromised data may include sensitive materials related to missile design, aerospace research, and nuclear fusion simulations, leading to measures such as bans on mobile phones in offices and tighter controls on networked devices.

- Diplomatic Tensions with EU Over Cybersecurity and Trade

China expressed "grave concern" on April 20, 2026, over a draft revision of the European Union's Cybersecurity Act, stating it politicizes trade and economic issues and overstretches the concept of security. In a related development, China's Ministry of Commerce warned on April 23, 2026, that it might deploy new supply chain regulations if the European Commission proceeds with its proposal to exclude Chinese products and firms from critical sectors. Conversely, on April 24, 2026, China canceled countermeasures against two EU financial institutions after the EU withdrew its sanctions against two Chinese financial institutions. However, on the same day, China added seven EU entities to its Export Control List.

- China's Defense Chief Visits Russia and Kyrgyzstan

China's defense chief commenced a six-day visit to Russia and Kyrgyzstan on April 23, 2026. This visit underscores ongoing defense cooperation and diplomatic engagement with key regional partners.

- US Accuses China of AI Intellectual Property Theft

During a regular press conference on April 24, 2026, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun rejected allegations from the White House accusing China of industrial-scale stealing of American artificial intelligence intellectual property, calling them "groundless" and "deliberate attacks."

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

China's actions and responses during this period significantly influenced regional stability and its relations with major global powers. The increased military presence and exercises in the Western Pacific and South China Sea, particularly the naval drills near Luzon and the tightening control over Scarborough Shoal, directly challenged the Philippines' sovereignty claims and raised concerns among other claimant states and the United States. These actions, coinciding with the US-Philippines Balikatan exercises, highlight a growing military competition and the potential for miscalculation in contested maritime zones. The US has explicitly warned about China's accelerating military buildup and its "denial defense" strategy in the Indo-Pacific, indicating a hardening stance from Washington and a focus on strengthening allied integration to counter China's regional ambitions.

Relations with the European Union remained complex, marked by both cooperation and friction. While China lifted countermeasures against two EU banks, signaling a desire for economic engagement, it simultaneously added seven EU entities to its Export Control List and expressed strong opposition to the EU's proposed Cybersecurity Act. These moves reflect China's determination to protect its economic interests and push back against what it perceives as protectionist or politically motivated measures from Brussels. The visit of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to Beijing, resulting in numerous bilateral agreements, also demonstrated China's strategy of fostering individual European state relationships to potentially mitigate broader EU-level pressures.

The Taiwan Strait remained a critical flashpoint, with China strongly condemning the transit of a Japanese destroyer and Taiwan closely monitoring Chinese military drills. This underscores Beijing's unwavering stance on Taiwan and its sensitivity to any actions by external powers that could be interpreted as supporting Taiwanese independence. The broader strategic landscape is also shaped by China's diplomatic engagements, such as its defense chief's visit to Russia and Kyrgyzstan, reinforcing alliances and projecting influence in Central Asia. Furthermore, China's call for de-escalation in the Middle East, following the US extension of a ceasefire with Iran, indicates its interest in regional stability that aligns with its energy security and broader geopolitical objectives, while a Chinese firm's claim of tracking US jets over Iran suggests a potential for intelligence gathering in other theaters.

Military and Defense Analysis

During this reporting period, China continued to demonstrate a robust and expanding military capability, particularly in its naval and cyber domains. The deployment of vessel formation 133 for far-seas operational training in the Western Pacific on April 19, 2026, highlights the PLA Navy's increasing blue-water capabilities and its intent to project power beyond its immediate coastal areas. This was further underscored by the naval drills conducted by the PLA Southern Theater Command east of Luzon, which involved a significant fleet and coincided with multilateral exercises by the US and its allies. The reported presence of the aircraft carrier Liaoning and the new Type 076 amphibious assault ship Sichuan in the South China Sea indicates ongoing modernization and expansion of China's naval assets, crucial for asserting its maritime claims and power projection.

US officials have expressed significant concern over China's accelerating military buildup, noting advancements across multiple domains including advanced missile forces, cyber capabilities, space systems, and a growing nuclear arsenal. This assessment aligns with earlier reports from April 2, 2026, suggesting China's secret entry into a nuclear arms race, with significant changes observed in Sichuan province

indicating a fundamental restructuring of its nuclear program. The persistent pressure operations around Taiwan, described by US officials as rehearsals for a potential invasion, reflect a strategic focus on reunification and the development of capabilities to achieve this objective. China's continued investment in its BeiDou Satellite System also signifies its commitment to developing independent and advanced navigation and positioning capabilities, essential for modern military operations.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, China is likely to maintain its assertive posture in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, characterized by continued naval and air force presence and exercises. The ongoing tensions around Scarborough Shoal with the Philippines are expected to persist, with China likely to maintain its physical barriers and maritime patrols. Cybersecurity will remain a significant area of friction, with further reports of state-sponsored hacking and counter-measures from Western nations. China's diplomatic engagements will continue to be a mix of bilateral cooperation, particularly with countries like Spain and those in Central Asia, and firm responses to perceived challenges from the US, EU, and Japan. The planned visit of US President Trump to Beijing in April 2026 (though some sources indicate a delay to May) will be a critical event for US-China relations, potentially influencing trade and military discussions.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Taiwan Strait remains the most critical flashpoint, with any perceived escalation of military activity or diplomatic recognition of Taiwan by other nations risking a strong response from Beijing. The South China Sea, particularly around disputed features like Scarborough Shoal and Thitu Island, presents a high risk of accidental confrontation between Chinese and Philippine vessels, potentially drawing in other regional and international actors. The increasing use of covert networks by China-linked hacking groups for cyberattacks on critical infrastructure in the US and its allies poses a significant, non-kinetic threat that could lead to retaliatory cyber actions or diplomatic sanctions.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the outcomes and rhetoric surrounding the upcoming US-China summit, particularly regarding trade, Taiwan, and cybersecurity. The implementation and China's response to the EU's proposed Cybersecurity Act and any further additions to China's Export Control List will be crucial for understanding the trajectory of China-EU relations. Any changes in the frequency, scale, or location of Chinese military exercises in the Western Pacific, East China Sea, and South China Sea will signal shifts in Beijing's military strategy. Furthermore, monitoring the Philippines' and other ASEAN nations' responses to China's maritime assertiveness, and the level of support they receive from the US and its allies, will be vital.

Strategic recommendations: To mitigate risks, international efforts should focus on establishing clear de-escalation mechanisms and communication channels in maritime flashpoints like the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. Enhanced international cooperation on cybersecurity, including intelligence sharing and joint defense strategies against state-sponsored hacking, is essential. Diplomatic efforts should aim to find common ground on trade and climate change, while firmly addressing concerns regarding human rights and adherence to international law. For nations in the Indo-Pacific, strengthening their own defense capabilities and fostering multilateral security partnerships can serve as a deterrent against coercive actions.

Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: BBC China

- [China weathered Trump's tariffs - but the Iran war is taking a toll](#) (2026-04-22 21:23)

The Middle East conflict is putting pressure on factory orders, costs and jobs in China's export-driven economy.

- [How the US-Iran war is costing China](#) (2026-04-22 21:00)

The BBC's Laura Bicker explains the economic costs and possible political wins for China brought on by the war.

- [Chinese tourist who died in village 'may have been in altercation'](#) (2026-04-22 17:44)

Police initially said it was believed the man's death in Strathpeffer was a medical matter.

- [Hotpot, bubble tea and sportswear: China's new exports take on the world](#) (2026-04-21 22:10)

Made in China used to mean cheap, mass-produced goods but a new wave of Chinese brands is emerging.

- [Art on trial - a sculptor's arrest highlights new extremes for censorship in China](#) (2026-04-19 22:53)

Gao Zhen is being retroactively punished for 15 year-old-works, in a case that has alarmed rights groups.

- [Watch: Runners v robots at China half marathon](#) (2026-04-19 08:46)

Robots competed in a half marathon race in Beijing on Sunday, with the winning machine leaving its human rivals for dust.

### Source: China Defense Blog

- [Type 076 landing helicopter dock off to her sea trials](#) (2026-04-21 01:33)

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} The Type 076 landing helicopter dock has entered its third round of sea trials, indicating continued progress in validating its propulsion, aviation facilities, and integrated systems. Thursday, November 06, 2025

- [You can take my life, but you can never take my flappy fur hat.](#) (2026-04-20 03:34)

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} What we got here is a perfectly boring PR photo of the 73rd Group Army welcoming a fresh shipment of recruits a.k.a fresh meat into an infantry company. They' re carrying the standard QBZ 191 5.8x42mm rifle, wearing the Type 21 uniform,

- [Drone Application Of The Day: Sound disperser dog drone](#) (2026-04-19 03:37)

Sound dispersers, sometimes referred to as acoustic diffusers, are primarily used in psychological operations and crowd management roles. Instead of relying on physical force, they emit a deterrent tone that creates strong auditory discomfort and disorientation, encouraging individuals to move away from a given area. The robotic “dog” drone shown here is equipped with such a device and is operated

## Source: China | The Guardian

- [The tortoise and the hare: will China beat the US in the race back to the moon?](#) (2026-04-26 06:00)

The rival superpowers are ramping up preparations for a crewed lunar landing nearly six decades after the first moon walk. The world watched earlier this month as Nasa sent four astronauts around the moon – but to actually land on the surface the US is once again in a space race, this time with China. And China may well win. Both countries plan to build inhabited lunar bases – the first settlement on another celestial body – as well as searching for rare resources and using the deep space environment to test technology for future crewed missions to Mars. Continue reading...

- [‘Look, no hands’ : China chases the driverless dream at Beijing car show](#) (2026-04-24 16:08)

As domestic sales slow, manufacturers are investing in AI and seeking growth in technology and in overseas markets. At the world' s biggest car fair, which opened in Beijing on Friday, there were hundreds of manufacturers, more than 1,000 vehicles, hundreds of thousands of enthusiasts – and hardly anyone behind a wheel. China' s car companies have cornered the domestic electric vehicle market, and are increasingly visible on the global stage. Now they are turning their attention to what they are betting is the future of mobility: autonomous driving. Continue reading...

- [Private health records of half a million Britons offered for sale on Chinese website](#) (2026-04-23 17:33)

Technology minister tells Commons ‘de-identified’ information from UK Biobank advertised for sale on AlibabaUK politics live – latest updatesThe confidential health records of half a million British volunteers have been offered for sale on Chinese website Alibaba, the UK government has confirmed.The “de-identified” data, belonging to participants in the UK Biobank project, was found for sale on three separate listings last week. Ian Murray, the technology minister, told the Commons on Thursday that, after working with the Chinese government and Alibaba, the records had now been removed. It is not believed any sales were made. Continue reading...

- [Chinese hackers are using everyday devices to hack UK firms, warns watchdog](#) (2026-04-23 11:58)

Britain’s cybersecurity agency says companies must step up vigilance to prevent espionage attacksBusiness live – latest updatesBritish businesses are being urged to step up their vigilance against a China-linked hacking ploy that uses everyday devices for espionage.The UK’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and agencies in nine other countries have warned of persistent attempts by Beijing-backed groups to hack equipment such as wifi routers to launch cyber-attacks. Continue reading...

- [Taiwan president blames China for forced cancellation of Eswatini trip](#) (2026-04-21 18:22)

Lai Ching-te abandons visit after Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar revoke overflight permissionTaiwan’s president, Lai Ching-te, has cancelled his trip to Eswatini, the democratic island’s only diplomatic ally in Africa, after his government said several countries had revoked overflight permits because of “intense pressure” from China.Lai was to leave on Wednesday for the 40th anniversary of King Mswati III’s accession. Continue reading...

- [Student allegedly jailed in China for six years after taking part in pro-democracy protests in Australia](#) (2026-04-21 15:00)

Exclusive: The Australian government has been urged to take stronger action to protect overseas students from political repressionThe Australian government has been urged to take stronger action to protect Chinese international students from political repression by authorities on their return after a Chinese student was allegedly sentenced to six years’ imprisonment for joining pro-democracy protests in Australia.The student, who the Guardian has chosen not to name, lost contact with his friends in Sydney after returning to China in December 2024. Continue reading...

- [Clean energy generation exceeded rise in global electricity demand in 2025](#) (2026-04-20 23:01)

Output from solar farms rose by a third while electricity from fossil fuels fell, research from thinktank revealsUK shifts older wind and solar farms to fixed-price deals to reduce price shocksAll of last year’s growth in global electricity demand was met from renewable sources, while fossil fuel power generation remained flat, research has found, marking what many hope

could become a turning point in the drive to phase out planet-heating fossil fuels. Solar power generation rose by nearly a third in 2025, marking a new record and faster growth. In the decade from 2015, solar output grew tenfold, roughly doubling every three years, according to the thinktank Ember. Continue reading...

- [Humanoid robots race past humans in Beijing half-marathon – video](#) (2026-04-19 11:13)

Dozens of Chinese-made humanoid robots showed off their fast-improving athleticism as they whizzed past human runners in a half-marathon race in Beijing on Sunday. The robots and humans ran in parallel tracks to avoid collisions. The winning robot, developed by Honor, a well-known Chinese smartphone maker, finished the race in 50 minutes and 26 seconds, several minutes faster than the world record set by Jacob Kiplimo last month in Lisbon, though the humanoid had to be helped back up just metres from the finish line after crashing into the railing. Humanoid robots show rapid advances as they race past humans in Beijing half-marathon. Continue reading...

- [Humanoid robots show rapid advances as they race past humans in Beijing half-marathon](#) (2026-04-19 04:57)

Winning robot records faster time than Jacob Kiplimo's world record. More than 100 robots run in parallel tracks to avoid collisions with humans. Dozens of Chinese-made humanoid robots showed off their fast-improving athleticism as they whizzed past human runners in a half-marathon race in Beijing on Sunday, having lagged far behind a year earlier. The race's inaugural edition last year was riddled with mishaps, as many robots struggled to get off the starting line, and most were unable to finish. Continue reading...

## Source: China - Foreign Policy

- [The Race for the Next U.N. Chief Kicks Off](#) (2026-04-22 14:48)

The selection process for António Guterres' successor begins with a grilling for four contenders.

- [What if China Succeeds?](#) (2026-04-22 13:02)

Why Beijing's success spells doom for everyone else.

- [China Doesn't Always Win When the U.S. Loses](#) (2026-04-21 20:50)

The Iran war exposes the limits of zero-sum thinking about great powers.

- [How Big of a Threat Is Mythos?](#) (2026-04-20 19:32)

Anthropic's latest AI model has kick-started a new debate.

## Source: Financial Times China

- [China's smartphone king takes on Elon Musk in Europe with premium EVs](#) (2026-04-26 04:00)

Xiaomi wants to expand on the continent as demand for its cars outstrips production

- [EV ownership at 'tipping point' in many parts of the world, experts say](#) (2026-04-25 11:00)

Data shows momentum shift under way in Europe and emerging markets

- [UK Biobank says security checks not imposed because of 'harms' to research](#) (2026-04-24 16:40)

Access to the database has been paused after data breach under pressure from ministers

- [Big Four's shrinkage at the top presages weakness at the bottom line](#) (2026-04-24 12:06)

Professional service firms appear to be braced for flatlining growth

- [Chinese bid for UK chemical plant condemned as threat to competition](#) (2026-04-24 04:00)

World's largest producer of titanium dioxide to acquire facility in North East of England

- [Goldman Sachs leads record renminbi borrowing by US banks](#) (2026-04-24 04:00)

Bank joins 'frenzy' as China's low interest rates draw in more foreign issuers

- [America must guard against China's own Mythos](#) (2026-04-24 04:00)

The US needs to block Chinese access to the most advanced technology

- [China hackers steal western secrets by targeting consumer gadgets](#) (2026-04-23 18:11)

Compromised home internet routers and smart fridges are being used in cyber attacks, intelligence agencies warn

- [White House accuses China of 'industrial-scale' theft of AI technology](#) (2026-04-23 14:40)

Trump official Michael Kratsios says Chinese entities stealing from American labs

- [PwC fined \\$166mn by Hong Kong regulators over Evergrande audit](#) (2026-04-23 10:36)

Big Four firm also faces six-month ban on new clients related to its work on failed property developer's books

- [Europe's resistance to Chinese investment has stalled](#) (2026-04-23 10:00)

The European Commission's repeated attempts to run a coherent green industrial strategy are showing few results

- [Beijing's auto bash and Coupang under scrutiny](#) (2026-04-23 07:32)

The inside story on the Asia tech trends that matter, from Nikkei Asia and the Financial Times

- [The AI digital divide](#) (2026-04-23 04:00)

An FT survey shows the highest-earning workers are adopting the technology in their jobs far faster than others

- [Partitions and permit delays: the UK law firms sticking with China](#) (2026-04-23 00:00)

Regulatory scrutiny over operations — down to office seating plans — is price to pay for firms wanting to do business in the country

- [Not even Iran war's oil shock will help China reflate](#) (2026-04-22 23:01)

Rising prices risk deepening the country's deflationary trap rather than providing any escape from it

- [Population collapses of yore](#) (2026-04-22 09:52)

Poring over precedents for China's prospective population plummet

- [Reebok plans hundreds of China stores to capture activewear boom](#) (2026-04-22 04:30)

Owner Authentic Brands hopes bricks-and-mortar relaunch will generate \$1bn in annual sales within a decade

- [Trump trade chief urges US allies to pay more for critical minerals](#) (2026-04-22 04:00)

Jamieson Greer says 'security premium' needed to counter reliance on Chinese supplies

- [BHP strikes China iron ore deal after months of talks](#) (2026-04-22 02:14)

Mining company firms up copper guidance in Mike Henry's final results as chief executive

- [Can EVs kill off petrol cars in China?](#) (2026-04-22 02:01)

Electric-vehicle makers target less affluent heartland for next phase of growth

- [VW to export more China-made EVs in global sales drive](#) (2026-04-21 12:59)

Strategy pivot coincides with slowdown and fierce competition in world's largest automotive market

- [Taiwan says Chinese pressure forces scrapping of president's Africa trip](#) (2026-04-21 12:56)

Lai Ching-te's visit to tiny landlocked Eswatini postponed after neighbours 'revoked flight permits'

- [China links tough new trade rules to Iran war and Panama port dispute](#) (2026-04-21 10:01)

Beijing threatens companies with harsh punishments, including exit bans, to protect against foreign sanctions

- [Will China get richer before it gets much, much smaller?](#) (2026-04-21 05:00)

Demographic dataviz

- [Global clean power growth points to permanent shift, analysts say](#) (2026-04-21 04:00)

Evidence grows of structural move away from fossil fuels to meet electricity demand

- [China sends warships to Pacific as Japan tensions grow](#) (2026-04-20 08:43)

Beijing deploys naval destroyer group on same day Tokyo joins annual US-Philippine military drills

- [China does have one powerful lever to boost consumption](#) (2026-04-20 01:00)

A permanent cut in the payroll tax could benefit workers and the world

- [Foreign carmakers turn to Chinese technology to remain relevant](#) (2026-04-19 23:01)

Western executives hope ‘in China for China’ strategy will halt sales decline in world’s largest car market

- [The US and Europe are still stronger together](#) (2026-04-19 12:00)

Despite Trump and the war with Iran, Brussels’ interests remain deeply entwined with Washington’s

- [Lessons from the China shock 2.0](#) (2026-04-19 10:00)

The response should be better industrial strategies, not knee-jerk protectionism

- [Chinese migrant workers return home as urban jobs grow scarcer](#) (2026-04-19 04:00)

Policymakers fret about ‘large-scale’ movement back to rural interior amid weakening domestic demand

- [Bogart’s Italian fedora maker seeks to get ahead in China](#) (2026-04-19 04:00)

169-year-old luxury hat producer Borsalino plans to open its first store in Shanghai

## Source: New York Times China

- [5 Tall Tasks for Apple’s New C.E.O.](#) (2026-04-24 14:55)

John Ternus will face many of the same issues that Tim Cook has grappled with for years.

- [DeepSeek' s Sequel Set to Extend China' s Reach in Open-Source A.I.](#) (2026-04-24 04:29)

Chinese companies have embraced making their most advanced artificial intelligence models available to all.

- [War and Sanctions Accelerate China' s Currency Push](#) (2026-04-24 04:00)

China' s bid to build a renminbi-based financial system beyond the U.S. dollar' s reach is gaining traction as a way to sidestep sanctions.

- [Iran War Has Drained U.S. Supplies of Critical, Costly Weapons](#) (2026-04-24 01:04)

The Pentagon' s rush to rearm its Mideast forces makes it less ready to confront potential adversaries like Russia and China, administration and congressional officials say.

- [Trump Reposts Anti-Immigrant Tirade Calling China and India 'Hellhole' Places](#) (2026-04-24 00:42)

The president touched off a furor with his post sharing a podcast episode in which the host referred to China and India as “hellhole” places.

- [How the Supreme Court' s Shadow Docket Upended Climate Policy](#) (2026-04-23 19:17)

The Times unearthed memos that signaled a major shift in the court' s operations, in a decision that critics say was rushed and flawed.

- [What Questions Do You Have About the Trump-Xi Summit?](#) (2026-04-23 16:14)

“Ask a Correspondent” will take your questions to David Pierson, who covers China' s foreign policy for The Times.

- [China Publishes Maps Detailing Minerals on the Ocean Floor](#) (2026-04-23 16:12)

The new deep-sea atlas underscores Beijing' s interest in ocean mining, its military ambitions and its claims to disputed waters.

- [Some Labubu Dolls Contain Cotton Banned By Forced Labor Law, Testing Shows](#) (2026-04-23 11:58)

A test verified by The New York Times found that clothes for some of the viral dolls contained cotton from the Xinjiang region of China, which is banned in the United States.

- [Tim Cook Did Wonders for Apple. He Also Did a Lot for Xi Jinping.](#) (2026-04-23 09:03)

Tim Cook made Apple a juggernaut, but he did so by risking America' s economic and political security.

- [Why Diesel Has Become a Much Bigger Economic Problem Than Gasoline](#) (2026-04-23 09:02)

The war in Iran has disrupted supplies of diesel, used to power trucks and heavy equipment, much more than gasoline, which is primarily used in passenger cars.

- [As U.S. Brands Stumble, China Wins Over Young Indonesians](#) (2026-04-23 09:00)

A new generation of Indonesian consumers view Chinese brands as high-tech and of good quality, a departure from the days when “made in China” was associated with cheap goods.

- [How China Is Building Its Next Outpost at Sea](#) (2026-04-22 05:36)

China has been quietly and quickly building an island in disputed waters off of the coast of Vietnam over the last few months.

- [Xi Calls For Hormuz to Reopen as China Balances Its Gulf Interests](#) (2026-04-21 09:23)

The comments on the Strait of Hormuz by China’s leader, Xi Jinping, reflect Beijing’s complex relations with Iran and other Persian Gulf nations.

- [Japan to Sell More Weapons Abroad, Breaking With Postwar Pacifism](#) (2026-04-21 05:13)

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reversed limits on arms exports as Japan faces rising threats from China and unpredictability from its main ally, the United States.

- [The Town That Reveals All of Trump’s Bad Economic Ideas](#) (2026-04-20 21:10)

The jobs are coming back, despite President Trump’s tariffs and harsh immigration enforcement.

- [A Humanoid Robot Races to a Record Half-Marathon Finish](#) (2026-04-19 23:59)

The android won a half-marathon for robots (and humans) on Sunday in Beijing, achieving a technological milestone while finishing faster than any person in history.

- [Robot Finishes Half Marathon Faster Than Human World Record](#) (2026-04-19 23:58)

A humanoid robot named Lightning ran a half-marathon race in Beijing in 50 minutes and 26 seconds — faster than the human world record for the distance.

## Source: South China Morning Post

- [At Malaysia’s arms bazaar, drone dealers chase Southeast Asian market share](#) (2026-04-26 05:30)

Watch a cheap commercial drone destroy a battle tank on the frontlines in Ukraine, or a cut-price Iranian Shahed menace Tel Aviv, then ask yourself why Southeast Asia’s defence ministries are suddenly very interested in unmanned aerial vehicles. The answer was on full display last week at the Defence Services Asia (DSA) exhibition in Kuala Lumpur, where vendors from Abu Dhabi to Pretoria were chasing deals in one of the global arms trade’s hottest

emerging markets. “There is huge demand from the...

- [Hong Kong’ s IPO market ‘exceeds’ HK\\$140 billion amid renewed gold trading push](#) (2026-04-26 05:27)

Hong Kong’ s initial public offering (IPO) market has raised more than HK\$140 billion (US\$17.87 billion) as of April, maintaining its global lead, the city’ s financial chief has said, while indicating a renewed push to develop gold trading amid rising demand for risk diversification. Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said on Sunday that Hong Kong remained the world’ s top IPO fundraising hub as of last week, citing a growing number of high-quality companies using the city’ s strong financing...

- [Midnight pranksters fan flames of frustration for Malaysia’ s fire services](#) (2026-04-26 04:18)

It’ s midnight. A call was made to Malaysia’ s Fire and Rescue Department about a forest fire in Tanjung Bungah, Penang. Firefighters rushed to the scene only to discover there was no such blaze. the department gets a prank call every other day. Many of these calls are usually made about an hour before or after midnight. Its exasperated director general Nor Hisham Mohammad is now calling for a multiprong approach to deal with the problem. “There should be stricter enforcement, use of technological...

- [Could Russian missiles help India counter its arch-rival’ s Chinese weapons?](#) (2026-04-26 04:00)

India has reportedly signed a deal to buy Russian missiles that target support aircraft as its arch-rival Pakistan and China continue to integrate their aerial weapons profiles. Russia has cleared the export of around 300 R-37M ultra-long-range air-to-air missiles in a US\$1.2 billion deal, according to media reports. Malaysia-based news platform Defence Security Asia said deliveries of the missiles could begin within 12 to 18 months. India is also developing its own Astra Mk 2 and Mk 3 missiles,...

- [How gunfire threw Trump’ s glitzy Washington Hilton dinner into chaos](#) (2026-04-26 03:06)

It was meant to be a glitzy Saturday night at a Washington ballroom featuring President Donald Trump, but the glamour was shattered by gunshots that left guests diving to the floor and the US leader bundled out by security personnel. Trump was seated on the dais at the White House Correspondents’ Association’ s annual dinner – the first time he is attending as president – when loud bangs disrupted the revelry and caused him and others on stage to look up in alarm. Video captured by news outlets...

- [Singapore’ s answer to school bullying? The cane ... and counselling](#) (2026-04-26 03:00)

For six months, Adriana Lim Escano’ s teenage son went to school and said nothing. He had tried to do the right thing – stepping in when a group of boys bullied a classmate – and paid for

it with half a year of misery, name-calling and social isolation. His mother only found out when another parent called to say her son had voiced suicidal thoughts to a friend. The school's response, when it finally came, was a talking-to from the discipline committee. No suspensions. No meaningful...

- [What's fuelling the surge in South Koreans travelling to China?](#) (2026-04-26 02:00)

A new wave of South Korean content creators is descending on Chinese cities, cameras in hand, transforming the streets of Shanghai, Shenzhen and beyond into lively backdrops for travel vlogs and lifestyle videos. Dubbed the “Korean v-blogger influx” by some online users, their ranks have swelled since China extended its unilateral visa-free policy for South Korean passport holders for another year, allowing stays of up to 30 days for tourism, business and family visits. Introduced in 2024 and...

- [Iconic South Korean district on the brink in divisive urban renewal fight](#) (2026-04-26 01:30)

For 42 years, Ha Sung-ki has sold large speakers to churches and event halls from his electronics shop inside Seoul's Sewoon Plaza. On a weekday afternoon, the corridor outside – once part of a bustling merchants' network – is largely empty. “These days, the number of customers crossing the street to come here can be counted on your fingers – sometimes fewer than 10 a day,” he said. “People used to come for the nostalgia, the vintage products and the experience of assembling electronic...

- [10 ways Hong Kong schools can effectively promote mental health](#) (2026-04-26 01:30)

Student mental health is a matter of great concern. According to the latest data from the Education Bureau, the number of secondary students with mental health issues has doubled over the past five years, from 660 in 2020-21 to 1,330 in 2024-25. In recent years, the government and various stakeholders in society have worked to halt the continued rise in student suicides. However, the number of suspected suicide cases still rose by 10 per cent between 2024 and 2025, from 28 to 31. To help...

- [Can Chongqing leverage its online viral fame to become an international tourism hub?](#) (2026-04-26 01:15)

Chongqing, also known as ‘the most confusing city’ has become one of China's most popular tourism attraction spots in recent years. Many Chinese and international social media content creators have hopped on the viral trend of making videos about the city's bewildering, mountainous urban landscape. The South China Morning Post's Llewellyn Cheung travelled to Chongqing to meet a local content creator and tourism experts to find out what the city is really like beyond the viral trends, and why its...

- [Some Hong Kong trees are behaving strangely and botanists want to know why](#) (2026-04-26 01:00)

A citywide study should be launched to examine how global warming is affecting plants in Hong Kong and the knock-on effect on the rest of the ecosystem, botanists have urged after witnessing clear changes in leaf-shedding and flowering patterns. Some species, such as the red kapok tree, commonly known as the cotton tree, and the flame tree, which should shed all leaves during winter, had shown signs of incomplete leaf drop by spring or early flowering in recent years, the experts said, stressing...

- [Muddy yet clear-cut: How Chinese investors are turning jungle into Indonesia's new capital](#) (2026-04-26 01:00)

After an hour's drive through the jungle of Borneo, you reach more jungle. Your rental van from the Balikpapan city airport shakes precariously, navigating a partial bridge washout. A roadside sign admonishes against poaching the endangered sun bears. By hour three you've arrived at Indonesia's new capital, which is due to start taking over from gridlocked, polluted and seaward-sinking Jakarta in 2028. Welcome to Ibu Kota Nusantara, known locally as just Nusantara or IKN. Eventually, if all goes...

- [Rumours of China Forbidden City using 600,000 tonnes of pig blood to 'dispel evil' debunked](#) (2026-04-26 01:00)

A long-standing and widely-circulated rumour that the Forbidden City in Beijing uses 600,000 tonnes of pig's blood each year to dispel evil has been debunked. The liquid is actually used as a form of adhesive which is painted on the famous palace's signature red walls and pillars, according to a recently published book. The book *Sitting under the Roof of the Forbidden City: Answering 50 Questions about the Forbidden City* is written by Zhou Qian, a researcher at the palace for 20 years who is also...

- [Trump escapes unharmed as gunman opens fire at White House press dinner hotel](#) (2026-04-26 00:53)

US President Donald Trump and other top US leaders were evacuated from an annual White House correspondents dinner in Washington on Saturday night after a gunman fired several shots at the glitzy, high-profile event. The president, first lady Melania Trump, Vice-President J.D. Vance and cabinet members were uninjured as the event broke up and the first family returned to the White House. A member of the White House press pool reported hearing the shots as Secret Service officers swarmed the...

- [Explosive device kills 13 and injures 38 on bus in Colombia](#) (2026-04-26 00:02)

An explosive device killed 13 people travelling on a bus in southwestern Colombia on Saturday, an attack the country's army chief described as a "terrorist act" that also left at least 38 injured as violence linked to drug trafficking in the region escalates. Octavio Guzman, the governor of the region of Cauca, said on social media that the device was set off while the bus was travelling along the Panamerican Highway in the municipality of Cajibío. Five children were among the injured, Cauca...

- [Will South Korea or Japan develop a nuclear deterrent of their own?](#) (2026-04-26 00:00)

War on Iran has changed many things, not least of which is the tenor of nuclear debate in two of America's closest Asian allies: countries that have long defined themselves by the weapons they do not possess. For decades, the question of whether South Korea and Japan might one day build their own nuclear arsenal was treated as fringe speculation – the preserve of hawks and provocateurs. No longer. The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has sounded the alarm....

- [New Israeli strikes reported in Lebanon after Netanyahu orders attacks](#) (2026-04-25 22:16)

Lebanese state media reported a series of new Israeli strikes in the country's south on Saturday night, after attacks earlier in the day killed six people despite a recently extended ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hezbollah. The new attacks followed orders from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the military to “forcefully attack Hezbollah targets” after the army accused it of breaching the truce. Lebanon's health ministry had said earlier that “Israeli enemy strikes on a...

- [Will China's mathematicians join a global effort to boycott the United States?](#) (2026-04-25 22:00)

In the world of mathematics, the United States is becoming an outlier. The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) – the world's most important mathematics conference and the venue for awarding the prestigious Fields Medal – is facing worldwide opposition because the US is hosting this year's event in Philadelphia in July. More than 2,300 mathematicians from at least 76 countries have signed an online petition to “move the 2026 ICM out of the US” and “commit not to participate in the ICM...

- [To be the world No 2 financial centre, Hong Kong must be a rule maker](#) (2026-04-25 21:30)

Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po recently said the city could rise to become the world's No 2 financial centre in 10-15 years. That is the right kind of ambition. In a world being reshaped by geopolitical fragmentation, China's growing global weight and rapid technological change, Hong Kong must think beyond remaining internationally competitive to exercising global leadership. But ambition alone is not enough. Hong Kong has spent decades proving it can operate at the world's...

- [Hungary's Orban won't take up parliament seat after landslide loss, wants to lead renewal](#) (2026-04-25 20:12)

Hungary's outgoing Prime Minister Viktor Orban said he would not take up his seat in parliament following his party's landslide defeat in this month's election but wants to stay on as Fidesz's leader to lead a process of “renewal”. The most dominant figure in Hungarian politics since the fall of Communism in 1989, Orban has sat in Hungary's legislature for 36 years without interruption, serving as premier for the past sixteen years. “I'm not needed in

parliament now but in the reorganisation of...

- [Roommate charged with murder of 2 Bangladeshi PhD students in US](#) (2026-04-25 18:30)

A former University of South Florida student has been charged with killing his roommate and the roommate's girlfriend – two doctoral students from Bangladesh who disappeared earlier this month, authorities said Saturday. Hisham Abugharbieh, 26, is facing two counts of premeditated murder in the first degree with a weapon in the deaths of Zamil Limon and Nahida Bristy, students at USF, according to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. He made an initial court appearance Saturday in Tampa,...

- [Trump cancels envoys' trip to Pakistan for peace talks](#) (2026-04-25 17:16)

In the latest move as the US and Iran circle each other warily and the world holds its breath, US President Donald Trump on Saturday ordered his negotiating team not to travel to Pakistan for talks on ending the eight-week war that has upended the global economy. Trump told his son-in-law Jared Kushner and special envoy Steve Witkoff to stay put and avoid wasting more time until Tehran stepped up. Vice-President J.D. Vance, who presided over the first round of talks earlier this month, remains...

- [Pope Leo urges worldwide abolition of death penalty](#) (2026-04-25 15:51)

Pope Leo has called for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty on Saturday, a day after the US administration mulled expanding the penalty. "The dignity of the person is not lost even after very serious crimes are committed," Leo said in a video message marking the 15th anniversary of the abolition of the death penalty in his home state of Illinois. "The Catholic Church has consistently taught that each human life, from the moment of conception until natural death, is sacred and deserves..."

- [Photo of labourer smoking on scaffolding triggers anger after Tai Po blaze](#) (2026-04-25 15:48)

An image of a Hong Kong construction worker smoking a cigarette while on bamboo scaffolding at a residential building has prompted outrage among internet users, who have drawn comparisons with the suspected cause of the city's deadliest fire in decades. An image shared on a Facebook page called the Shau Kei Wan Sai Wan Ho Concern Group showed a worker smoking a cigarette while standing on scaffolding erected around what was identified as Tai On Building. A second worker in the same photo can be...

- [Palestinians bury pregnant woman and 2 of her children killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza](#) (2026-04-25 14:57)

Palestinians on Saturday buried a woman pregnant with twins and two of her children who were among at least 13 people killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza. The toll on Friday included two men who were killed in Gaza City, and eight others killed in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to local hospitals. Officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis said the eight people,

including four police officers, were killed after Israel targeted a police vehicle. While the heaviest fighting has mostly...

- [Taliban says Afghans stuck in Qatar who helped US in war can safely return home](#)

(2026-04-25 14:09)

Afghanistan's foreign ministry says Afghans who helped America's war effort and have been stuck in Qatar in the hope of reaching the United States can safely return to Afghanistan. The statement on Saturday by foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi comes after reports emerged that the Trump administration is in discussions to potentially send 1,100 Afghans who assisted the US during its war in Afghanistan, and relatives of US service members, to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). An...

- [Will the future world order be determined by who controls low Earth orbit?](#) (2026-04-25 14:00)

When US special forces raided Caracas and abducted president Nicolas Maduro and his wife in early January, the Venezuelan capital was hit by widespread power outages and communication blackouts. Yet, within hours of the attacks, connectivity began to return – not from paralysed ground infrastructure, but from space. Elon Musk's Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX, activated communications services across Venezuela via its vast constellation of low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites on terminals residents...

- [Mali junta reports 'terrorist' attacks on several targets](#) (2026-04-25 13:19)

An attack by "unknown armed terrorists" has been carried out on military barracks and other targets in the capital Bamako, the military in Mali reported on Saturday. Attacks had also occurred in other locations in the country, the general staff reported. Fighting was ongoing, a brief statement said. Witnesses reported intense fighting in a town near the capital where junta leader General Assimi Goita lives, and in other key cities. Mali, a landlocked West African country, has been ruled by a...

- [Hong Kong urged to clarify consent in reforms to close sexual offence loopholes](#)

(2026-04-25 13:04)

Including clear, comprehensive definitions of consent in Hong Kong's reform of sexual offence laws will provide greater clarity for all parties and better protect victims, experts and a survivor have said. Barrister Stephen Keung Pit-chun said on Saturday current interpretations of consent relied on "common sense", creating legal loopholes. Establishing a statutory definition of consent would also be key to sentencing in future cases, he said. Keung was speaking at a forum at the University of...

- [Billionaire behind 'American Factory' firm warns of US exit amid trade friction with China](#) (2026-04-25 13:00)

As one of the world's largest automotive glass producers, and the subject of an Oscar-winning documentary, Fuyao Glass is a familiar name in the United States. Now, its founder has warned he is prepared to shut down his American plants if trade friction and tariffs cause severe losses. Responding to questions regarding geopolitical risks at the company's annual general meeting, Cao Dewang said that the company would not engage in loss-making ventures. "How much in duties you want to impose is..."

- [Why Spain's 'fruit bowl' diplomacy with China comes up rather empty](#) (2026-04-25 12:30)

Every time a European leader lands in Beijing with a business delegation, the same speculation follows: is the Atlantic consensus beginning to crack? Is part of Europe drifting towards China and away from Washington? In Spain's case, the drama expires on contact with the record. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's four visits to Beijing in four years have not produced a European pivot, a strategic vision or a narrower trade imbalance. They have produced market access for agricultural goods. Call it...

- [Japan evacuates thousands as hundreds of firefighters battle wildfires](#) (2026-04-25 12:16)

Hundreds of firefighters were battling wildfires in the forests of northern Japan on Saturday, as authorities urged more than 3,200 people to evacuate their homes, government officials said. As of Saturday morning, blazes in the mountainous areas of Iwate region had burned about 700 hectares (1,730 acres) since breaking out three days ago, local government officials said in a statement. A large column of smoke, which could be smelled 30km (20 miles) away, was seen rising up the valley near the...

- [Iran digs in as US envoys Kushner and Witkoff head to Pakistan for more talks](#) (2026-04-25 12:13)

In a prelude to a possible second round of peace talks in Pakistan, Iran ramped up its rhetoric against the United States on Saturday, warning of retaliation if the US kept up its shipping blockade. Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, the operational centre of the Islamic Republic's armed forces, warned of a "severe reaction" if the US continued its "naval blockade, maritime piracy and robbery in the region". Iran's defence ministry also said that much of the country's missile strength...

- [Hong Kong police arrest 2 men over thefts targeting homeless people](#) (2026-04-25 12:04)

Hong Kong police have arrested two men in connection with a series of thefts targeting homeless people in Yau Tsim Mong district that involved about HK\$142,000 (US\$18,100) worth of stolen property. Inspector Frankie Chiu of the district said on Saturday that police had begun to notice a rise in such thefts from early April and had launched an investigation. "Through in-depth investigation, intelligence analysis and extensive review of CCTV, including cameras under the 'SmartView' scheme, we..."

- [Did China just drop a hint that its next aircraft carrier will be nuclear-powered?](#)

(2026-04-25 12:00)

A Chinese naval video has fuelled speculation that its next aircraft carrier is likely to be nuclear-powered. The film *Into The Deep* was released on Wednesday to mark the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army Navy. Highlighting the continuity of China's maritime ambitions, from coastal defence to a "blue-water" navy capable of deep-sea operations, the film also included footage from real-life drills in the western Pacific and the use of advanced equipment. It also...

- [Argentina again calls for UK talks on Falklands, US confirms neutrality](#) (2026-04-25 11:26)

Argentina has called for talks with the UK over the Falkland Islands after reports the US could review its position on the South Atlantic territory in retaliation for Prime Minister Keir Starmer's lack of support for the war in Iran. Downing Street had earlier insisted the sovereignty of the Falklands was "not in question". That came after a leaked internal Pentagon email set out options for President Donald Trump's administration to punish Nato allies for refusing to join the US-Israeli strikes...

- [What smokers need to know about Hong Kong's new e-cigarette ban](#) (2026-04-25 11:15)

Hong Kong's new ban on possessing e-cigarettes, commonly known as vapes, and related products in public places will take effect on April 30. Residents and visitors caught violating the rule could face a fine of up to HK\$50,000 (US\$6,380) and a maximum of six months in jail. The South China Morning Post looks into the details of the ban, its penalties and what both residents and visitors who use the products should keep in mind to avoid trouble. 1. What is the new ban? From April 30, an...

- [Reverend Derek Li, father of injured Hong Kong Mirror dancer Mo Li, dies](#) (2026-04-25 10:19)

The father of Mo Li Kai-yin, the dancer paralysed by a falling giant screen during a 2022 concert by popular Hong Kong boy band Mirror, has died. The Christian Ministry Institute on Saturday announced the death of Reverend Derek Li Shing-lam, who spent years advocating for his 31-year-old son after the accident shocked the city. "Reverend Li devoted his life to loving the Lord," the institute said of its former president. "The beautiful traces of his life will live on in the hearts of his..."

- [Wang Fuk Court resident cherishes chance to capture final photo of sea from flat](#) (2026-04-25 10:17)

For Ian Chu, capturing one last image of the sea from his home before it was gone forever was a final wish as he returned on Saturday to the scene of the deadly blaze at Hong Kong's Wang Fuk Court to collect his belongings. Chu lived in Wang Cheong House, where 81 people died, nearly half of the 168 in total. "Since the renovations I have not seen the ocean, the sunlight ... so I just tried to take as many photos as I could while I had the chance," he said, showing

reporters an image taken from...

- [Macron touches Beijing’ s nerves on Taiwan and Tibet as he heads for the exit](#) (2026-04-25 10:00)

From Taiwan to Tibet, French President Emmanuel Macron has touched Beijing’ s nerves on a range of sensitive issues over the past few weeks. On a trip to Japan earlier this month, he and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi “emphasised the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and urged a peaceful resolution of cross-strait issues through constructive dialogue” . The irritation for Beijing was less about the language and more about the timing, with the joint statement coming...

- [China actor gains renewed fame after fellow star’ s warlord role mocked for flawless make-up](#) (2026-04-25 10:00)

Taiwanese-American actor Peter Ho has gained renewed fame in mainland China for a warlord role he played 14 years ago, after another actor was mocked for playing a similar role with flawless makeup in a new drama. Chinese actor Zhang Linghe was widely mocked as the “foundation general” , after a video clip of him playing a warlord in the recent romance costume drama Pursuit of Jade went viral. The video was reportedly made by Zhang’ s fans to promote their idol, but received public ridicule, as...

- [5 die in Ukraine, over 30 wounded, in massive Russian attack](#) (2026-04-25 09:56)

Russia launched a large-scale attack on Ukraine overnight, killing at least five and injuring more than 30, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reported on Saturday. Ukraine’ s General Staff said Russia launched 47 ballistic and cruise missiles as well as 619 drones of various types. Ukraine has been warding off a full-scale Russian invasion since February 2022. Air raid sirens sounded across the country with residents urged to seek shelter. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that...

- [Hong Kong developers clear stock amid strong demand and shrinking supply](#) (2026-04-25 09:40)

Hong Kong developers released nearly 300 new flats to the market amid enthusiastic demand from potential homebuyers as the latest official data show completion of private residential units is set to decline this year and next. By 6pm, all 218 units at the One Victoria Cove Phase I in Hung Hom, jointly developed by Henderson Land Development, Hysan Development and Empire Group, were sold, while at the Pavilia Farm III atop Tai Wai station in Sha Tin by New World Development (NWD) and MTR...

- [Underwhelming or underrated? DeepSeek V4 shows “impressive” gains](#) (2026-04-25 08:51)

DeepSeek’ s long-awaited flagship V4 model has fallen short of its domestic and US rivals, according to a new analysis, as the Chinese artificial intelligence firm struggles to replicate the

market-shaking success of its earlier R1 release. The company's most advanced system, V4Pro, ranked second among the world's leading open-source models, behind Beijing-based Moonshot AI's Kimi K2.6, benchmark firm Artificial Analysis said in a report on Friday. While V4 Pro marked a clear improvement on its...

- [The real reason stock markets are still flying high despite grave risks](#) (2026-04-25 08:30)

Financial markets, stock markets especially, appear able to defy gravity despite the global geopolitical and economic situation. A plethora of institutional and individual explanations have been offered as to why, but most seem to miss the point. Which is, at least in part, that we have created a kind of monster in the asset management industry, which channels a glut of global savings into a limited number of investment areas and which, by virtue of these captive inflows, is able to maintain...

- [Hong Kong police bust motorcycle theft syndicate, arrest 5 over 14 cases](#) (2026-04-25 08:20)

Police have dismantled a motorcycle theft syndicate and arrested five people, believed to be linked to 14 cases across Hong Kong, amid a rise in such crimes in the first quarter of the year. Senior Inspector Fu Ho-shing of the Kowloon West regional crime unit said on Saturday that the group primarily targeted motorcycles parked in back alleys or secluded areas in West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan, where surveillance coverage was limited. They also targeted delivery workers who left their vehicles...

- [SCMP scoops 74 awards, led by Hong Kong fencing infographic in design competition](#) (2026-04-25 08:14)

The South China Morning Post has won 74 awards at the 47th edition of the Society for News Design's Creative Competition, including three silver and 11 bronze medals. An infographic on Hong Kong's fencing boom was a stand-out winner in results announced by the society on Friday, earning three silver and one bronze medal. "It's a great honour to receive these awards that are often called the 'Oscars of visual journalism'. This global recognition reflects the hard work and innovation happening in...

- [US uses unusual routes to send jet fuel to Japan, Philippine bases amid Hormuz closure](#) (2026-04-25 07:40)

An unusual series of cargoes of military-grade fuel that is due to sail from the US across the Pacific Ocean illustrates how far the war in Iran has disrupted the global oil supply chain. A request for offers to ship 235,000 barrels of jet fuel from Cherry Point in Blaine, Washington, where BP has a refinery, to Subic Bay in the Philippines, a strategic access point and logistics hub for US naval operations, was issued on Thursday, according to a document seen by Bloomberg. The cargo is...

- [Could hair or cosmetics be make-or-break factors for China's would-be civil servants?](#)  
(2026-04-25 07:35)

China's official media has released a series of guidelines for would-be civil servants, warning them to dress modestly. Candidates were told they should wear "light and elegant" suits, and men were advised to get a haircut. Women were told to have clean nails, avoid jewellery, complicated make-up and make sure their hair did not cover their ears or eyes. Competition for civil service jobs – traditionally seen as an "iron rice bowl" because of the security they offer – has intensified in recent...

- [Iran war is tearing the polyester fabric of fast fashion – and shoes could be next](#)  
(2026-04-25 07:18)

A surge in fossil fuel prices since the Iran war is squeezing polyester suppliers and garment makers across India and Bangladesh, threatening to raise costs for fast-fashion retailers like Zara and H&M. Filatex, one of India's biggest polyester yarn producers, is paying nearly 30 per cent more for the petroleum-derived feedstocks – purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and monoethylene glycol (MEG) – that it needs to make yarn, as Chinese suppliers raise prices and Middle East supply is disrupted,...

- [India-Germany defence road map 'good template' for wider EU cooperation](#)  
(2026-04-25 07:00)

India and Germany's new defence road map could give New Delhi fresh momentum in its long-running push to modernise its undersea fleet, while helping Europe expand its security role in the Indo-Pacific, experts say. The two countries signed a Defence Industrial Cooperation Road Map in Berlin on Wednesday, with Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his German counterpart, Boris Pistorius, agreeing to deepen collaboration in development, production and niche technologies. The agreement was...

- [Flood of small parcels from China pushes Belgian airport's capacity to limit](#) (2026-04-25 07:00)

More than 4 million small parcels from China have arrived at the freight airport in Liege, Belgium, every day since the beginning of the year. On the receiving end, the Belgian customs inspection team at the airport has only 80 members. Belgium's top customs official, Kristian Vanderwaeren, said the airport, close to the Netherlands, Germany and France, was built, in part, to cater to e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Shein, Temu and Alibaba. But the "explosion" in the number of small parcels...

- ['Toughest stance' : Hong Kong launches 18 operations against illegal fuel stations](#)  
(2026-04-25 06:17)

Hong Kong authorities launched 18 joint operations against illicit refuelling stations this year amid a global surge in energy prices, with the customs chief noting that the practice has become increasingly common in urban areas. But Commissioner for Customs and Excise Chan

Tsz-tat said on Saturday that despite the upwards trend, illegal refuelling was not widespread locally. “The cost of owning a private vehicle in Hong Kong is very high, and petrol prices here are undoubtedly among the highest...”

- [7,000-year history of China stilted houses celebrates human ingenuity, offers insights](#) (2026-04-25 06:00)

With sturdy wooden columns supporting a wide walkway that leads into a living space, stilted houses – known as ganlan in Chinese – represent a quintessential element of East Asian architectural heritage, boasting a remarkable history that spans 7,000 years. A day trip to Tai O, a historic fishing village on Lantau Island in Hong Kong, fully immerses visitors in the enchanting aesthetics of ganlan, making the village a premier destination for both locals and tourists. “In most Chinese regions...”

- [Malaysia gets new anti-corruption chief as protests mount against outgoing head](#) (2026-04-25 05:51)

Malaysia on Saturday appointed a former judge as its new anti-corruption chief in an unprecedented move, as the government seeks to calm months of political turbulence over alleged misconduct linked to the watchdog’s outgoing head. Allies and opponents have hit out against Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim since February following reports claiming that Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) boss Azam Baki was involved in a share ownership scandal and the agency’s officers were allegedly working...

- [The Middle East’s new power brokers? Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt unite](#) (2026-04-25 05:30)

Amid the rubble of the US-Israel war on Iran, a new Middle East appears to be taking shape as a constellation of regional powers jockey for a seat at the table. Led by Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the grouping stretches from the Gulf across the Caucasus to Central and South Asia, binding together countries with overlapping interests, interlocking partnerships and a shared conviction: that the post-war order should not be dictated exclusively by the US-Israel alliance or Iran and its battered but...

- [Hong Kong to step up crackdown on coerced shopping, scams during Labour Day ‘golden week’](#) (2026-04-25 04:58)

Hong Kong will step up law enforcement against coerced shopping, unlicensed tour guides and unfair sales practices targeting visitors during mainland China’s Labour Day “golden week”, the city’s tourism minister has said. Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Rosanna Law Shuk-pui said on Saturday that hotel occupancy rates in Hong Kong were expected to exceed 90 per cent during the period, with the government estimating 980,000 mainland visitors, up 7 per cent from the same holiday last...

- [Xpeng sets August goal to overtake Tesla’s self-driving tech in China](#) (2026-04-25 04:42)

Xpeng, the Chinese electric vehicle start-up often cast as a key rival to Tesla, has set an ambitious goal to surpass the US carmaker's self-driving capabilities in China by August, according to co-founder, chairman and CEO He Xiaopeng. The target highlights an intensifying technology race in the world's largest car market, where manufacturers are increasingly leaning on advanced software to drive growth as government subsidies are phased out. Although Tesla's full version of its Full...

- [Hong Kong Aberdeen marina project attracting local and overseas interest](#) (2026-04-25 04:00)

Hong Kong's Aberdeen marina-residential tourism project has attracted local and overseas interest, with the city's leading yacht club and a Singapore-based operator seeking partnerships with developers to expand their presence. Experts in the real estate and boating industries said developers would be keen to work with local, mainland Chinese or overseas marina operators to strengthen their bids and tap into the market, while urging the government to improve infrastructure and reinforce the...

- [China and Mozambique to map critical minerals in insurgency-hit Cabo Delgado](#) (2026-04-25 04:00)

Mozambique and China have agreed to map the vast, untapped deposits of critical minerals buried beneath the African nation's resource-rich northern provinces, as Maputo seeks Chinese capital and security expertise to unlock one of the continent's most coveted – and conflict-ridden – resource frontiers. The announcement was made in a joint statement issued after talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Mozambican counterpart Daniel Chapo in Beijing on Tuesday. The geological survey will...

- [Traditional bathhouses in Japan sink under soaring energy costs](#) (2026-04-25 03:28)

Traditional public bathhouses in Japan are in deep water as soaring energy costs triggered by the Middle East oil supply disruptions threaten to extinguish the fires of a fading tradition, with some of them forced to shorten their hours or even shut their doors for good. Already struggling with a shrinking customer base and ageing owners without successors, the oil price surge is dealing a fresh blow to sento, as the communal baths are known in Japanese, with regulated pricing making it...

- [Just what the doctor ordered: how AI could help China bridge the medical resources gap](#) (2026-04-25 03:00)

Li Bin, a doctor at the First Hospital of Lanzhou University, was among the wave of Chinese consumers who snapped up Apple Mac Mini computers during the country's frenzied adoption of the OpenClaw artificial intelligence agent earlier this year. The young surgeon from Lanzhou, the capital of northwestern China's Gansu province, bought one to run the open-source program, using it to develop an app to extract and organise information from doctor-patient conversations and lab report photos into...

- [Default in our stars: China's banks use satellites to track assets with sky-high scrutiny](#) (2026-04-25 02:00)

With bad loans and repayment collateral in focus, Chinese banks are increasingly using satellites to evaluate their clients' terrestrial assets, mounting a hi-tech offensive to safeguard against rising credit risks. China Merchants Bank and Shanghai Pudong Development Bank started making use of satellites this year, following a 2022 launch by Ping An Bank and a 2020 move into satellite remote-sensing technology by Zhejiang E-Commerce Bank. Furthering the trend, the Postal Savings Bank of China...

- [Japanese military seeks answers for fatal Type 10 tank blast that should not have happened](#) (2026-04-25 01:30)

A turret explosion that killed three Japanese crew members inside a Type 10 tank during manoeuvres earlier this week has caused shock and confusion in military circles. Japan's defence ministry and experts concur that a round detonating inside a tank turret is virtually unheard of and the cause of the accident will need to be traced before the Ground Self-Defence Force's (GSDF) newest and most advanced tank can return to training. An analyst suggests the investigation will look closely at...

- [China's AI token drive is really about upgrading inland economies](#) (2026-04-25 01:30)

The idea of a token economy is gaining traction. The concept is still nascent, loosely defined and easy to dismiss as just another piece of artificial intelligence jargon. It is no surprise Chinese policymakers are quick to jump on the bandwagon. But in the Chinese context, there is a more concrete policy logic that deserves attention. It reflects an emerging attempt to reframe how energy, infrastructure and digital services interact, and in doing so, how China positions itself in the next phase...

- [Russia accuses US of using coups, kidnappings to 'defend its well-being' at any cost](#) (2026-04-25 01:29)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused the United States of abandoning internationally recognised diplomatic conventions in pursuit of its own interests, particularly in dominating energy markets, in an interview broadcast on Friday. Lavrov, interviewed by Russian state television, said Washington, in its dealings with Latin America and the Middle East, was "taking us back to a world where nothing existed" in international law. "The United States has officially declared that no one...

- [Wang Fuk Court residents make long climb to retrieve family treasures, bid farewell](#) (2026-04-25 01:00)

Hon Wing, 77, and his family climbed 19 floors to their fire-ravaged flat in Hong Kong's Wang Fuk Court housing estate on Tuesday but left almost empty-handed after a two-hour search for valuables. Hon, a retired part-time taxi driver, had hoped to find a bag of change he kept during

his work shifts, but “nothing much was there” in his charred flat in Wang Sun House. His daughter Ice Hon wanted to retrieve items passed down from her late mother. “Dust and ruins are everywhere. It feels like the...

- [Why China will see India’s latest defence deal with South Korea as ‘inevitably sensitive’](#) (2026-04-25 01:00)

China would see India’s attempt to expand defence industry cooperation with South Korea in artillery and anti-aircraft guns as “inevitably sensitive” given Beijing’s border dispute with New Delhi in the Himalayas, according to analysts. After meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday as part of his three-day visit to India, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung announced that Seoul and Delhi had agreed to upgrade their economic cooperation, focusing on vital sectors such as...

- [China’s ‘most pampered child’ interred in palace-like coffin with treasures 1,400 years ago](#) (2026-04-25 01:00)

Some 1,400 years ago, a young girl, celebrated as China’s “most pampered child,” was laid to rest in a palace-like stone coffin, surrounded by her grandmother’s affection and a wealth of treasures. Li Jingxun, an aristocrat from the Sui dynasty (581–618), also known as “Little Girl,” hailed from Longxi, located in what is now northwest China’s Gansu province. Her story unfolded during a tumultuous period in Chinese history, marked by the transition from the fractured Northern dynasties (386–581)...

- [WHO approves first malaria treatment for babies](#) (2026-04-25 00:07)

The World Health Organization announced on Friday that it had given prequalification approval to a malaria treatment for newborns and infants for the first time. Artemether-lumefantrine is the first antimalarial formulation designed specifically for the youngest victims of the mosquito-borne disease. “The prequalification designation indicates that the medicine meets international standards of quality, safety and efficacy,” the WHO said in a statement. Up to now, infants have been treated with...

- [Mixed bag: Indonesia’s 8% growth dream hits a plastic ceiling](#) (2026-04-25 00:00)

The plastic bag is an unlikely symbol of economic frailty. But in Indonesia, the soaring cost of that humble everyday item is raising uncomfortable questions about the country’s future growth prospects. At a market in Depok, south of Jakarta, the plastic bags Budi needs to sell his chicken have nearly doubled in price. “Plastic is really expensive right now,” he said in an interview on April 17. “Usually, I’d have to set aside at least 10,000 rupiah (58 US cents) for plastic bags, but now, I...

- [As DJI duels Insta360, China sharpens global hardware edge amid US scrutiny](#) (2026-04-24 22:00)

In the southern tech hub of Shenzhen, a simmering rivalry between DJI and Insta360 has transformed their shared neighbourhood into a high-stakes corporate battleground. Both companies have long been hailed as the city's poster children for Chinese innovation. DJI dominated the skies as the world's undisputed leader in consumer drones, and Insta360 captured the niche market of panoramic cameras. Now they find themselves locked in a crosstown struggle for market supremacy that some say could...

- [Kuomintang gets the carrots, DPP the stick](#) (2026-04-24 21:30)

Another day, another big humiliation for William Lai Ching-te. The Taiwanese leader effectively had to cancel a visit to eSwatini, the island's last partner in Africa, for the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of King Mswati III's accession to the throne and his 58th birthday. Taiwan said the visit was "postponed" after the Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar cancelled their previously approved overflight permission without warning. Lai and his Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)...

- [OpenAI's Sam Altman apologises to Canada town for not reporting mass shooter](#) (2026-04-24 21:20)

OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman has apologised to a Canadian town devastated by a February mass shooting, saying he was "deeply sorry" the company did not tell police about the killer's troubling ChatGPT account. OpenAI had banned an account linked to Jesse Van Rootselaar in June 2025, eight months before the 18-year-old woman killed eight people at her home and a school in the tiny British Columbia mining town of Tumbler Ridge. The account was banned over concerns about usage linked to violent...

- [G7 'concerned' at Russia and China's nuclear build-up](#) (2026-04-24 19:48)

G7 countries on Friday insisted on their support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), warning of the dangers from a Russian and Chinese build-up. "We are concerned with China's and Russia's significant nuclear weapons build-up and modernisation," the G7 Non-proliferation Directors Group said in a statement published on the French foreign ministry website. The group brings together the diplomats from the Group of Seven countries – Britain, Canada, France, Germany,...

- [US sanctions China-based oil refinery and 40 shippers over Iran oil](#) (2026-04-24 18:47)

The Trump administration is placing economic sanctions on a major China-based oil refinery and roughly 40 shipping companies and tankers involved in transporting Iranian oil. The move, announced on Friday, makes good on the Trump administration's threat to impose secondary sanctions on companies and countries that do business with Iran. It is also part of the Republican administration's overall ramped-up campaign to cut off Iran's key source of revenue – its oil exports. Concurrently, the US...

- [Trump Justice Department adds firing squads for federal executions](#) (2026-04-24 18:16)

The Trump Justice Department said on Friday it was seeking to expand the use of the death penalty in federal capital cases and add the firing squad, electrocution and gas to lethal injection as methods of execution. “The prior administration failed in its duty to protect the American people by refusing to pursue and carry out the ultimate punishment against the most dangerous criminals, including terrorists, child murderers, and cop killers,” acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said. Under US...

- [US and EU sign critical minerals plan in push to loosen China’ s grip on key materials](#) (2026-04-24 17:55)

The US and the European Union on Friday deepened their coordination on critical minerals as part of a broader push by Western allies to loosen China’ s grip on materials crucial to advanced manufacturing. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and European Union Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic signed a memorandum of understanding for a partnership on producing and securing critical minerals. Rubio did not mention China in his remarks, but said the preliminary agreement with Brussels reflected...

- [Germany’ s Merz says no ‘immediate’ Ukraine EU membership, floats Kyiv joining meetings](#) (2026-04-24 15:48)

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Friday there was no prospect of Ukraine’ s “immediate accession” to the EU, but suggested Kyiv could join meetings of the bloc’ s members without voting rights. Ukraine is pushing to speed up its bid to join the 27-nation European Union as it fights Russia’ s invasion on the battlefield. Kyiv’ s progress has been blocked by Hungary’ s nationalist premier Viktor Orban, but his defeat in elections earlier this month raised hopes it can move to the next step. EU...

- [UK bill to allow assisted dying fails as parliamentary time runs out](#) (2026-04-24 15:36)

A proposed bill to allow terminally ill adults in England and Wales to choose to end their lives failed on Friday as parliamentary time ran out, nearly a year since elected members of parliaments gave their backing. Though the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill was passed by the House of Commons last June, the UK’ s revising chamber, the House of Lords, effectively talked it out since then. Proponents of what has been termed “assisted dying” – sometimes referred to as “assisted suicide” –...

- [Changes to fire services law with tougher penalties set for public consultation](#) (2026-04-24 15:12)

Hong Kong authorities are planning to launch a public consultation over a raft of new fire safety-related requirements and offences with tough penalties following the city’ s deadliest blaze in decades. Confirming an earlier report by the South China Morning Post, the Security Bureau on Friday laid out its planned amendments to the Fire Services Ordinance, including a requirement that fire alarms be checked every six months. The bureau said its public consultation would follow its meeting with...

- [US crackdown threat could shake out China’ s ‘distillation’ AI copycats: analysts](#)  
(2026-04-24 15:00)

The administration of Donald Trump has threatened action to shield the US artificial intelligence industry from being “distilled” by Chinese rivals, in a move analysts say could weed out weaker players in China’ s AI sector within a year. In a memo released on Thursday, Michael Kratsios, the science and technology adviser to the US president, warned that “surreptitious, unauthorised distillation campaigns” were enabling foreign entities – mainly in China – to release models that appear to match...

- [US drops criminal probe of Fed chair Powell, likely clearing way for nominee Warsh](#)  
(2026-04-24 14:54)

The US Justice Department has ended its probe into Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell, clearing a major roadblock to the confirmation of his successor, Kevin Warsh. US Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeannine Pirro said on X on Friday that her office was ending its probe into the Fed’ s extensive building renovations because the Fed’ s inspector general would scrutinise them instead. The decision ends an investigation, one of several undertaken by the Justice Department into President...

- [Disciplinary inquiry resumes into doctor’ s alleged baby blunder 16 years ago](#)  
(2026-04-24 14:46)

Hong Kong’ s Medical Council resumed a disciplinary inquiry on Friday over a suspected medical blunder that left a boy permanently disabled more than 16 years ago after its decision to terminate the hearing sparked a public outcry. Dr Sit Sou-chi was accused of failing to carry out all necessary and immediate investigations on newborn Li Yuanjian, the son of a mainland Chinese couple, after the infant had a seizure on December 22, 2009. On Friday, Sit’ s counsel grilled nurse Ho Kit-ha, who was on...

- [Huawei, DeepSeek strengthen China’ s AI self-reliance with collaboration on V4 model](#)  
(2026-04-24 14:30)

Huawei Technologies’ newest Ascend 950PR and 950DT chips enjoyed “day zero” adaptation to DeepSeek’ s latest V4 model, the Shenzhen-based tech giant said in a livestream on Friday, just hours after the model’ s release. The hardware-software collaboration between the two Chinese firms underscores the progress China has made in tech self-reliance, a top national priority for Beijing amid US efforts to block its access to advanced semiconductor chips and chipmaking equipment. During the livestream...

- [US FDA plans ultra-fast review of 3 psychedelic drugs after Trump directive](#) (2026-04-24 14:28)

The Food and Drug Administration said on Friday it will offer ultra-fast review to three psychedelic drugs being developed to treat mental health conditions, including depression, the

latest indication of the Trump administration's commitment to the experimental treatment approach. President Donald Trump signed an executive order last weekend directing the FDA and other federal agencies to speed access and loosen restrictions on psychedelics, a class of hallucinogenic drugs which remain illegal...

- [4 tickets to World Cup final are listed on Fifa's resale site for more than US\\$2 million each](#) (2026-04-24 14:00)

Fifa's resale site has four tickets on sale for the World Cup final for just under US\$2.3 million each. The \$2,299,998.85 seats for the July 19 match at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, are located behind a goal in the lower deck in block 124, row 45, seats 33-36. Fifa does not control the asking prices on its Resale/Exchange Marketplace but takes a 15 per cent purchase fee from the buyer of each ticket and a 15 per cent resale fee from the seller. An aisle seat 33 in block 146,...

- [China ramps up hunt for tax evaders, frames consumption levies as fiscal lifelines](#) (2026-04-24 14:00)

Beijing is intensifying its enforcement against tax evasion, extending its reach into consumption taxes, which have been positioned as a critical source of stabilising local government finances that have been hit hard by the nation's prolonged property crisis. Earlier this month, the State Taxation Administration (STA) released details of eight tax-violation cases involving sectors such as gold jewellery, alcoholic beverages and refined oil. The enforcement actions spanned multiple regions,...

- [Why the future is fluid for middle powers in a sea of US-China rivalry](#) (2026-04-24 14:00)

Faced with US-China rivalry and an uncertain future even beyond Donald Trump's presidency, middle powers are building fluid coalitions and partnerships to hedge against American and wider unpredictability, according to a leading Southeast Asian affairs scholar. Traditional US allies are asserting greater autonomy and forming their own networks to hedge against risks – a shift that is creating openings for smaller neutral states to further diversify their partnerships, while mitigating the danger...

- [Japanese protest 'frightening' easing of decades-old arms export curbs](#) (2026-04-24 13:54)

Protesters gathered in Tokyo on Friday to rally against Japan's decision to ease decades-old arms export curbs, which critics argue erode the country's post-war pacifist tradition. The new rules permitting the sale of lethal weapons overseas signal a major shift, as Japan ramps up its defence ambitions and seeks to enter the global arms market in part to boost economic growth. The move, announced this week on Tuesday by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government, has been met with some criticism...

- [A month after elections, Danish government talks remain in stalemate](#) (2026-04-24 13:23)

Talks on forming a new Danish government are in stalemate one month on from the country's parliamentary election, slowing decision-making amid efforts to resolve a crisis in ties with US President Donald Trump's administration over Greenland. Caretaker Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, armed with a royal mandate, is leading coalition talks among the 12 parties in parliament but has so far only won support from left-wing groups, which is not enough to secure a parliamentary...

- [Departments must communicate better, fire chief tells Tai Po blaze hearing](#) (2026-04-24 13:00)

Hong Kong's fire services chief has acknowledged that better communication with building authorities is needed after an independent committee earlier revealed that his officers had taken no action against possible safety breaches during renovations at Wang Fuk Court, where 168 people were killed in last year's inferno. But Director of Fire Services Andy Yeung Yan-kin insisted on Friday that authorities had clear divisions of work when it came to the supervision of renovation projects, even as...

- [Chinese EV makers target global expansion at Auto China amid energy shock](#) (2026-04-24 12:57)

Chinese electric vehicle (EV) makers at the Beijing auto show are shifting their focus to overseas markets, banking on opportunities from the Middle East crisis to boost profitability amid weak sales at home. "Going global has become a top choice for Chinese EV builders as they struggle to break even," said Phate Zhang, founder of Shanghai-based data provider CnEVPost. "The Middle East crisis is acting as a strong catalyst to bolster their overseas deliveries." Nearly all major EV assemblers...

- [Cathay raises HK\\$2.08 billion after tapping public bond market for first time](#) (2026-04-24 12:57)

Cathay Pacific Airways has raised HK\$2.08 billion (US\$265.4 million) by selling Hong Kong dollar-denominated bonds to boost its working capital, tapping the public bond market for the first time. Hong Kong's flag carrier said on Friday that the bond issuance was the biggest of its kind by a locally based, non-public sector company. The three-year bonds, which carry a fixed interest rate of 3.78 per cent, were sold mainly to professional investors such as asset managers, banks and private...

- [Second round of US-Iran talks this weekend in Pakistan: White House](#) (2026-04-24 12:39)

US President Donald Trump is sending special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner to Pakistan for talks this weekend with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, the White House confirmed on Friday. White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told Trump-friendly Fox News that the "America first" president will be "dispatching" the duo "tomorrow morning to engage in talks, direct talks" with representatives from the Iranian delegation. The negotiations will be intermediated by the...

- [China stages navy drill as US and Philippines embark on Balikatan 2026](#) (2026-04-24 12:29)

Beijing has held naval exercises in waters east of a Philippine island near Taiwan in an apparent response to nearby annual military drills hosted by Manila and Washington. The People's Liberation Army Southern Theatre Command said on Friday that a naval fleet had "recently" held drills in waters east of Luzon, the northernmost major island of the Philippines. The drills were "a necessary action taken in response to the current regional situation", said the command, which oversees the South...

- [German man accused of live streaming child abuse in the Philippines](#) (2026-04-24 12:24)

German prosecutors have charged a 46-year-old man on suspicion of serious sexual abuse of children via live streaming. The man, from the district of Heidenheim in southwestern Germany, is alleged to have paid female accomplices in the Philippines to carry out sexual abuse against girls aged between four and 13 in six instances, the Cybercrime Centre of the Karlsruhe Public Prosecutor's Office said on Friday. Videos of the sexual abuse were reportedly streamed live to the man, while he directed...

- [Over 50 Central restaurants, shops join drive to boost spending, lure tourists](#) (2026-04-24 12:00)

More than 50 restaurants and shops have joined a "tourism everywhere" initiative to promote Hong Kong's bustling Central district among residents and tourists and boost local spending. The Hong Kong Small and Medium Enterprises Association on Friday revealed the programme to promote hidden delicacies and goods in Central, aligning with the government's objective to turn everywhere into a tourist destination. The initiative runs from May 1 until the end of June, with the first five days...

- [Will China's deal with Australian mining giant BHP boost yuan internationalisation?](#) (2026-04-24 12:00)

Australian mining giant BHP's decision to adopt a yuan-denominated index for a major Chinese buyer poses a challenge to the US dollar's long-standing dominance in iron ore pricing, delivering a hard-won victory for Beijing, analysts said. But while the agreement marked a breakthrough in Beijing's push to gain greater commodity pricing power at a time when the United States faces growing "geopolitical isolation", analysts stressed that its broader efforts to reshape the old order remained far...

- [Why China's optical communications sector is the latest AI boom beneficiary](#) (2026-04-24 11:30)

Amid the artificial intelligence boom, the world has been laser-focused on technologies like graphics processing units and memory chips. However, a quieter miracle has been unfolding in the mainland stock market. Optical modules, which allow ultra-fast communications in data centres, have minted a new class of industrial upstarts. In the past year, shares in

Shenzhen-listed Zhongji Innolight, the world's largest optical module producer, jumped tenfold. Smaller peers Eoptolink Technology and...

- [Chinese drone discovery sharpens focus on Asia's undersea security race](#) (2026-04-24 11:27)

A suspected Chinese underwater drone hauled out of Indonesian waters this month has sharpened global focus on a security race that analysts say has been years in the making across South and Southeast Asia: undersea surveillance. The torpedo-shaped device was found near the Lombok Strait, one of the few deepwater channels through which submarines can transit submerged between the Pacific and Indian oceans and a passage closely watched by the United States and Australia. Beijing said it did not...

- [China plans to invest billions on a robot army to run its power grid](#) (2026-04-24 11:00)

China's industrial giants are rapidly scaling up the use of AI-powered robots to operate vital infrastructure, with the country's main grid operator unveiling a blockbuster plan to deploy thousands of bots to handle a range of roles – from inspecting remote substations to performing maintenance on ultra-high-voltage power lines. The State Grid Corporation of China has earmarked 6.8 billion yuan (US\$1 billion) for the procurement of embodied intelligence – or artificial intelligence-enabled...

- [Michigan community 'seeks answers' to death of Chinese semiconductor researcher Wang Danhao](#) (2026-04-24 11:00)

Community members and activists have gathered on the University of Michigan campus to pay tribute to Wang Danhao, a semiconductor researcher from China who took his own life after being questioned by US federal agents. About 30 people attended the vigil, organised by peace advocacy group Code Pink to mark one month since Wang died. They formed a circle around an altar set with candles, flowers, incense and his portrait, sharing memories of his life and research, as well as their reactions to the...

- ['It's a tightrope': why Europe faces a China dilemma over its wind power drive](#) (2026-04-24 10:30)

The wind industry smells opportunity in Europe. At an expo in Madrid this week, the convention floor was abuzz as hundreds of European, American, Japanese and Korean exhibitors vied to pitch their products, knowing the continent urgently needs to shore up its energy security amid the US-Israel war on Iran. But there was one glaring absence: not a single company operating a booth was Chinese, with China's participants only networking from the sidelines. At a time when many in Europe seek a rapid...

- [Can Philippine opposition find 'saviour' after Robredo declines 2028 presidential run?](#) (2026-04-24 10:00)

Former Philippine vice-president Leni Robredo's refusal to seek national office in 2028 has intensified the search for someone to unite the country's fractured opposition against an early presidential bid by Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio. Robredo, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's strongest rival in the 2022 election and long seen as the opposition's most recognisable figure, said she would not run for any state position when Marcos' six-year term ends. Her decision shifts attention to a...

- [Iran war shows 'strategic value' of AI for China's military, PLA Daily says](#) (2026-04-24 10:00)

China's military mouthpiece has urged the People's Liberation Army to speed up integration of artificial intelligence and said AI-driven warfare was at a "turning point" – as seen in the US-Israeli campaign against Iran. In a commentary on Thursday, PLA Daily pointed to the use of AI in the Middle East war and said it was the first time the technology had been integrated into the entire cycle of operations – from analysis of intelligence to target identification, planning and assessment. "This...

- [Chinese girl insists on remaining by grandparents' tombs; her nearby vigil moves many](#) (2026-04-24 10:00)

A young girl in southwest China firmly refused to leave the tombs of her grandparents, who had died within six months of each other, and would sometimes sleep there. A touching video that melted millions of hearts on social media shows the girl, whose age was not disclosed in the report, lying in front of a tomb in Liupanshui, Guizhou province, in mid-April, as reported by Dafeng News. In the viral video, she occasionally sat up and casually ate from a box of cake. When her parents urged her to...

- [Life insurance sales in Hong Kong hit record amid 'rise of millionaires'](#) (2026-04-24 10:00)

Life insurance sales in Hong Kong rose 50.6 per cent to another record last year as affluent customers continued to buy policies in the city for wealth transfer, protection and medical needs. The industry wrote HK\$330.9 billion (US\$42.2 billion) in new life policies in 2025, compared with HK\$219 billion a year earlier, which was also a record, according to data from the Insurance Authority released on Friday. The continuous growth of the business in recent years was due to more wealthy people...

- [Is Indonesia's blasphemy law for religious protection or political purpose?](#) (2026-04-24 09:54)

Indonesia's blasphemy law has once again come under scrutiny after former vice-president Jusuf Kalla was reported to police over remarks linking past Muslim-Christian conflicts to beliefs about martyrdom. The case is unusual because it involves Christian complainants against one of the most senior Muslim figures in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation and reflects what critics have long called the law's central flaw: its susceptibility to politicised use.

Kalla, a career politician...

- [US slaps sanctions on Cambodian senator suspected of controlling scam centres](#) (2026-04-24 09:19)

The US government has imposed sanctions on a Cambodian senator alleging he is at the heart of a sprawling scam network, as the Southeast Asian nation comes under intense pressure – including from China – to eliminate a cybercrime industry worth nearly US\$20 billion a year. The US Treasury tagged Senator Kok An, a tycoon with close ties to former leader Hun Sen whose son is now prime minister, and 28 other associates as “specially designated nationals” suspected of controlling “scam compounds...”

- [Hong Kong CityU chief Freddy Boey quits post 2 years earlier than expected](#) (2026-04-24 09:10)

The head of Hong Kong’s City University, Professor Freddy Boey Yin Chiang, has resigned with immediate effect for personal reasons, leaving his post two years earlier than expected. The university expressed its gratitude to Boey, a Singaporean, for his contributions to CityU during his three years as president. “The executive committee of the [university’s] council has appointed provost and deputy president Professor Lee Chun-sing as acting president with immediate effect to ensure continued...”

- [HK Electric to cut May fuel charges but warns of sharp future increase](#) (2026-04-24 09:09)

HK Electric will cut fuel surcharges for customers in May but has warned that costs could rise significantly later in the year due to the impact of the conflict in the Middle East. The company said on Friday that its fuel clause charge for May would fall by 4.4 HK cents per kilowatt-hour to 26 HK cents per kWh, citing a deferred effect under the monthly adjustment mechanism based on January’s average fuel costs. The decline marks the second consecutive monthly drop. “Although international fuel...”

- [Trump ally visits China, DeepSeek releases V4, EV earnings](#) (2026-04-24 09:05)

Senator Steve Daines will lead a bipartisan US Congressional delegation to China next week, just ahead of a visit by President Donald Trump. The five-member group will arrive on May 1 and visit Beijing and Shanghai, the South China Morning Post reported, citing unidentified people familiar with the matter. The delegation will include first-time visitors to China, the report said, without elaboration. Daines, a Trump ally, said last month that he planned to take a group to China to explore the...

- [Henderson’s winning bid to run harbour event space could boost Central’s access](#) (2026-04-24 08:42)

A winning bid involving Henderson Land Development to operate a major Hong Kong harbourfront event space has expanded the developer’s footprint in Central to three prime locations, which experts say may result in greater accessibility and more visitors from

surrounding commercial properties. Central Grand, a 50:50 joint venture formed by Henderson and concert organiser YW Company – commonly known as “Yiu Wing” – won the tender to operate the 3.7-hectare (9.1 acres) Central Harbourfront Event...

- [The Iran war is brewing a food crisis we must avert](#) (2026-04-24 08:30)

As my wife and I quaffed our way through a sumptuous five-course South African wine tasting dinner at the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents’ Club (FCC) early this week, the world food crisis and global food insecurity seemed a very long way away. Yet as the US war on Iran approached its third month, with the Strait of Hormuz still blocked and a host of critical commodities hostage to the conflict, our FCC wine dinners must surely be in jeopardy. More seriously, millions worldwide may face much...

- [In lead-up to Trump’ s Beijing visit, China announces 2 pandas are headed to US zoo](#) (2026-04-24 08:12)

Just weeks before US President Donald Trump’ s planned visit to Beijing next month, China is sending two giant pandas to Atlanta in what observers describe as a “goodwill gesture” amid persistent tensions that range from trade to broader security issues. The China Wildlife Conservation Association said on Friday that male panda Ping Ping and female Fu Shuang would travel to the US under a 10-year conservation agreement signed with Zoo Atlanta last year. Chinese state media, including the Global...

- [Trump kill order highlights threat of Iran’ s small, fast-attack boats](#) (2026-04-24 08:12)

US President Donald Trump’ s order for the US to attack Iranian gunboats is the latest sign that an asymmetrical war-fighting strategy is stymieing the world’ s mightiest navy, with US aircraft and destroyers forced to track swarming speedboats in a vital energy waterway. “I have ordered the United States Navy to shoot and kill any boat, small boats though they may be,” Trump said Thursday in a social media post, claiming that those vessels are laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz. The target –...

- [Philippines pushes for South China Sea code by year end: ‘we owe it to the world’](#) (2026-04-24 07:59)

As Southeast Asian leaders descend on Cebu in the Philippines for the 48th Asean summit on May 8, immediate concerns such as the global energy crunch will top the agenda. Yet a year-end deadline to finalise a long-delayed code of conduct in the South China Sea looms for bloc chair Manila. At a panel at Atma Jaya University in Jakarta on Thursday, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro stressed that completing the code this year was “something that we owe the world as well as the...

- [Married Singaporean man jailed for bigamy after secret Indonesian wedding](#) (2026-04-24 07:45)

Although he was already married, a man began dating a domestic helper he was introduced to and later got married to her in Batam, Indonesia. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) caught wind of the bigamy and flagged the case to the police, who arrested both the man and the woman. Low Kok Peng, a 61-year-old Singaporean man, was sentenced to two months' jail on Friday. He pleaded guilty to one charge of bigamy under the Women's Charter. His co-accused, 50-year-old Indonesian woman Komariah, was...

- [Why US interception of Iran tankers in Asian waters pose new risk to Asean neutrality](#) (2026-04-24 07:10)

US interceptions of Iranian-linked tankers in Asian waters suggest Washington's maritime pressure campaign may be spreading eastward, raising new risks for Southeast Asian states overseeing crucial sea lanes. Analysts said that although Southeast Asian nations were not parties to the war, countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore were not insulated from rising US-Iran maritime tensions. For these states, the bigger risk may not be a Gulf conflict spilling directly into their waters,...

- [Burger King in Japan dangles US\\$250,000 to lure rival franchisees](#) (2026-04-24 06:36)

Burger King in Japan is tempting franchisees of rival fast-food brands like McDonald's and Mos Burger by offering them 40 million yen (US\$250,000) cashback to jump ship. The offer, under its franchise switching plan, is on the table until 3pm on September 30, according to a statement by the chain issued on Wednesday. Applicants must have been in business for at least three years, submit financial statements for the past three financial years and identify a general manager for the converted...

- [South Korea and US in showdown over Coupang meddling, testing ties](#) (2026-04-24 06:30)

National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik condemned US Republicans' claim that South Korea was discriminating against e-commerce giant Coupang, calling it "interference in domestic affairs". His remarks followed a letter sent by 54 US lawmakers in the Republican Study Committee to South Korean Ambassador to the United States Kang Kyung-wha, in which they claimed Seoul was taking discriminatory and unfair actions against the US-based company that is under police investigation and government scrutiny...

- [A 'final piano song' offers closure as residents say goodbye to Wang Fuk Court homes](#) (2026-04-24 06:24)

Playing one last song on a piano that cannot be retrieved from a fire-ravaged home is among the wishes of residents returning to the scene of the deadly Tai Po blaze in Hong Kong, with one man climbing stairs on a fractured leg to try and recover a water boiler linked to his childhood memories. Some of those returning to their homes on Friday had lived in Wang Cheong House, where 81 of the 168 deaths occurred and 63 per cent of the flats were destroyed. Only five floors of the block are being...

- [Ex-manager of crypto firm Huobi acquitted of moving millions into account](#) (2026-04-24 06:24)

A Hong Kong court has acquitted a former senior manager at a major Chinese cryptocurrency exchange of secretly moving about US\$5 million in Tether stablecoins, worth around HK\$39 million, to his own accounts six years ago. A seven-member High Court jury on Friday found Chen Boliang, who used to work at cryptocurrency firm Huobi – now known as HTX – not guilty of accessing its platform to trade in so-called dark pools under an individual account he created with an alias between February 27 and...

- [Shackled and shaved: El Salvador holds mass trial for hundreds of gang members](#) (2026-04-24 06:07)

Hundreds of alleged Mara Salvatrucha gang members sat chained, shaved and mute as they were accused of murder and torture during a mass trial at El Salvador’s notorious CECOT jail on Thursday. Seated in neat columns of plastic chairs in the prison’s main hall, some 220 defendants were accused of collectively carrying out more than 29,000 murders. “We burned her genitals and buttocks” one witness said over the loudspeaker, testifying in a mass trial El Salvador’s president has compared to those...

- [‘Big shout-out’ to China’s environmental leadership from UN agency head](#) (2026-04-24 06:07)

The United Nations very much relied on China for its environmental protection role, including its major funding for biodiversity conservation in the Global South, the organisation’s environment chief said on Thursday. Speaking on the sidelines of the Regional Ecological Summit in Kazakhstan, Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said that “China has always been an active player in multilateralism”. Andersen said that within UNEP, they “very much rely on...

- [Unexpected love: Japan traditional dancer finds love at 60 with 26-year-old devoted protege](#) (2026-04-24 06:00)

After two decades of a loveless personal life, a 60-year-old traditional dancer in Japan discovered unexpected late-life love with a protege who is 34 years her junior. In April, the couple made an appearance on the Japanese television show Welcome, Newlyweds!, but they chose to keep their true identities private. The wife, a seasoned performer from Ibaraki in eastern Japan, has dedicated her life to traditional dance since childhood and currently teaches at Tsubaki, a local taishu engeki...

- [Trump extends Iran ceasefire; Hong Kong actress’ second cancer shock: SCMP’s 7 highlights](#) (2026-04-24 05:30)

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. Trump extends

Iran ceasefire, claims interception of ‘gift from China’ US President Donald Trump announced a last-minute extension of the ceasefire with Iran following a request from Pakistan’s top leadership, even as he appeared to...

- [America offers US\\$4 million bounty for arrest of Chinese money launderer](#) (2026-04-24 04:59)

The United States is offering a reward of up to US\$4 million for information leading to the arrest of a Chinese national who fled the US after being convicted of money laundering. The bounty on fugitive Daren Li, 43, was announced by the State Department on Thursday through its Transnational Organised Crime Rewards Programme. In February, Li was convicted and sentenced in absentia to 20 years in prison by the US Court for the Central District of California. He had pleaded guilty in November 2024...

- [Bangladeshi YouTuber’s death sparks mourning amid Malaysia’s drink-driving crisis](#) (2026-04-24 04:50)

The death of a Bangladeshi gaming influencer in an alleged drink-driving crash involving a Malaysian soldier has sparked cries for justice and renewed demands for punitive laws, as anger grows over a second similar fatal case in less than a month. Muzahid Millad, 22 – better known as Advance Gaming – died on Wednesday after the suspect’s car reportedly veered into the opposite lane on the Maju Expressway, colliding with the e-hailing vehicle in which the content creator and his wife were...

- [Xi Jinping meets foreign leaders: tracker 2026](#) (2026-04-24 03:58)

Mozambique President Daniel Chapo became the first African head of state to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping this year. Chapo was the tenth national leader overall to meet Xi in Beijing in 2026, following earlier visits from the heads of countries including the UK, Canada, Vietnam and Spain. US President Donald Trump is due to have a summit with Xi during a May 14-15 visit to China. Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit the country before the end of June.

- [India opens door to Sheikh Hasina extradition talks: a Delhi-Dhaka thaw?](#) (2026-04-24 03:46)

India’s agreement to review Dhaka’s request for Sheikh Hasina’s extradition could hint at more flexibility over a deeply political issue, but observers warn that does not mean New Delhi is ready to hand the former Bangladesh ruler over just yet. The ex-prime minister fled to India in August 2024 after her regime fell to protesters. India’s Ministry of External Affairs confirmed on April 17 it was conducting a formal review of Dhaka’s extradition request. The announcement – a significant shift...

- [Huawei doubles down on autonomous driving, earmarking US\\$11.7b for autopilot training](#) (2026-04-24 03:39)

Adamant about retaining its runaway lead in supplying smart driving systems in China, Huawei Technologies plans to invest as much as 80 billion yuan (US\$11.7 billion) over the next five years to boost computing power essential for training and testing semi-autonomous cars. The massive capital expenditure would enhance the reliability of cars fitted with the Huawei Qiankun ADS autopilot system, as the Shenzhen-based tech giant looked to expand its customer base, said Jin Yuzhi, CEO of Huawei’ s...

- [Indonesia rules out collecting transit fees from ships in Malacca Strait](#) (2026-04-24 03:30)

Indonesia’ s top diplomat said the country will not pursue tolls on ships passing through the Strait of Malacca, seeking to calm concerns after its finance minister raised the idea this week. “As a trading nation, Indonesia supports freedom of navigation and expects open sea lanes,” Foreign Minister Sugiono said on Thursday in Jakarta. “So Indonesia is not in a position to impose such charges – that would not be appropriate.” Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa on Wednesday questioned whether...

- [DeepSeek unveils next-gen AI model as Huawei vows ‘full support’ with new chips](#) (2026-04-24 03:25)

DeepSeek has finally released its much-anticipated next-generation foundational artificial intelligence model, the open-source V4, which it said was competitive with leading US closed-source models from the likes of OpenAI and Google DeepMind. The Hangzhou-based AI start-up released two versions of the model on Friday, with the V4-pro model boasting 1.6 trillion parameters, making it the company’ s biggest-ever model by that metric, while the smaller V4-flash model has 284 billion parameters. A...

- [Could thousands of US ‘hellscape’ drone boats mess with PLA plans for Taiwan?](#) (2026-04-24 03:16)

Taiwanese analysts have broadly welcomed a new US Navy plan to deploy thousands of uncrewed surface vessels across the Indo-Pacific by 2030, saying it could complicate Beijing’ s military planning and strengthen deterrence. But they also warned that unless Taipei pressed ahead with its own stalled drone fleet ambitions, the approach might offer Taiwan only limited direct benefit, given Washington’ s production, logistics and surveillance challenges. The assessments follow remarks this week by...

- [Tai Po probe: fire chief says authorities could have collaborated better](#) (2026-04-24 03:07)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP’ s journalism by subscribing. The head of the Fire Services Department (FSD) will give evidence on the 19th day of evidential hearings into Hong Kong’ s deadliest fire in decades, becoming the most senior official to testify to date. Director of Fire Services Andy Yeung Yan-kin appeared before the independent committee on Friday to testify about the department’ s operations before and...

- [How fake military job ads in Philippines led to alleged spy recruitment pipeline](#)

(2026-04-24 03:00)

The job ads posted on several Philippine military forums on Facebook in 2023 looked enticing. “We are hiring regional security researcher,” said a notice bearing the emblem of Janes – the well-known international aerospace and military technology publisher. It came with an eye-watering offer: “US\$1,000-US\$5,000.” “Send us your CV,” the ad urged, giving Viber and WhatsApp numbers as well as an email address. The hitch: while the ad was real, the recruiter was not. Researchers who traced the ad’ s...

- [Japan injects new life into Fukushima with nuclear plant ‘hope tourism’](#) (2026-04-24 02:21)

Fifteen years after one of the world’ s worst nuclear disasters, this part of the Fukushima coast feels stuck in the aftermath. Empty lots where homes once stood. Signs warning of restricted access. Convoys of construction trucks carrying radioactive dirt and materials. And then, improbably, a tour bus. Visitors are flowing into barely inhabited towns, attracted for the most part by the very catastrophe that drove their residents away. The wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has become a...

- [ChiNext, Shenzhen’ s Nasdaq, emerges as investor darling as start-up indexes smash records](#) (2026-04-24 02:00)

An overhaul of listing and trading rules has driven a 16-year-old board for start-ups on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange to an all-time high, and traders believe the listed companies’ above-average earnings growth and exposure to renewable energy will extend the record-setting run. The ChiNext 50 Index of the board’ s 50 biggest stocks and the ChiNext Composite Index both broke highs set in 2015 this week, outpacing other equity gauges of yuan-denominated stocks, which have yet to fully recoup their...

- [Man dies after fainting on Cathay Pacific flight from UK to Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-24 01:41)

A 51-year-old man who fainted on a Cathay Pacific flight to Hong Kong from the UK was pronounced dead on Friday morning. Flight CX216 took off from Manchester and landed at Hong Kong International Airport at 6.35am on Friday. Police said they received a report about the man’ s collapse at 6.16am, adding that the deceased had a history of illness. In a reply to the South China Morning Post, a Cathay Pacific spokesman said the crew and a doctor on board had provided immediate first aid to the...

- [Fake app drains Filipino retiree’ s life savings via ‘malware-as-a-service’](#) (2026-04-24 01:30)

Albert\*, a 68-year-old retiree in the Philippines, was struggling to log into the country’ s Social Security System app in August last year when a man rang to offer help. The caller said he worked for the government pension fund, the website was down for maintenance and a new app had just been rolled out. To prove he was genuine, he sent Albert his full name, Social

Security number, and home address over the Viber messaging app, followed by a link to the “new” app. More than an hour after Albert...

- [Engine dilemma lies at heart of successful take-off for China’s C919](#) (2026-04-24 01:30)

The signal is clear. In the first quarter of this year, just three C919 aircraft were delivered – two to China Southern Airlines and one to Air China. For a Chinese programme expected to deliver more than 30 of these home-grown narrowbody airliners this year, the gap between ambition and reality has opened up quickly. Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac) delivered 15 C919s last year, far short of the target of 75 set before supply disruptions forced a reset. Even the modest reported...

- [‘Phone booth princess’: China grandma dedicates 33 years to managing public telephone booth](#) (2026-04-24 01:00)

A Shanghai grandmother has been nicknamed the “telephone booth princess” for persisting in her post as a public phone booth manager for 33 years. Shen Yuxiu, who is in her 80s, manages the city’s last staffed booth. She looks after two very old landline phones. Everyday she arrives at 9am and stays until 8pm. Despite the fact that the booth is located on Fuzhou Road, which connects Shanghai’s two hottest tourist spots, The Bund and People’s Square, Shen said that she only earns two yuan (3 US...

- [Value, space and style pull Hongkongers to Shenzhen’s new cultural hotspots](#) (2026-04-24 00:30)

Hongkonger Dominique Li and his wife spent a two-day break earlier this month in Shenzhen to soak up the cultural vibe, a short getaway they said would not be their last. The 45-year-old engineer, who lives in Tin Shui Wai in the northwestern New Territories, was particularly drawn to a new landmark, Shenzhen Bay Culture Square in Nanshan district. He treated his visit to Shenzhen like a trip to Hong Kong’s Causeway Bay shopping district, which also takes about an hour. “The spaces here are...

- [Chinese EV makers bet on in-house chips to make cars smarter and more autonomous](#) (2026-04-24 00:30)

Chinese electric vehicle (EV) makers and supply-chain vendors, from Tesla rivals Xpeng to Nio and lidar sensor producer Hesai Group, will display their technological advances on a new front – in-car chips – at the Auto China show in Beijing as the country’s automotive industry makes rapid progress. Carmakers and vendors are designing and developing chips to power autonomous driving and in-car entertainment systems. These chips boast computing power on par with blockbuster products made by chip...

- [Australia’s US\\$7 billion Japan warship deals signals shift from US overreliance](#) (2026-04-24 00:00)

A landmark warship deal between Australia and Japan is expected to drive further defence technology cooperation between the two Asia-Pacific nations, comparable in scope to Canberra's security arrangements with Washington. Analysts say the agreement with Tokyo will also help Canberra address navy shortfalls and reduce its overreliance on the US at a time of great volatility. Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles and his Japanese counterpart Shinjiro Koizumi announced on Saturday that the...

- [Trump's 'gold card' visa granted to just 1 person so far](#) (2026-04-23 23:32)

US President Donald Trump's "gold card" visa, where a foreigner can shell out at least US\$1 million to legally live and work in the US, has been approved for one person, said Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick Thursday – appearing to fall a bit short of an earlier claim. After it launched in December, Lutnick said that the government had sold US\$1.3 billion "worth" in just several days, as Trump stood by holding up the gilded ticket and said, "essentially it's the green card on steroids." Lutnick...

- [Brazil beckoned: China now has stock and bond 'connect' schemes in these 5 regions](#) (2026-04-23 23:00)

China has launched a bond-market-connect scheme with Brazil, Chinese media outlets reported this week, marking the first such link among emerging markets. Schemes such as this one, often dubbed "connects" between Chinese bond or stock markets and their offshore counterparts, typically allow investors to bypass special permits or capital-flow controls when trading on either side's exchanges. China now maintains at least five offshore capital-market "connect" schemes on three continents. Hong...

- [US soldier charged with using inside info to win US\\$400,000 bet on Maduro's capture](#) (2026-04-23 22:29)

A US soldier has been charged with using inside information to win US\$400,000 in an online betting market on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's capture, federal officials announced on Thursday. Gannon Ken Van Dyk was part of the operation to capture Maduro in January and used his access to classified information to make money on the prediction market site Polymarket, the federal prosecutor's office in New York said. Van Dyk was a senior enlisted soldier who was part of the special forces...

- [Trump ally to visit China as US turns up pressure before May summit](#) (2026-04-23 22:18)

US President Donald Trump's close ally, Senator Steve Daines, will lead a bipartisan delegation to China next week, according to sources, even as Washington steps up pressure on Beijing over trade, technological competition, and its ties to Iran, ahead of a closely watched leaders' summit on May 14-15. According to people familiar who requested anonymity, the five-member delegation led by Daines, a Republican from Montana, will begin its visit on May 1, with stops in Shanghai and Beijing. The...

- [‘China or India or some other hellhole’ : Trump reposts anti-immigrant rant](#) (2026-04-23 22:07)

US President Donald Trump reposted a video and comments from a conservative pundit calling India a “hellhole”, prompting the South Asian country on Thursday to criticise the remarks as “inappropriate”. The comments come ahead of a planned visit next month to India by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who would seek to turn the page on recent tensions between the normally friendly powers. Trump late on Wednesday reposted on social media a video and a screed apparently written by someone else...

- [‘Undeniable reality’ : why China should be wary of US focus on global maritime chokepoints](#) (2026-04-23 22:00)

US confrontations with Iran over the Strait of Hormuz point to future American attempts to contain China via maritime chokepoints, a Chinese policy adviser has warned, suggesting that Beijing boost its naval presence in the region. In a policy recommendation addressed to Beijing, Gu Dingguo, an East China Normal University research fellow in neighbourhood diplomacy and security, said the Iran war reflected Washington’s greater emphasis on implementing its maritime security strategy. “By...

- [Trump says Israel and Lebanon agree to extend ceasefire by 3 weeks](#) (2026-04-23 19:36)

Israel and Lebanon agreed on Thursday to extend their ceasefire by three weeks after a second round of negotiations between their envoys in Washington, despite reports of violations of the truce from both sides. US President Donald Trump announced the extension on social media, saying Washington “is going to work with Lebanon in order to protect itself from Hezbollah”. “The Ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will be extended by THREE WEEKS,” he wrote, calling the meeting “very historic” and...

- [Trump says King Charles’ visit could ‘absolutely’ repair US-UK ties](#) (2026-04-23 17:21)

US President Donald Trump told the BBC on Thursday that British King Charles’ coming state visit to the United States could “absolutely” help rebuild strained ties between the two countries. Charles heads to the US on Monday for a four-day trip, with transatlantic tensions over the Iran war and scandals linked to the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein threatening to intrude on the landmark visit. Asked by the BBC whether Charles’ visit could help repair the relationship between the US and UK,...

- [Beached whale grips and divides Germany: ‘free Timmy!’](#) (2026-04-23 17:00)

The sad saga of a humpback whale stranded a month ago on the German coast has sparked a flood of compassion but also a media frenzy, angry disputes, conspiracy theories and death threats. As Germans have followed the travails of the sea mammal, dubbed “Timmy” by a newspaper, on their live news tickers, television screens and influencers’ social media channels, some worry about what its epic struggle says about a nation’s collective psyche. Sociologist Christian Stegbauer said the whale, a highly...

- [From pilots to productivity: AI finds its footing in business](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] AI-enabled solution providers and corporate gathered at Hong Kong Science Park on March 24 to examine real-world use cases of AI as it shifts from experimental pilots into connected, operational systems across multiple sectors. The “Connected Intelligence: AI & Robotics Across Industries” event featured candid exchanges on workforce preparation, customer engagement and the challenges of scaling AI. In the panel...

- [Hong Kong made a new go-to as global tech gateway](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] A new international network, Global Connect – Global Innovation Exchange (GIE), was set to facilitate scale-ups win business, raise capital and find partners as they move between Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland and overseas markets. Unveiled in March by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP), the GIE is being pitched as a year-round platform rallying innovators, investors, corporates, chambers,...

- [Warner Bros investors back US\\$110 billion merger with Paramount Skydance](#) (2026-04-23 15:29)

Warner Bros Discovery shareholders on Thursday backed the company’s proposed US\$110 billion merger with Paramount Skydance, but cast an advisory vote against executive compensation plans tied to the deal. Under the pay packages proposed to executives, CEO David Zaslav could receive up to US\$887 million if the sale is completed. Proxy advisor ISS had said Zaslav’s potential payout was “extremely large”. “Management now faces a twofold challenge: securing [regulatory] approval for the deal and...

- [Trump says Navy will ‘shoot and kill’ boats laying mines in Strait of Hormuz](#) (2026-04-23 15:15)

In the latest cycle of threats and concessions that have marked US President Donald Trump’s approach to the war that he and his Israeli counterpart started against Iran, the mercurial president said on Thursday he would destroy any undersized boat attempting to lay mines in the blocked Strait of Hormuz. His focus on diminutive vessels followed his oft-repeated messaging that Iran’s larger naval vessels are no more as he renews his effort to muscle Tehran’s frustratingly resilient regime to...

- [Why Iran war is the surest sign that the US is in decline](#) (2026-04-23 15:00)

As key allies turn away and war costs soar, the US military campaign against Iran is spurring a growing consensus among Chinese observers and state media – that Washington’s unrivalled global dominance is crumbling. Communist Party mouthpiece People’s Daily issued a sharp critique on Thursday, warning that the United States’ shift from an “international rule-builder” to a “predatory hegemon” would ultimately undermine its prosperity and

influence. “In the post-Cold War era, while the...

- [Beijing’ s emphasis on security weighing on US firms’ optimism: AmCham China](#) (2026-04-23 14:30)

American enterprises operating in China lauded improvements in the country’ s regulatory environment and more “openness” , but long-standing concerns over access and Beijing’ s emphasis on security continue to weigh on optimism, with expectations for US President Donald Trump’ s looming China visit also muted, according to a leading business chamber. Targeted regulatory refinement in some sectors, ongoing updates to foreign investment policies and market access measures, and “incremental” ...

- [Fifa World Cup: Italy underwhelmed by Trump envoy’ s suggestion they should replace Iran](#) (2026-04-23 14:00)

The suggestion that Iran should be replaced by Italy at this year’ s World Cup drew a mix of embarrassment and apathy from Azzurri fans on Thursday, with Italian media pointing out that the idea had a very familiar feel. Donald Trump’ s US special envoy Paolo Zampolli told the Financial Times that he made the suggestion to the US President and Fifa head Gianni Infantino. “I’ m an Italian native and it would be a dream to see the Azzurri at a US-hosted tournament. With four titles, they have the...

- [Millions of Americans may now also be considered Canadian under new law](#) (2026-04-23 13:57)

Potentially millions of Americans suddenly have a much easier path to Canadian citizenship, prompting a rush of people to explore their ancestry and file paperwork seeking dual citizenship. For people like Zack Loud of Farmington, Minnesota, it was a surprise to learn that under a new law, Canada already considered him and his siblings citizens because their grandmother is Canadian. “My wife and I were already talking about potentially looking at jobs outside the country, but citizenship pushed...

- [US reclassifies certain marijuana products as a less-dangerous drug](#) (2026-04-23 13:24)

The US Department of Justice is reclassifying FDA-approved and state-licensed marijuana as a less dangerous drug, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said on Thursday. The announcement does not legalise marijuana across the United States. In a post on X, Blanche said the Justice Department was “immediately rescheduling FDA-approved marijuana and state-licensed marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III” . The department is also initiating an expedited hearing to consider the broader rescheduling...

- [All Hong Kong public universities make Asian league table top 100 for first time](#) (2026-04-23 13:02)

For the first time, all eight Hong Kong public universities have been ranked among the top 100 in a widely watched Asian league table, with the city’ s two oldest tertiary institutions ranking

among the region's top 10. Phil Baty, chief global affairs officer of Times Higher Education (THE), also highlighted Hong Kong's role as a world-leading education hub, noting it remained the only metropolis with as many as five universities listed in the global top 100 since 2024, an achievement he said no...

- [Defects – not jumping tourists – caused deadly Xinjiang bridge collapse: report](#)

(2026-04-23 13:00)

Authorities in China's western Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region have blamed construction defects and management failures – rather than the actions of tourists – for a deadly suspension bridge failure last summer. In a report released on Thursday, investigators concluded that “legal violations, gross negligence and dereliction of duty” caused the Jiangjun Bridge at the Xiata Scenic Area in Yili to tilt, killing five people and injuring 24 others. The incident occurred at 6.15pm on August 6, when...

- [China targets greener AI data centres, heavy industry in push to meet 2030 climate goals](#)

(2026-04-23 13:00)

China has released new guidelines to reduce carbon emissions across strategic sectors – including energy-intensive data centres – as Beijing pushes to secure its 2030 climate targets amid volatile energy prices triggered by the US-Israeli war in Iran. The 18-point document, issued by the ruling Communist Party's powerful Central Committee and the State Council, China's cabinet, called on heavy industries – including steel, non-ferrous metals and chemicals – to boost energy efficiency and...

- [Blooming good: Monet, maestros shine as garden art bridges East and West](#) (2026-04-23 12:58)

Two famed water lily paintings by French Impressionist master Claude Monet will go on display in Hong Kong from Friday in a free exhibition highlighting cultural exchange between East and West. The show, titled “Blooming: the Art of Garden in East and West”, brings together more than 100 sets of exhibits from the Art Institute of Chicago, Beijing's Palace Museum and the Palace of Versailles in Paris. The Hong Kong Museum of Art in Tsim Sha Tsui, which is hosting the show, has also contributed...

- [EU approves US\\$106 billion loan to Ukraine after Hungary lifts veto](#) (2026-04-23 12:41)

The European Union on Thursday approved a massive loan package to help Ukraine meet its economic and military needs for the next two years, the bloc's Cypriot presidency said, after Hungary lifted its veto. The EU also approved a new raft of sanctions against Russia over its war on Ukraine. The measures were prepared early this year and set to be announced in February to mark the fourth anniversary of the conflict, but Hungary and Slovakia opposed the move. Hungary and Slovakia have been locked...

- [Hong Kong airport' s revenue 'expected to grow by up to 10%' despite Mideast war](#) (2026-04-23 12:35)

Hong Kong International Airport expects revenue to grow by up to 10 per cent this year despite disruptions from the Iran conflict, with its chief executive aiming to position it as an alternative hub to the Middle East. In a wide-ranging interview with the South China Morning Post on Thursday, Airport Authority Hong Kong CEO Vivian Cheung Kar-fay said flights that had been cancelled due to the conflict – including those by flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways – were those that were “less...

- [As US-Iran war chokes Hormuz, can Central Asia' s 'Middle Corridor' rise to the rescue?](#) (2026-04-23 12:30)

As the US-Israeli war with Iran chokes off shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the “Middle Corridor” is being held up as a critical alternative lifeline linking East Asia to Europe. Also known as the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, the Middle Corridor is a multimodal logistics route that connects China and Europe via Kazakhstan in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the South Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and Turkey. Waqar Ahmad, president of Kazakhstan' s Nazarbayev University,...

- [China can offer Gulf states more than just a security umbrella](#) (2026-04-23 12:30)

The Iran war has delivered a systemic shock to the Gulf' s security architecture and economic miracle. Two taboos were rapidly broken. The Strait of Hormuz, which carries roughly one-fifth of global oil consumption and close to a quarter of seaborne crude, was paralysed for sustained periods. Iranian strikes reached deep into Gulf territory, hitting ports, energy terminals and airports with a frequency that exceeded attacks on Israel. War-risk insurance premiums and tanker charter rates surged...

- [Iran' s exiled crown prince Pahlavi splashed with red substance in Berlin](#) (2026-04-23 12:10)

Iran' s exiled crown prince Reza Pahlavi was splattered with red liquid on Thursday as he left a building in Berlin. Pahlavi had just departed a news briefing, during which he criticised the ceasefire between the United States and Iran, when the incident occurred outside Germany' s federal press conference building. He appeared unhurt by the liquid coating the back of his blazer and neck, and waved to his supporters before he got into a car that drove away. Police said the liquid appeared to be...

- [China must 'strengthen education' of Tibetan Buddhists, Beijing official says after tour](#) (2026-04-23 12:00)

A senior Chinese official who oversees religious and ethnic minority affairs has called for China to “strengthen” the education, training and management of Tibetan Buddhist personnel. Li Ganjie, head of the Communist Party' s United Front Work Department and a member of the now 22-man Politburo, made the call during a trip to Tibetan areas in western China, state news

agency Xinhua reported on Wednesday. He visited several religious organisations and study institutions in the Tibetan autonomous...

- [Why Anthropic's Mythos has energised China's cybersecurity industry](#) (2026-04-23 12:00)

In the second of a three-part series on Anthropic's powerful Mythos artificial intelligence model, we examine the effect it has had on China's cybersecurity and finance industries. US start-up Anthropic's new AI model, Claude Mythos Preview, has drawn global attention for its ability to autonomously identify and exploit cybersecurity vulnerabilities at a level that appears to surpass conventional tools used in enterprise and financial systems. The model has not been made publicly available, with...

- [How the Philippines became Japan's closest security partner in Southeast Asia](#) (2026-04-23 11:55)

The Philippines has emerged as the clearest example of what observers say is Japan's shift towards a more active defence role abroad, with both countries deepening their military cooperation in areas ranging from joint drills to technological partnerships. Japanese forces are taking part for the first time in this year's Balikatan military exercises hosted by the Philippines, while bilateral cooperation is set to expand after Tokyo eased its defence export rules. These activities signal the...

- [Hong Kong airport staff offered free measles jabs in bid to prevent outbreak](#) (2026-04-23 11:52)

Health authorities will provide free measles vaccinations to Hong Kong airport workers from Friday, following the detection of three cases among aircraft maintenance staff. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) warned on Thursday of the "relatively high" risk of measles transmission at the aviation hub, citing the high volume of travellers passing through there and the sizeable proportion of non-local-born workers who might not have received measles jabs in childhood. "In order to prevent...

- [China's Russia ties mean EU trade deal is off the table, Finland says](#) (2026-04-23 11:12)

China's close ties with Russia should be a "disqualifying factor" in Beijing's bid to launch talks on a free-trade agreement with the European Union, Finland's foreign minister has said. In meetings with European leaders, Beijing has been floating the prospect of a trade or investment deal, while German Chancellor Friedrich Merz last month said a pact could be possible in the future. In an exclusive interview in Helsinki on Wednesday, however, Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen poured cold water on...

- [Hong Kong set for intense thundery showers, gusts in the evening](#) (2026-04-23 11:03)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong is set for intense thundery showers

and gusts on Thursday evening, the weather forecaster has warned, with local temperatures expected to dip to as low as 19 degrees Celsius (66.2 Fahrenheit) under a cold front. In two separate special alerts issued at 6pm, the Observatory said an area of intense thundery showers associated with upper-air...

- [Malaysia' s durian growers in 'survival mode' as early glut and Iran war hit export trade](#) (2026-04-23 10:59)

Malaysia' s durian growers say they are in "survival mode" as an early bumper harvest collides with a surge in fuel and freight costs, squeezing an export trade built around getting premium fruit into China fast. Hot weather has brought harvests forward, swelling supply just as exporters face higher packaging, energy and transport costs, with the Iran war disrupting fuel supplies and making cargo more expensive. The strain is exposing the vulnerability of Malaysia' s durian industry, which has...

- [South Korea' s air force apologises after audit blames 2021 jet collision on mid-air selfies](#) (2026-04-23 10:57)

South Korea' s air force apologised on Thursday for a 2021 mid-air collision involving two fighter jets, a day after auditors said pilots were taking selfies and filming during the flight and held them responsible for the accident. "We sincerely apologise to the public for the concern caused by the accident that occurred in 2021," an air force spokesman said in a press briefing, adding that one of the pilots involved had been suspended from flying duties, received severe disciplinary action...

- [Indonesia' s new food labels are 'long overdue' , but can they help fight rising obesity?](#) (2026-04-23 10:40)

Indonesia' s new front-of-pack nutrition labelling scheme has been welcomed by health advocates as a long-overdue measure to tackle excessive sugar, salt and fat intake. But experts said the labels were only a first step and would do little on their own to slow Indonesia' s growing burden of obesity, diabetes, hypertension and other diet-related diseases. A decree issued by the health ministry on April 14 requires ready-to-eat food and drink products to carry nutrition labels and health messages...

- [Henderson Land joint venture to operate Central Harbourfront Event Space](#) (2026-04-23 10:36)

A Henderson Land Development joint venture has won a five-year contract to operate the Central Harbourfront Event Space in Hong Kong, with a clause that would require the government to be compensated if the number of events falls short of its commitment. The Development Bureau on Thursday announced that Central Grand Limited (CGL), a joint venture between the property developer and concert organiser YW Company, beat five other bidders for the prime site which hosts major events such as the...

- [How fire safety failures worsened Hong Kong’ s deadly inferno](#) (2026-04-23 10:02)
- [Chinese military experts take stock of US munitions weak spot exposed by Iran war](#) (2026-04-23 10:00)

The United States’ depleted stockpile of munitions from its war on Iran and limited production capacity will be a critical vulnerability against stronger adversaries, according to Chinese military observers. During the 39 days of war before the ceasefire, the US is estimated to have used about half of both its Patriot air defence missiles and the longer-range Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptors. Stockpiles of Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) and Standard Missile 6 (SM-6)...

- [Wealthy young Chinese gain popularity for founding companies with relaxed work environments](#) (2026-04-23 10:00)

China’ s fuerdai, or “second-generation rich” , are shaking off their notorious image and have become the favourite boss of some young people. The term fuerdai was invented in the 2000s and refers to the children of people who accumulated wealth following China’ s reform and opening up in 1978. It was considered a pejorative term, often associated with the spoiled character and overindulgent lifestyles of rich children. However, in contemporary China, fuerdai are dispensing with their stereotypes...

- [‘One country, two systems’ can serve as global model: Hong Kong’ s Regina Ip](#) (2026-04-23 09:57)

Hong Kong’ s “one country, two systems” principle can serve as a model around the world and represents the city’ s biggest contribution to Beijing’ s Global Governance Initiative, political heavyweight Regina Ip Lau Suk-yeet has said. Ip, the convenor of the government’ s key decision-making Executive Council and a former lawmaker, made the remarks at a media briefing on Thursday ahead of the third edition of the annual Global Prosperity Summit, which is organised by her think tank – the Savantas...

- [Conservationists hail jailing of Vietnamese pangolin scale smugglers in 900kg haul](#) (2026-04-23 09:45)

The jailing of two Vietnamese men who brokered a sale of 900kg (2,000lbs) of pangolin scales from Africa destined for the Chinese market has returned the spotlight to the illicit trade in an animal that has been poached to the edge of extinction. Prized for its meat and scales, the pangolin has almost disappeared from forests and their hilly habitats of Africa and Asia. Conservationists estimate around 1 million have been trafficked over the last decade, triggered by demand for traditional...

- [Hong Kong’ s Langham group among first to invest in Beijing’ s ‘city of the future’ Xiongan](#) (2026-04-23 09:30)

A hotel operator’ s planned entry into Xiongan New Area southwest of Beijing highlights a tentative but growing alignment between Hong Kong’ s private sector and the state-backed

development project, as leaders renew efforts to accelerate the zone's transformation into ahi-tech growth hub. Hong Kong-based Langham Hospitality Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Eagle Holdings, said on Thursday that it had signed a management agreement with ChinaXiongan Group Public Service Management to...

- [Hong Kong jobless rate dips for second successive quarter](#) (2026-04-23 09:08)

Hong Kong's unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 3.7 per cent in the first quarter, marking a second consecutive decline across rolling three-month periods. The Census and Statistics Department said on Thursday the jobless rate stood at 3.7 per cent for January to March, down from 3.8 per cent in the preceding period from December to February. The underemployment rate also edged down by 0.1 percentage point, from 1.7 per cent to 1.6 per cent over the same periods. The accommodation...

- [South Korean army removes poster depicting controversial hand gesture](#) (2026-04-23 09:06)

A common hand gesture in a South Korean army recruitment poster has prompted scrutiny of a little-known cultural sensitivity in the country. In the poster, a female model in a combat uniform poses with her hand resting under her chin. All quite innocent – except her thumb and index finger form a shape that many South Koreans associate with man-hating, according to The Korea Herald. The finger pinching gesture is known as the “Megalian hand”, after the radical South Korean feminist group that...

- [China's premium EVs mount tech-powered challenge to BMW, Mercedes-Benz at expo](#) (2026-04-23 09:00)

This year's Auto China, the world's largest car show, is likely to mark a watershed for Chinese electric vehicle (EV) makers as they push dozens of new premium models into the spotlight, challenging European manufacturers such as BMW and Mercedes-Benz. Leading EV makers in mainland China, from BYD and Geely to Leapmotor and Nio, will showcase their latest models at the 10-day show, which starts in Beijing on Friday, having moved up the value chain through the rapid adoption of technological...

- [Turkey passes bill to restrict social media access for under-15s](#) (2026-04-23 08:59)

Turkish lawmakers passed a bill late on Wednesday that includes restricting access to social media platforms for children under 15, state media reported. The legislation is the latest in a global trend to protect young people from dangerous online activity. Its passage comes a week after a 14-year-old boy killed nine students and a teacher at a middle school in Kahramanmaraş, southern Turkey, in a gun attack. Police are investigating the online activity of the perpetrator, who also died, in a...

- [Hong Kong fire services declined Tai Po alert over confusion fears, inquiry hears](#) (2026-04-23 08:49)

Hong Kong's fire services declined to activate an emergency alert during the city's deadliest inferno in decades, citing concerns that it might have caused confusion among trapped residents, a public inquiry has heard. An independent committee investigating last year's disaster at Wang Fuk Court was also told on Thursday that the system, which would have triggered a loud, high-pitched alarm on mobile phones, would have offered little help to the Fire Services Department's evacuation efforts, as...

- [Personal info of 9,045 people compromised in Hong Kong private club data breach](#) (2026-04-23 08:41)

A data breach at Yau Yat Chuen Garden City Club has compromised the personal information of more than 9,000 people, Hong Kong's privacy watchdog has found, urging organisations to review security measures and update software to close loopholes. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on Thursday also released a guide for parents and teachers to safeguard children's online privacy amid increasing risks facing youngsters online. Revealing the data breach, Privacy Commissioner for...

- [Japan's PM Takaichi tells fellow politician she needs 'more sleep'](#) (2026-04-23 08:37)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi complained she was not getting enough sleep, a veteran politician who met her on Thursday said. The remark came as Takaichi's premiership recently reached the six-month mark. After winning her ruling party's leadership election in October, putting her on course to become Japan's first female prime minister, she vowed to "work, work, work, work and work", a phrase that became a catchphrase in 2025. "I want to get a little more sleep," the 65-year-old prime...

- [Iran war makes green hydrogen viable in Asia as fossil fuel prices soar](#) (2026-04-23 08:33)

The Iran war has done in two months what years of climate policy could not: make green hydrogen look economically viable. Soaring oil and gas prices since February's outbreak of hostilities have narrowed the cost gap between the zero-emission fuel and its fossil rivals, paving the way for wider uptake across Asia. The eight-week US-Israeli war on Iran, Tehran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz and Iranian strikes on Qatar's Ras Laffan liquefied natural gas (LNG) complex have sent Asian fuel...

- [Why Japan's central bank is caught between a rock and a hard place](#) (2026-04-23 08:30)

In March 2024, the Bank of Japan raised interest rates for the first time since 2007, lifting borrowing costs out of negative territory and calling time on decades of ultra-loose monetary policy as Japan emerged from a long period of entrenched deflation. At the time, inflation had been above the central bank's 2 per cent target for 22 months. Fast forward to today, and inflationary pressures continue to build. Although headline inflation fell to 1.3 per cent in February, this was because of the...

- [How Iran responded to Trump’ s claimed role in saving 8 women from execution](#)

(2026-04-23 08:28)

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Iran had agreed not to execute eight women protesters in a sign of respect for him, while officials in Tehran denied the executions had been planned and accused the US president of spreading falsehoods. “Very good news,” Trump said in a social media post a day after granting a unilateral ceasefire in the war started by the US and Israel on February 28. Trump said four of the eight women would be released immediately and four would be sentenced...

- [China calls on Cambodia for ‘shared security and risks’ during global turmoil](#)

(2026-04-23 08:00)

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for China and Cambodia to “stand in closer solidarity, now more than ever” in the first 2+2 strategic dialogue aimed at deepening mutual political and security ties. During a meeting in Phnom Penh, Wang also urged the two sides to further strengthen political and security cooperation to “firmly hold the reins of development and security in their own hands” . The meeting on Wednesday was the first under the 2+2 mechanism with Cambodia involving defence and...

- [How a dropped sexual assault case cost an aspiring South Korean police officer her life](#)

(2026-04-23 07:49)

More than 80,000 people have signed a petition calling for a renewed investigation after a 19-year-old woman died by suicide in late February following a South Korean police decision to drop her sexual assault case. As of Thursday, the petition posted on the National Assembly site on April 16 has collected 80,900 signatures, surpassing the 50,000-signature threshold that requires the legislature to formally review it. The case centres on a woman who filed a criminal complaint in December 2025...

- [In Malaysia, tussle over Negeri Sembilan’ s ruler highlights unique state monarchy](#)

(2026-04-23 07:45)

The ruler of one of Malaysia’ s nine royal states said on Thursday that the government should continue to function “as usual” , using a speech to project calm after four powerful traditional chiefs claimed they had removed him in one of the country’ s strangest palace disputes in years. The row began on Sunday, when the four chiefs publicly declared that Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir, the ruler of Negeri Sembilan, had been deposed over alleged “misconduct” , without providing details for their...

- [Hong Kong police arrest 9 over HK\\$1.7 million in fake travel insurance claims](#) (2026-04-23 07:36)

Hong Kong police have arrested nine people over their alleged involvement in a travel insurance fraud syndicate that staged overseas accidents to claim more than HK\$1.7 million (US\$217,053). The force said on Thursday it had received a report from the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers

in October concerning suspicious travel insurance claims, ranging from “a few thousand totens of thousands of Hong Kong dollars” . “Police analysed more than 70 suspicious claimcases and discovered that these...

- [Trains collide head-on in Denmark, injuring 18](#) (2026-04-23 07:19)

Two local trains collided head-on in Denmark on Thursday, injuring 18 people, five of them critically injured, emergency services said. Two yellow and grey trains were seen at the site, both with visible damage to the front and facing each other in a wooded area, with rescue services describing “chaotic” scenes inside the carriages. “The two trains collided head-on, causing large damage to them and sending broken glass flying everywhere,” fire and rescue service leader Christoffer Buhl...

- [Mainland China’ s ultra-wealthy numbers rise as Hong Kong tipped for faster growth](#) (2026-04-23 07:00)

Mainland China’ s population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) – those with assets exceeding US\$30 million – has grown by 23 per cent over the past five years to 121,677, and is projected to expand a further 18.8 per cent to 144,602 by 2031, according to Knight Frank. Despite that growth, China’ s share of global UHNWIs edged down by one percentage point to 17 per cent this year and was expected to fall further to 15 per cent by 2031, as rapid wealth creation in the United States...

- [Lebanon to confront Israel over demolition of homes in occupied areas since ceasefire](#) (2026-04-23 06:21)

In areas of southern Lebanon it has occupied since agreeing last week to a ceasefire with Hezbollah, the Israeli army has been destroying homes it says were used as outposts by the Iran-backed militant group. But the demolitions were happening on such a wide scale that residents, Lebanese officials and UN peacekeepers were increasingly worried that large numbers of people displaced by the latest war would have nowhere to return if the fragile truce holds. From a hill overlooking Beit Lif - about...

- [Italian man convicted of trafficking Singaporean Tinder date for Dubai sex work](#) (2026-04-23 06:15)

A court has convicted an Italian man of human trafficking by tricking a Singaporean woman into sex work in Dubai, after rejecting his defence arguments attacking the victim. Achraf Arjaouy, 31, had claimed trial to one count of recruiting a person by means of deception for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Dubai. The victim’ s identity is protected by a gag order. The prosecution’ s case was that Arjaouy had targeted a woman he met on Tinder by pretending to be a wealthy pilot from Qatar who...

- [MTR Corp unveils HK\\$300 million wheelset centre, boosting efficiency by 80%](#) (2026-04-23 06:07)

Hong Kong's MTR Corporation has unveiled its first wheelset maintenance centre, set to open in the coming months, cutting the time for the labour-intensive process from more than three days to 10 hours. The rail giant said on Thursday that the new HK\$300 million (US\$38.3 million) Integrated Wheelset Maintenance Centre, located at the Ho Man Tin siding, would be capable of processing 1,500 wheelsets annually through automation. The capacity is designed to meet growing service demands on the Tuen...

- [Tencent unveils first flagship AI model with former OpenAI researcher at helm](#) (2026-04-23 06:05)

Tencent Holdings has released a new flagship artificial intelligence model, the first since former OpenAI researcher Yao Shunyu joined the Chinese tech giant to lead its foundational AI development efforts. The Shenzhen-based company said on Thursday that the new model, an open-source program called “Hy3 preview”, was its most powerful yet, on par with top Chinese models but still lagging flagship products from US leaders such as OpenAI and Google DeepMind. Notably, the model is relatively small...

- [Can Chinese scientists bring Nasa's 'space spider' dream to life?](#) (2026-04-23 06:00)

For years, Nasa funded a dream called SpiderFab – a spider-like robot that would crawl through orbit, weaving solar power stations and giant antennas from spools of carbon fibre – creating structures too large for any rocket to carry whole. Although SpiderFab never ended up in space, scientists from the Shenyang Institute of Automation in northern China say they have built the key technologies to reach a similar goal. The team first made the building blocks from a carbon-fibre composite, shaping...

- ['Innate kindness' of Chinese people moves British granny, 74, travelling solo across country](#) (2026-04-23 06:00)

A 74-year-old British grandmother who set off on a solo trip to China received an unexpected outpouring of support from Chinese netizens who took turns to guide her on her journey. The heartwarming story began with Xiao Yue, a senior university student from Hezhou in Guangxi Province, southern China, who first met the British grandmother while volunteering in Phuket. The woman, Gill, 74, has travelled to 72 countries on her own and has also volunteered in many countries before. Recently, Xiao...

- [More bookings, shorter trips: Chinese adjust to higher fuel prices for Labour Day break](#) (2026-04-23 05:32)

The number of Chinese tourists deciding to travel during the five-day Labour Day holiday at the start of next month could rival or exceed last year's headcount despite higher global fuel prices, analysts said, adding travellers were likely to prefer shorter trips to save on transport costs. Domestic flight bookings were up about 8 per cent year on year and domestic package-tour reservations were about 10 per cent higher ahead of the break, even after fuel prices shot up because of the war in...

- [Malaysia’ s king to pick ‘best candidate’ to head anti-corruption agency](#) (2026-04-23 04:58)

Malaysia’ s king said he would select a new anti-corruption chief, the first official confirmation that current head Azam Baki’ s term will not be renewed when it ends next month. “I will determine who is the best candidate to lead the MACC from now on,” Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor, the current monarch, said in a social media post on Thursday, referring to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission. He added that “there is no need for any party to politicise the matter” . Representatives for the...

- [AI-driven Hong Kong stock inflows from mainland China slow as investor options multiply](#) (2026-04-23 04:49)

Mainland Chinese investors have slowed their purchases of Hong Kong-listed shares this year after last year’ s record inflows, as more artificial intelligence investment opportunities have emerged in mainland markets, according to BNP Paribas. Southbound inflows via the Stock Connect cross-border system have reached about US\$30 billion so far this year, a slower pace than 2025, when they hit US\$180 billion for the full year, according to the French bank. The deceleration reflected changing market...

- [UN leadership race takes centre stage with first round of interviews](#) (2026-04-23 04:47)

The race to become the next leader of the United Nations moved into a higher gear with the four declared candidates facing hours of questions over two days. Top among them: can the UN be made effective again? Rafael Grossi, an Argentine diplomat who heads the International Atomic Energy Agency, struck a downbeat note about the global body’ s future during his interview replace Secretary General Antonio Guterres. “This election, or selection, process is so consequential, and this is because we are...

- [Euro, yuan unlikely to match US dollar as global currencies, Daniel Gros says](#) (2026-04-23 04:30)

Daniel Gros is the director of the Institute for European Policymaking at Bocconi University. Previously, he served as an adviser to the European Parliament, collaborated with the European Commission as economic adviser to the Delors Committee, which developed plans for the euro, and worked at the International Monetary Fund. In this interview, Gros examines the structural tensions shaping EU-China economic ties, draws lessons from the euro’ s experience to analyse the yuan’ s...

- [How Southeast Asia’ s aviation hubs are capturing traffic amid Iran war](#) (2026-04-23 03:55)

As Southeast Asia’ s tourism sector takes a hit from the Iran war, a pivot to serving as alternative flight hubs may save the industry. The region’ s major airlines are seeing an increase in demand for European routes as travellers avoid Middle Eastern hubs amid

disruptive drone and missile attacks, according to Reuters. Singapore Airlines (SIA) joins other major Asian carriers, such as Cathay Pacific, Korean Air and Qantas Airways, in posting strong performances on Europe flights in March. SIA...

- [Hundreds left broke after alleged Malaysian scammer vanishes with US\\$25 billion](#) (2026-04-23 03:34)

For more than three years, the numbers on their screens told a convincing story. Steady gains, smooth withdrawals and returns of up to 5 per cent every fortnight. Encouraged by the early outcome, many doubled down, pumping in more of their hard-earned savings into a scheme they thought was the answer to luxury and a comfy retirement. Then, almost overnight, the kill switch was flicked and they lost it all to a scheme that swindled -victims across the globe of close to 100 billion ringgit (US\$25...

- [Deaths of CIA agents in Mexico spark sovereignty row with White House](#) (2026-04-23 03:33)

The death of US officials following an operation to dismantle a drug lab in northern Mexico is escalating tensions with Washington, as President Claudia Sheinbaum insists her government was unaware of their involvement. At a news conference, Sheinbaum said Mexican security officials involved in the operation were never told about the presence of foreigners, which she described as a clear breach of security protocols. A person familiar with the matter confirmed that the two US nationals worked...

- [Alibaba opens Qwen app to outside partners with China Eastern Airlines tie-up](#) (2026-04-23 03:12)

Alibaba Group Holding has struck its first external partnership for its flagship consumer artificial intelligence app, linking it with China Eastern Airlines in a move that pushes its agentic capabilities beyond the company's own ecosystem and into real-world services. The company said the fresh collaboration allowed users of the Qwen app to manage the full flight booking process – from search and ticket purchase to seat selection and check-in – within a single natural-language chat interface....

- [Why no disaster alarm was raised in Tai Po fire, probe hears – as it happened](#) (2026-04-23 03:11)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. The role of Hong Kong's fire service remained under the spotlight on the 18th day of evidential hearings held by an independent committee investigating the catastrophic blaze at Tai Po's Wang Fuk Court. Three officers from the Fire Services Department testified on Thursday before the judge-led panel. Four of their colleagues gave accounts the previous day of...

- [Film on Manila hostage crisis sparks debate over 'secondary trauma' in Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-23 02:47)

A Hong Kong film adapted from the 2010 Manila hostage crisis, which led to the deaths of eight Hongkongers, has stirred online debate, with some questioning whether it could cause “secondary trauma” and others saying it offers lessons from the past. Titled Beyond Hostage Crisis, the film was released in Malaysia in April and is set to open in Hong Kong on May 28. Information about the 90-minute film starring newly crowned Hong Kong Film Awards best actress Fish Liew Chi-yu is available on the...

- [US intercepts 3 Iranian tankers near India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka amid Hormuz tensions](#) (2026-04-23 02:20)

The US military has intercepted at least three Iranian-flagged tankers in Asian waters and is redirecting them away from their positions near India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, shipping and security sources said on Wednesday. Washington has imposed a blockade on Iran’s trade by sea while Iran has fired on ships to prevent them sailing through the Strait of Hormuz waterway at the entrance to the Middle East Gulf. Nearly two months after the US and Israel began their war on Iran, there is little sign...

- [600 families seek second visit as residents return to worst-hit Wang Fuk Court tower](#) (2026-04-23 02:07)

About 600 families from Hong Kong’s fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court have requested a second visit to their flats, authorities have said, as residents of the most severely damaged tower return to salvage their belongings. While some survivors on Thursday morning recalled harrowing escapes from the worst-hit block and retrieved large items such as a television and a framed wedding photo, others criticised the time limit imposed on each household and called for justice over the deadly blaze. Deputy...

- [China’s Canton Fair defies global trends as overseas customers flock to buy robots, drones](#) (2026-04-23 02:00)

Shortly after the doors opened each day at the ongoing Canton Fair, every corner of the robotics and drone halls quickly filled to capacity, while the new energy pavilion remained densely packed with overseas buyers. Foreign buyers moved slowly between booths, live streaming their encounters with new tech products to social media, queuing to try out the latest devices and in some cases, purchasing samples on the spot at the event, which started last Wednesday. The scenes reflect a broader shift...

- [Being annoying is not just an annoyance, it’s harassment under tort law](#) (2026-04-23 01:30)

The law of tort, from its Latin and Old French origin meaning “wrong”, saw a major development in Hong Kong at the beginning of this year. After years of debate in the lower courts, Hong Kong’s top court has made it clear that, with *Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons Limited v Samantha Jane Bradley* [2026] HKCFA 2, harassment is now a recognised tort under common law. While it is described as a development, this was the last step of a recognition that was

more than a decade in the making. The first High...

- [Hong Kong' s education hub cannot be a one-market wonder](#) (2026-04-23 01:30)

The numbers tell a revealing story. The city' s eight publicly funded universities, once primarily judged by academic output and global rankings, are now generating record income from knowledge transfer. Patents, licensing deals, industry partnerships. These are not side activities. They are becoming core business lines. Universities are no longer just custodians of knowledge. They are active market participants, packaging and monetising it. Around them, an ecosystem is forming. Student hostels...

- [Thai hotels woo Asian guests with curated stays as Iran war keeps Europeans away](#) (2026-04-23 01:08)

At a beachfront resort on Koh Samui, photo-obsessed travellers can book private sessions, with a dedicated photographer guiding them to the resort' s most camera-ready spots during a 20-minute shoot. Elsewhere, at Centara Life properties, late-night noodle bowls cater to regional tastes. Across Centara Hotels & Resorts, such offerings are becoming more tailored. They reflect a shift towards Asian travellers – and their preferences – at a time when European visitors are staying away, reshaping...

- [China' s dark compute power could be 6,000 times higher than current estimates](#) (2026-04-23 01:00)

China has reported a staggering amount of domestic artificial intelligence power, pointing to what some experts say could be a “dark pool” of compute thousands of times larger than its public reports suggest. According to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), China has achieved 1,882 exaflops – short for exa floating-point operations per second – which translates to 1,882 quintillion, or billion billion, calculations per second. The figure is more than 6,000 times higher...

- [China live-streams expose minors undergoing harsh training designed for 'rebellious youth'](#) (2026-04-23 01:00)

Chinese teenagers dressed in camouflage uniforms express gratitude in front of cameras at a youth correction centre, but the off-camera reality tells a completely different story. According to a Chinese state media report they are beaten or sexually assaulted, leading to calls for better supervision and monitoring of such institutions. Such schools accept teenagers who are rebellious, weary of studying, addicted to playing electronic games, or suffer from depression. The institutions generally...

- [Iran latest: Trump has 'no time frame' to end war as world waits for peace talks](#) (2026-04-23 00:48)

All eyes are on the Strait of Hormuz as the world waits for a new round of US-Iran peace deal talks to ease the global energy crisis, while the extended ceasefire announced by US President

Donald Trump remains up in the air. These are the main takeaways from what happened overnight. Peace talks? It remains unclear when the two sides will return to the negotiating table. Trump on Wednesday said there was “no time frame” for when the war on Iran might come to an end. During an interview with Fox...

- [Travel scheme could allow Hong Kong, Macau yachts to sail to 6 Greater Bay Area ports](#) (2026-04-23 00:30)

A long-awaited cross-border solo travel scheme will allow yachts from Macau and Hong Kong to easily sail to about six designated ports in the western waters off the Greater Bay Area, with the policy to be finalised as early as this summer, the South China Morning Post has learned. A Guangdong provincial government document, seen by the SCMP, also showed several routes that were recommended for leisure, such as the waters off Castle Peak Bay, the Pearl River Delta and Fan Lau Kok of the Lantau...

- [Smuggled chicken find hints at Cambodian shortages amid Thai border conflict](#) (2026-04-23 00:00)

Plastic bags stuffed with rotting chicken from a smugglers’ boat washed ashore in Thailand have hinted at shortages inside Cambodia, as formal trade between the neighbours collapses due to the border conflict and illicit cargo flows surge instead. While demand appears high for smuggled Thai oil, fruit, meat and consumer items like soap, the Cambodian public is maintaining a boycott of Thai businesses in a nationalist kickback that reveals the depth of the enmity now staining relations between...

- [Billionaire Justin Sun sues Trump family crypto venture](#) (2026-04-22 23:08)

Entrepreneur Justin Sun filed a lawsuit on Wednesday accusing a Trump family-backed cryptocurrency platform of fraud and alleging he was blocked from withdrawing his assets. In a San Francisco federal court filing reviewed by Agence France-Presse, the Chinese-born crypto billionaire and former Trump ally claims to have bought US\$45 million worth of WLF, an electronic currency launched by World Liberty Financial in October 2024. To thank him for the investment – at a time when WLF was...

- [US visa system ‘rolls out red carpet’ for Chinese spies, congressional hearing told](#) (2026-04-22 22:37)

The US visa system rolls out the “red carpet” for spies and aids China’s alleged efforts to steal American innovation, senators charged at a congressional hearing on Wednesday, as Washington and Beijing intensify competition for dominance in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies. Through its permissive legal channels, the US is “inviting, welcoming, come on in with the red carpet rolled out” people who steal military and commercial secrets, Republican Senator Ashley Moody of Florida...

- [What Hong Kong’s conservative stablecoin licence roll-out reveals](#) (2026-04-22 22:30)

The most revealing fact about Hong Kong's stablecoin launch is not that licences were issued. It is who got them, and who did not. By handing the first approvals to HSBC and the Standard Chartered-led joint venture Anchorpoint Financial, regulators made clear from the start that digital money in Hong Kong will be bank-led. That choice matters because Hong Kong is not trying to become Asia's easiest venue for cryptocurrency experimentation. Rather, it is trying to become the most credible place...

- [Trump's top Navy official out, with US still locked in war with Iran](#) (2026-04-22 22:21)

US Secretary of the Navy John Phelan will leave office "immediately," the Pentagon announced Wednesday, without providing an explanation for the sudden exit. Phelan's departure follows the removal of top US Army officer General Randy George and two other senior officers earlier this month, at a time when the United States is locked in a war with Iran that still remains unresolved. Phelan "is departing the administration, effective immediately", Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement...

- [Trump envoy seeks to replace Iran with Italy in World Cup, report says](#) (2026-04-22 22:07)

A top envoy to US President Donald Trump has asked Fifa to replace Iran with Italy in the coming World Cup, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday. The plan is an effort to repair ties between Trump and Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni after the two fell out amid the American president's attacks against Pope Leo over the Iran war, the FT reported, citing people familiar with the matter. "I confirm I have suggested to Trump and (Fifa president Gianni) Infantino that Italy replace Iran..."

- [Inside Tesla's hidden supply chain: how a Chinese town shapes the modern world](#) (2026-04-22 22:00)

Few people have heard of Huangyan, a booming industrial district of Taizhou, a city in eastern China's Zhejiang province. Yet without it, many cars would likely be heavier, more expensive and less energy efficient, while everyday household goods would probably cost more. The town specialises in plastic components and moulding equipment – unassuming products that rarely make the news, but sit at the heart of modern manufacturing. For years, Huangyan's producers have dominated this supply chain,...

- [China bought zero H200 chips 'as of today', says Lutnick as he cites 'delicate balance' with Xi](#) (2026-04-22 21:46)

US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick sought to quell fears in Senate testimony on Wednesday that American technology was aiding China's military, but drew scepticism given the US president's willingness to sell advanced semiconductors. Lutnick asserted before the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee that US President Donald Trump was striking a "delicate balance" on the technology transfer issue given his cordial personal relationship with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, claiming that China has...

- [Trump team demands ‘entry fee’ before Canada talks, Carney says US doesn’t dictate terms](#) (2026-04-22 20:03)

The US does not get to dictate the terms of coming trade talks, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Wednesday, following reports Washington wants an “entry fee” before agreeing to open negotiations. The United States and Canada are set to hold talks on revising a North American free trade agreement, a pact US President Donald Trump signed and praised during his first term but now dismisses as “irrelevant”. Quoting multiple Canadian sources, Canada’s public broadcaster CBC reported on...

- [Top Peru ministers resign in protest over stalled US fighter jet deal](#) (2026-04-22 19:00)

Peru’s foreign and defence ministers resigned on Wednesday in protest over the decision by the government to stall a US\$3.5 billion deal for the purchase of 24 US F-16 fighter jets. The ministers said Peru’s reputation was in jeopardy after interim president Jose Maria Balcasar said on Tuesday that he would leave it up to the winner of June’s presidential run-off to finalise the agreement. Foreign Minister Hugo de Zela told RPP radio he stood down “because the political decision made by Mr...

- [US slams China after African countries block Taiwan leader’s eSwatini trip](#) (2026-04-22 18:40)

The United States is concerned that several African countries revoked overflight clearances for Taiwan’s leader at China’s behest, the US State Department said on Wednesday, calling the incident an abuse of the international civil aviation system. Taiwan this week said the Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar unilaterally revoked flight permits for leader William Lai Ching-te’s aircraft to cross airspace they manage on a planned trip to eSwatini, one of Taiwan’s allies. It is the first instance...

- [Gibraltar’s monkeys may be eating soil to cope with junk food from tourists](#) (2026-04-22 17:19)

On the tourist-packed Rock of Gibraltar, one of the most common sights is monkeys begging for food – and sometimes stealing sweet and salty snacks from unsuspecting visitors. Scientists now have documented an unusual behaviour among these macaques that may help them ward off a bellyache from all this junk food. Researchers said the monkeys have been observed eating soil more frequently, a behaviour they said may help the macaques avoid stomach upset from consuming human snacks. They found that...

- [Families seek review of coroner’s findings in Lamma ferry disaster inquest](#) (2026-04-22 16:23)

Families of victims who died in Hong Kong’s Lamma ferry disaster 13 years ago have filed an application for a judicial review against a coroner’s findings in an inquest, saying the conclusions showed irrationality and failed to weigh contradictory evidence. Four individuals lodged the application in the High Court on Wednesday. They acted without lawyers. They want

the court to quash the coroner's findings that a missing watertight door on the ill-fated Lamma IV ferry was a deliberate design...

- [As Iran talks go nowhere, will Donald Trump still go to Beijing?](#) (2026-04-22 15:00)

The on-again, off-again US-Iran peace talks are casting doubt on whether Donald Trump will make his planned visit to Beijing in a few weeks, though the war could raise the diplomatic stakes of the trip if it does go ahead, Chinese observers say. Hours before a two-week ceasefire was set to end, the US president announced on Tuesday that he was prolonging the fragile truce with Iran. That came after Vice-President J.D. Vance's trip to Pakistan for a second round of peace negotiations was first...

- [ICC chamber rules case against Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs killings to proceed](#) (2026-04-22 14:37)

Families of victims of former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs hailed as a "vindication" on Wednesday the International Criminal Court Appeals Chamber's refusal to throw out the crimes against humanity case against him. Duterte has been held by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague since March 2025 over killings linked to his anti-drugs campaign while he was in office. His lawyers argued that the court had no authority to try him because the Philippines...

- [Second French peacekeeper dies in Lebanon after ambush blamed on Hezbollah](#) (2026-04-22 14:19)

A second French soldier died on Wednesday from wounds suffered in a weekend ambush against UN peacekeepers in Lebanon blamed on Hezbollah, President Emmanuel Macron said. A first soldier, staff sergeant Florian Montorio, was shot dead in the Saturday ambush, for which Hezbollah has denied responsibility. "Corporal Anicet Girardin ... brought home yesterday from Lebanon, where he was badly wounded by Hezbollah fighters, died this morning of the consequences of his wounds," Macron posted on X. One...

- [China's battery makers stand to gain as Iran war reshapes energy storage demand: Fitch](#) (2026-04-22 14:00)

Chinese battery cell manufacturers are poised to benefit from the US-Israeli war in Iran, according to Fitch Ratings, even as fierce competition, overcapacity and thin margins weigh on some downstream firms. Global demand for energy storage was set to rise, driven by high oil prices and rapidly expanding artificial intelligence (AI) data centres, said Wang Ying, a managing director at the credit rating agency. "We believe that China's leading energy storage cell manufacturers will be the bigger...

- [Can 'token exports' give China an edge in the AI era?](#) (2026-04-22 14:00)

As Chinese artificial intelligence companies continue to push for the adoption of their flagship models overseas, they have taken on a new role as a key source of so-called "token exports"

to the global market. Chinese AI models accounted for four of the top 10 models in terms of token consumption on popular AI model marketplace OpenRouter from March 18 to April 18, highlighting their growing visibility in global developer usage of AI systems. Domestic token demand has been surging at an...

- [Philippine lawmakers examine gap in Sara Duterte's bank statements, declared wealth](#) (2026-04-22 13:38)

Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio came under fresh pressure on Wednesday after Philippine lawmakers examining complaints that could lead to her impeachment were shown evidence of bank transactions far larger than the wealth she and her husband had publicly declared. At a House hearing, the Philippines' anti-money-laundering watchdog said the couple's bank records from 2006 to 2024 showed 4.4 billion pesos (US\$73.2 million) in inflows and 1.5 billion pesos in outflows, despite a declared net...

- [UK PM insists he won't resign over Mandelson scandal](#) (2026-04-22 13:31)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer insisted on Wednesday he would not resign, claiming allegations of misleading MPs over his appointment of a party loyalist as UK envoy to Washington had been "put to bed". Starmer's remarks in parliament came as the beleaguered premier faced fresh calls to step down over his admitted error of judgment in appointing veteran former politician Peter Mandelson to the coveted post. The premier spoke to lawmakers a day after the foreign ministry's most senior...

- [Washington's 'psyop' propaganda push could backfire, analysts say](#) (2026-04-22 13:00)

Washington's reported plan to have embassies team up with the American military's "psyops" department to boost the US' image could backfire and actually damage the country's credibility, according to analysts. The strategy amounts to using "propaganda to fight the truth", according to Tad Stoermer, a historian and former lecturer at Johns Hopkins University. Amid slipping global approval, the US is looking to employ shadowy tactics that it previously condemned. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio...

- [China names 2 Pakistani astronauts chosen to train for Tiangong space station mission](#) (2026-04-22 12:41)

China has named the two Pakistani astronauts selected to train for a mission to its space station this year. After undergoing assessments, one of the men would serve as a payload specialist on a space mission alongside the Chinese crew to become the first foreign astronaut to enter the Tiangong space station, state news agency Xinhua reported on Wednesday. Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud will soon arrive in China for their training, according to the China Manned Space Agency. They were...

- [Tough penalties planned to stop unapproved fire system shutdowns in Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-22 12:30)

Hong Kong authorities have proposed new offences with tougher punishments for fire installation contractors who fail to obtain prior approval before deactivating firefighting systems or do not report malfunctions within 24 hours, following the city's deadliest blaze in decades, the South China Morning Post has learned. Other proposed changes included drastically increasing the maximum penalty for existing offences related to the unauthorised handling of fire equipment and the issuance of false...

- [China's low-cost EVs to be fitted with lidar systems, usually reserved for luxury models](#) (2026-04-22 12:30)

China's electric vehicle (EV) makers could introduce a lidar sensor-based intelligent driving system in models priced as low as 60,000 yuan (US\$8,795) this year, reflecting intensifying competition and falling costs, according to AI-driven tech firm Robosense. This price point is the lowest for models on sale in China's market, excluding mini vehicles sold for less than 50,000 yuan, indicating fierce competition among Chinese carmakers amid the phasing out of policy incentives. Notably, light...

- [How China's patient diplomacy can help secure peace in Iran](#) (2026-04-22 12:30)

The Iran crisis loomed large in discussions when Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez met President Xi Jinping on separate visits to Beijing last week. Both meetings focused on the need for a comprehensive and sustainable security architecture for the Middle East. This week, on a phone call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Xi reiterated China's support for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire and...

- [Warning over Taiwan? PLA warships make rare transits off southwest Japan](#) (2026-04-22 12:24)

PLA warships transited sensitive international waterways off southwestern Japan twice this week, a rare move seen as a clear warning to Tokyo over its recent actions relating to Taiwan. The transits marked the start and end of exercises in the western Pacific, outbound through the Yokoate Channel on Sunday and back via the Yonaguni-Iriomote Waterway on Wednesday. In a statement on Wednesday, the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army said: "[We] have organised the 133rd Fleet to...

- [Nepal minister quits amid financial scrutiny after just weeks in office](#) (2026-04-22 12:13)

Nepal's home minister stepped down on Wednesday over growing criticism of his finances after less than a month in office he won on an anti-corruption platform. Sudan Gurung, a key figure in the Gen-Z protests last September that toppled Nepal's previous government, said he was stepping down to ensure a "fair investigation". "I have resigned from the position of Home Minister with effect from today," the 38-year-old posted on his social media accounts.

“For me, morality is greater than a position...

- [Hong Kong, Malaysia stock exchanges to team up on ETFs, listings, Islamic finance](#) (2026-04-22 11:30)

The bourse operators of Hong Kong and Malaysia are exploring a range of collaborations, from dual listings and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) to Islamic finance, to forge closer ties between the city and the Southeast Asian country. Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX) CEO Bonnie Chan Yiting and Bursa Malaysia CEO Dato Fad’ I Mohamed unveiled their joint development plans in a media briefing in Hong Kong on Wednesday as HKEX hosted the 40th Asian and Oceanian Stock Exchanges Federation (AOSEF)...

- [UN alarmed by Singapore executions for drug-related offences](#) (2026-04-22 11:21)

The United Nations voiced alarm on Wednesday at the number of people being executed in Singapore for drug-related offences, saying it was incompatible with human dignity. UN rights chief Volker Turk said there had been a general shift away from the use of capital punishment in Asia, and Singapore was one of only a few countries imposing the death penalty for drug-related crimes not involving intentional killing. The death penalty is mandatory in Singapore for drug trafficking above certain...

- [Does William Lai’ s cancelled eSwatini trip show Beijing’ s reach in Africa?](#) (2026-04-22 11:01)

Beijing has praised the decision by three African countries to deny overflight clearance for Taiwanese leader William Lai Ching-te, whose trip to eSwatini was cancelled a day before his scheduled departure. Lai had been due to leave on Wednesday for a five-day trip to eSwatini, the only African country that maintains diplomatic ties with Taiwan, to attend celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of King Mswati’ s accession and his 58th birthday. But Lai’ s office announced late on Tuesday that...

- [China to fuse software and steel with US\\$14tr sector to fix weak links in world’ s factory](#) (2026-04-22 11:00)

China is embarking on a sweeping overhaul of its industrial architecture, aiming to fuse software and steel as part of a 100-trillion-yuan (US\$14.7 trillion) undertaking to modernise its service sector while pushing manufacturing into the future. The State Council’ s blueprint, unveiled on Tuesday, said the valuation target for the service sector was achievable by 2030 as advanced manufacturing increasingly becomes fused with specialised technical support. Analysts say Beijing’ s plan will help...

- [611 elderly Hongkongers default on student loans, owe HK\\$17,400 each on average](#) (2026-04-22 10:51)

More than 600 defaulters aged 60 and above have failed to repay their student loans under five government financial assistance schemes designed to fund their tertiary and post-secondary

studies, with the average amount owed standing at HK\$17,400 (US\$2,220). In a reply to questions from lawmakers on Wednesday, the Education Bureau said it had recorded 9,838 default cases, involving 8,494 people, under the five schemes as of January 31 this year. The schemes provide financial assistance to those...

- [Searchers find body of 1 of 6 missing crew members after super typhoon overturns ship](#) (2026-04-22 10:48)

Authorities have found the body of one of the six missing crew members from a cargo ship that overturned near the Northern Mariana Islands during a typhoon. US Air Force divers “used an underwater remotely operated drone to search the interior of the vessel” and recovered the body on Tuesday, the US Coast Guard said in a news release. Additional divers from the Japan Coast Guard further examined the ship. They did not find any additional crew members, the US Coast Guard said. “Coastguard...

- [Iran fires on 3 ships in Strait of Hormuz after Trump extends ceasefire](#) (2026-04-22 10:25)

Iran fired on three ships in the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, underscoring the ongoing threat to global energy supplies and complicating efforts to bring the United States and Iran together for talks to end the war. The attacks, which Iranian media said were carried out by Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, came after US President Donald Trump said the US would indefinitely extend the ceasefire with Iran, due to expire on Wednesday. But Trump said the US would continue to blockade...

- [The Devil Wears Prada 2 criticised for offending China with nerdy ‘Chin Chou’ character](#) (2026-04-22 10:10)

The Hollywood film *The Devil Wears Prada 2* is facing accusations of racism in China after it released a clip that shows a nerdy Asian character with a name that allegedly sounds similar to the derogatory “Ching Chong”. In the clip posted by a Chinese influencer, an Asian assistant character introduces herself as “Jin Chao”, which many online observers believed to sound like “Ching Chong”, a derogatory racist slur used to mock the Chinese language and people. The character’s name, Jin Chao, was...

- [Confusion over government agencies’ roles in fire oversight, Tai Po probe reveals](#) (2026-04-22 10:00)

A public inquiry into Hong Kong’s deadliest fire in decades has shed light on government departments’ confusion over their roles in supervising large-scale renovation projects, with a fire service official insisting his department was not responsible for handling complaints about flammable building materials because it lacked expertise in construction. Michael Yung Kam-hung, an assistant director of the Fire Services Department, said on Wednesday it would not take legal action against breaches...

- [French activists sue ‘deceptive’ laughing gas suppliers](#) (2026-04-22 09:34)

A French campaign group said on Wednesday it has sued companies selling nitrous oxide – also known as laughing gas – using what the activists alleged was “deceptive” marketing targeting young people, despite the health impacts. The Antoine Alleno Association – a road safety group headed by Michelin-starred chef Yannick Alleno, whose son was killed in 2022 by a speeding driver – said it had filed the legal action against the companies behind Cream Deluxe, which markets colourful canisters of the...

- [How China’s new AI carbon accounting model points the finger at the US](#) (2026-04-22 09:21)

China has launched what it calls the world’s first “panoramic” carbon accounting system, a model that revises down the country’s emissions compared to other estimates and raises them for the United States. Unlike other models that assign responsibility for emissions based on total carbon output from facilities such as power plants and factories, the new model gives greater weight to the consumers of products. Developed by the Shanghai Advanced Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of...

- [Trump extends Iran war ceasefire as Strait shutdown drags on](#) (2026-04-22 09:16)

US President Donald Trump announced a last-minute indefinite extension of a ceasefire with Iran and downplayed reports about an intercepted ship carrying a “gift from China” to Tehran. The US would avoid military action against Iran “until such time as their leaders and representatives can come up with a unified proposal”, Trump said on social media on Tuesday. He cited a request from Pakistan as a reason for reversing earlier threats to resume bombing if no deal was reached. Prospects for new...

- [Asia braces for food shortages as ‘super El Nino’, Iran war effects collide](#) (2026-04-22 09:00)

Asia is entering a dangerous summer for food production as scientists warn of a “super El Nino” suppressing rainfall while the war on Iran drives up energy and fertiliser costs for farmers. India’s Meteorological Department has forecast a below-average monsoon, after two successive years of above-normal rains, while in Australia – a major wheat producer and exporter – a shortage of farm inputs and persistent dryness has reportedly pushed planting acreage to a seven-year low. Farmers across South...

- [2,700 China-Japan flights axed in March as rift between Asian powers deepens](#) (2026-04-22 09:00)

Flights between China and Japan faced even more cancellations in March – with further cuts expected during the coming Labour Day holiday – as political tensions between the Asian neighbours continue to simmer. A total of 2,691 China-Japan flights were scrapped last month, according to figures from the data platform DAST cited by Chinese media outlet Yicai. That brought the cancellation rate to nearly 50 per cent, 1.1 percentage points higher than February. Only 2,711 flights between the two...

- [From tap to taxi](#) (2026-04-22 09:00)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] Octopus is moving further into Hong Kong’s transport system with the rollout of a taxi booking feature in its app, as the city steps up efforts to modernise a traditionally cash-heavy sector through regulation and fintech. The new “Easy Ride” feature allows passengers to book, ride and pay for taxis in a single interface, expanding the company’s role in transport from fare settlement to journey co-ordination. The launch...

- [Biotech-led boom as 8 China firms flock to Hong Kong’s thriving stock market](#) (2026-04-22 08:53)

Eight mainland China-based companies – five of them biotech firms – passed listing hearings on the Hong Kong stock market in April, clearing the way for them to tap the city’s deep liquidity. The influx, including an AI-driven drug discovery firm, a driverless technology developer and a maker of industrial robots, comes as the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) has been pushing private firms to list in Hong Kong. The market regulator has required companies that established so-called...

- [Jockey Club supports international rugby events with community programmes benefiting over 12,000 people](#) (2026-04-22 08:48)

[The content of this article has been produced by our advertising partner.] The Hong Kong Sevens concluded successfully this evening (19 April) at Kai Tak Stadium with The Hong Kong Jockey Club having supported the tournament for the fifth consecutive year as the Official Community Partner. This year, the Club has also become the Official Community Partner of the Hong Kong Football Club 10s for the first time. Through a series of community programmes, the Club enabled over 12,000 people to...

- [America First Fed? Trump nominee Kevin Warsh signals ‘monetary sovereignty’ push: analysts](#) (2026-04-22 08:30)

US Federal Reserve chair nominee Kevin Warsh’s policy vision – outlined during his Senate confirmation hearing – signals an extension of “America First” into monetary policy, Chinese analysts said. “Warsh’s policy proposals ... mark a shift from acting as a ‘global central bank’ supplying unlimited liquidity worldwide to a new approach focused on tightly controlling the overall monetary spigot, prioritising domestic productivity and emphasising monetary sovereignty,” analysts at China...

- [Iran war reflects the false promise of US ‘energy dominance’](#) (2026-04-22 08:30)

In the spring of 2026, amid a fragile ceasefire in the Strait of Hormuz, President Donald Trump continues to insist that the United States is untouched by disruptions in the Persian Gulf. “We don’t use it”, he has claimed, echoing years of “energy dominance” rhetoric. The numbers tell a different story. The United States remains a net importer of crude oil. Its refineries are

engineered for the medium sour barrels that flow through the Hormuz Strait. And the global price shock triggered by the...

- [Why Japan's earthquake has Bali on edge over magnitude 9 'megathrust' risk](#)  
(2026-04-22 08:15)

The magnitude 7.7 earthquake that hit Japan on Monday has renewed worries on Indonesia's holiday island of Bali, which sits on the same Pacific Ring of Fire. Hours after the quake, the Japan Meteorological Agency issued a special advisory warning of a slightly elevated risk of a temblor with a magnitude of 8 or stronger in the coming days. It said there was a 1 per cent chance of a megaquake, compared with 0.1 per cent at other times. Monday's temblor came just days after the Bali Meteorology,...

- [Anthropic's Mythos is stoking cybersecurity fears. What does it mean for China?](#)  
(2026-04-22 08:00)

In the first of a three-part series on Anthropic's new powerful Mythos AI model, we look at its impact on Chinese AI, cybersecurity and competition with the US. US start-up Anthropic announced its latest artificial intelligence model Claude Mythos Preview on April 7, sparking an unprecedented global response among policymakers and regulators due to its powerful ability to identify and exploit cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Instead of a public release, Anthropic released Mythos to a consortium of...

- [Singapore's Balakrishnan warns Hormuz just a 'dry run' if US, China clash](#)  
(2026-04-22 06:45)

The geopolitical fallout from the Strait of Hormuz chokehold in the Middle East is just a "dry run", with the Pacific being where the real action will occur if superpowers were to clash, Singapore's top diplomat has warned. Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan also revealed on Wednesday that Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia shared an interest in keeping the Strait of Malacca open, even under the spectre of tolls being imposed on the strategic Southeast Asian waterway. His stance however...

- [Hongkongers flock to theatres to snap up HK\\$30 Cinema Day tickets in advance](#)  
(2026-04-22 06:41)

Hong Kong residents, from housewives to stay-at-home mothers and couples, have rushed to theatres to secure HK\$30 (US\$4) tickets for Cinema Day, with many calling for even more discounts and family-friendly perks on other occasions. Before sales opened at noon on Wednesday, some customers started queuing up from as early as 10.30am at Star Cinema in Tseung Kwan O to get discounted tickets for screenings this Saturday. A housewife surnamed Ho was the first in line and hoped to get discounted...

- [Why China is backing nuclear fuel rod production in Namibia](#) (2026-04-22 06:37)

China is backing Namibia's bid to move beyond raw material exports by supporting the domestic processing of critical minerals and uranium. In a joint communique issued on Friday following talks in Beijing between Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his counterpart, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, China pledged to help transform Namibia's natural resources into higher-value products through domestic processing and downstream cooperation. Namibia has exported unprocessed minerals for decades. It is now seeking...

- [Delhi schools sound alarm – and water bell – as India sizzles in brutal heatwave](#) (2026-04-22 06:14)

Schools in India's capital must ring regular bells to remind schoolchildren to drink water as the megacity gears up to face heatwave conditions, a new city order has said. Summer heat in the world's most populous nation can be brutal – putting millions of people at risk, with nearly 11,000 people dying due to heatstroke between 2012 and 2021, according to government data. A heatwave in May 2024 in New Delhi saw temperatures match the capital's previous record high: 49.2 degrees Celsius (120...

- [World Cup co-host Mexico ramps up security at tourist sites after shooting](#) (2026-04-22 06:06)

Mexico's government said it was bolstering security at tourist sites after a man opened fire on tourists at pyramids outside Mexico City less than two months before the Fifa World Cup. The Monday shooting, carried out by a lone gunman on top of one of the Teotihuacan pyramids – a Unesco World Heritage Site and one of Mexico's most frequented tourist attractions – killed one Canadian tourist and injured a dozen more. It also set off a flurry of questions the next morning by reporters to Mexican...

- [Climbing lamp posts cross-legged challenge goes viral in China with players often needing rescue](#) (2026-04-22 06:00)

A Chinese woman who tried to copy a recently viral lamp post climbing challenge got herself stuck and had to call the police to rescue her. The woman, surnamed Song, from eastern China's Jiangsu province, was out for an after-dinner walk when she decided to take on the challenge. The self-rescue challenge requires people to cross their legs around a lamp post, remain in a sitting position then try to free themselves. As easy as this may sound, many people have been shocked to discover that they...

- [First local dengue case could lead to outbreak in coming months, health official says](#) (2026-04-22 05:41)

The first local case of dengue fever recorded for the first time in more than a year in Hong Kong indicates that undiagnosed imported cases could lead to an outbreak in the coming months, a health official has warned, while stressing that the risk was preventable. The warning by Albert Au Ka-wing, head of the Centre for Health Protection's communicable disease branch, came after one case was recorded in Tai Po last Thursday, in a patient with no travel history. "The

first local dengue fever case...

- [Why Myanmar's token amnesties are 'no cause for celebration'](#) (2026-04-22 05:25)

Myanmar's military-backed rulers have shaved time off Aung San Suu Kyi's prison sentence and freed thousands of detainees, but analysts say the apparent goodwill gestures tell a story of a regime growing bolder, not more merciful. The government last week announced an amnesty for 4,335 prisoners, its third in six months, and reduced by a sixth the 27-year sentence of the 80-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi, who has not been seen in public since her criminal trials ended in December...

- [Florida investigating ChatGPT role in mass shooting at university](#) (2026-04-22 05:22)

Florida on Tuesday announced a criminal probe into whether artificial intelligence played a role in a deadly mass shooting at a university in the US state. The decision to launch an investigation came after prosecutors reviewed exchanges between OpenAI chatbot ChatGPT and the suspected gunman, who opened fire at Florida State University last year, according to state Attorney General James Uthmeier. "If ChatGPT were a person, it would be facing charges for murder," Uthmeier said. Florida law...

- [Hong Kong's MTR Corp sells record HK\\$18.8 billion in green bonds](#) (2026-04-22 05:19)

The MTR Corporation has sold HK\$18.8 billion (US\$2.4 billion) in green bonds, the largest and the company's first public bond issuance in the Hong Kong dollar market, in its latest efforts to diversify funding sources for a string of projects. The rail giant said on Wednesday that it sold five-year, 10-year and 30-year bonds, with the size of each tranche also representing the largest for their respective tenors to date. The overall order book of the issue exceeded HK\$60 billion, or three times...

- [North Korea's Lazarus suspected of stealing US\\$290 million in KelpDAO cyberattack](#) (2026-04-22 05:12)

A notorious North Korean hacking group is likely behind the theft of nearly US\$300 million in cryptocurrency over the weekend, an affected party has said, in the biggest known crypto heist this year. It is the latest such incident linked to North Korea, whose sophisticated cybercrime programme uses stolen cryptocurrency to help fund its nuclear weapons development, according to a United Nations panel. Digital currency news site CoinDesk said the heist on the vault of online investment tool...

- [Multinational pharmaceutical companies to benefit from new China guidelines: analysts](#) (2026-04-22 05:00)

The State Council, China's cabinet, has published guidelines on innovative drug pricing that a bank analyst has described as "the most significant" in a decade, as they aim to reward drug innovation and ease pricing tension for domestic and multinational pharmaceutical companies. The framework document published this month said patented innovative drugs would be

supported through value-based pricing, while the prices of generic drugs would be driven down through market competition and...

- [Pope Leo denounces ‘colonisation’ of minerals on final leg of Africa tour](#) (2026-04-22 04:54)

Pope Leo arrived in Equatorial Guinea on Tuesday on the fourth and final leg of his Africa journey, and denounced the “colonisation” of Africa’s minerals and the “lust for power” in a country whose repressive leader has been in office since 1979. Adoring crowds in the largely Catholic country lined the road from the airport into the administrative capital, Malabo, cheering the first pope to visit since St John Paul II in 1982. Wearing his formal red mozzetta cape, Leo thrilled the flag-waving...

- [The Onion signs new deal to take over Alex Jones’ Infowars](#) (2026-04-22 04:27)

The satirical faux-news site The Onion has signed a new, restructured deal to take over Infowars from conspiracy peddler Alex Jones. Under the new terms, the Onion would license Infowars from Gregory Milligan, the court-appointed manager of the site since August 2025, instead of buying its assets outright for US\$1.75 million, as parent company Global Tetrahedron initially tried to do in a 2024 auction. Under the new agreement, submitted Monday to Texas state Judge Maya Guerra Gamble, Global...

- [Singaporean man charged after viral Lucky Plaza assault on Filipino woman](#) (2026-04-22 04:12)

A Singaporean man who was seen in a viral video assaulting a Filipino woman at Lucky Plaza shopping centre was charged on Wednesday over the incident and a previous alleged attack on the same woman. Andrew Suresh Markandan, 47, was handed two charges of voluntarily causing hurt to Alibutdan Vilma Litgio and two charges of mischief by damaging her property. He is accused of first assaulting the victim at about 7.25pm on March 30 last year at Hotel 81 Bugis. He allegedly slapped her and punched...

- [Residents leave prayers and flowers on third day of return to Wang Fuk Court](#) (2026-04-22 04:05)

The last batch of residents who briefly returned to their flats in Hong Kong’s Wang Fuk Court under a special government arrangement said prayers and left flower bouquets as a final farewell to their fire-ravaged homes. The residents, who were among 79 households that registered to visit Wang Sun House on Wednesday morning, arrived at the building with trolleys, backpacks and bags, some armed with stools to aid their arduous climb up at least 20 floors. An elderly woman surnamed Tang, who lived...

- [Shifting Saudi ties: what role could China take after Iran war is over?](#) (2026-04-22 04:00)

The Iran conflict is pushing Saudi Arabia to reconsider its US-led security strategy, with China emerging to play a limited, but functional role, analysts say. However, deep US ties in defence

would restrict Saudi Arabia's broader cooperation with China, they added, as one expert predicted Riyadh was likely to deepen ties with regional powers such as Pakistan and Turkey. In a rare alignment, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, a key US ally in the Middle East, initiated a phone...

- [US court allows Texas public schools to display Ten Commandments](#) (2026-04-22 03:45)

A US appeals court ruled on Tuesday that Texas can require the Bible's Ten Commandments to be displayed in public schools, a win for Christian conservatives who want their faith in classrooms. The 120-page decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals came in response to the legal battle that sprang up after a Texas law, Senate Bill 10 (SB10), required the scripture be posted in every classroom – which met legal challenges from families of diverse faiths with children in public schools. The...

- [UK agrees ban on cigarette sales for people born after 2008](#) (2026-04-22 03:18)

Both chambers of Britain's parliament have approved a bill that would ban children aged 17 and under from buying cigarettes during their lifetime. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill aims to stop anyone born after January 1, 2009 (now aged 17) from taking up smoking. Health minister Wes Streeting called this a “historic moment for the nation's health” that will lead to the “first smoke-free generation, protected from a lifetime of addiction and harm”. When it gets royal assent and becomes law, it would...

- [Israel and Hezbollah exchange fire, testing Lebanon truce as talks loom](#) (2026-04-22 02:55)

Lebanese armed group Hezbollah said it fired rockets and drones into northern Israel on Tuesday, accusing the Israeli military of violating a ceasefire ahead of US-mediated talks between the Israeli and Lebanese governments this week. The Israeli military earlier said Iran-aligned Hezbollah had fired several rockets towards its troops operating in southern Lebanon, in what it described as a “blatant violation” of the ceasefire agreement. It was not immediately clear if the incidents were the...

- [Polyfoam use left unchecked amid gap in supervision, Tai Po fire probe hears](#) (2026-04-22 02:51)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Four officers from Hong Kong's fire department are testifying on Wednesday before an independent committee investigating the Wang Fuk Court fire, as hearings enter their 17th day. The conflagration, which broke out on November 26 last year amid a major renovation, claimed 168 lives, displaced about 5,000 residents and destroyed seven of the estate's eight...

- [Trump effect? Taiwan poll reveals deep doubts about US military protection](#) (2026-04-22 02:00)

Half of Taiwanese not only doubt the US would send troops to defend Taiwan in the event of a cross-strait conflict but also question whether American weapons would prove effective, a poll this week has revealed. The results highlighted mounting scepticism on the island over Washington's security guarantees, according to the survey released on Monday by the Taipei-based Democracy Foundation. The poll found that 57 per cent of respondents did not believe the US would send troops to defend the...

- [Pacific Islanders skip food, medicine amid global fuel shortage from Iran war](#) (2026-04-22 01:37)

Far-flung Pacific nations are reeling from the impact of a global fuel crisis as authorities scramble to manage energy supplies while families must grapple with fuel curbs and higher costs for food and access to healthcare. Global oil supplies are running down as the US-Israeli war with Iran disrupts traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which typically carries about 20 per cent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flows. Aid agencies have warned that the crisis has driven up prices...

- [How Hong Kong can actively shape the foreign policy debate](#) (2026-04-22 01:30)

A year ago, after more than a decade in the United Kingdom and several years in the United States – including time working for the United Nations in New York City – I returned to Asia and arrived in Hong Kong expecting it to also be a leading hub for international relations. Hong Kong is often described as a “superconnector” between China and the world. Yet in one crucial domain – the study and practice of international relations – the city remains a paradox: globally connected, intellectually...

- [CATL to drive electrification with faster-charging and higher-performing batteries](#) (2026-04-22 01:24)

Contemporary Amperex Technology Limited (CATL), the world's largest electric vehicle (EV) battery producer, has unveiled its upgraded technologies – including lighter battery packs and faster charging mode – which are expected to accelerate the global automotive industry's electrification drive. The company, which holds more than a 40 per cent share of the global market, aimed to set a healthy tone for the Chinese EV sector to implement its go-global strategy, focusing on constant technological...

- [Iran war latest: Trump's ceasefire reversal and tensions simmer with China](#) (2026-04-22 01:03)

The world breathed a sigh of relief as US President Donald Trump announced he would extend the ceasefire with Iran, but uncertainty remains in the Middle East over how the US-Israeli war will end. These are the main takeaways from what happened overnight. Last-minute extension Trump indefinitely extended the ceasefire with Iran hours before it was due to expire, at the request of Pakistan. But he said the US naval blockade would continue. “Based on the fact that the government of Iran is...

- [Japanese prefecture pays singles to use dating apps to battle low birth rates](#) (2026-04-22 01:00)

A Japanese prefecture is paying its singles to use dating apps as the country grapples with record-low birth rates. Kochi prefecture announced on April 10 that it would subsidise private matchmaking app fees for its young residents, according to a Sankei News report. Residents aged between 20 and 39 will get a subsidy of up to 20,000 yen (US\$125) for the 2026 financial year to use apps that have received “internet-based marriage partner introduction service certification” . One of these verified...

- [Chinese New Year bamboo greeting cards date back over 2,000 years to Han dynasty](#) (2026-04-22 01:00)

While people in modern times send new year greetings easily on social network apps, in ancient times it was a much more complicated ritual. In China, the origin of delivering new year greeting cards can be traced back to the Han dynasty (206 BC-AD 220). During that time, people began making name cards, writing their name, age, hometown, official position, personal statement on long bamboo or wood sticks. These sticks were called ming ci. The character ming means “name” , and ci is literally...

- [Indians slam New Zealand minister for ‘butter chicken tsunami’ remarks: ‘outright racism’](#) (2026-04-22 00:33)

A senior New Zealand minister has sparked outrage by deriding a planned free-trade deal with India as a “butter chicken tsunami” . Wellington is poised to sign a free-trade agreement with India in New Delhi next week. The New Zealand government has hailed it as a “once in a generation” deal that will give its businesses access to the world’ s most populated country’ s vast domestic market. But its ruling coalition partner, the right-wing populist NZ First party, has pulled support over fears it...

- [Scammers trick overseas students out of gold in fake money-laundering probes](#) (2026-04-22 00:30)

Fraudsters have duped students studying abroad out of up to HK\$1.5 million (US\$191,531) each by accusing them of money laundering and luring them to Hong Kong to buy gold for bogus law-enforcement investigations, prompting a police warning. At least nine victims aged between 19 and 26, who are studying in the United Kingdom, Australia and other countries, have recently fallen prey to such cross-border impersonation scams, according to Hong Kong police. “Their losses ranged from HK\$740,000 to...

- [Rising fuel costs in Indonesia spark concern about tighter supplies, subsidy strain](#) (2026-04-22 00:00)

Indonesia’ s increase in prices for some non-subsidised fuel products could push more households towards subsidised fuel grades, economists have warned, raising the risk of tighter

supplies and added pressure on a state budget already trying to contain politically sensitive energy costs. The move by state energy company Pertamina underscores the government's balancing act: allowing market-priced fuels to rise with global crude costs while shielding subsidised products used by lower-income...

- [China's shipyards secure wave of oil tanker orders as Iran war drives demand](#)

(2026-04-22 00:00)

China's shipyards are emerging as beneficiaries from the US-Israeli war on Iran, securing new orders as crude transport bottlenecks worsen and global demand for large oil tankers rises. With the United States and Iran effectively blockading the Strait of Hormuz – a chokepoint that handles about a quarter of the world's seaborne oil – shipping companies are racing to expand capacity, particularly in very large crude carriers (VLCCs) capable of transporting about 2 million barrels of oil per...

- [Trump reads from Bible after high-profile clash with pope](#) (2026-04-21 23:48)

US President Donald Trump and many of his leading Christian supporters and top Republicans are taking part this week in a marathon reading of the Bible in an America 250-themed event billed as encouraging a “return to the spiritual foundation that has shaped our country”. The America Reads the Bible event – with each participant reading a passage aloud – is being live-streamed from the Museum of the Bible in Washington and other locations. It featured a video of Trump from the Oval Office on...

- [Chinese university student charged with illegally taking photos of US military planes](#)

(2026-04-21 22:30)

A Chinese university student has been charged with unauthorised photography of US military aircraft in Nebraska during a road trip through several states, which included a stop at an air force base in South Dakota. Tianrui Liang, who is studying in Glasgow, was arrested at New York's John F Kennedy International Airport on April 7 as he attempted to return to Scotland, court documents filed in the Eastern District of New York revealed. The 21-year-old has been charged with photographing defence...

- [China and Philippines taking 'baby steps' towards better relations: Manila's ambassador](#) (2026-04-21 22:00)

The Philippines is trying to gradually establish “stable foundations” for its relations with China before tackling tougher problems such as the long-running South China Sea dispute, according to the country's ambassador to Beijing. “We need a new equilibrium in our relations with China. Both sides [have agreed] to take incremental or baby steps towards that,” Jaime FlorCruz told the South China Morning Post. “That means a relationship that is stable, that is predictable, that is not subject to...

- [US-China AI race must strike a balance between security and openness](#) (2026-04-21 21:30)

The United States House Select Committee on China recently released a report on artificial intelligence. Titled “Buy What It Can, Steal What It Must: China’s Campaign to Acquire Frontier AI Capabilities”, it captures a hardening view in Washington that Beijing’s artificial intelligence rise is closely tied to both market access and security concerns. Whether fully substantiated or not, such beliefs are increasingly shaping the policy lens through which technology competition between the two...

- [China’s new Type 076 ‘drone carrier’ to take part in South China Sea training drills](#) (2026-04-21 21:09)

China’s next-generation “drone-carrier” amphibious assault ship is en route to the South China Sea for critical sea trials, China’s military announced Tuesday, in the same waters where the US, the Philippines and Japan are conducting large-scale joint military exercises and the aircraft carrier Liaoning is apparently sailing to. “The Sichuan, our country’s first Type 076 amphibious assault ship, has set sail from Shanghai for relevant waters in the South China Sea to carry out scientific...

- [Canadian who was detained by China warns against Carney’s electric vehicle deal](#) (2026-04-21 20:42)

A Canadian who was detained in China for nearly three years warned that Prime Minister Mark Carney’s electric vehicle deal risks creating a strategic dependency that the Asian superpower can exploit for political coercion. Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat who was imprisoned from 2018 to 2021, said on Tuesday that the agreement would lead to unfair competition and the erosion of Canada’s industrial base. Carney announced during a January trip to Beijing that Canada would accept an initial quota...

- [Cherfilus-McCormick is third lawmaker to quit, as wave of scandal swamps US Congress](#) (2026-04-21 19:05)

A Democratic lawmaker resigned on Tuesday, becoming the third member of the US House of Representatives to step down in just over a week as a wave of ethics scandals engulfs Congress. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick of Florida announced her immediate resignation ahead of a scheduled disciplinary hearing by the House Ethics Committee, which had been weighing potential sanctions over a string of campaign finance violations. Her departure follows the recent resignations of Democrat Eric Swalwell and...

- [Weinstein preyed on aspiring US actress, court told in rape retrial](#) (2026-04-21 18:44)

Prosecutors in the rape retrial of disgraced US movie mogul Harvey Weinstein told Tuesday how he wielded his power to prey on then-aspiring actress Jessica Mann. Weinstein, a central figure of abuse allegations that spurred the #MeToo movement, appeared at the New York courtroom in a wheelchair due to ill health. He is being retried on a count of third-degree rape against Mann that allegedly happened in 2013 in a Manhattan hotel room. Last June, a judge declared a mistrial on the charge after...

- [Israel jails soldiers for vandalising Jesus statue in Lebanon](#) (2026-04-21 18:01)

The Israeli military on Tuesday said two soldiers would receive 30 days of military detention and be removed from combat duty over the destruction of a statue of Jesus Christ in southern Lebanon. The decision comes after widespread condemnation of a photo shared online showing an Israeli soldier using a sledgehammer to strike the head of a statue of a crucified Jesus that had fallen off a cross. The sculpture was located in the Christian village of Debl in south Lebanon, near the border with...

- [Kevin Warsh, Trump’s pick for Fed chief, calls for ‘regime change’ at US central bank](#) (2026-04-21 17:46)

Federal Reserve chief nominee Kevin Warsh called for “regime change” at the US central bank, including a new approach for controlling inflation and a communications overhaul that may discourage his colleagues from saying too much about the direction of monetary policy. Warsh’s comments during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee left key questions about his nomination unresolved. Republican Senator Thom Tillis used his full time to explain why he would not vote for the...

- [Trump’s military push confronts US lawmakers and China’s shipbuilding edge](#) (2026-04-21 15:00)

US President Donald Trump’s long-standing obsession with sea power was underscored by his pledge to rebuild the US Navy into what he called a “Golden Fleet” as he returned to the White House. His financial year 2027 budget released on April 3 puts a price tag on the ambition: US\$65.8 billion for 34 warships, including initial funding for a next-generation battleship he wants to name after himself, part of the largest US\$1.5 trillion defence-spending request in history. But analysts say the...

- [Number of Hong Kong school leavers seeking education elsewhere hits 14-year low](#) (2026-04-21 14:22)

The number of Hong Kong secondary school leavers pursuing higher studies outside the city fell to a 14-year low in 2025, with an expert attributing the trend to a surge in mainland Chinese students targeting local universities. Only 2,671 students, or 6.5 per cent of 40,948 Form Six graduates pursuing full-time courses, chose to study outside Hong Kong last year, a survey by the Education Bureau showed. The number was a 13 per cent drop from the 2024 figure of 3,061 and the lowest since...

- [Former Hong Kong trade office chief contesting UK local elections for Reform](#) (2026-04-21 14:05)

A former director of Hong Kong’s Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Jakarta and Bangkok is standing in the United Kingdom local elections for the right-wing Reform UK party. Lee Sheung-yuen, who left government in 2023 after serving as the first director of the Bangkok ETO

and concurrently served as director general of its Jakarta office, is now contesting a seat on Ealing Council in London. He also previously served as the government's assistant commissioner for tourism and as administrative...

- [Hong Kong aiming to curb illicit fuel trade with tougher penalties: source](#) (2026-04-21 13:53)

Buyers of illicit fuel in Hong Kong could face a maximum penalty of HK\$1 million (US\$127,687) and one year in prison under proposed legal amendments aimed at curbing illegal refuelling amid surging global oil prices, the South China Morning Post has learned. According to a government source, the Security Bureau has also proposed tougher penalties for sellers, increasing the maximum fine for a first conviction from HK\$100,000 to HK\$3 million and raising the maximum jail term from six months to...

- [Myanmar president seeks peace talks by July 31, 2 rebel groups reject offer](#) (2026-04-21 13:46)

Myanmar's new military-backed government wants to hold peace talks with opposition armed groups by the end of July, the country's junta leader-turned-president said, but two key rebel groups rejected the offer on Tuesday. State media reported that President Min Aung Hlaing, who led a coup five years ago that plunged the Southeast Asian country into a civil war that continues to rage, told a government meeting that he wanted rebel groups that were not part of a ceasefire deal to join talks to...

- [Taiwanese leader Lai postpones Africa trip after 3 nations revoke overflight permission](#) (2026-04-21 13:25)

Taiwanese leader William Lai Ching-te was forced to postpone a visit to the island's last African partner after three other nations abruptly refused to allow his aircraft to fly over their territory, in a move Taipei blamed on pressure from Beijing. This is the first time any Taiwanese leader has had to delay an overseas visit at the last minute, Lai's office said. He had been due to depart on Wednesday for a five-day trip to eSwatini, the sole African country that maintains official diplomatic...

- [Japan's new arms export rules trigger Chinese warning against 'moves towards militarism'](#) (2026-04-21 13:01)

Japan has scrapped long-standing restrictions on arms exports in a major break with its post-war pacifist policy that is likely to derail any potential thaw in relations with China. The plans, given final approval by the cabinet on Tuesday, could clear the way for sales of lethal equipment that had long been banned and prompted expressions of "serious concern" from Beijing. Japan's Three Principles on Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology had previously limited exports to five non-combat...

- [Economist Justin Lin urges West to adopt ‘Eastern wisdom’ as China moves up value chain](#) (2026-04-21 13:00)

The West’s narrative of Chinese “overcapacity” is a double standard, said a former chief economist of the World Bank as he urged advanced economies to draw on “Eastern wisdom” rather than protectionism to navigate the rise of hi-tech competition. Justin Lin Yifu, a prominent advocate of Beijing’s industrial policy, dismissed claims that China’s auto-export surge was a sign of industrial imbalance. Speaking at Hong Kong Chu Hai College, Lin drew a contrast with Germany to expose a logical...

- [US forces intercepted ‘gift from China’ to Iran, Donald Trump says](#) (2026-04-21 12:54)

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that American forces had intercepted a “gift from China” to Iran. Speaking ahead of the expiry of the current two-week ceasefire on Wednesday, Trump told CNBC that Tehran had “probably done a little bit of restocking” and implied that Beijing had been helping its efforts to replenish ammunition. The “America first” president said that the US had used the last “four-five weeks” to “restock” and that the US had “so much ammo”. He added: “We caught a ship...”

- [First AI driverless trucks deployed to tackle Hong Kong port labour shortage](#) (2026-04-21 12:50)

Hutchison Port Holdings Trust has deployed Hong Kong’s first AI-powered driverless trucks, a move the container terminal operator said could help tackle a chronic manpower shortage and improve efficiency. The trust, affiliated with Hutchison Ports – a subsidiary of CK Hutchison Holdings, controlled by billionaire Li Ka-shing’s family – on Tuesday invited media to view a fleet of six electric autonomous trucks at Kwai Tsing Container Terminal 4. The fleet was launched in January. “Hong Kong has...

- [China’s CRRC drops bid for Lisbon metro deal as EU finds ‘billions’ in subsidies probe](#) (2026-04-21 12:36)

Chinese railway giant CRRC has been forced out of a Lisbon metro contract in favour of a Polish firm, after a European Commission investigation found that foreign subsidies allowed CRRC to underbid rivals. “The in-depth investigation confirmed these preliminary findings, revealing that the subsidies in question had indeed given the consortium an unfair competitive edge, to the detriment of other bidders taking part in the tender and the integrity of the EU’s internal market,” the European...

- [Tai Po blaze probe: temporary removal of fireproof windows ‘complied with rules’](#) (2026-04-21 12:32)

A Labour Department official has told an inquiry into Hong Kong’s deadly Tai Po inferno that the temporary removal of fireproof windows from emergency passages in the blaze-hit estate complied with occupational safety protocols, triggering questions on whether the interests of workers and residents are at odds. The inquiry also heard on Tuesday that a department officer

had misled Wang Fuk Court residents by claiming the fire resistance of renovation material was outside the purview of the law,...

- [World's top condom maker to raise prices by up to 30% over Iran war impact](#) (2026-04-21 12:13)

Malaysia's Karex, the world's top condom producer, plans to raise prices by 20 per cent to 30 per cent and possibly further if supply chain disruptions drag on due to the Iran war, its chief executive said on Tuesday. Karex is also seeing a surge in condom demand as rising freight costs and shipping delays have left many of its customers with lower stockpiles than usual, CEO Goh Miah Kiat told Reuters in an interview. "The situation is definitely very fragile, prices are expensive ... We have...

- [Pop star Fujii Kaze pulls plug on Hong Kong show as Japanese acts shun city](#) (2026-04-21 12:07)

Pop star Fujii Kaze has become the latest Japanese act to cancel a show in Hong Kong, which was scheduled as part of his world tour this year. Without offering a reason, Kaze's official website on Tuesday stated: "Show in Hong Kong has been cancelled". Hong Kong was originally listed as one of the stops in his "Prema World Tour" last year. The tour, which kicks off in October, will cover Asia, Europe and North America, with Asian dates confirmed for Kaohsiung, Fukuoka, Osaka, Tokyo, Bangkok and...

- [Hidden office, fractured bone: violent resistance behind China's record food safety fine](#) (2026-04-21 12:00)

Behind China's landmark crackdown on the e-commerce and food-delivery sectors lies a darker narrative of resistance, secrecy and violence, after regulators uncovered a vast network of "ghost" bakeries and imposed a record fine on seven major platforms. The State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) levied a 3.6 billion yuan (US\$528 million) fine on seven platforms run by PDD Holdings, Meituan, JD.com, Alibaba Group Holding and ByteDance, with the probe revealing a hidden office, violent...

- [From super powder to super power: can China plasma mill grind US tech dominance to dust?](#) (2026-04-21 11:58)

Modern military supremacy – from stealth jets to hypersonic missiles – hinges on micron-scale "super powders" engineered using precision mills. A new Chinese facility unveiled last week – described as the largest in the world – may give the country a critical edge in this field. The mill in the southern province of Guangdong uses new technology that the company behind it said was 10 times more efficient than older methods and allowed for the industrial scale production of these powders. At first...

- [Sino Land-led consortium clinches Kam Sheung Road Phase Two with US\\$1.7 billion investment](#) (2026-04-21 11:30)

A consortium led by Sino Land and Great Eagle Holdings, alongside two major mainland Chinese developers, has won the tender for the Kam Sheung Road Station Phase Two development, signalling continued confidence in Hong Kong's Northern Metropolis and its long-term growth prospects. The group – which also includes state-backed developers China Overseas Land & Investment and China Merchants Land – plans to invest more than HK\$13 billion (US\$1.7 billion) to build high-quality residential projects...

- [Hong Kong property investment soars on lower funding costs, rising demand](#) (2026-04-21 11:30)

Hong Kong's commercial property market attracted US\$1.6 billion in investment in the first quarter, up 41 per cent from a year earlier, as demand for office, retail and hotel assets picked up amid improving liquidity, according to JLL. Investment volumes could receive a further boost from global investors looking to redeploy their capital amid the conflict between the US, Israel and Iran, the property consultancy said in a report on Tuesday. “With Asia increasingly perceived as a relatively...

- [Ex-UK official says he felt pressure over Mandelson from PM's office](#) (2026-04-21 11:13)

A former top foreign ministry official said on Tuesday he had faced “constant pressure” from UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office to speed up the appointment of his pick as the ambassador to the US, deepening a row that threatens the British leader. A war of words over who should ultimately take the blame for appointing Labour veteran Peter Mandelson to Britain's highest diplomatic post despite his history and known ties to late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein has piled pressure on Starmer,...

- [South Korean police seek arrest warrant for Hybe founder Bang after travel request](#) (2026-04-21 11:09)

South Korean police have moved to detain Bang Si-hyuk, the founder of K-pop giant Hybe – the entertainment company behind groups including BTS – in a case that has spilled beyond finance and into the politics of Seoul's uneasy alliance with Washington. The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency said it had requested an arrest warrant for Bang through the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors' Office, citing alleged fraudulent stock trading in violation of the Capital Markets Act. The case took on a...

- [SCMP's 'original' finance reporting honoured at State Street Institutional Press Awards](#) (2026-04-21 11:00)

The South China Morning Post received six honours at the State Street Institutional Press Awards Asia-Pacific 2025 on Tuesday. The awards, which recognise outstanding news reporting on institutional finance across Asia-Pacific (APAC), drew a record 246 submissions this year from eight economies – mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and France. Most notably, SCMP veteran Enoch Yiu received the Outstanding Contribution to Institutional Journalism Award. The...

- [China confronts Middle East supply shock, as State Council mulls energy strategy](#)

(2026-04-21 11:00)

Beijing is putting its power strategy under the microscope as China navigates the impact of a shipping crisis in the Strait of Hormuz that risks becoming a long-term economic liability. Calling energy security a pillar of national stability, Premier Li Qiang on Monday convened a high-level study session of the State Council, China's Cabinet, according to Xinhua. The meeting, focused on coordinating energy security and the sector's transformation, was the latest in a series of policy discussions...

- [Hong Kong seeks to seize HK\\$56.5 million, 17 companies from jailed Jimmy Lai](#)

(2026-04-21 10:35)

The Hong Kong government is seeking to confiscate HK\$56.5 million (US\$7.2 million) from former media boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying's bank accounts and all of the shares in his 17 companies after he was jailed for 20 years under the national security law, court documents show. The secretary for justice applied to the High Court earlier this month to seize Lai's assets linked to three conspiracies to instigate foreign sanctions and incite public hatred towards the authorities in 2019 and 2020. The...

- [Indonesia passes law to protect domestic workers after a wait of over 20 years](#)

(2026-04-21 10:34)

Indonesia's parliament passed a law on Tuesday to protect the rights of domestic workers after more than two decades of deliberations and multiple delays. The bill was first introduced in 2004 to protect the country's 4.2 million domestic workers, almost 90 per cent of them women, according to data from the Ministry of Manpower. They were previously not legally classified as workers, meaning they were forced to operate in an informal and unregulated economy, exposed to exploitation and...

- [Premium for mainland China shares erodes – or flips – as capital flows to Hong Kong](#)

(2026-04-21 10:30)

A long-standing pricing gap between the mainland China-listed and Hong Kong shares of dual-listed companies has narrowed – and in some cases reversed – as global investors re-rate China's technology companies. The Hang Seng AH Premium Index, a widely watched gauge of the valuation gap between dual-listed companies' A shares trading on mainland exchanges and their H shares in Hong Kong, has remained below 120 in recent sessions, down sharply from a high of 157.89 in February 2024. The shift has...

- [Hong Kong braces for 9-degree temperature drop, thunderstorms later this week](#)

(2026-04-21 10:21)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong will face squally thunderstorms and

a nine-degree plunge in temperature later this week as a cold front sweeps across the SouthChina coast, with the mercury expected to dip to 21 degrees Celsius (69.8 Fahrenheit) on Friday, the city's forecaster has said. The Observatory said on Tuesday that the city would first experience unseasonably hot weather...

- [China worker gains envy after winning 7-day 'rain leave' ; boss also offers cash subsidies](#) (2026-04-21 10:00)

A Chinese employee has caused widespread jealousy among netizens after she won seven days of paid "rain leave", meaning she can stay home when it rains. The woman, whose personal details have not been divulged, from Changsha in Hunan province, southern China, works at a spicy snack company and went viral after winning the unusual prize in a company raffle. The company, Mala Wangzi, which literally means "Spicy Prince", was founded in 2009 by Zhang Yudong and is headquartered in Changsha. The...

- [Hungary's anti-LGBTQ law breaches EU rules as court ruling hailed as 'historic'](#) (2026-04-21 09:58)

EU's top court ruled on Tuesday that anti-LGBTQ legislation Hungary enacted in 2021 breached the bloc's rules, including an article which sets out the fundamental values on which the EU is founded. The European Commission, 16 of 27 member states and the European Parliament took Hungary to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) over the law, in what has been billed as the largest human rights case in the bloc's history. Originally aimed at toughening punishments for child abuse, the law was amended...

- [Japan escapes worst of magnitude 7.7 quake but experts warn of potential bigger one](#) (2026-04-21 09:30)

Northeast Japan escaped relatively unscathed from the magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck off its coast on Monday, but residents have been advised to stay alert as it is too early to tell whether the tremor was the main shock or a precursor to a far larger one. Hours after the quake, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) issued a special advisory warning of a slightly elevated risk of a temblor with a magnitude of 8 or stronger in the coming days. There was a 1 per cent chance of a megaquake,...

- ['River of mud' in Malaysia's Cameron Highlands prompts accountability calls](#) (2026-04-21 09:24)

A Malaysian NGO is demanding more accountability in project approvals in Cameron Highlands after a two-hour downpour on Monday resulted in a "river of mud" gushing through the main road of a town in the popular hill resort. A 15-second clip shows waist-high muddy waters, which social media users likened to teh tarik, surging through Ringlet, swallowing the main road and pushing against cars. Cameron Highlands police chief Azri Ramli said the flood was caused by a heavy downpour that began at 2pm...

- [China calls for US ‘sincerity’ on Iran, warns of Japan’ s ‘dangerous’ nuclear ambitions](#) (2026-04-21 09:19)

China in its latest Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) report has called on the United States to show “sincerity” in resolving the Iranian nuclear issue while warning about Japan’ s discussions on possessing nuclear weapons. The national report on the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was made public online by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday. The document outlines Beijing’ s progress in nuclear disarmament and its long-standing nuclear policies,...

- [Japan’ s Takaichi sends Yasukuni shrine offering, South Korea expresses ‘regret’](#) (2026-04-21 08:58)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi sent a ritual offering on Tuesday to a shrine honouring the country’ s war dead that has long angered neighbouring countries but did not visit in person, media reports and an unidentified source close to the matter said. The Yasukuni shrine in central Tokyo is dedicated to 2.5 million war dead, mostly Japanese, who perished in conflicts since the late 19th century. That number includes senior military and political figures convicted by an international...

- [2 women killed in separate traffic accidents involving goods vehicle and coach](#) (2026-04-21 08:39)

Hong Kong police are investigating two separate traffic accidents on Tuesday that led to the deaths of two women. In the first case, police were alerted at about 8.51am to a light goods vehicle driven by a 36-year-old man travelling along Cha Kwo Ling Road towards Yau Tong. The vehicle was approaching Yau Tong MTR station when it reportedly knocked down a woman crossing the road. The 30-year-old woman from mainland China sustained serious injuries to her head and limbs. She was rushed to United...

- [Hong Kong-Macau ferry fares to increase by up to 11% amid fuel costs surge](#) (2026-04-21 08:38)

The two main ferry operators running daily services between Hong Kong and Macau will raise fares by up to 11 per cent amid surging fuel prices, while a union said bus drivers were reporting lost income as companies cut services. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Tuesday that the government would continue to monitor oil prices as it pressed ahead with measures set out earlier by the interdepartmental task force on fuel supply. A day earlier, Turbojet and Cotai Water Jet said they would...

- [China’ s diplomacy succeeds even if it doesn’ t bring Middle East peace](#) (2026-04-21 08:30)

China’ s recent diplomatic efforts in the Middle East have led to speculation over whether its global strategy has shifted. There is consensus that China is stepping into a leadership role and trying to play peacemaker. Meanwhile, a few sceptics point out that the US-Israel war on Iran is

not about China and has only exposed how thin Beijing' s influence is in the region. We' ve been here before. In the last decade, with each moment of conflict in the Middle East and NorthAfrica, from Syria to...

- [A look back on Queen Elizabeth II' s life, 100 years since her birth – from the SCMP archive](#) (2026-04-21 07:31)

When the Duchess of York gave birth to a baby girl exactly 100 years ago, nobody expected that the young princess would one day sit on the throne. Queen Elizabeth II would eventually become Britain' s longest serving monarch, reigning for over 70 years. 100 years on, the South China Morning Post looks back at how it covered the queen during her life, beginning with the announcement of her birth in the newspaper on April 22, 1926. Training the heiress to Britain' s throne This article, featuring a...

- [Singapore' s US-interest balancing act, viral Songkran clash: 7 Asia highlights](#) (2026-04-21 07:15)

We have selected seven stories from the SCMP' s coverage of Asia over the past week that resonated with our readers and shed light on topical issues. If you would like to see more of our reporting, please consider subscribing. 1. Singapore balances national interest with rising anti-US sentiment In a rare public protest in Singapore, hundreds gathered in Hong Lim Park over the weekend to denounce the “US war machine” . They brandished placards and banners, including one with horns drawn on US...

- [China' s vast nuclear power sector now able to build 50 reactors at a time](#) (2026-04-21 07:12)

China has announced that it now has the capacity to build up to 50 nuclear reactors simultaneously, as it doubles down on a push to rapidly expand its nuclear power generation and become a global leader in the sector. The figure came from a report released by the China Nuclear Energy Association (CNEA) on Friday, which highlights the country' s ability to run dozens of nuclear projects concurrently spanning the full project life cycle – from design to construction. “China' s nuclear technology...

- [Hong Kong Disneyland builds on solid 20th anniversary performance with further expansion](#) (2026-04-21 07:12)

The year-long celebrations to mark Hong Kong Disneyland Resort' s 20th anniversary will run until June, still giving visitors from around the world plenty of opportunity to experience the thrills and excitement of what is billed as “The Most Magical Party of All” . The milestone event has already been a resounding success on many levels, showcasing not just the enduring appeal of the Disney brand and characters, but also the effectiveness of innovative marketing campaigns, targeted commercial...

- [As Singapore overtakes Indonesia in Asean leadership poll, is Prabowo to blame?](#)

(2026-04-21 07:00)

Indonesia appears to have ceded its position as Asean's natural leader to Singapore in a new survey of regional opinion leaders, with analysts pinning the shift on President Prabowo Subianto's preference for pursuing Jakarta's ambitions outside the regional bloc. More than 2,000 policymakers, researchers and business figures from across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were polled by the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute for its latest annual State of Southeast Asia survey. When asked...

- [After Xi, South Korea's Lee brings Modi into 'selfie diplomacy' frame](#)

(2026-04-21 06:35)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Samsung Electronics chairman Lee Jae-yong posed for a widely shared selfie in New Delhi on Monday, drawing attention to the optics of “selfie diplomacy” at a Korea-India summit. The photo was taken during a state lunch using Samsung's latest foldable smartphone, the Galaxy Z Flip7. The image quickly went viral online on social media and was picked up by multiple media outlets. The moment comes months after Lee drew...

- [New Hong Kong accountability system aims to improve, not blame, John Lee says](#)

(2026-04-21 06:32)

Hong Kong's top-ranking civil servants will be held accountable if they fail to provide adequate support in policy formulation, the city's leader has said, despite a new investigation mechanism that primarily targets department heads. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Tuesday that the proposed “Heads of Department Accountability System” was intended to promote self-improvement within departments rather than “picking on” individuals. Under the new mechanism, the chief executive, department...

- [China influencer tricked into Cambodia cyber scam recounts ordeal but live-stream was cut short](#)

(2026-04-21 06:00)

A Chinese influencer's live-stream recounting how she was lured to Cambodia and forced into a cyber scam operation was abruptly cut off, shortly before her social media account was banned. The 20-year-old, known online as Umi, is a live-stream host from southeastern China's Fujian province with 24,000 followers on mainland platforms. Earlier this year, she gained national attention after being found in distress in Cambodia and returning safely to China in January. Three months ago, a netizen...

- [Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia unite to secure safe passage in crucial straits](#)

(2026-04-21 05:59)

Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia are working closely together to keep vessels moving safely through the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong said on Tuesday, stressing the three countries' shared responsibility for keeping the waterways open

and secure. “The Straits of Malacca and Singapore are used for international navigation, and therefore the rights of transit passage similarly apply,” said Gan, who is also trade and industry minister, on the opening day of...

- [Chinese scientists replicate eel’s 6,000km breeding journey inside research pool](#) (2026-04-21 05:59)

Researchers in China have replicated the epic journey of one of the world’s most fascinating migratory fish within the confines of an artificial pool, potentially saving it from extinction. From hatching to maturity and spawning, eels undergo six stages of physical transformation over at least five years as they travel 6,000km (3,700 miles) from the ocean depths to freshwater rivers and lakes. Zhao Feng and his team from the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences used satellite-tracking technology...

- [‘All risks must be controlled,’ John Lee says as he defends basketball betting U-turn](#) (2026-04-21 05:20)

Hong Kong’s leader has defended the government’s decision to put the legalisation of basketball betting on hold, stressing the policy was never intended to encourage gambling and that all risks must be controlled before any further steps are taken. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu made the remarks on Tuesday after the government’s surprising U-turn last week to halt the authorisation of basketball betting, citing the rapid growth of prediction markets – cryptocurrency-based platforms that allow...

- [5 arrested at Hong Kong pharmacies, anti-obesity pills and other dangerous drugs seized](#) (2026-04-21 05:19)

Hong Kong authorities have arrested five men at registered pharmacies and seized thousands of unregistered anti-obesity medicines and dangerous drugs, vowing to launch more joint operations to clamp down on illegal sales across the city. The Department of Health said on Monday evening that an enforcement operation with the police last Friday at a registered pharmacy in Sha Tin district led to four arrests and the seizure of over 400 tablets of clonazepam, more than 2,700 tablets of zolpidem and...

- [Outlook for China stocks brightens on capital flows, rebounding home prices](#) (2026-04-21 05:15)

Chinese stocks are likely to continue the resilience they have shown since the war in the Middle East began, thanks to haven demand for yuan-linked assets, the green shoots of the property market and the inclusion of tech start-ups in key equity gauges, according to fund managers and investment banks. Optimism about Chinese equities was building after official data showed that home prices in the biggest mainland cities reversed declines and an inflationary trend took hold in March, said money...

- [Malaysian sultan warns Asean staring at ‘economic crisis’ over Hormuz closure](#) (2026-04-21 05:15)

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has affected every Asean nation, with a crisis looming, according to Malaysia’s Sultan Nazrin Shah. The Perak ruler said the ongoing conflict in the Middle East would directly affect the economies of countries in the region. “The surging prices of energy, fertilisers and transport are driving up food prices, increasing production and distribution costs, and fuelling inflation. The worst affected are countries with low energy reserves,” he said in his keynote...

- [Work-from-home may not save as much energy as Southeast Asia hopes](#) (2026-04-21 04:35)

Governments across Southeast Asia have been banking on work-from-home arrangements for civil servants to ease the sting of soaring energy costs triggered by the Iran war, but analysts say the maths is messier than it may first appear. Indonesia estimates its Friday work-from-home policy, introduced on April 1, will save around 6.2 trillion rupiah (US\$361.5 million) in state fuel subsidies and nearly 10 times that amount in total consumption. The Philippines has similarly introduced a four-day...

- [Residents thank life-saving neighbours, use robots to search charred Wang Fuk Court flats](#) (2026-04-21 04:16)

Residents have continued searching for memorabilia in their fire-ravaged homes on the second day of pick-up sessions at Wang Fuk Court, with some seeking help from a robotic device and others expressing gratitude to neighbours who saved their lives during the blaze. Wang Sun House residents on the middle floors began returning home on Tuesday, with opinions divided over whether three hours were enough to pack and bid farewell. “I want to take this opportunity to thank my neighbour, who knocked...

- [China achieves a world first, updating stabilisers for renewable energy grids](#) (2026-04-21 04:00)

China has developed a world-first high-voltage synchronous condenser, reviving a century-old grid stabiliser technology to support the country’s rapid transition to renewable energy, according to a state media report. The state-run China Electric Power News said on April 10 that a 35-kilovolt direct-connection rotating machine developed by Dongfang Electric Machinery had successfully passed testing earlier that day. The successful test made Dongfang’s synchronous condenser the first in the world...

- [Why more Rohingya risk sea escapes to Malaysia, Indonesia: ‘some make it, some die’](#) (2026-04-21 03:58)

Rohingya refugee Rahila Begum spent two days adrift in the Andaman Sea this month, clinging to a wooden shard after her overcrowded boat capsized, one of the few survivors of a disaster that left 250 missing and feared dead. She was among the thousands of Rohingya

Muslims who brave hunger and accidents on rickety boats each year to flee desperate conditions in camps in southeastern Bangladesh for countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia. Hundreds die en route from hunger or accidents at sea,...

- [China's youth unemployment crunch deepens as record graduation season looms](#) (2026-04-21 03:53)

Despite China's stronger-than-expected first-quarter economic growth, young jobseekers found little respite as March brought a rise in youth unemployment across urban areas, snapping six straight months of decline. The jobless rate for the 16-to-24 age group, excluding students, edged up to 16.9 per cent in March from 16.1 per cent in February, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday. The job market, weighed down by deflationary pressures and external...

- [Tai Po fire probe: no evidence of smoking found despite stepped up inspections](#) (2026-04-21 03:44)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. Hong Kong labour authorities' handling of Wang Fuk Court residents' complaints and inspections at the renovation site before the estate was engulfed in an inferno last November will be scrutinised by the independent committee on the 16th day of its evidential hearing. Officers from the Labour Department are scheduled to testify on Tuesday before the judge-led...

- [Why leading Chinese scientists are rising to the top in the Communist Party](#) (2026-04-21 03:00)

The number of members from China's leading scientific and engineering institutes in the top ranks of the Communist Party has doubled over the course of a decade, according to a new report. It said the number of academicians in the party's 18th Central Committee, selected in 2012, stood at 15, accounting for around 3.5 per cent of the total membership. But when the 20th Central Committee started its five-year term in 2022, this total had risen to 30, around 8 per cent of the total, including...

- [China bets on RISC-V in global AI race](#) (2026-04-21 02:44)

Say "open source" and "China" and most people will think of its world-conquering artificial intelligence (AI) large language models. Its open-source computer chips are just as significant. These chips are based on the RISC-V architecture (pronounced risk-five). At last month's Zhongguancun Forum science festival in Beijing, experts celebrated the establishment in China of a complete RISC-V ecosystem. Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) researchers recently unveiled their latest Xiangshan processor...

- [Hong Kong to launch public consultation on first 5-year plan this quarter](#) (2026-04-21 02:08)

The Hong Kong government plans to launch a public consultation this quarter on its first five-year blueprint aligned with national development, aiming to gather views on which policies to focus on in the coming years. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said on Tuesday that the five-year plan would cover areas such as the economy, investment, industry development, land, housing, transport and infrastructure, employment, as well as healthcare, education and welfare, bringing numerous benefits...

- [Chinese circuit-board supplier Victory Giant jumps 57% in Hong Kong share debut](#) (2026-04-21 01:43)

Victory Giant, a Chinese manufacturer of printed circuit boards (PCBs) for artificial intelligence and high-performance computing, rose by 57.23 per cent in its trading debut in Hong Kong on Tuesday, as investors rushed to tap into surging global demand for the hardware powering the AI infrastructure boom. Shares in the Guangdong-based company, a supplier to US chip leader Nvidia, opened at HK\$330, versus the offer price of HK\$209.88 – the maximum offer price. The firm raised HK\$20 billion...

- [Neighbours shocked after ‘nice uncle’ arrested in Malaysia for gunning down 3](#) (2026-04-21 01:39)

He was your friendly neighbourhood uncle, polite and pleasant. He even brought fruits and vegetables from his orchard for people in the area. So, when the 71-year-old Malaysian man was arrested for shooting three people dead, it came as a shock for many in Taman Kota Jaya, Johor. Hamzah Kamat, who runs a restaurant in front of the food court where the incident took place, said the man used to go there, and sometimes even brought fruits from his orchard. “He is a nice uncle who never caused any...

- [Which global firms are being attracted by Hong Kong’s strategic enterprise scheme?](#) (2026-04-21 01:30)

Twenty-two strategic enterprises have signed agreements with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES) to open or expand operations in Hong Kong. The latest group marks the sixth cohort under the government’s flagship investment attraction initiative since its launch in 2022, bringing the total number of strategic partners to more than 120. The South China Morning Post looks at who the latest companies are and the anticipated economic impact. 1. Who are the corporations? Pfizer, a...

- [Why Japan’s Takaichi is already facing resistance inside her own party](#) (2026-04-21 01:30)

Reports of friction inside Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suggest Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s biggest political challenge may now lie not with the opposition, but within her own party. Despite her strong public standing after February’s general election, reports have grown louder that Takaichi is clashing with the LDP’s influential old guard, notably former prime minister Taro Aso. Japanese tabloids, which are often more willing than the mainstream press to air insider...

- [Maker of China's C919 jet weighs supply chain weaknesses amid delivery delays](#) (2026-04-21 01:30)

China's top civilian aircraft manufacturer is reassessing geopolitical risks to its supply chains – particularly for jet engines sourced from foreign firms – according to a source at the planemaker, as deliveries of its flagship C919 passenger jet appear to be late or delayed this year. The Shanghai-based Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac) is facing external and internal constraints, including reliance on foreign suppliers for critical components and persistent manpower shortages,...

- [Hong Kong can advance AI beyond the confines of geopolitical rivalry](#) (2026-04-21 01:30)

There is a tendency to portray the global artificial intelligence (AI) landscape as consisting of two bitter rivals – China and the United States. The remaining 80 per cent of the world's population, by virtue of their supposed dearth of scale, research and other critical overheads, are purportedly followers with no agency. The reality is more complex. The emerging global AI order is neither unipolar nor strictly bipolar. Instead, it is characterised by a swathe of middle powers hedging their...

- [Plight of parentless China boy cared by grandpa attracts 46 million views, prompts government aid](#) (2026-04-21 01:00)

A nine-year-old boy in rural China who relies on his 73-year-old grandfather and brings him meat from his school canteen because he fears the old man might die without it has touched millions of internet users in the country. The boy, who is nicknamed Zichen, is a primary school pupil who lives in a village in Taikang county, central Henan province. His story has been viewed 46 million times on social media, sparking the local authorities to intervene with help. According to a report by Henan...

- [Hong Kong health authorities investigate third measles case among airport staff](#) (2026-04-21 00:56)

Hong Kong health authorities are investigating a third measles case involving an aircraft maintenance worker at the airport, saying his infection is epidemiologically linked to those of two colleagues. The Centre for Health Protection said on Monday night that the latest patient, a 37-year-old man, likely contracted the disease at his workplace. It said all three cases worked for the same company at the airport, adding that the latest patient was involved in aircraft maintenance and had no...

- [Trump, Iran and the Strait of Hormuz: here's what happened overnight](#) (2026-04-21 00:40)

As the clock ticks down to the end of a two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran, all eyes are on whether they can return to the negotiating table in Pakistan, while the stand-off in the Strait of Hormuz continues. These are the main takeaways from what happened overnight. What did

Trump say? US President Donald Trump defended his war against Iran in a series of socialmedia posts. He said he would not lift the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz “until there is a ‘DEAL’ ” . “I read the Fake News...

- [Hong Kong retailers leverage scale, sourcing to offset war-driven cost pressures](#) (2026-04-21 00:30)

Hong Kong’ s major retailers are using aggressive tactics such as direct sourcing and leveraging massive economies of scale to avoid raising prices despite surging logistics costs arising from the war in the Middle East. But their resilience is being seriously tested for certain goods, with a leading cosmetics chain warning that shipping and airfreight costs have already surged by up to 15 per cent. Sa Sa International chairman Simon Kwok Siu-ming told the South China Morning Post on Friday that...

- [Can Iran protect friendly shipping? Attack on Indian tankers raises safety questions](#) (2026-04-21 00:00)

Iran’ s firing on two Indian-flagged oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz has raised fresh questions about how far Tehran can protect even friendly shipping as the conflict pushes closer to maritime chaos. The attack, which took place on Saturday, has been especially awkward for Iran because New Delhi is not an adversary and still maintains working ties with Tehran, including renewed oil purchases in recent weeks under a temporary US sanctions waiver. Analysts said the attack on Jag Arnav and...

- [Former state controller Betty Yee drops out of California governor’ s race](#) (2026-04-20 23:53)

Another Democrat is exiting the crowded contest for California governor. Betty Yee – a former state controller – announced on Monday she was suspending her campaign, just over a week after fellow Democrat and former US congressman Eric Swalwell left the race following sexual assault allegations that he denies. Yee, who was born in San Francisco to Chinese immigrant parents, was vying to be the first woman to hold the state’ s highest office. But she lagged in fundraising and failed to break into...

- [Jump in EU EV sales amid Iran war boosts Chinese brands’ fortunes](#) (2026-04-20 23:30)

European consumers, spooked by rising oil prices due to the Middle East conflict, rushed to buy battery-powered cars last month, with Chinese electric vehicle (EV) brands poised to reap the benefits and give their global expansion a boost. Battery EV (BEV) registrations, a proxy for retail sales, climbed 51 per cent month on month in March, topping 224,000 units across 15 key European Union (EU) markets, according to data jointly released by research firm New Automotive and industry consortium...

- [US and Iran warn they are ready for war as Pakistan ceasefire talks in limbo](#) (2026-04-20 23:18)

The United States and Iran on Monday each warned they were ready for war as the clock ticked on a ceasefire, with uncertainty on talks that US President Donald Trump had announced would resume in Pakistan. The White House said Vice-President J.D. Vance was ready to fly back to the Pakistani capital Islamabad, which was visibly preparing for a second round of talks on ending the war that has engulfed the Middle East and shaken global markets. But Tehran's cleric-run government declined to confirm...

- [Turning point? Clean energy met 100% of world's new power needs in 2025: report](#) (2026-04-20 23:01)

As the US-Israel war on Iran raises global concerns about energy security, a new report has found that the clean power sector is rapidly gaining ground and emerging as a solution for nations looking to reduce their reliance on oil and gas imports. The world passed a significant turning point in 2025 as clean power generation rose faster than global demand for electricity, preventing an increase in fossil fuel generation, according to the study by London-based energy think tank Ember released on...

- [Lebanon's President Aoun says aiming to end hostilities with Israel talks](#) (2026-04-20 22:46)

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said on Monday that planned talks with Israel aim to end hostilities and the occupation in southern Lebanon, even as Hezbollah and its supporters rejected the negotiations. Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah has sharply criticised the Lebanese government's negotiations with Israel, which are set to enter a second round on Thursday. After the first round of talks last week, US President Donald Trump announced a 10-day truce pausing more than six weeks of war...

- [US labour secretary to leave Trump's cabinet after abuse of power allegations](#) (2026-04-20 22:11)

Labour Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer is out of President Donald Trump's cabinet, the administration announced on Monday, after a series of alleged abuses of her position's power, including having an affair with a subordinate and drinking alcohol on the job. Chavez-DeRemer is the third Trump cabinet member to leave her post after Trump fired his embattled homeland security secretary Kristi Noem in March and ousted Pam Bondi as attorney general earlier this month. Unlike other recent cabinet...

- [US firms dash to recover tariffs paid on Chinese imports as refund system launches](#) (2026-04-20 22:11)

For Tim Avanzato and the team at Lanca Sales, Monday marked the start of a high-stakes digital scramble to recover tariffs paid after US President Donald Trump imposed steep duties on almost all imports, including from China, last year. While the New Jersey-based company that imports and exports food packaging has become accustomed to operating under tariffs and adjusting its business around them, Avanzato, who handles global trade and logistics at the

firm, said the refund process has...

- [How China is reinforcing its ‘legal shield’ against foreign pressure](#) (2026-04-20 22:00)

China has released new regulations that aim to counter the “unjustified” extraterritorial use of foreign laws, the latest move to protect its interests from external threats. Analysts view the move as a shift from diplomatic protests to legal warfare, and some warn it could have wide-ranging applications. The European Chamber of Commerce in China raised concern that the “broad scope, vague language and wide discretion” of the rules went far beyond similar statutes in the West. Amid the US...

- [Tim Cook to step down as Apple CEO, handing reins to firm’s hardware leader](#) (2026-04-20 21:36)

Apple CEO Tim Cook is stepping down from the job that he inherited from the late Steve Jobs, ending a nearly 15-year reign that saw the company’s market value soar by more than US\$3.6 trillion during an iPhone-fuelled era of prosperity. Cook, 65, will turn the CEO duties over to Apple’s head of hardware engineering, John Ternus, on September 1 while remaining involved with the Cupertino, California, company as executive chairman. That is similar to the transitions made by Amazon’s Jeff Bezos and...

- [How new US-Indonesia defence pact sharpens China’s ‘Malacca dilemma’](#) (2026-04-20 21:30)

Indonesia says it is not choosing sides. That is true in diplomacy. It is less true on the map. The “major defence cooperation partnership” announced by Washington and Jakarta on April 13 is written in the safe language of official communiqués: capacity building, education, exercises, cooperation. But the harder meaning lies beneath the phrasing. The most important line in this new defence partnership is not the reassuring one about “peace and stability”. It is the one about “maritime,...

- [China ‘has to be involved’ in new nuclear arms control talks, US senator urges](#) (2026-04-20 20:55)

China “has to be involved” in nuclear arms control talks, while the US must step up its nuclear modernisation, including deploying more bombers, a senator responsible for overseeing American strategic forces said on Monday. “We need to be able to have a verifiable [treaty] and ensure accountability under treaties, and have them enforced with Russia and with China,” said Deb Fischer, a Nebraska Republican and chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee’s strategic forces subcommittee. The US has...

- [Canadian tourist killed, 6 people injured in shooting at Mexico archaeological site](#) (2026-04-20 20:42)

A Canadian woman was shot dead and four other people were injured by a gunman on Monday at Mexico’s famed Teotihuacan archaeological site, authorities said. The gunman killed himself

after opening fire at the popular tourist destination, home to pre-Aztec pyramids, said Cristobal Castaneda, the security secretary for Mexico state, where the site is located. Videos on social media show the gunman firing periodic shots from halfway up the Pyramid of the Moon while tourists take cover behind...

- [Cuba confirms recent ‘respectful’ talks with visiting US delegation](#) (2026-04-20 19:54)

A senior Cuban diplomat on Monday confirmed recent talks in Havana with US officials, as the communist-led island faces a deep crisis over US President Donald Trump’s pressure campaign. “I can confirm that a meeting between delegations from Cuba and the United States was recently held here in Cuba,” Alejandro Garcia, the foreign ministry’s director of Cuba-US affairs, told the Communist Party newspaper Granma. Garcia said the negotiators included assistant secretaries from the US State...

- [1 dead, 6 hurt as trolleybus crashes into supermarket in Austria](#) (2026-04-20 19:05)

One person died and six were injured on Monday after a trolleybus veered off the road and crashed into a supermarket in Salzburg, Austria’s Red Cross said. “One person died despite attempts to resuscitate,” a Red Cross spokeswoman told Agence France-Presse. Police said a 55-year-old passer-by was so seriously injured that he died at the scene of the accident. They said the driver and five passengers were injured, while the Red Cross said a total of seven people were injured, two of them...

- [2 dead after planned fight between young people escalates to a shooting in North Carolina](#) (2026-04-20 18:54)

A planned fight among young people escalated into a shooting at a North Carolina park on Monday morning that left two teenage boys dead and five other people injured, authorities said. Winston-Salem police captain Kevin Burns said a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old died at the scene after being shot at around 10am at Leinbach Park, near a school. Five others between the ages of 14 and 19 were shot and suffered injuries ranging from critical to minor, Burns said at a news conference. Four of those...

- [Musician D4vd pleads not guilty to murder of 14-year-old girl](#) (2026-04-20 18:37)

David Burke, a 21-year-old musician known professionally as D4vd, pleaded not guilty on Monday to first-degree murder and other charges in the death of 14-year-old Celeste Rivas Hernandez, months after her dismembered body was found inside the boot of his Tesla in Hollywood. Burke was charged with murder with special circumstances of lying in wait, committing a crime for financial gain and murdering a witness in an investigation. He faces a maximum prison sentence of life without parole. Los...

- [Mother, 6 children killed in explosion and fire at rural Pennsylvania home](#) (2026-04-20 18:06)

An Amish woman and her six children ranging in age from three to 11 were killed in a swift-moving house fire after an explosion that shook nearby houses in rural north-central Pennsylvania, authorities said on Monday. Firefighters responding to a report of an explosion and fire at a home in Lamar Township in Clinton County near Mill Hall on Sunday morning said seven people were trapped, but they could not search the house engulfed in flames, Pennsylvania State Police said in a statement. All...

- [Turkey sentences 8 people to prison terms in deadly 2024 cable car accident](#) (2026-04-20 17:34)

A court in southern Turkey sentenced eight people on Monday to prison terms over a 2024 cable car accident in the coastal resort of Antalya that killed one passenger and injured seven. Four of the defendants were convicted of causing death and injury through negligence and were sentenced to seven-and-a-half years each, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported. The other four were sentenced to between three years and four months and five years for the same offence. In the April 12, 2024...

- [Starmer admits mistake in appointing Mandelson as US envoy but resists calls to resign](#) (2026-04-20 16:46)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer acknowledged Monday that he made the wrong judgment when he appointed Jeffrey Epstein's friend Peter Mandelson as UK ambassador to Washington but said he would not have done so if he had known Mandelson had failed security checks. Starmer faced a barrage of opposition calls to resign as he tried to explain why Mandelson was given the job despite failing security vetting for the UK's most important diplomatic post. Starmer brushed aside the demands, placing...

- [Elon Musk summoned in France to show up over deepfakes on X, Grok probe](#) (2026-04-20 15:52)

Elon Musk did not appear on Monday for a voluntary interview with Paris prosecutors, who had summoned the American tech billionaire over a probe into his social media platform X and AI chatbot Grok. Prosecutors said they had "taken note of the absence of the first people summoned", without mentioning Musk's name. The billionaire had dubbed the French authorities "retards" weeks earlier in a French-language X post. "The presence or absence [of the people summoned] is not an obstacle to continuing..."

- [FBI's Patel sues Atlantic for US\\$250 million, says drinking story 'is a lie'](#) (2026-04-20 15:11)

FBI Director Kash Patel filed a defamation lawsuit against the Atlantic and its reporter Sarah Fitzpatrick, following the publication of an article on Friday claiming the director had a drinking problem that could pose a threat to national security. The magazine's story, initially titled "Kash Patel's Erratic Behavior Could Cost Him His Job," cited more than two dozen anonymous sources expressing concern at Patel's "conspicuous inebriation and unexplained

absences” that “alarmed officials at...

- [40 Hong Kong tour groups safe after magnitude 7.5 quake strikes Japan](#) (2026-04-20 15:02)

Hong Kong travellers in Japan were reported safe by at least one major tour operator while the Immigration Department said it was closely monitoring the situation after a powerful earthquake struck off the country’ s northeast coast on Monday, triggering tsunami warnings. Steve Huen Kwok-chuen, executive director of EGL Tours, said the operator currently had about 40 tour groups in Japan, including three in the northeast and four in Hokkaido, areas covered by the alert. “All our customers are...

- [Teen driving Tesla arrested after knocking second vehicle through storefront](#) (2026-04-20 15:01)

Hong Kong police have arrested a 16-year-old garage worker for allegedly driving without a licence after he lost control of a Tesla car and crashed into a parked vehicle, pushing the latter through a property agency’ s storefront and leaving an employee injured. The force said on Monday that the teenager was believed to have been trying to drive the electric car out of the garage on Luk Mei Tsuen Road when he lost control and struck a seven-seater parked nearby. The boy had reportedly only...

- [Beyond Panama and Hormuz: 8 critical waterways under the global microscope](#) (2026-04-20 15:00)

First, it was the Panama Canal, then came the Strait of Hormuz. What could be next? America’ s actions in the two major shipping channels have grabbed headlines, and global attention is shifting to the strategic importance and potential risks of other critical trade waterways. Some of the chokepoints were examined in a US Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) investigation in March last year of unfavourable shipping conditions, signalling America’ s heightened focus on international routes and...

- [China’ s Huawei debuts AI glasses to challenge Meta, Alibaba and Rokid in crowded arena](#) (2026-04-20 14:00)

Huawei Technologies has launched its first artificial intelligence glasses, as the Shenzhen-based tech giant joins an intensifying battle with US leader Meta and domestic peers including Alibaba Group Holding and Rokid in smart eyewear. Priced from 2,499 yuan (US\$367), the new eyewear weighed just 35.5 grams and featured various AI functions ranging from voice interaction to payments, Huawei said in a launch event. Powered by Huawei’ s self-developed chip designed for eyewear, the glasses enable...

- [‘Hormuz moment’ could herald decline of US dominance: Citic Securities analysts](#) (2026-04-20 14:00)

With global attention fixed on the US and Iranian shipping blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and how many vessels have traversed the critically important waterway, a leading Chinese

investment bank has been calculating the long-term gains and losses and how they could rewrite the global economic order. The United States was on the horns of a dilemma over the threat that might herald an acceleration of Washington's strategic retreat and its increasingly transactional relationships with other...

- [Hong Kong watchdog warns of undeclared gluten in Marks and Spencer yoghurt](#) (2026-04-20 13:49)

Hong Kong's food safety watchdog has urged people with gluten allergies not to eat a Marks & Spencer yoghurt product after the allergen was found but not declared on the label. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) said on Monday night it was investigating the omission of gluten from the ingredients list of the supermarket's authentic vanilla Greek yoghurt product. The affected batch, imported by Alf Retail Hong Kong Limited, is sold in 500g (18oz) packs with a use-by date of May 12. "The CFS noticed...

- [Bulgaria's pro-Kremlin ex-president wins election, Russia and EU welcome victory](#) (2026-04-20 13:25)

Pro-Russian former President Rumen Radev has won Bulgaria's parliamentary election by a landslide, official results showed on Monday, crushing long-dominant political forces and possibly pushing the EU and Nato member state closer to Moscow. The performance, exceeding opinion poll forecasts, is one of the strongest results for a single party in a generation and may end, for now, the chronic instability that led to eight elections in five years. Radev's Progressive Bulgaria party had 44.7 per...

- [Consider Beijing's 10-point plan, Taiwan business leaders urge ruling DPP](#) (2026-04-20 13:15)

Several Taiwan business leaders on Monday urged the island's government to consider Beijing's new plan for boosting cross-strait exchanges, arguing it could ease pressure on struggling sectors. In response, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party accused industry groups of helping mainland China "use business to pressure politics". "There is no pressure from Beijing. None of us received calls from Beijing," said Hsu Shu-po, chairman of the Taipei-based General Chamber of Commerce. "On the...

- [Chinese tech giants advance robotics push as sector sees rapid growth](#) (2026-04-20 13:00)

Chinese Big Tech firms from Huawei Technologies' spin-off Honor to Alibaba Group Holding are moving to the forefront of the country's robotics push as Beijing seeks to spur growth in the sector. Honor, which separated from Huawei in 2020 to focus on smartphones and wearables and only expanded into robotics last year, emerged as the surprise gold medal winner at the second Beijing humanoid half-marathon on Sunday, besting the country's robotics darlings from Unitree to X-Humanoid. Its Lightning...

- [As the Hormuz crisis exposes ‘fragile’ global supply chains, how will China respond?](#)  
(2026-04-20 13:00)

The chief of China’s top economic planner has outlined strategies and priorities to safeguard economic security, as Beijing reassesses its preparedness and vulnerabilities amid disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz during the US-Israeli war on Iran. Zheng Shanjie, head of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), warned external risks were mounting and said China had to reinforce its strategic reserves and response capabilities. “The evolution of the international situation is...

- [Vote rigging at Wang Fuk Court went unchecked before deadly fire, inquiry hears](#)  
(2026-04-20 12:30)

A public inquiry into Hong Kong’s deadliest fire in decades has heard that authorities and representatives of Wang Fuk Court homeowners took no proactive steps against alleged vote rigging at the subsidised housing estate. Jason Kong Cheung-fat, a former management committee member of the owners’ corporation at Wang Fuk Court, said on Monday that the abuse of proxy votes was a long-standing problem that had enabled his predecessors to maintain a firm grip on power until they were ousted over a...

- [Why Spain’s outreach to China offers a viable model for Europe](#) (2026-04-20 12:30)

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez’s fourth visit to Beijing in four years has once again drawn attention across Europe and the Atlantic, but perhaps less scepticism than before. In an era marked by intensifying US-China rivalry, geopolitical fragmentation and the European Union’s emphasis on “de-risking”, Spain’s sustained engagement with China is often seen as a strategic divergence from Brussels. That reading, however, underestimates both Spain’s intentions and the broader shift under way...

- [China threatens EU firms over cybersecurity plans targeting Chinese companies](#)  
(2026-04-20 12:01)

China will hit EU firms with reciprocal measures if the bloc targets Chinese firms as planned under its proposed cybersecurity regulations, Beijing has warned. In a 30-page document submitted to the European Commission on Friday, China’s commerce ministry explicitly warned that broad retaliation was on the table if firms such as Huawei and ZTE were penalised by the law, which was announced in January but is still in draft form. “If the EU designates China as a ‘country posing cybersecurity...

- [Hong Kong’s Northern Metropolis gains momentum as key project attracts 8 bids](#)  
(2026-04-20 12:00)

Hong Kong’s MTR Corporation said on Monday that it had received eight bids for a commercial and residential development at one of the critical hubs in the Northern Metropolis, a large-scale project that aims to bolster the city’s economic base and foster closer integration with the Greater Bay Area. The number of bids for the Kam Sheung Road Station Phase Two

property development exceeded expectations, indicating developers' interest in the NorthernMetropolis project, according to analysts. The...

- [Pope Leo criticises exploitation by world's 'authoritarians' during Angola trip](#)  
(2026-04-20 11:55)

Pope Leo lamented during an event in Angola on Monday that many people in the world were being “exploited by authoritarians and defrauded by the rich”, the latest example of a forceful new speaking style he has adopted on his four-nation Africa tour. The first US pope, who has drawn the ire of President Donald Trump with his more outspoken comments, told worshippers at a Mass in Saurimo, near the Democratic Republic of Congo border, that violence and oppression went against the Christian...

- [South Korea-US tensions flare over 'intelligence leak' claims, Pyongyang policy](#)  
(2026-04-20 11:30)

A reported US pullback in intelligence-sharing with South Korea has exposed a new trust gap between the allies after Unification Minister Chung Dong-young publicly mentioned a suspected North Korean uranium-enrichment site. Washington viewed Chung's remark as disclosing sensitive information about Kusong – a site long discussed in outside analyses, but not previously identified publicly by a South Korean official in such terms – and responded by reducing the intelligence it shared with Seoul,...

- [Mainland Chinese to make 980,000 inbound trips to Hong Kong for Labour Day break](#)  
(2026-04-20 11:12)

The number of inbound trips to Hong Kong by mainland Chinese visitors is expected to reach 980,000 for the coming Labour Day “golden week” holiday across the border, a 7 per cent increase from last year, with city authorities saying they will enforce environmental regulations around the clock at popular camping spots. The estimate from the Immigration Department on Monday came as the government revealed it had stepped up measures for crowd control, transport and tourism in anticipation of a...

- [Chow Yun-fat nets 91% gain on Hong Kong flat after 31 years as prices rebound](#)  
(2026-04-20 11:00)

Chow Yun-fat, the legendary Hong Kong actor, has sold a Mid-Levels flat after more than three decades, securing a roughly 91 per cent gain, as the city's secondary housing market continues to strengthen. The 541 sq ft, three-bedroom flat in Corona Tower fetched HK\$7.5 million (US\$960,000), or HK\$13,863 per square foot. The sale agreement was signed on February 11 and the transaction was registered on March 11, according to Land Registry records. The deal generated a gain of HK\$3.58 million...

- [ByteDance profit plunges on AI push as TikTok Shop powers overseas growth: reports](#)  
(2026-04-20 11:00)

ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok and Douyin, saw its net profit plummet by more than 70 per cent in 2025 as it poured money into artificial intelligence, according to Chinese media reports. At the same time, revenue from overseas markets surged by nearly 50 per cent, far outpacing the roughly 20 per cent growth in China, according to reports on Monday by outlets including Securities Times and 36Kr, which cited a person familiar with the matter. For the first time, overseas revenue...

- [Philippine army kills at least 10 Maoist rebels during battles on Negros](#) (2026-04-20 10:56)

Government forces in the central Philippines have killed at least 10 Maoist guerrillas in several gun battles, the military said on Monday, in a deadly flare-up of the decades-old insurgency. Troops were fighting “remnants” of the New People’s Army (NPA) rebel group on Sunday near the municipality of Toboso on Negros island, the regional military command said. The exact number of dead rebels was uncertain, with Philippine Army spokesman Colonel Louie Dema-ala in Manila saying as many as 19 might...

- [Hong Kong launches AI flood alert system to boost forecasting and response](#) (2026-04-20 10:37)

Hong Kong authorities have developed an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven flood forecasting and alert system capable of three-dimensional simulations, aimed at enabling more timely pre-emptive measures and emergency responses to flooding. The technology is the latest addition to the existing territory-wide flood risk visualisation system, which was deployed during Super Typhoon Ragasa last year. “This is to foster Hong Kong as a future-facing and climate-resilient city,” Ringo Mok Wing-cheong,...

- [China’s Xi Jinping says Strait of Hormuz should be open in call with Saudi crown prince](#) (2026-04-20 10:36)

The Strait of Hormuz should remain open, Chinese President Xi Jinping has said in a phone call with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, according to state broadcaster CCTV. It was the first time the Chinese leader had called for the reopening of the strategically vital waterway, which has been repeatedly blockaded since US-Israeli strikes on Iran began on February 28. “The Strait of Hormuz should remain open for normal passage, which aligns with the common interest of countries in...

- [Russia arrests German woman over bomb plot it says is linked to Ukraine](#) (2026-04-20 10:29)

Russia said on Monday it had arrested a German woman found with a home-made bomb in her backpack in what it alleged was a Ukrainian-hatched plot to blow up a security services facility in the south. Russia has arrested dozens of people throughout the four-year war, mostly its own citizens, on allegations of working for Ukraine to carry out sabotage attacks. There has been a string of high-profile arrests of Western citizens since Moscow ordered its troops into Ukraine – typically on espionage...

- [US-Iran talks in the air as high-seas ship seizure reignites Hormuz tensions](#) (2026-04-20 10:16)

Pakistan moved ahead on Monday with preparations for a new round of talks between the United States and Iran days before a tenuous ceasefire is set to expire, even as renewed conflict around the Strait of Hormuz raised questions about whether the meeting would take place. Over the weekend, the US attacked and seized an Iranian-flagged cargo vessel, known as the *Touska*, that it said had tried to evade its blockade of Iranian ports. The US Navy ordered the ship to evacuate its engine room before...

- [India and China wall off border rows to focus on trade and security](#) (2026-04-20 10:12)

A cautious reset in India-China relations is taking root, according to analysts, with the two rivals increasingly walling off their border disputes from expanding cooperation on trade, security and multilateral diplomacy. The clearest marker yet came last week in New Delhi, where the two sides held their first-ever bilateral consultations focused exclusively on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Eurasian security bloc that also includes Russia, Iran, Pakistan and four Central Asian...

- [China ‘Superdad’ uses salary, loans to build ‘marathon Dream Home’ for 300 deprived kids](#) (2026-04-20 10:00)

A secondary teacher has been dubbed “China’s Superdad” for adopting nearly 300 parentless children over the past three decades. Bai Jian, 52, is a physical education (PE) teacher at Anshan No 2 Middle School, Liaoning province, northeastern China. He rents a big property to accommodate 20 to 30 children. Since 1995, at least 276 children have lived on the estate which is called Dream Home by Bai, the news outlet The Paper reported. Among the children have been orphans or others simply discarded...

- [What does the US and Iran’s ‘fight-talk’ dynamic mean before their ceasefire expires?](#) (2026-04-20 09:55)

Risks of conflict in the Gulf of Oman are rising after the US Navy fired on an Iranian-flagged cargo ship, though analysts say both Washington and Tehran have shown a reluctance to prolong the war. US President Donald Trump on Sunday confirmed that the guided-missile destroyer USS *Spruance* opened fire on the *Touska* after its crew reportedly ignored repeated orders to halt. The incident, occurring in the strategic waters connecting the Persian Gulf to the open sea via the Strait of Hormuz, marks...

- [‘Worst I’ve seen’: forest fires rage across Thailand, Mekong region](#) (2026-04-20 09:36)

Forest fires raging through Laos, Myanmar and Thailand have smothered large areas in dangerous smoke, leaving overstretched firefighters battling blazes and smog-choked communities looking to the skies for rain and their governments to fix a scourge that worsens each year. Dry season fires have brought a public health crisis to northern Thailand, including

Chiang Mai, as well as much of Laos and eastern Myanmar, as parched bush provides tinderbox conditions for wildfires. Some fires are also due...

- [Japan warship's Taiwan Strait voyage reignites China tensions](#) (2026-04-20 09:19)

China issued a “strong protest” after a Japanese destroyer, travelling to military exercises in the Philippines, passed through the Taiwan Strait on the anniversary of an 1895 treaty ceding the island to Japan. Friday’s voyage was a “deliberate provocation”, said Guo Jiakun, a spokesman for China’s foreign ministry. The 14-hour passage by the JS Ikazuchi “once again exposes the dangerous plot of some people in Japan to intervene militarily in the Taiwan Strait and undermine peace and stability...

- [China presses IMF for quota reform, better surveillance of advanced economies](#) (2026-04-20 09:05)

China’s central bank chief has urged the IMF to serve as a bulwark against “rising unilateralism”, at a time when escalating trade restrictions and an intensified Middle East conflict threaten energy and food security. The International Monetary Fund should “take a clear stand against protectionism and defend multilateralism”, People’s Bank of China governor Pan Gongsheng said in a statement to the fund’s International Monetary and Financial Committee, for its 53rd meeting, held on Thursday and...

- [Can a US-governed ‘Pax Silica’ hub turn Philippines into a chip powerhouse?](#) (2026-04-20 09:00)

The United States is planning to build an “economic security zone” in the Philippines to counter China’s dominance in critical technologies. The 4,000-acre (1,619-hectare) hi-tech industrial hub will reportedly be the first of its kind in the world, operating under US common law despite being on Philippine soil. Washington says it will be the first “AI-native investment acceleration hub” developed under the US-led Pax Silica initiative, a framework aimed at mobilising allied economies around...

- [Delays, rising costs hit Asia's trade as Gulf crisis spills beyond oil](#) (2026-04-20 08:36)

Malaysia’s busiest container port has started refusing Middle East-bound cargo unless shipping lines can guarantee prompt pickup, in one of the clearest signs yet that the Gulf crisis is working its way past oil and into the everyday trade that moves across Asia. Longer transit times, missed sailings and sharply higher insurance premiums are now rippling across the region’s logistics chain, with wine, spirits and other time-sensitive goods acting as an early indicator of disruption that analysts...

- [Why Hong Kong property recovery sceptics miss the bigger picture](#) (2026-04-20 08:30)

Hong Kong’s real estate market has come a long way in the past year. For a sign of the extent to which its outlook has improved, look no further than the rapid shift in expectations for the growth in house prices this year. As recently as January, Morgan Stanley characterised its

prediction of a 10 per cent rise in secondary home values as a non-consensus call. Fast forward to today, and its forecast is in line with those of most other industry experts. The outlook for the city's office market...

- [Tsunami warning issued in Japan after magnitude-7.5 quake hits northeast](#) (2026-04-20 08:12)

A tsunami warning was issued for parts of northeast and northern Japan on Monday after a magnitude-7.5 earthquake struck off the Sanriku Coast, sending residents to higher ground and boats out to sea as memories of the 2011 disaster resurfaced. Live television footage showed fishing boats and coastal vessels leaving ports along Japan's northeast coast to avoid incoming waves, while broadcasters urged people in low-lying areas to evacuate immediately to safer ground. In Hokkaido, Makoto Watanabe,...

- [China's trade with Iran, Gulf states plunges as Strait of Hormuz crisis hits energy flows](#) (2026-04-20 08:06)

China's trade with Iran and Gulf countries fell sharply in March as restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz tightened amid the US-Israeli war on Iran. Newly released data by Chinese customs showed imports from Iran plunged 48 per cent year on year last month, while exports to the country dropped 90 per cent. Across the broader Middle East, exports to eight Persian Gulf economies – including Saudi Arabia and Qatar – fell by 57 per cent, while imports declined by nearly 33 per cent. The disruption...

- [Asian financial bodies sound alert on Anthropic's Mythos AI hacker](#) (2026-04-20 07:47)

Regulators across Asia are stepping up scrutiny of cybersecurity risks in their financial systems, as concerns over Anthropic's latest AI model Mythos spread. Singapore's financial regulator is urging banks to plug holes, while South Korea's government agencies have met to review and discuss how to respond to the risks. In Australia, authorities expect lenders to be vigilant to ensure clients are not put at risk by inadequate controls. The actions around the region reflect rising global concern...

- [ESF administrator jailed for 25 months for accepting bribes to favour applicants](#) (2026-04-20 07:43)

A former kindergarten administrator at Hong Kong's biggest international school group has been sentenced to 25 months in jail for accepting more than HK\$640,000 (US\$81,700) in bribes from 13 parents and a middleman to tamper with the admissions system. Fatima Rumjahn, 56, earlier admitted to accepting bribes ranging from HK\$20,000 to HK\$200,000 from parents eager to secure enrolment for their children at the English Schools Foundation's (ESF) Wu Kai Sha International Kindergarten. At Monday's...

- [Hong Kong launches SkyCity marina project to drive tourism and yacht economy](#) (2026-04-20 07:16)

Hong Kong's Airport Authority has launched its marina project as part of the broader SkyCity blueprint, seeking global interest from the yachting, hospitality and water sports sectors to help shape the 200-hectare (494 acres) development, with the first phase scheduled for completion in 2028. Cissy Chan Ching-sze, the authority's commercial executive director, said on Monday that the development – a key component of the Skytopia project – is aimed at a global yachting market expected to reach...

- [Vietnam and Philippines trust Japan. Why doesn't Indonesia?](#) (2026-04-20 07:02)

For Southeast Asia, trust in Japan runs deepest where China presses hardest and breaks down where neutrality is a point of pride. Analysts say that dynamic, revealed in an annual survey released earlier this month, explains why Vietnam and the Philippines both see the East Asian nation as a trusted partner while Indonesia, a country that has long prized non-alignment, is uncomfortable with Tokyo's deepening embrace of Washington. Trust in Tokyo is highest in the Philippines (77.3 per cent),...

- [Is Malacca Strait at risk from Hormuz 'chain reaction' after warning from Iranian adviser?](#) (2026-04-20 07:00)

Any "mischief" in the Strait of Hormuz would trigger "a chain-reaction response" in more critical shipping lanes, including the Malacca Strait in Southeast Asia, an adviser to the Iranian supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, has warned. The warning from Ali Akbar Velayati, international affairs adviser to Khamenei, came hours after Iran declared another full closure of Hormuz – days before a fragile ceasefire with the US was due to expire. "The era of imposing security from across the oceans has...

- [Pfizer, Amgen among 22 strategic firms eyeing Hong Kong expansion: source](#) (2026-04-20 06:58)

Global drug maker Pfizer and biotech firm Amgen, each valued at more than HK\$1 trillion (US\$153 billion), are among 22 strategic enterprises planning to open or expand offices in Hong Kong, the South China Morning Post has learned. A source said on Monday that these industry leaders were among companies from the fintech, cloud computing and aerial transport sectors set to sign agreements with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises. The coming influx of companies will mark the sixth...

- [Second cancer shock for Hong Kong actress Kristal Tin. How does disease strike?](#) (2026-04-20 06:44)

Hong Kong artiste Kristal Tin Yui-lee has revealed on social media that cancer cells were found in her lymph nodes, more than a year after being diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer, drawing renewed attention to the disease. A former leading actress at TVB after starting her career at the now defunct ATV, the 48-year-old has shifted her focus in recent years to screenplays and online media. She won the best lead actress award in 2024 for her role as a wife in Big Divorce Day, a theatre...

- [Indonesian rights body says soldiers killed 12 civilians in Papua. Military denies claim](#) (2026-04-20 06:17)

Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission strongly criticised the military on Monday as it investigated the killing of 12 civilians last week during an operation against rebels in Papua province. The military said it had no information about the deaths, but the state-run rights commission said over the weekend that 12 people including women and children had been shot dead during an operation against separatists in central Papua on Tuesday. Dozens of others sustained serious injuries, it...

- [China's armed police mull riot control without human contact at all](#) (2026-04-20 06:00)

A new study from mainland China's internal security forces offers a glimpse into a future where urban unrest is managed by autonomous machines instead of police in riot gear. In a scenario laid out by engineering experts from the People's Armed Police Force (PAP), a crowd – incited by rumours following a military takeover of a large city – gathers in a central square to assault key government installations. Their protest meets a swift response: roadblocks are suddenly deployed, cutting off their...

- [China influencer builds house for girl who claims to be raising sisters alone amid family drama](#) (2026-04-20 06:00)

A Chinese influencer helped a girl who claimed to be raising her sisters alone in a remote village, only to later discover that some of her hardships were exaggerated. Super Btai, whose real name is Chen Jiajun, is famed for exposing scams and supporting vulnerable communities. He has more than 25 million followers on mainland social media. Earlier this year, Chen met 18-year-old Aji in the mountainous province of Guizhou, in southwestern China. Aji told him she was raising two younger sisters...

- [China's Hesai adds colour to lidar as EV makers race to level up in self-driving tech](#) (2026-04-20 05:15)

Hesai Group, the world's largest maker of vehicle lidar sensors, introduced technology it said would raise autonomous driving features to a new level by detecting colour to improve the reliability of object identification. The Shanghai-based maker of light-detection and ranging sensors said its 6D full-colour platform would deliver lidar sensors with world-leading capabilities in ranging and small-target identification. 6D refers to the sensors' ability to detect the X, Y and Z coordinates of...

- [Body of 32-year-old man found floating off Hong Kong park](#) (2026-04-20 05:03)

A 32-year-old man was found dead after being spotted floating in waters off a Hong Kong park, with police saying he had a record of mental illness. The force received a report at 6.37am on Monday that the body was floating two to three metres offshore near Tsing Yi Northeast Park on Tam Kon Shan Road. Firefighters recovered the man who was pronounced dead at the scene.

The cause of death will be determined after an autopsy. No suicide note was found at the scene. If you have suicidal thoughts or...

- [Asia growth forecasts slashed as Iran war and tariffs threaten supply chains](#) (2026-04-20 05:00)

Asia-Pacific economies are likely to suffer a slowdown in growth this year, as rising costs linked to the US-Israel war on Iran combine with lingering trade uncertainty to threaten global trade flows, according to forecasts by top international organisations. The predictions come despite China showing resilience in the first quarter by posting better-than-expected growth of 5 per cent and finance minister Lan Foan last week stressing that the world's second-largest economy would remain an engine...

- [Iran's lesson for China, record-breaking Hong Kong Sevens: 5 weekend reads you missed](#) (2026-04-20 04:59)

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. Lesson for China? Iran's low-cost 358 missile takes out million-dollar US assets 2. Hong Kong Sevens: Blitzboks win first title, Black Ferns go unbeaten again 3. The rupture: how Europe fell out of love with America 4. Closed? Open? Closed? Why is Iran changing course on the Strait of...

- [New Zealand declares emergency in Wellington as record rainfall triggers flash floods](#) (2026-04-20 04:26)

Residents in low-lying areas of New Zealand's capital city Wellington were urged to evacuate on Monday, as heavy rain continued to drench the city, which experienced flash flooding overnight. A state of emergency was declared for the region on Monday afternoon, while weather forecaster MetService upgraded its heavy rain warning to red, the highest level, which indicates a threat to life from dangerous river conditions, significant flooding and slips. Mayor Andrew Little told state-owned Radio...

- [Japan to focus on lunar rover after US halts moon space station](#) (2026-04-20 04:00)

A US move to freeze the Lunar Gateway orbiting space station could render Japan's new technologies redundant – but its space agency is expected to be diplomatic in its response. The gateway project was initially planned as an installation that would orbit the moon as part of the United States' Artemis programme, which recently made headlines for a record-breaking journey that went deeper into space than anyone had ever flown before. Artemis' aim is to return astronauts to the moon's surface for...

- [Low-cost 'paper antenna' paves way for large-scale 5G upgrade on Chinese warships: study](#) (2026-04-20 04:00)

Chinese researchers have developed a flexible 5G millimetre-wave antenna made from photo paper which they say slashes material costs by more than 95 per cent, potentially removing a key barrier to large-scale naval 5G adoption. They described a paper-based flexible multiple input multiple output (MIMO) antenna engineered specifically for shipborne 5G communications in a study published in the peer-reviewed Chinese Journal of Ship Research and led by Yang Wendong of Liaoning Technical...

- [Tai Po fire probe: member alleges rigged proxy votes in management committee election](#) (2026-04-20 03:46)

This story has been made freely available as a public service to our readers. Please consider supporting SCMP's journalism by subscribing. An inquiry into Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades will commence its third set of public evidential hearings on Monday. The sole witness to testify on the day, Kong Cheung-fat, was re-elected into the owners' corporation management committee as a member in September in 2024, when chairman Tang Kwok-kuen was voted out and replaced by Tony Tsui...

- [Iran war escalates as Houthis threaten to sever Saudi oil exports](#) (2026-04-20 03:42)

Yemen's Tehran-aligned Houthi movement has threatened to besiege a second key Middle East waterway as Iran launched drone attacks against US Navy vessels in the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend after a diplomatic effort to end the war appeared to collapse. A closure of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean, would effectively sever Saudi Arabia's only remaining oil export route. The kingdom has been shipping up to 7 million barrels of crude per day through the...

- [In turbulent times, will Hong Kong be a safe haven?](#) (2026-04-20 02:45)
- [How Sanae Takaichi is redefining Japanese diplomacy with personal touches](#) (2026-04-20 02:40)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has been putting her own spin on omotenashi, the Japanese concept of hospitality, to build personal rapport with foreign leaders as her diplomatic skills are put to the test about six months into office. Takaichi, Japan's first female prime minister, who was not widely known for her diplomatic experience before taking office, has been adding an element of entertainment to summit talks and relying on personal gifts to win over her counterparts. Most...

- [‘It feels complicated’ : Wang Fuk Court residents return home to bid last farewell](#) (2026-04-20 02:35)

About 270 residents of Hong Kong's fire-ravaged Wang Fuk Court are returning to their flats on Monday to pack their belongings, nearly five months after the deadly blaze, with authorities deploying more than 1,000 staff to assist them. Deputy Chief Secretary Warner Cheuk Wing-hing said 269 residents from 78 households in Wang Sun House would return to their flats in two phases. "If conditions allow, residents can visit their flats more than once," Cheuk told a

press briefing, adding that those...

- [Hong Kong reasserts role as safe haven in global finance amid Middle East turmoil](#) (2026-04-20 02:30)

The US-Israeli war on Iran has unleashed sharp swings across global energy and financial markets, fuelling demand for safe-haven assets, with Hong Kong emerging as a potential beneficiary across gold, property and capital markets. In the third of a three-part series, we look at Hong Kong's position as a stable base where demand for property has held firm despite the global turmoil. The seven-week military conflict in the Middle East will redefine Hong Kong's role as a global financial centre,...

- [Singapore tycoon sues banks for US\\$1 billion from collapse of Australian NewSat](#) (2026-04-20 02:02)

In the early 2010s, a small Australian company tried to build a fleet of satellites before lenders, concerned about its chief executive officer's flamboyant behaviour, pulled hundreds of millions of dollars of financing. The firm collapsed in 2015. More than a decade later, Singapore real estate tycoon Ching Chiat Kwong, who says he put US\$100 million of his own money into NewSat, has not forgotten. The Supreme Court of Victoria begins hearing a case on Monday brought by the liquidators of the...

- [China's C919 sees delivery delays in 2026, with 3 units shipped in 3 months](#) (2026-04-20 02:00)

Deliveries of China's home-grown C919 narrowbody airliner, billed to challenge mainstream models from Boeing and Airbus, appear to be delayed, with only three units shipped to Chinese carriers in the first quarter of 2026. Observers point to several factors holding back the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac). While some C919s are said to be stuck on the tarmac waiting for engines, analysts also say prioritising quality over speed is the right bet for the planemaker. Only three C919...

- [South Korea targets India, Vietnam in 'co-prosperity' push for trade and tech](#) (2026-04-20 01:30)

Bolstering strategic partnerships and economic ties will be high on the agenda during South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's six-day trip to India and Vietnam, as Seoul seeks to expand cooperation with the Global South amid the Middle East turmoil. Lee, who arrived in New Delhi on Sunday, is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, business leaders and Korean expatriates before concluding the visit on Tuesday. National security adviser Wi Sung-rak said South Korea will "comprehensively...

- [Why the Northern Metropolis needs more than one big push](#) (2026-04-20 01:30)

Hong Kong's government is under mounting pressure to deliver the Northern Metropolis, announced in 2021, as it approaches the end of its term – less than 15 months and counting.

The megaproject, to turn 30,000 hectares (74,132 acres) near the border with mainland China into a centre of international innovation and technology, is to be an engine to drive the city's economic growth and housing – and the gem of its economic integration with the mainland. We are pressed for time. Beijing has long...

- [China woman returns to hometown to raise 60,000 venomous snakes, earns US\\$146,000 annually](#) (2026-04-20 01:00)

A young Chinese woman who returned to her hometown to raise more than 60,000 venomous snakes and earns more than a million yuan (US\$147,000) a year has caused astonishment online. The woman, surnamed Qin, was born in 1995 and hails from Guilin in Guangxi province, southern China. Two years after graduating from university, she returned to her village to help her father raise snakes. She now manages more than 60,000 reptiles, including over 50,000 five-step snakes, a highly venomous species of...

- [20 Hong Kong couples get triple baby bonus of HK\\$60,000 each but disbursement lags](#) (2026-04-20 00:30)

Twenty Hong Kong couples have each received baby bonuses totalling HK\$60,000 (US\$7,700) for having three children in about 2½ years. Yet less than 60 per cent of the HK\$2.28 billion earmarked for the three-year government scheme has been disbursed as of February, with just over six months to go before it ends in October. Government figures showed the city's registered birth rate in the first two months of this year dropped by 20 per cent compared with the same period in 2025. A youth group...

- [Toys 'R' Us game-changer: 'kidults', compact shops fuel pivot as Hong Kong retail evolves](#) (2026-04-20 00:30)

Hong Kong-headquartered Toys 'R' Us Asia has pivoted to an experience-focused format and smaller stores in the city following an expansion programme that sought to increase its outlets as it navigates the changing retail landscape. The group planned to close the year with 20 stores in Hong Kong, representing a 40 per cent rise from 2025, said Leo Tsoi, CEO of the toys and collectibles retailer. The strategy allows the group to be more nimble and adapt to the demographic shift, as toys and...

- [China warns strong El Nino this year may worsen global fossil fuel crisis](#) (2026-04-20 00:00)

This year's El Nino could increase the global demand for fossil fuels and worsen the price rises caused by the Iran crisis, Chinese government scientists have said. The climate phenomenon happens every two to seven years and causes an increase in average global temperatures. A strong El Nino can bring either droughts or torrential rains and flooding, both of which may force hydropower stations to reduce their output or shut down entirely – increasing the need for other power sources, including...

- [Asia's EV revolution shifts into overdrive with Iran war oil shock](#) (2026-04-20 00:00)

Across Asia, a revolution in how people move was already gathering speed. War in Iran just hit the accelerator. Prashant Tiwari was among the first people at his company to go electric when he swapped his petrol car for a Hyundai Kona five years ago. Now, his colleagues at Fusemachines Nepal – an AI firm in Kathmandu – are calling him a prophet. “They say you don’t have any problem,” the 36-year-old product manager said. “I think it is foolish to buy a petrol-run car now, and everyone generally...

- [Woman charged in US with trafficking arms to Sudan for Iranian government](#) (2026-04-19 22:38)

US federal prosecutors said on Sunday an Iranian national was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport for allegedly trafficking arms to Sudan on behalf of Tehran. Shamim Mafi, 44, is charged with “brokering the sale of drones, bombs, bomb fuses and millions of rounds of ammunition manufactured by Iran and sold to Sudan”, US Attorney Bill Essayli wrote in a social media post. A resident of the Los Angeles suburb of Woodland Hills, Mafi “is an Iranian national who became a lawful permanent...

- [‘Saying you’ re a geopolitical actor doesn’ t make it so’ : Sven Biscop on Europe](#) (2026-04-19 22:00)

Sven Biscop is a Belgian political scientist and strategist specialising in the foreign affairs and security of the EU and its relations with great powers. He is a director at the Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations in Brussels and a professor at Ghent University. He is also a senior research fellow at Renmin University in Beijing, where he teaches in the summer. Biscop is the author of many books, including 2024’ s This Is Not a New World Order: Europe Rediscovered Geopolitics,...

- [Why Hong Kong is hitting pause on basketball betting](#) (2026-04-19 21:30)

Many Hongkongers would have been surprised last week that the government was postponing the introduction of basketball betting. It was only months ago that the bill had been enacted by the Legislative Council. So clearly it was a matter that fell within our high degree of autonomy. And the Hong Kong Jockey Club was known to be hard at work preparing for implementation. But listeners to RTHK’ s Backchat programme in early February may have come away with an inkling that all might not be well....

- [Israel says military to use ‘full force’ in Lebanon despite truce if soldiers face threat](#) (2026-04-19 20:35)

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Sunday that the military had been instructed to use “full force” in Lebanon – even during the continuing ceasefire – should Israeli troops face any threat. “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have instructed the IDF to act with full force, both on the ground and from the air, including during the ceasefire, in order to protect our soldiers in Lebanon from any threat,” Katz said at a function in the occupied West Bank. Later in the day, the army...

- [UK police investigating Iran link to arson attacks on Jewish sites in London](#) (2026-04-19 19:39)

UK police said on Sunday they are investigating whether a string of arson attacks on Jewish sites in London are the work of Iranian proxies, as the country's chief rabbi said British Jews are facing a campaign of violence and intimidation. The Metropolitan Police force says counterterrorism officers are investigating fires at synagogues and other sites linked to the Jewish community, as well as an attack on a Persian-language media company. No one has been injured in the blazes, the latest of which...

- [Canada's economic ties with US are a weakness that must be corrected, says Carney](#) (2026-04-19 18:55)

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a video address released on Sunday that Canada's strong economic ties to the United States were once a strength but are now a weakness that must be corrected. In the 10-minute address, Carney spoke about his government's efforts to strengthen the Canadian economy by attracting new investments and signing trade deals with other countries. "The world is more dangerous and divided," Carney said. "The US has fundamentally changed its approach to trade,..."

- [Pope Leo prays at Catholic shrine in Angola that was a centre of African slave trade](#) (2026-04-19 18:25)

Pope Leo on Sunday recalled the "sorrow and great suffering" Angolans endured for centuries, as the American pope prayed at a Catholic shrine located at the site of an important hub of the African slave trade during Portugal's colonial rule. Leo travelled to the Sanctuary of Mama Muxima, nestled in the Angolan savannahs of baobab trees at the edge of the Kwanza River. It became a major pilgrimage destination after believers reported an appearance by the Virgin Mary around 1833. But the Church of...

- [Allies back Starmer as Mandelson's Epstein links leave the UK leader fighting for his job](#) (2026-04-19 17:34)

Senior Cabinet ministers on Sunday rallied around UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, whose leadership is teetering over his decision to give Britain's most important diplomatic job to Peter Mandelson, a scandal-tarnished politician and friend of Jeffrey Epstein. Starmer will face restive lawmakers in Parliament on Monday to fight for his job after the explosive revelation that Mandelson was appointed ambassador to the United States despite failing security checks. Starmer says he is "furious" that...

- [8 children killed after shootings in Louisiana, police say](#) (2026-04-19 16:50)

A gunman in Louisiana killed eight children in domestic-related shootings at different homes early on Sunday, police in Shreveport said. The victims ranged in age from one to about 14 years old, said Shreveport police spokesman Chris Bordelon. A total of 10 people were shot. The

gunman later died after a chase with officers who fired at the suspect, Bordelon said. The suspect stole a car while leaving the scene of the shootings and was followed by police, according to Bordelon. Officials said...

- [Police patrol chief quits over ‘shameful’ response to Kyiv shooting](#) (2026-04-19 16:27)

The head of Ukraine’s police patrol, Yevhen Zhukov, has handed in his resignation after two police officers were seen fleeing the scene when a gunman opened fire in Kyiv, killing at least six. “As an officer with combat experience, I have decided to tender my resignation from my current post. I believe this is the right thing to do,” said the police general at a press conference in Kyiv on Sunday. It comes after an unknown gunman killed at least six people and injured more than a dozen others in...

- [Ciao UFO takes top prizes at Hong Kong Film Awards as Sons of the Neon Night glows](#) (2026-04-19 16:12)

Ciao UFO, a sci-fi drama inspired by a local urban legend of mysterious lights over a public housing estate, clinched the top honours at the 44th Hong Kong Film Awards on Sunday night, winning best film and best director for Patrick Leung Pak-kin. The dystopian crime thriller Sons of the Neon Night emerged as the biggest winner, taking home eight prizes out of 12 nominations. Among those sharing the limelight at the ceremony in the Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui was veteran Tony Leung Ka-fai,...

- [Is Japan’s treaty-day Taiwan Strait warship transit a new flashpoint with China?](#) (2026-04-19 15:55)

Tensions in East Asia reached a fresh peak with a Japanese warship’s transit of the Taiwan Strait on a historically freighted date for China. According to the PLA Eastern Theatre Command, the Japanese destroyer JS Ikazuchi spent 14 hours navigating the sensitive waterway on Friday, the anniversary of the 1895 Treaty of Shimonoseki or Treaty of Maguan, an unequal treaty that forced the then-ruling Qing dynasty administration to cede Taiwan to Japanese colonial rule. In a commentary on Saturday,...

- [US animal rights activists clash with police over Wisconsin dog breeder](#) (2026-04-19 14:44)

About 1,000 animal welfare activists who tried to gain entry on Saturday to a beagle breeding and research facility in Wisconsin were turned back by police who fired rubber bullets and pepper spray into the crowd and arrested the group’s leader. It was the second attempt in as many months by protesters to take beagles from the Ridgland Farms facility in Blue Mounds, a small town about 25 miles (about 40 kilometres) southwest of Wisconsin’s capital, Madison. Dane County Sheriff Calvin Barrett said...

- [Canada Research Chair chemist Janusz Pawliszyn joins Chinese university](#) (2026-04-19 14:00)

Janusz Pawliszyn, the 71-year-old recipient of the Chemical Institute of Canada's highest honour and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, has joined Guangzhou's Sun Yat-sen University, the institution announced on April 9. Pawliszyn has supervised more than 110 master's and doctoral students as well as nearly 200 postdoctoral students and visiting scholars, many of them from China. Ouyang Gangfeng was one of them. From 2004 to 2005, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Pawliszyn's laboratory. He...

- [North Korea launches ballistic missiles as UN warns of nuclear advances](#) (2026-04-19 13:54)

North Korea launched multiple short-range ballistic missiles towards the sea on Sunday, its neighbours said, days after the UN's nuclear watchdog warned that North Korea was making "very serious" advances in efforts to build nuclear weapons. The missiles fired from the North's Sinpo area flew about 140 kilometres (87 miles) each towards the country's eastern waters, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. It said South Korea maintains a readiness to repel any provocations by North Korea and is...

- [Hong Kong's spinal muscular atrophy patients seek aid for injection therapy](#) (2026-04-19 13:30)

Spinal muscular atrophy patients have urged the Hong Kong government to expand subsidised medicine options for adults to increase their chances for a better quality of life, with some saying their condition deteriorated after growing up without affordable care. Lui Man-lam, president of the Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association, said at a press conference on Sunday that while oral medicine subsidies for those aged 25 or above were rolled out early this year, adult patients still lacked...

- [Over 250 rare Han dynasty relics on display in major Hong Kong showcase](#) (2026-04-19 13:21)

A major exhibition featuring more than 250 sets of Han dynasty relics – most of which have never been displayed in Hong Kong – is offering a rare look into one of the most influential periods of Chinese history. The showcase, titled "The Majestic Han: A Golden Age of Vigour and Cultural Integration", is running at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui until September 20. Admission is free. The event is co-organised by the Development Bureau and the National Cultural Heritage...

- [Hong Kong homebuyers extend sell-out streak amid renewed confidence in market](#) (2026-04-19 13:10)

Hong Kong homebuyers' strong demand for new flats extended a streak of brisk sales for developers with one project selling out in a single day, underscoring the city's broader recovery in housing prices. All 88 units at the Pavilia Farm III project by New World Development and MTR Corporation in Sha Tin were sold on Saturday, prompting the developers to put 75 more flats on sale later that night. Elsewhere in Kai Tak, 133 units of KT Marina II were

snapped up over the weekend, according to...

- [How hydrogen could help China cut natural gas use and carbon emissions](#) (2026-04-19 13:00)

China has started work on a project to reduce natural gas consumption by blending it with hydrogen that will provide energy to 100,000 households. The project in Weifang in the eastern province of Shandong is first to be carried out on such a scale and forms part of the country's green energy push, an effort that is likely to gain further momentum in the wake of the current global energy crisis. It uses equipment capable of handling up to 30,000 cubic metres (1 million cubic feet) of...

- [Can Iran fiasco help China edge out US in key arena of Southeast Asia?](#) (2026-04-19 12:30)

Since America launched its “major combat operation” against Iran, several Nato allies have distanced themselves from Washington. Now America also risks losing ground in strategically important Southeast Asia to China. Could it face an erosion of influence similar to that suffered by Russia in Central Asia as a result of its “special military operation” in Ukraine? Soon after US President Donald Trump launched massive air and missile strikes on Iran on February 28, it became clear Washington...

- [How the PLA may use stealth drones in a swarming boat attack from Taiwan](#) (2026-04-19 12:00)

A Chinese military magazine has suggested that if Taiwan sends a swarm of uncrewed combat boats across the strait – a strategy inspired by Ukraine – Beijing could counter with its GJ-21 stealth attack drones. According to a commentary in Defence Review, the GJ-21 has long endurance and high manoeuvrability, which would give it a critical advantage against a “game changing” swarm attack by unmanned surface vessels. The GJ-21 – a naval variant of the GJ-11 Sharp Sword – is the world's first and...

- [Trump backs US\\$50 million investment for South Africa rare earths](#) (2026-04-19 11:48)

Two enormous sandlike dunes at an old chemical processing plant in South Africa are at the centre of an exploratory US-backed project to extract highly sought-after rare earth elements from industrial mining waste. The Phalaborwa Rare Earths Project has US support through a US\$50 million equity investment by the government's International Development Finance Corporation and is part of accelerated US efforts to reduce its reliance on China for the minerals crucial for making electronic devices,...

- [Hong Kong Sevens a treat for fans but local restaurants hungry for more trade](#) (2026-04-19 11:20)

The Hong Kong Sevens reached a high-octane finale on Sunday with costume-clad rugby fans filling the stands at Kai Tak Stadium, but some nearby restaurants said they struggled to match last year's takings, blaming an influx of new rivals for diluting profits. After two action-packed

days, the atmosphere on Super Sunday remained electric as a sea of excited spectators, some clad in creative and flamboyant costumes, filled the South Stand, with some experiencing the event for the first time at its...

- [China's 'land aircraft carrier' charges flying drone with microwave beam](#) (2026-04-19 11:00)

A vehicle that can zap energy into a fleet of drones, allowing them to fly indefinitely, is getting closer to becoming a battlefield reality. Scientists in China have demonstrated a wireless power transmission system that uses a ground-based microwave emitter to beam energy to an antenna array mounted on the aircraft's underside. Importantly, they were able to do this while both the drone and charging system were in motion. Some analysts have likened the concept to a "land-based aircraft...

- [Blaze in Malaysia's Sabah destroys 1,000 homes, displaces over 9,000](#) (2026-04-19 10:59)

Thousands of people have been displaced after a fire destroyed around 1,000 homes in a coastal village in Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island on Sunday, the fire department said. Authorities were notified of the fire in Sandakan district at around 1.32am, the district's fire and rescue chief Jimmy Lagung said in a statement. "Strong winds and the close proximity of the houses caused the fire to spread rapidly, while low tide conditions also made it difficult to obtain an open water...

- [Hong Kong urged to be more proactive in removing barriers with Shenzhen](#) (2026-04-19 10:13)

Hong Kong should take a more proactive approach to removing barriers hindering the cross-border flow of people, capital, goods and data with neighbouring Shenzhen, analysts have said, as the new leadership of the mainland China tech hub signals a fresh push for deeper integration. The calls for action followed the appointment of Jin Lei, an economist and former official in Sichuan province, as Shenzhen's Communist Party chief last month, succeeding Meng Fanli, who has since been named the...

- ['State-of-the-art' models can struggle with basic enterprise tasks: AI unicorn executive](#) (2026-04-19 10:00)

"State-of-the-art" (Sota) artificial intelligence models excel at solving complex Olympiad maths but still struggle with everyday enterprise tasks, according to an executive from a top AI unicorn in the US. David Meyer, senior vice-president of product at US data processing and analysis company Databricks, told the South China Morning Post in a recent interview that the very traits making models state-of-the-art could cause issues in basic office work. For instance, when tasked with identifying...

- [Tibetan 'Bathing Festival' sees people bathe in natural waters, socialise, seek romantic partners](#) (2026-04-19 10:00)

A traditional Tibetan Bathing Festival sees men and women of all ages bathing together in natural waters in a joyous tradition during which young people can meet potential romantic partners. Every year in early July of the Tibetan calendar, the festival, or Bathing Week, takes place across Tibet, from urban areas to rural villages. The traditional event, held along the banks of the Lhasa River, has a history stretching back between 700 and 800 years. It lasts for about a week, typically from the...

- [Corruption fuels mistrust in Bulgaria’ s eighth election in 5 years](#) (2026-04-19 09:41)

Bulgaria on Sunday held its eighth legislative election in five years, with ex-president Rumen Radev’ s grouping tipped to win on a pledge to fight corruption, after an anti-corruption movement triggered a long political crisis. The EU’ s poorest member has been through successive governments since 2021, when anti-corruption rallies ended the conservative administration of long-time leader Boyko Borissov. Radev, who has called for renewing ties with Russia and opposes military aid to Ukraine, was...

- [Iran keen on deal to end war but has higher ‘pain tolerance’ : think tank chief](#) (2026-04-19 09:00)

The economic toll of war is pushing Iran to find a resolution to the hostilities beyond its fragile two-week truce with the US, according to a Middle East-focused think tank leader and businessman who is familiar with the status of the negotiations. However, as the two long-time enemies tried to stare each other down, the Iranian regime believed that their country’ s “pain tolerance” was much higher than the Americans’ and this made it unlikely to blink first, he said. In an interview with the...

- [How Chinese drug makers are tackling Western dominance in US\\$16 billion Parkinson’ s race](#) (2026-04-19 09:00)

Chinese biomedical companies deploying cutting-edge technologies are emerging as serious competitors to Western dominance in the race to treat Parkinson’ s disease, in a market that could reach US\$16 billion over the next decade. The firms are developing a range of approaches – from autologous cell therapies made from a patient’ s own cells and ready-made cell products to gene therapies and non-invasive ultrasounds – although many of these candidates are still in early-stage trials. Many patients...

- [Hong Kong police deploy drones for first time to tackle illicit street gambling](#) (2026-04-19 08:54)

Hong Kong police have deployed drones for the first time to combat illegal street gambling operations, arresting eight suspects over the past two weeks. The eight suspects – seven men and a woman, aged between 53 and 76 – were arrested in Chung On Estate, police said on Sunday. Officers seized HK\$420 (US\$54) in cash and gambling equipment. The arrests followed a joint operation, codenamed JusticePeak, conducted between April 5 and 18 by officers from the Sha Tin and Ma On Shan police divisions...

- [AI is advancing. Now it's up to humans to redefine their worth](#) (2026-04-19 08:30)

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) powered by large language models presents a significant breakthrough. For the first time, humans are communicating with computers using language instructions. This has enabled the use of AI agents to perform intelligent tasks involving some degree of advanced reasoning and complex logic. Vibe coding – the use of AI for programming and software development by lay persons – empowers end-user application deployments. One-person companies using AI agents to...

- [Returning to a fire-ravaged home in Wang Fuk Court: what to prepare](#) (2026-04-19 08:23)

About 1,900 families who lived in Hong Kong's Wang Fuk Court will return in batches to their fire-ravaged homes from April 20. Nearly five months after the deadly blaze in Tai Po engulfed seven of the estate's eight buildings, the government arranged for residents to visit the devastated flats to collect their belongings and bid farewell to their homes. According to Deputy Chief Secretary Warner Cheuk Wing-hing, around 6,000 residents have booked slots to return, while 47 households opted out,...

- [More jobs for the elderly: Shanghai eyes senior labour force amid China demographic crisis](#) (2026-04-19 08:00)

Qiu has been scouring Shanghai's labour agencies for a job for her 58-year-old father – a former mechanic from neighbouring Jiangsu province caught in a frustrating limbo. While he is still years away from the official retirement age for rural migrants, his struggle to find work underscores a paradox in China's financial hub: even as the city desperately needs more workers to counter a shrinking population, ageing jobseekers are being met with high fees and physical exhaustion. His search...

- [Meet the Filipino vloggers finding financial freedom and defying stereotypes abroad](#) (2026-04-19 07:00)

Lea Albritton's mornings belong to the repair shop. Her afternoons belong to the camera. The 40-year-old from Leyte in the central Philippines has lived in the US state of Georgia since 2019 with her 62-year-old American husband, Timothy, running a recreational vehicle repair shop in the mornings. After lunch, she produces videos about Filipino food, migration advice for couples stuck in the fiancée visa queue and glimpses of domestic life for the 250,000 followers of her page, Pinay sa America...

- [Government should probe department heads 'cautiously' under new system: Regina Ip](#) (2026-04-19 06:09)

The Hong Kong government should use its proposed accountability system prudently to investigate department heads and avoid undermining morale among civil servants, a top adviser to the city's leader has said. But Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye, convenor of the city's top decision-making Executive Council, stressed on Sunday that the system would serve as a

reminder for leaders to actively spot deficiencies in their departments and “do better in handling residents’ complaints” . In a televised interview,...

- [Asia’ s supply chain strengths could give it edge over US in AI race: Granite Asia’ s Foo](#) (2026-04-19 06:00)

As the artificial intelligence race moves beyond language models into the physical world, Asia’ s manufacturing and supply chain strengths could give it an edge over the US, says Granite Asia’ s Jixun Foo. The veteran venture capitalist said the current wave of AI development, sparked by breakthroughs in foundation models over the past two years, had entered a new phase where physical applications – from robotics to industrial automation – were becoming increasingly important, playing to Asia’ s...

- [Quirky China: doctor removes worm from woman’ s brain, under-fire gamer dyes her skin black](#) (2026-04-19 06:00)

Surgeons in southern China have removed an 8cm-long worm from a woman’ s brain after she suffered from multiple mystery health problems. The 61-year-old had brain surgery at a hospital in Guangdong province in early April, the Shenzhen Evening News reported. Doctors said the existence of the parasite may have been due to an experience the woman had when she was young. She recalled that when she was a teenager, her mother caught a frog in the wild and inserted the croaker’ s leg into her tooth...

- [New firms with up to HK\\$100 billion market capitalisation to set up shop in Hong Kong](#) (2026-04-19 05:04)

Hong Kong is set to announce on Monday a new batch of “strategic enterprises” establishing a presence in the city, including several firms with market capitalisations of up to HK\$100 billion (US\$12.8 billion), the finance chief has revealed. Writing in his weekly blog on Sunday, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said the new partners were in high-growth sectors, including life and health technology, the low-altitude economy, artificial intelligence (AI), new energy materials and...

- [Stranded single dad and kind bike mechanic inspire Malaysia’ s generosity](#) (2026-04-19 04:53)

A single father is refusing to accept any more donations from Malaysians following a viral video that appeared to show him having difficulty finding money to pay a mechanic after his motorcycle broke down in Kuala Lumpur. According to Sinar Harian, the man known as Dicky Yau was touched by the concern shown by social media users who had offered to extend financial help to him after seeing the situation he was in. “I would like to thank everyone who sent private messages to offer help. However, I...

- [How a bear costume cost these luxury car insurance scamsters their freedom](#) (2026-04-19 04:35)

Three people in California have been sentenced for insurance fraud in a bizarre scam that involved someone dressed in a bear costume damaging luxury cars. The California Insurance Department said the three used a person in a bear suit to stage fake attacks inside a Rolls-Royce and two Mercedes in 2024, then submitted fraudulent claims seeking nearly US\$142,000 in payouts from insurance companies. The department called it “Operation Bear Claw”. Two Los Angeles-area men and a woman pleaded no...

- [‘No mood for work’ : veteran ship mechanic’ s future clouded by Aberdeen marina project](#) (2026-04-19 04:00)

David Chan\* is among the few remaining ship machinery maintenance masters at the Po Chong Wan temporary industrial area in Hong Kong’ s Aberdeen. Chan, in his seventies, entered the trade in the 1960s as an apprentice in Ap Lei Chau, an islet off Aberdeen, repairing propellers, gearboxes and other machinery on wooden fishing boats and cargo ships. At the time, the area was one of the city’ s four major fishing villages. After years of hard work, he went solo and relocated to the Po Chong Wan site...

- [BINI made history at Coachella. Can the Philippines build on it?](#) (2026-04-19 04:00)

The flags arrived before BINI did. They were already rippling across the Mojave Tent at Coachella in a sea of blue, red and white when the eight-member group took the stage on a recent Friday afternoon, carried by fans who had travelled across oceans and time zones for a moment that had never been seen before. The 45-minute set that followed made BINI the first P-pop act from the Philippines – and the first Southeast Asian girl group – to perform at one of the world’ s most influential music...

- [China steps up aid to Africa but huge funding gap left by Trump’ s cuts remains](#) (2026-04-19 04:00)

During Vice-President Han Zheng’ s visit to Nairobi in March, China signed a cash grant for drought relief and recently delivered food aid to Somalia, Togo, Zimbabwe and Zambia – helping 217,057 people in Zambia and providing Zimbabwe with 5,000 tonnes of rice. Du Xiaohui, director general of the foreign ministry’ s African affairs department, later affirmed that Beijing would help nations in Africa boost food security and agricultural resilience through emergency aid and long-term support for...

- [Pope Leo seeks to defuse tensions with Trump, says not trying to debate him](#) (2026-04-19 03:32)

Pope Leo sought to downplay his feud with US President Donald Trump on Saturday, saying reporting about comments he has made so far during his Africa tour “has not been accurate in all its aspects”. Speaking to reporters in English aboard his flight to Angola for the third leg of his ambitious 10-day Africa tour, the first US pope said comments he made two days earlier in Cameroon decrying that the world was being “ravaged by a handful of tyrants” were not aimed at Trump. That speech, said...

- [Taiwan warned of widening ‘resilience gap’ in civil defences](#) (2026-04-19 02:00)

Taiwan must urgently overhaul its civil defence and rethink its energy strategy to withstand a potential blockade, experts warned at a tabletop exercise, describing existing preparedness as “too romantic” for a real-world crisis. The two-day 2026 Political, Economic, Military and Societal Tabletop Exercise, held at National Chengchi University in Taipei last week, simulated a 2030 scenario in which shifting global alliances and regional conflicts left Taiwan’s energy and social systems acutely...

- [Southeast Asia wants children off social media. Will it work?](#) (2026-04-19 02:00)

Malaysian comedian Rizal van Geyzel keeps his three children – aged six, 14 and 15 – off social media. He calls it a “gateway drug” to fake news, pornography, stalkers and doom-scrolling. “Do I risk them resenting me? Sure, but these are the sacrifices of parents for their children’s mental health and physical safety,” the 43-year-old said. Across Southeast Asia, governments are increasingly siding with parents like him. Indonesia last month became the first country in the region to bar...

- [How markets will test Hong Kong’s new economic model](#) (2026-04-19 01:30)

For the first time in its history – and in a striking departure from its long-standing doctrine of minimal economic intervention – Hong Kong is preparing to draw up a five-year plan. Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu has asked all policy bureaus to help draft proposals by the end of the year. To lead the exercise, veteran civil servant Janice Tse Siu-wah has come out of retirement. The Legislative Council, not to be left out, has formed a committee supported by six coordinating groups spanning...

- [AI is not eating up China’s software market but turbocharging it: HSBC analyst](#) (2026-04-19 01:00)

China’s artificial intelligence model companies are unlikely to “eat up” the domestic software market because they lack the deep industry know-how and experience to meet enterprise needs, according to an HSBC analyst. Unlike the US, China’s less developed software-as-a-service (SaaS) market stands to gain even as AI models continue to improve, with the most likely outcome being a collaborative approach where model companies and legacy software firms serve enterprises in tandem, said Yiran Liu,...

- [New York Met exhibit in Hong Kong ‘underscores importance of cultural exchanges’](#) (2026-04-19 01:00)

The debut exhibition of the US’ Metropolitan Museum of Art in Hong Kong has underscored the importance of people-to-people ties and trust between countries through cultural exchanges during times of uncertainty, organisers have said. About 200 pieces of jewellery from 4,000 years of history across five continents are on display at the Hong Kong Palace Museum for six months, with the event coming at a politically sensitive time. US President Donald Trump

and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are set to...

- [China martial arts prodigy, 5, often practises to point of tears is ready for May tournament](#) (2026-04-19 01:00)

A dedicated five-year-old Chinese girl is making a big impression online with her skilful and powerful martial arts performances. Huang Zijun from Maoming, in southern China's Guangdong province, has marvelled countless netizens with videos of her performing Hung Kuen, a representative martial art in southern China. It is famous for its low and stable positions, powerful strikes with the arms and flexible hand skills. Many of its classic postures are named after animals, such as the tiger, snake...

- [Singapore ranks No 1 for cyber defences but boardrooms are the weak link](#) (2026-04-19 00:00)

Singapore has earned top marks for digital resilience in the Asia-Pacific, but a new study reveals a disconnect at the heart of its corporate world: its executives ranked 10th out of 11 for leadership on the issue. The findings, published on Wednesday by Economist Impact and Australian telecoms company Telstra International, drew on responses from 1,420 senior executives across 11 Asia-Pacific markets, including Australia, mainland China, Hong Kong and Thailand. Singapore ranked first overall –...

- [China begins building US\\$1 billion hydropower station in Cambodia amid energy crisis](#) (2026-04-19 00:00)

Construction of a US\$1 billion Chinese-invested hydropower station has begun in Cambodia to facilitate the Southeast Asian country's use of renewable energy as the fallout from the Iran war constricts developing countries' access to traditional fuel supplies. Work on the Upper Tatay pumped-storage hydropower project in the hilly southwestern province of Koh Kong started on April 10, Xinhua reported, describing it as a future "green power bank" for Cambodia's national grid. It said the project...

## Source: The Diplomat China

- [What China's New County Reveals About Its Afghanistan Policy](#) (2026-04-24 15:00)

The administrative change hints at China's plan for greater integration with Afghanistan – and beyond to Central Asia.

- [China Fears the Church, America Fears the Chinese: A Chinese Christian Student Caught in Between](#) (2026-04-24 13:45)

For some Chinese, studying in the U.S. is a welcome breath of freedom. But they are increasingly met not with open arms but with suspicion.

- [Spain's China Bridge: Diplomacy or Dependency?](#) (2026-04-23 14:36)

Securing a national win at the expense of a coherent EU strategy would be a self-defeating gamble for Spain.

- [Where Is the China-Honduras Relationship Headed?](#) (2026-04-22 14:16)

Despite the campaign rhetoric, so far, there are no concrete signs of a rapprochement with Taiwan by Honduras' new government.

- [The Real Reason Taiwan's Defense Procurement Is Stalling](#) (2026-04-21 12:37)

Doubts about U.S. credibility are making arms purchases harder to sustain.

- [Why China Wants to Host the New BBNJ Secretariat](#) (2026-04-20 12:29)

China's Xiamen bid ups the stakes in the the battle over the secretariat host.

## Source: US-China Perception Monitor

- [The Sun Never Sets on U.S.-China Rivalry w/ Sun Chenghao](#) (2026-04-23 18:46)

The post The Sun Never Sets on U.S.-China Rivalry w/ Sun Chenghao appeared first on U.S.-China Perception Monitor.

- [U.S. Immigration Policy is Causing the Philippines to Rethink the Relationship](#) (2026-04-21 14:21)

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- [Aging Before Affluence w/ Emma Zang](#) (2026-04-21 13:25)

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